

Cost of Living Comes High to Travelers

(Copyright, 1913, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
 WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.—(Special Correspondence to The Bee.)—This is a kick against the high cost of living. I do not mean at home where one can figure upon the food in the markets and obtain if the butcher puts his elbow on the scales when he weighs out your steak. It relates to the high cost of living to the traveling public. I have been going up and down this country and others for the last thirty years and within the last ten or twenty the cost of all things has been rising. I can remember when a commercial salesman who had an allowance of \$1 a day to pay his expenses was looked upon as a kink, and when if the distance were short, \$2 or \$3 sufficed. Now a high class drummer does well if he spends less than \$10 per day and if he makes long jumps between towns the price runs as high as \$15 and upward. During the last two weeks I have been moving rapidly from city to city. I started at New York and went as far north as St. Paul. From St. Paul I jumped to St. Louis and thence to New Orleans and from there to Atlanta, Cincinnati and Washington. I lived at good hotels and took taxis when needed. The cost of the journey was more than \$15 a day or almost twice what it would have been twenty-five years ago.

In the Days of Yore.
 It used to be that the most of our hotels were on the American plan. You paid a fixed sum for room and board and there were no extras to speak of. Outside the large cities \$2 was the ordinary day rate and one could get good accommodations in the larger places for as low as three dollars. At that time about the best hotel in the United States was the Fifth Avenue in New York. Its charges were \$5 a day and for that one lived like a lord.
 Today the American hotels have about disappeared. Nearly every large house is on the European plan. You pay a fixed price for your room and a price for each dish that is served to you in the dining room or the restaurant. The room rates are now equal to the price you formerly paid for both room and board, and often much higher.

Look at 'Em Now.
 Take the high-class hotels of New York. There are but few where one can get a room for less than \$2 or \$3, and this often means a room facing a court and so small that inside it you could not swing the typical cat by the tail. A room with bath costs more, and if one wants really comfortable quarters he must pay \$4 or \$5 and upward. In Chicago at some of the bigger hotels one can get an inside room with bath for \$2.50 or \$3, and this is so in Minneapolis, St. Louis and New Orleans. I stopped at a hotel in Chicago which has 1,200 guest rooms, and whose lowest room rate is \$2. Suits range from \$2 to \$3 a day. That hotel is fairly well taken, and its average occupancy the year through must be 800 rooms. These at an average rental of \$1 must bring in \$3,200 a day, or more than a million dollars a year for room rent alone. I am told that there are several hotels in New York which are clearing more than a million dollars a year, and that the big city hotels everywhere are piling up money.

