

LET SOMEBODY ELSE DO THAT CAN!



"REAL PRICE CONTROL BY THE AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE IS URGED BY N-A-M, INSTEAD OF O.P.A. MUDDLING." -NEWS ITEM

WSA Establishes Fair Commissary Aboard Ships

Long-standing abuses in the sale of personal goods to seamen aboard merchant ships have been eliminated and provision made for them to purchase standard quality goods at fair prices. Early in 1945, steps were taken to overcome exorbitant prices being charged for inferior merchandise supplied to "slop chests"—traditional term for a merchant vessel's retail store similar to any army unit's post exchange. Numerous complaints had been lodged with the WSA by unions and individual seamen.

First step toward a modern slop chest for an efficient and up-to-date merchant marine was to overcome archaic laws dating back to 1884 and 1898. Through co-operation with the coast guard a waiver was signed January 17, 1945, on the out-moded laws and a standard list of items was specified.

The WSA established minimum specifications for the standard articles in greatest demand by seamen and ranged from razor blades, all items of clothing, to peanuts and candy bars. To make standard merchandise available for all vessels in all ports, the WSA through its procurement division arranged with reputable manufacturers to produce for the direct account of slop chest dealers. Certified slop chest dealers in all continental United States ports agreed to handle only merchandise obtained from WSA-approved sources and to sell that merchandise at rates not higher than prices established by the WSA.

Big Industry Grows From USDA Research

An investment of \$100,000 in agricultural research has produced a new industry worth fully \$1,000,000 a year, officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association point out in summarizing the development of domestic sugar beet seed production.

This sturdy oak sprouted from the little acorn of a chance discovery at the New Mexico agricultural experiment station in 1922, say Dr. G. H. Coons and A. H. Moseman of the department's bureau of plant industry. Workers there observed that fall-planted sugar beets remained alive over winter and produced abundant seed the following summer.

The former method was to grow the roots one season, dig them for storage over winter and replant them the following season to produce the seed. These operations required much hand labor, and since they could be done cheaper in Europe, seed was imported there. During World War I European seed shipments to this country were reduced to a trickle. But by the time of World War II, the United States could produce its own requirements a 3 more. By 1941 seed production had spread to nine southwest and Pacific northwest states, and now aggregates between 16,000,000 and 17,000,000 pounds annually, of which about 3,000,000 pounds are used by farmers in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin, according to the Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar association.

Colorful Decorations New Trend in Homes

Fifty years ago the "plush age" was at its height. But for a long time, when in strange colors adorned the parlors of some pretentious homes. About forty years ago chestnut trim became popular, especially in the medium size homes, causing shimmer with gold and draperies to be in vogue. This was followed by what was called the "Taupe Age." Furniture, draperies and other accessories were in a monotonous yellowish gray color. (The word taupe, according to Webster, means a mole—the little dirty yellow animal that hates the light and burrows in the ground.) At this time the terrible "oatmeal" papers were used extensively for walls.

Then came the monotone period which still lingers. Fatigued by the colorless taupe, many women replaced the taupe in their homes with weakly colored plain rugs, plain draperies, plain walls. The monotone effect of such decoration is fatiguing, boring and monotonous.

Now there seems to be a very definite trend towards the use of more color in American homes. Women are overcoming their fears against the liberal use of cheerful colors in pleasing combinations, and are turning a deaf ear to those prophets who preach the use of negative colors, such as resulted in the taupe and the monotone styles of decoration.

Grinding Utility Grade Meats Improves Quality

The busy homemaker who can't find any kind of meat to buy except utility and commercial grades should give special attention to cooking it. This grade of meat is less tender and has less fat than the higher grades. It is not satisfactory for broiling and roasting without a good deal of extra preparation.

By grinding this kind of meat, the connective tissues are broken and the meat is made more tender. The homemaker can broil, pan broil, or bake the ground meat. It is good if it is made into patties and served with gravy, tomato, or mushroom sauce, or if it is baked as a meat loaf.

Pot roasts, swiss steaks and stews from this quality of meat should be covered and given a long, very slow cooking time. Water or another liquid should be added. By browning the surface of the meat a few minutes in fat before the long, moist simmering, you can give the dish a better flavor and a rich brown color.

