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Summer Reading.

A young professor of mathematics, who played a good game of tennis and was a hearty outdoor companion, used to amuse his fellow vacationists by spending the time between games and fishing trips lying at ease, with a German work on calculus or some other subject in the misty attitudes of science. He enjoyed his summer reading fully, and looked forward to his vacation feasts of leisurely study. What one likes to read is the best summer reading, and as every class of book is liked by somebody, the consumption of the world's literature probably does not vary much in kind from January to December. There are no literary fashions to put away and replace with literary fashions. No one, declares the Young's Companion, has yet invented a type of novel that comes in with asparagus and goes out with green corn. Summer reading is a superposition of the comic papers and the publishers who imagine the entire world of vacationists lolling in hammocks, drinking lemonade and perusing "Dainty Dialogues" or "The Exciting Adventure of Captain Montross, Sometime Officer of the Pink Hussars." But if you look over Tom's shoulder after a day in the hay-field, the chances are that you will find him reading a book which he began in midwinter, and did not have time to finish. Grandmother is probably going slowly through "Adam Bede" for the nineteenth time, and Mary's book is "Boy Travelers on the Congo." "Pudd'nhead Wilson" says that October is one of the peculiarly dangerous months in which to speculate in stocks; "the others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February." By the same token, a peculiarly interesting book to read in August is one which is not dull in any other month.

Nutrient in the Oyster.

The general belief that the oyster is a very nutritious article of food does not rest upon any scientific basis. The oyster, as a food, could not fully satisfy the demands of the human body. While the oyster—when not stewed—is very palatable, wholesome, and easily assimilated by weak or impaired stomachs, it cannot be contended that it contains such elements of nutrition as may be found in beans, rice, or potatoes. There is very little, if any, fat-making or muscle-building material in the oyster. Its composition is largely nitrogenous and, being rich in phosphates, it is generally regarded as an excellent food for the brain; but a man reduced to an exclusive diet of oysters would soon find himself deficient in adipose tissue and in those elements that go to make up physical force and vitality in the human body.

The conference of governors to consider the preservation of the national resources has already brought forth fruit.

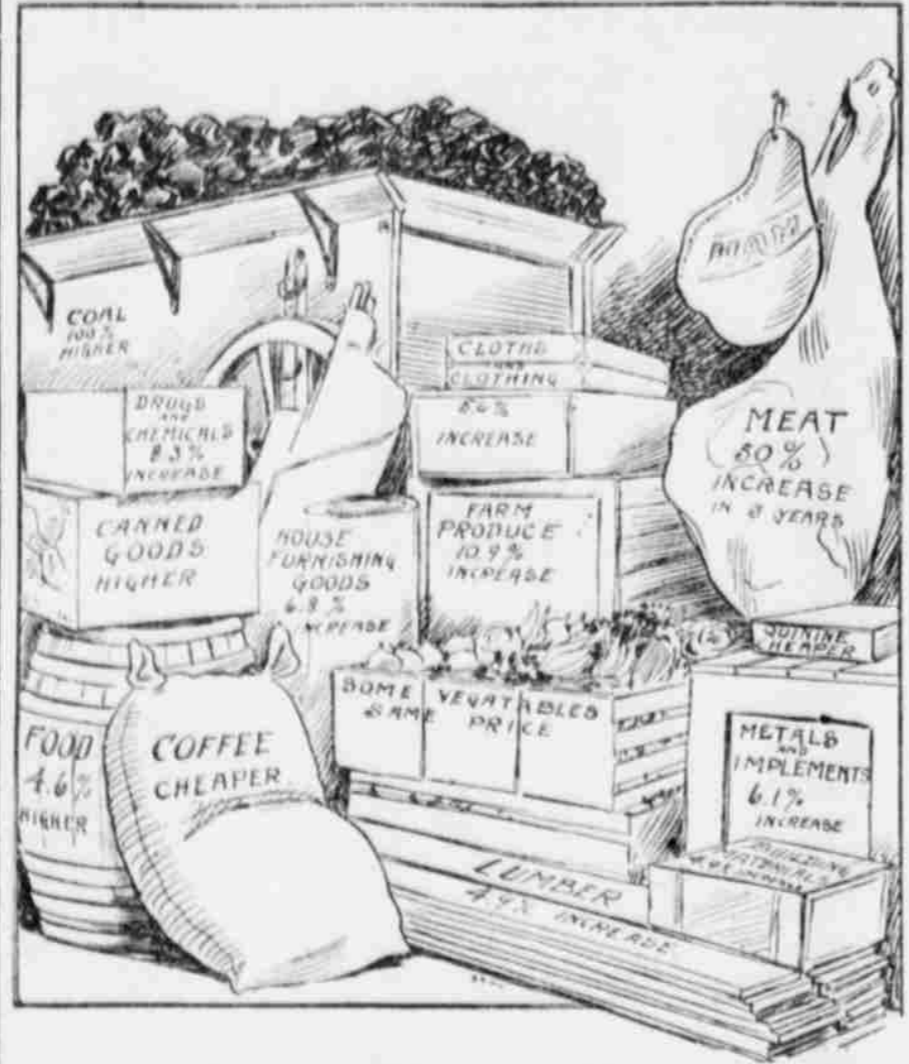
The governors suggested that the president appoint a national conservation committee to advise him and to cooperate with similar bodies in the states. Acting on this suggestion, Mr. Roosevelt has reappointed his commission on inland waterways, with some new members to fill vacancies. He has also constituted commissions on forests, on lands and on minerals, and an executive committee to harmonize the work of all four bodies. Now we may expect to see the growth of the sentiment that the minerals, lands, forests and waters of the country are national wealth, in the conservation of which the whole nation has an interest, whether they belong to private citizens or not. It is that sort of sentiment which will be a guarantee against want and barrenness in the distant future.