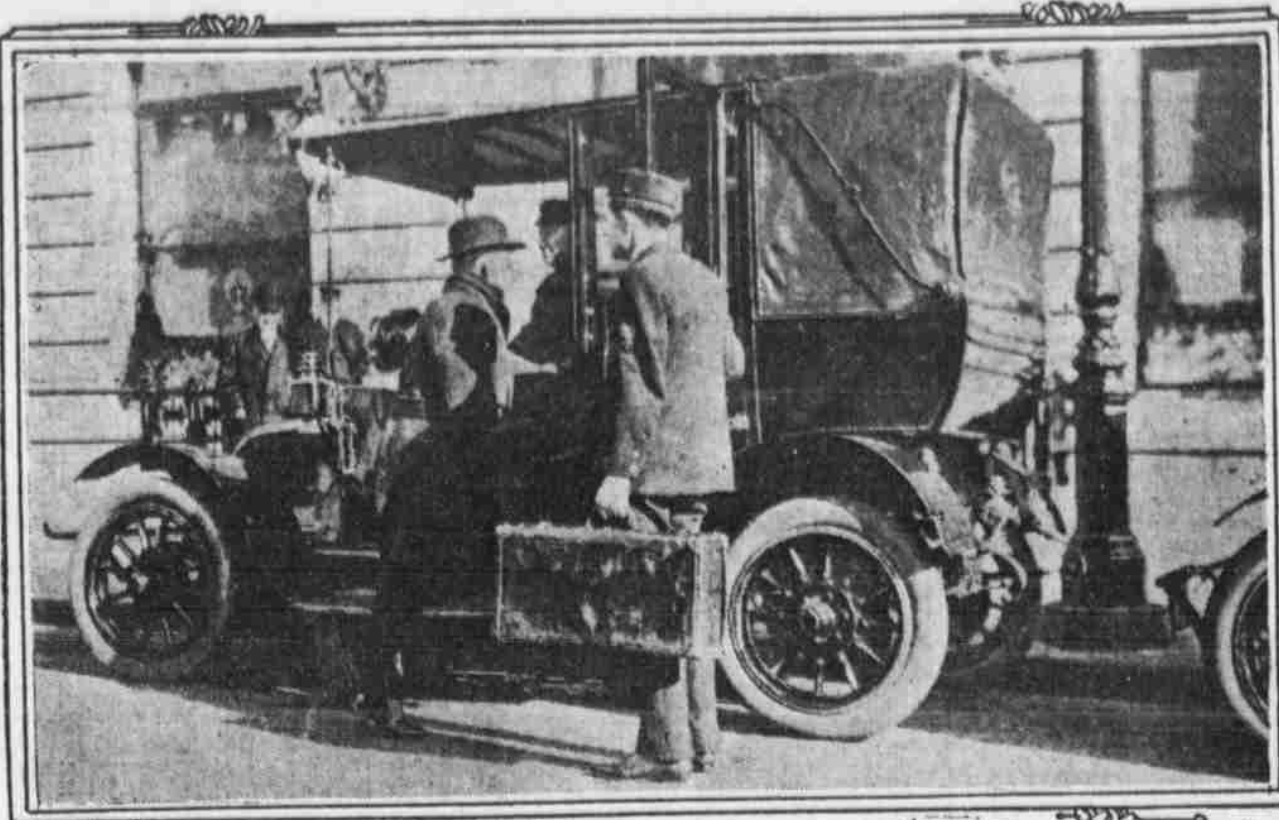
And, indeed, it is hard to see how they can help it when one thinks of the past. There is first the increased rate on the rooms, and also the extraordinary charges which one now pays for meals. In the good old times one could get a dinner almost anywhere for from 50 cents to \$1. As I remember it, the Fifth Avenue hotel charged \$1.50, and the Palmer and Grand Pacific of Chicago each charged \$1. Now almost any meat dish on the menu costs from 50 cents upward, and a tenderloin steak runs from 75 cents to \$2.

Some Samples of Expense.
 During my two-week journey I have saved some of the hotel restaurant bills and a dozen of them are before me. The charges are about the same everywhere. I will give you some of the items. Let us start with the oysters. A half dozen raw cost 30 cents, which equals about \$5 a quart or \$20 a gallon. Little neck clams cost the same. Do you want a relish? You can have a slice of smoked salmon or a bit of herring for 40 cents, or a dozen olives with cost you a quarter. Soups are filling, but not satisfying. A cup of consommé costs 25 cents. Scotch broth with barley costs 30 and green turtle is higher.

As to the fish, that is one of the cheap things on the menu. A piece of broiled bass costs 50 cents, broiled bluefish the same, and a portion of live lobster broiled is \$1.25. Entrees are dear. I can buy a guinea hen almost anywhere in Virginia for half a dollar, but a piece of the fowl cut from the breast costs \$1.25, and a half of a spring chicken just the same. When you come to order special dishes the prices go up. For a spring duckling the charge is \$2, roast chicken \$2, and if you want a Philadelphia capon the price is high. It will take forty minutes to cook a four-dollar capon, and you may know you are paying just 10 cents for each minute you wait. You can get a whole spring turkey for the same sum. I have just received an offer of 7 cents a pound for some hogs on my farm in Virginia. On these bills of fare Virginia ham costs 60 cents for two slices. Two lamb chops, each as big around as a dollar, are served for 75 cents.