Southern Transport

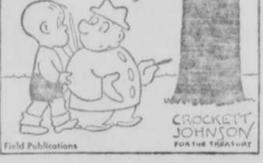
Transportation facilities of the south are excellent. It has about 33 per cent of the country's railroad mileage, a slightly higher share than its proportion of either area or population, and its main railway systems are adequately supplemented in general by branch lines and feeders. Capacity of southern railroads to handle increased volume of freight incident to continuing industrial development is indicated by the vastly larger volume of freight carried by all United States railroads during the war. An extensive system of surfaced roads spreads throughout the south, comprising about 48 per cent of the state highway system mileage in the United States. Cost of construction is low and the roads are usable in all seasons. In 1940, about 30 per cent of the motor trucks registered in the country were operated in the south. As for water transportation, all but five of the states in the group border on the Atlantic ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

Keep Floor Shining

Here are three tricks to preserve your shining floors from the wear and tear of winter weather. First, make a shoe scraper by nailing two scrub brushes to a flat piece of board, bristles facing each other and far enough apart so that shoes can slide back and forth between them to remove dried mud. Keep this outside the door used by the children. Keep a large size desk blotter inside the door so that rubbers and galoshes may be placed to drip there, instead of making a puddle in a corner or tracks to the closet. And keep a box with wash-up equipment for galoshes in the basement or near the back door. Teach the children to wash their own rubbers and galoshes, using a cloth and plenty of warm soap suds. An old toothbrush will help for the most stubborn spots, and is also the best tool for removing mud which has stuck to the sole ledge or heel.

Can Grandmothers join the Elves, Leprechauns, Gnomes, and Little Men's Chowder and Marching Society, Mr. O'Malley?

No, Barnaby... But they're enlisting in the Grandmothers War Bond League.



Farmers Have Less to Worry Them This Time

Washington, D. C.—Farm prices stand at 206 per cent of the 1909-1914 average—higher than the prices of 1918—and will drop again but not as sharply as in 1921 because the Government is required by law to maintain support prices of at least 90 per cent of parity for two full calendar years following the year in which the war ends, The Department of Agriculture has announced.

The announcement indicates the farmer will not be a victim of a drop in prices similar to that which followed the last war in 1921 when

prices hit the low of 115 per cent of the May, 1920, level which was 235 per cent of the 1909-1914 level. Thus the farmer will have more money than after the last war.

War Finance Committee officials said that in addition to the maintenance of the price level for two years, that non-farm families already have, and are accumulating, weekly savings through the Payroll Savings Plan of the War Finance Division of the Treasury. This, they claim is proof the non-farm front will be much better able to support itself than after the last war during the normal lull of reconversion. Buyers of farm products will have the money to buy, it was said, and farmers should avail themselves of the opportunity to acquire War Bonds during the Victory Loan so as to have the money with which to modernize and handle the non-farm market demands that will be backed with cash to pay sustained prices during the two years after fighting ceases.

Satisfies Finicky Customer —Invents Potato Chip

In 1853 George Crum was the head man in the kitchen of the famous Moon's Lake House at swanky Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and as such catered to the palates of the epicures of the day. He was good, else he wouldn't have had the job. And as all good cooks, he was a proud man, boasting of his ability to please the fastidious gourmets habitually gracing the tables. That is, all but one, who, through some eccentricity, continually returned his french fried potatoes with the terse comment: "Too thick."

Crum took it for a while, then decided to fix the persnickety one's buttons—job or no job. He sliced the gentleman's potatoes wafer-thin, fried them in deep fat and with an air, dusted his hands and sent in the chips.

None was more surprised than George Crum at the furor they caused and none more pleased and delighted. That was the origin of the potato chip.

Television

Chemists pointed out that one reason the development of television for home use has been delayed is that the image seen at the receiving end was very small. Here industrial chemistry gave an important helping hand with a plastic. The problem of magnification has in part been solved by utilizing the optical properties of "Lucite" acrylic resin. Now television pictures can be five times the size they used to be—big enough, in fact, to fill a home movie screen. This has been made practical at relatively low cost by a "Lucite" lens which is molded to the required optical curvature, correct to the ten-thousandth of an inch. It is part of a projecting system employing the optical principle of the Schmidt astronomical camera, but extensive development was required to adapt it to short-throw television projection.