The spread of prohibition had not made itself manifest as late as the end of last year, in a reduction of the native drink bill, according to figures presented by the American Grocer.

It calculates an expenditure for the year of \$843,232,890 on beer, \$304,784,400 on distilled spirits, and \$118,458,000 on wines, or a total for alcoholic beverages of about \$1,266,475,290, compared with \$1,458,853,400 in 1907. The consumption per capita of distilled spirits increased from 1.32 gallons in 1906 to 1.83 in 1907, while the per capita consumption of beer increased 1.94 gallons and wines 0.12 gallons. The use of tea shows a declining tendency, while the opposite is true for coffee and cocoa.

There is good stock in that new boy of King Alfonso's if he can grow to full-sized manhood with such a name as Jaime Leopoldo Isabelino Enriquez Alonzo Alonzo Alfonso Victor Acunon Pizarro Pablo Maria bearing his whole weight upon him.

In a duel fought recently in St. Petersburg one of the combatants was killed. This shows how far Russia really is from modern civilization, which considers it very bad form for a duelist to kill an opponent.



THE COST OF LIVING

HAS INCREASED 44 PER CENT. IN LAST TEN YEARS.

Meat Has Gone Up 50 Per Cent. in Those Years—Farm Products Higher—Drugs as a Rule Lower.

Chicago.—It costs more to live, anywhere in the United States, than it did ten years ago. But comparisons of Chicago price increases with those discovered by the national government show that the law of compensation has not been altogether off the job here. For instance, coal here is higher—a full 40 per cent. higher than ten years ago. But if you have no coal, and catch cold through lack of it, you can buy quinine to cure your cold much cheaper than you could in 1898. On the other hand, coffee is cheaper on the Chicago retail market than it was a decade ago, but the drugs most in favor for curing indigestion, which coffee sometimes causes, are costlier than they were then. Meat has gone up scandalously—in fact, 50 per cent. in three years. Oh, very well. Vegetables and canned goods are about as cheap as ever, and the logic of the household expense account is making more vegetarians than appeals to sentiment ever did. The government figures show a high price on the whole in 258 commodities that enter largely into the living of all the people. In 1907 the percentage over 1906 was 5.7 per cent., and 44.4 per cent. higher than 1897, the year of lowest prices during the 18 year period, and 29.5 per cent. higher than the average for the ten years, 1890 to 1900. For farm products, taken as a whole, the increase was greatest—namely, 10.9 per cent. for food, 4.6 per cent. for cloths and clothing, 5.6 per cent. for fuel and lighting, 2.4 per cent. for metals and implements, 6.1 per cent. for lumber and building materials, 4.9 per cent. for drugs and chemicals, 8.3 per cent. for housefurnishing goods, 6.8 per cent., and miscellaneous, 5 per cent. Chicago lumbermen say the government's estimate is about right for the increase in Chicago market prices for their wares. Increasing depletion of the forest, they say, has kept the price ascending gradually, and the average increase in cost which enters into ordinary living expenses is around 5 per cent. Furniture and house furnishings have soared, and experts on the Chicago market say the government's 6.8 per cent. is too low to serve locally. Not less than 15 per cent., they say, has been the increase here. This is due to scarcity of material, especially oak, to higher cost of the materials

for iron and brass furniture, and to higher prices of labor.

Drugs and chemicals, of such sort as to affect the cost of living, were higher, say by 5 per cent. in Chicago last year than in 1898; but they have fallen until they are about where they were, and in some instances, such as quinine, lower than ever. The higher prices were caused by the scarcity of root and herb diggers, the lower prices by the financial panic.

As to canned goods, peaches sold in 1897 for the same as they did in 1907, while some canned products were much cheaper ten years ago. The cause for this was that fruits and vegetables were plentiful last year, while the production was much larger. Last year beans were scarce and higher. Up to the time of the panic buying did not drop off, but since then prices have been dropping until they are about as low as they were in 1896.