Prices on Fruits.
 I object also to the prices of vegetables and fruits. I know that apples are scarce this year and that the prices are high. But nevertheless 25 cents is too much for a single baked apple which outside the hotels on the fruit stand could be bought for a nickel. Set aside 5 cents for the cream and the cooking and the hotel gets 20 cents for the apple alone. Its apples are bought by the barrel and at the low estimate of 300 apples to the barrel makes me pay, at the rate of \$20 a barrel. This is right high for apples. It is the same with potatoes. During this whole trip I have had to pay 20 cents and upward for one or two baked in the skin, which must be at the rate of something like \$20 per bushel. Spinach is sold at about the same rate, and lima beans and cauliflower bring 35 cents for a good double handful. As to new corn in season, the hotels have been selling that at about 10 cents an ear. The average barrel of field corn will hold 600 ears of twice the size of the green stuff that comes to the table. At 1,000 ears to the barrel, they are now getting about \$100 a barrel for their corn. And still it is said there is no money in farming!

Prices for Desserts.
 It used to be that the price for ice cream was 10 or 15 cents a dish at almost any hotel. Now you pay 30 cents for each portion and the



The porter who takes your bag expects a fee

same is true of water ice flavored with lemon, orange or raspberry. The fancy kinds cost more, and, if you are so extravagant as to desire a portion of chocolate russe, as big as you can buy almost anywhere in a confectionery store for a nickel, the charge at the hotel will be 40 cents. A slice of apple pie costs 20 cents, deep-dish peach pie costs 25, and a cup custard often costs you 25 cent per person.

The rates in the dining cars on the railroads are almost as high. I have the bills of fare from which I ordered my meals in the last few days. They come from the leading railroads of the country and I pick out a few items at random.

Meals on Dining Cars.
 Two lamb chops, 65 cents; scrambled eggs with chopped toast, 60 cents; roast beef with browned potatoes, 70 cents; phasetti, 35 cents; baby turnips, 25 cents; spring chicken, a whole one, 1.50; a certain steak costs \$1; bacon and eggs, 65 cents, and two boiled eggs, 25 cents. All soups are 25 cents or more, and no orders are taken for less than 25 cents per person. One must pay at least 60 cents before he is allowed to have bread and butter, without charge, on the side.

It was in refreshing contrast to these la carte meals that I found on one of the fast trains from Milwaukee to St. Paul, the old-fashioned \$1 dinner that we used to have everywhere as we rode over the country. These have been discontinued on most of the lines, and as the fast trains do not stop for meals, one is forced to pay the high-priced la carte rates or go hungry.

In order to show the difference between the old one-dollar dinner and the meals of the present, I have taken one item from each of the courses on the \$1 menu, beginning with blue points and ending with coffee and cheese, and added up the prices of the various dishes as they are on the la carte list. The total is just \$5.64. In other words, the dinner which we used to have for \$1 now costs us more than five times as much if our pockets can stand it.

Custom of Tipping.
 In addition to these, the regular expenses of traveling, is the custom of tipping, which has swept over the United States, north, south, east and west. It is common on the railroads and in almost every hotel, and there are certain hotels where the tipping is farmed out to outsiders. The streets are given over to certain taxicab companies, whose charge is about that of the regular rates, and the cloakroom attendants are supplied out of the fees, which the travelers give them. Tips are commonly expected by the waiter at meals, and the percentage which is commonly paid is higher in our country than anywhere else in the world. The lowest tip possible is 10 cents if the bill runs under \$1, and 25 cents if it is \$1.25 or more. A fair rate for large bills is considered about 10 per cent of the sum.

The fees begin as soon as one enters the hotel. The porter who takes your baggage expects a fee and you give from 10 cents to a quarter to the boy who shows you to your room. It used to cost from 50 cents to \$1 to get from your train to the hotel and back. It now costs more than twice as much. The red-capped boy at the station expects 25 cents to carry your bag to the taxi and the taxicab charges from 50 to 75 cents to the hotel, while the driver looks for an additional fee. Then there is the 10 cents to your room and the 25 cents back to the taxi when you leave. There is a taxi charge to the train and another quarter to get to the cars. In London the initial taxicab rate is 18 cents and you can go a mile or so for a shilling. Tuppence there is equal to a dime here in the way of fees, and fees are now less common than here.