Insect-Killing Bomb

Aerosol—the insect-killing bomb that helped the army win its war on Pacific diseases—is being successfully adapted to civilian household use. The aerosol consists of a small steel container the size of a highball glass which contains an insecticide dissolved in a liquefied gas under high pressure. When a valve is opened, the sudden change in temperature allows the insecticide to disperse into the air in the form of a fog or fine mist. Developed by two government scientists, Dr. Lyle D. Goodhue and Capt. W. N. Sullivan of the agriculture department's bureau of entomology and plant quarantine, Beltsville, Md., the bomb is said to be most valuable for killing household insects which are in the flying stage. Closing the rooms for several minutes after application is advised.

Rare Books

Repairing rare books can only be entrusted to the finest craftsmen. Some books are valuable on account of their artistic merits and fine craftsmanship; some because of their historical contents; and still others solely on account of their rarity. It is the business of a good book binder to see that nothing is done to decrease the value of the volumes he repairs. All repairs should be as little noticeable as possible. The leaves of old books are often soft, and these can be strengthened by passing them through a bath of size made with animal glue which has been the standard adhesive for sizing paper. This treatment restores the original size that has been lost, generally through dampness. In addition, it takes out many stains and gives life and freshness to the paper.

Inexpensive Safeguards Protect Farm Crops

Plant pathologists have learned a few simple, inexpensive safeguards to protect farm crops against the ravages of plant diseases brought on by fungus.

First, the county agent, teacher of vocational agriculture, or experiment station can recommend many high-yielding, well-adapted varieties of farm crops that are resistant against important crop diseases. If you don't know whether your seed comes from a healthy field, plant certified seed from inspected fields, to avoid the diseases that are seed borne but do not show in the seed.

There are effective protective seed treatments for nearly all crops, with the cost slight, but the advantages great. In each area, tests have shown that disease control and better yields result from planting each crop close to the time and at the rate recommended by the experiment station. Crop rotation, weed control, and destruction of crop residue by thorough plowing (or, in some cases, burning) are practices that protect crops by destroying the germs and fungi of plant disease.

Cooking Giblets

The giblets are some of the least appreciated yet most valuable parts of chicken or turkey, say food scientists of the department of agriculture. Too many home cooks know only of their use in giblet gravy and do not realize their possibilities for delicious main dishes. Chicken or turkey livers especially offer rich value in iron and all vitamins. Some retail markets today sell giblets—hearts, livers and gizzards together—or livers alone by the pound. Giblets also are canned. In preparing giblets an important point to remember is that gizzards and hearts need long slow cooking by simmering to make them tender, but livers are tender to begin with, so need only brief cooking. In general, gizzards and hearts of older birds take about twice as long to cook as those of young birds. Giblets cook more quickly if they are cut in pieces first.

Citrus Fruits

While most people know that orange juice is a high-powered drink for vitamin C, nutritionists say that all of the familiar citrus fruits are bountiful sources of this vitamin. A half glass (4 ounces) of orange or grapefruit juice will go far toward supplying a day's needs of vitamin C. So will half a grapefruit, or a whole orange, or a couple of tangerines or lemons. Because pulp, as well as juice, contains vitamin C, there is vitamin thrift in serving juice unstrained, and even higher vitamin economy in eating citrus fruit simply halved, sliced or sectioned. So destructive are heat and air to vitamin C in cut or juiced fruit that the vitamin-thrifty homemaker takes special care to keep them under control. To this end, the nutritionists advise cutting or slicing citrus fruit as near as possible to serving time.

Growing Vegetables

To have high quality and good yields, vegetables must be grown quickly. This means that the soil must have plenty of plant food and be of a nature to hold the moisture needed to make that plant food effective. The best way to provide plant food and condition the soil is with stable manure. Stable manure makes vegetables grow to tops because of its high proportion of nitrogen (ammonia), hence it needs to be balanced with superphosphate. The amounts per acre are 10 to 15 tons of manure and 400 pounds of 20 per cent superphosphate, broadcast and plowed under together.

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