The red-capped boy at the station expects 25 cents

down, and if you don't like this price you had better go there and get it." Here was a combination between the publisher, who failed to put on the price mark, and the railroad to take a rake-off of 25 cents from the traveling public. Such things are manifestly unfair.

And then there is the extra charge at many hotels for 1 cent additional for every newspaper there sold. There is one hotel in Washington where a daily which sells for 2 cents on the street is

sold for 5 cents in the hotel, and it is well known that the New York Sunday papers bring from 7 to 10 cents each outside the city, according to the caprice of the seller. At most of the Atlantic City hotels the price for the Sunday papers is 10 cents, and the same price prevails as to many of the New York papers on railroad trains throughout the south.

Other Items of Robbery.
 In many hotels staple articles are furnished at exorbitant charges over the ordinary price. There is a certain mineral water from New England which is sold all over the country at the drug stores in two-quart bottles at 35 cents. The water in the case costs 20 cents for two quarts. I ordered some of this water at the well known Philadelphia hotel and had to pay 45 cents for one quart. At the same rate a two-quart bottle would have cost me 90 cents, or just three times as much as the regular charge by the case.

I gave a tip to the waiter who brought in the bottle and another to the boy who brought in pen, ink and paper, and had I asked for anything else the servant of the hotel who brought it would have expected something for himself. Indeed, the tipping now common in the United States is exasperating. It makes one think of the American from the middle west who was taking his first trip in Europe. He had had to pay tips everywhere, and had seen hungry eyes and greedy hands on every side. At last, one day, he entered a washroom where the bowl was hung on a pivot. Above the water was the sign, "Please tip the basin." As he looked he flushed, and then turned and went out, saying: "I'll be hanged if I will. I'll go dirty first."

"That is the way one gets to feel in traveling over the United States these days. The custom of giving tips is so common that our Treasury Department has at last agreed to allow fees in the accounts of government clerks who travel on government business. Such tips, however, are restricted to each employe in the amount of 50 cents a day to the waiters of hotels in certain large cities and 25 cents a night for sleeping car porters. Ten dollars' worth of fees is allowed upon steamers which cross the Atlantic, and the same amount is permitted for voyages to Porto Rico or Panama.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.
PRATTLE OF THE KIDDIES.
 "I don't want to ever be an angel," announced small Harold one evening. "Why not, dear?" asked his mother. "Cause the angels have to work too hard 'light' all the stars at night 'n' blow'n 'em out in the mornin'," he replied.

"Mamma, I love you awful much," said little Amy, as she put her arms around her mother's neck. "And I love you, too, Amy, when you are good," replied her mother. "But mamma," continued the little miss, not to be outdone, "I love you just the same, even when you ain't no good."

While he had not been very bright in his studies, and his father was very much surprised one day when his son, on his arrival from school announced: "Father, I was next to head in my class today."
 "Indeed," surprisedly exclaimed his father, "and how many are in your class."
 "Two," unblushingly answered the son.

"Say, Mister, where do you live?" inquired the small brother of the lady upon whom Mr. Blank had called to pay her his weekly attention.
 "At 466 Grand avenue," replied the young man. "Why do you ask?"
 "Oh, well," said the young hopeful,

having a small diamond placed in a gold setting placed as a crown to one of her front teeth—all to be paid for by her prospective husband. By and by we may distinguish the engaged girl by her glittering tooth—and the married woman by two or the same. But if it is ruled that for each engagement and each marriage a tooth must be decorated, dentists will be overworked and some women won't have teeth enough to go around—that is, they won't unless there is a falling off in the divorce line of activity. Of course, the new idea is freakish. But it's worse, because when you see a girl who has no diamonds in her smile, you'll know at once that she never has been engaged. At present when finger rings are used it is easy for a girl to smile knowingly. But with the evidence tacked to her teeth every smile will be a revelation, won't it?—Detroit Free Press.

Immortal Sayings.
 "Stripper out!"
 "John, did you mail that letter I gave you when you went to the office this morning?"
 "I've given you a nickel!"
 "Fellow citizen!"
 "Pass the butter, please!"
 "Mr. Chairman!"
 "Honest, get you're the only girl I ever loved!"
 "What's 'uh?' Anybody can go in society. All it takes is money!"—St. Louis Republic.

How to Overcome a Bad Constipation

There is a Mild Laxative That Will Bring Safe and Pleasant Relief Over Night.



MRS. N. FRANTZ
 obtained at any drug store for fifty cents or one dollar, the latter size being bought by families already familiar with its merits.
 Syrup Pepsin is mild, pleasant-tasting and non-gripping. Mothers give it to tiny infants, and yet it is effective in grownups. It is for everyone who suffers from any form of stomach, liver or bowel trouble, constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, etc. Its action will do away with flatulency, gas, indigestion, heartburn, catarrhs, purgatives, pills and salts.
 Families wishing to try a free sample bottle can obtain it postpaid by addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 419 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. A postal card with your name and address on it will do.

It is only natural that the simplest of ailments should be the most general, and so we have a whole nation suffering from constipation and indigestion, for they are closely allied. But common as constipation is many people do not seem to know they have it. They will complain of headache, drowsiness or biliousness, all unconscious of the cause of the trouble.
 You should have a full and free movement at least once a day. If you pass a day you are constipated, and the result will be that you will catch a cold easily or have a more serious ailment. To cure the constipation and forestall still graver trouble take a dose of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin at night before retiring and by morning relief will come, without disturbance from sleep or any inconvenience.
 Legions of people use it regularly in such emergencies, some of them formerly chronic invalids, who had suffered from constipation all their lives. Mrs. N. Frantz, 67 Eighth St., Salem, Ohio took physics for years, and worst of all, without much avail. Finally, she began to take Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin and today she is no longer troubled and eats what she likes. Many others will tell you that they have tried most things recommended for this purpose, but have found Syrup Pepsin the only one always reliable. A bottle can be

obtained at any drug store for fifty cents or one dollar, the latter size being bought by families already familiar with its merits.

Announcement

We will be open for business at our former location,

1509 Howard St.

Monday, December 29, 1913

Omaha Gas Co.

1509 Howard. Douglas 605

OCEAN TRAVEL. OCEAN TRAVEL. OCEAN TRAVEL.

Anchor Line SAILINGS Every Saturday to and from New York Glasgow
 The only line sailing from NEW YORK to Glasgow
 The world's most wonderful city
 Only across a view of "Glasgow Falls" one of the most beautiful waterfalls and a delight to the eye, arriving at Glasgow with the afternoon Steamer
 New, Large, Modern, Twin-Screw Steamers
 Cameronia, California, Caledonia, Columbia
 TUSCARORA, 14,000 tons, (Building)
 Fitted with Wireless Telegraphy and Signal Lights.
 Largest and most comfortable of all liners.
 Largestly Appointed Saloons and Smoking Cabins.
 Unsurpassed Third Class Fully Furnished—Low Rates
 For Book of Times, Rates, etc., apply to
 RECORD PASSAGE 6 DAYS, 16 HOURS
 Mediterranean Service from New York
 First Cabin Passage to Naples \$60 and up.
 Third Class at Very Low Rates.
 Anchor Line Drafts Payable Free of Charge
 For Book of Times, Rates, etc., apply to
 HENDERSON BROTHERS, Gen'l Agents
 88 W. Randolph St., S. E. Cor. Dearborn, Chicago.
 Or Local Agents Everywhere.

orient-India Cruise
 93 DAYS to
 MADEIRA, SPAIN, ALGERIA, GREECE, the HOLY LAND, EGYPT, INDIA and CEYLON.
 By the S. S. CLEVELAND (17,000 TONS)
 Leave NEW YORK, JAN. 15, 1914
 COST includes shore excursions and all necessary expenses. Excellent accommodations also available on this cruise for passage to MADEIRA, SPAIN, ALGIERS, ITALY and EGYPT only, cost of shore excursions included.
 Write for booklet containing full information
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE
 150 West Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., or Local Agents.