The cost of preparing food products is much higher now on account of the increased cost of labor, also the increase in the farm products that go into them. Sugar is higher this year than in 1907, while coffee is cheaper. Tea is as cheap as it has been in several years. Staple commodities are not high this year in the grocery line. In many commodities the prices are 10 per cent. lower than they were in 1907.

A leading clothier says that clothes are higher than in the last two years and that this should not be. This is partly due to the scarcity of wool, but is in part due to existence of clothing combinations to keep prices up.

Cotton is no higher, yet the manufacturers are in combination to maintain high prices. Ten years ago wool suits were 10 per cent. lower than they are now, and were made of as good material and as well made, but without the same degree of care as to style. Higher labor cost, higher wool, prosperity, and combinations among manufacturers are the reasons he gives for the higher prices of clothing.

Shoes are cheaper on the average than ever they have been, but are only five per cent. cheaper than at their highest point, in 1907. They have, however, gone up in price 15 per cent. in the last 18 years, but to compensate for that they are better made. The increase in cost of shoes is due to the high price of hides, which have increased in 18 years 150 per cent. Shoes are relatively cheaper than the hides from which they are made, this seeming paradox being due to improved methods of manufacture.

The price of meat has been soaring for the last 18 years, and it is generally conceded that this has been due to the going out of the range cattle and the consequent scarcity of beef cattle, and the combinations among the packers, who have virtually a monopoly of the business, having driven the small country and town butchers out of business. This spring during a period of ten days, pork and beef stock took an upward flight of 30 to 50 per cent., and the average for the year is fully 25 per cent. higher than last year, which was 25 per cent. more than the year before.

Prosperity and high wages, as well as the scarcity of cattle, are given by the packers as being responsible for the rise in prices in the last ten years.

ROUND THE CAPITAL
Information and Gossip Picked Up Here and There in Washington.

Wiley Puts Ban on Cracked Crockery



WASHINGTON.—Restaurant keepers who own cracked mugs must not intrude them upon their patrons. Dr. Wiley, Uncle Sam's chemistry expert, says it is wrong.

The cracked mugs which have fallen under the ban of Dr. Wiley are not those known in some circles as badly arranged faces or pounded visages. They are rather the abused drinking utensils which come bounding over the counter at you when you enter a hurry-up luncheon and hoist the cry: "Art and 'arf," or "draw one."

Dr. Wiley says the crack in an ordinary mug doing daily duty in a luncheon room shelters enough bacilli to put the nation into decadence. Death of a horrible sort lurks in these cracks. Show Dr. Wiley a cracked mug—a china mug—and he will lay a bet that you are a dead man if the right bacillus hustles out of the crack and bites you on the lip while you are quaffing your daily beverage.

Washington is making a war on dirty luncheons, and Mr. Wiley is furnishing some of the sinews. His report, after examining a dozen or more damaged mugs gathered from

the lunchrooms, is partly as follows:

"We find the presence of 23 distinct species of organisms in the debris within the visible cracks and seams of vessels examined. The number of organisms per area of surface ranged from 486 to 14,580,619."

The report made to Dr. Wiley by his chief bacteriologist goes on to graphically describe a process of examining the mug cracks in terms that will undoubtedly cause quick luncheon and habits of those restaurants where chinaware is slid, rather than pushed, to purchase sanitary lunch boxes and tote midday snacks from home.

"Judging from the number of colonies developed upon the glass plates upon which we spread the watery dilutions containing the debris," writes the expert, "there were undoubtedly many thousands of organisms in the recesses of the broken china, some cracks harboring more germs than others and varying in accordance to their magnitude and character of material contained therein."

Among the germs disclosed by the bacteriological examination of the cracks was the bacillus coli, which the department experts say unquestionably belongs to the group of undesirable bacteria, especially when associated with foods in any manner. This particular coli crack inhabitant is said to be associated with many inflammatory conditions in man, particularly appendicitis.

To Clean White House for Next Tenant



IT IS the official view of Col. C. S. Bromwell, the army engineer in charge of the White House, that it will be necessary for the American people to spend \$1,000 a week during the next fiscal year to keep the home of the president in a habitable condition. This is the minimum of cost based on conditions as they exist now.

Should the one time executive mansion be turned into a two apartment structure, the cost would probably be about the figure set forth by the colonel.

The up-keep of the house during the current fiscal year is only \$673 and a few pennies each week. But things are getting shabby. The children

have been using the chairs to build choo-choo trains, they have placed their hands on the paper in the red, blue and green parlors, and in some mysterious way a big hunk of the stucco was broken out of one of the columns in the reception hall.

Col. Bromwell thinks the chairs should be sent to the upholsterers, new paper put on the walls, and the whole interior done over with fresh paint and enamel. The wall paper on the wall, of course, is not paper at all, but the finest brocade silk. The upholstering on the Sevres designed chairs is also of the finest. So the colonel figures it will cost \$15,000 to do the absolutely necessary work.

In submitting his estimate to the secretary of the treasury he remarked that the annual appropriation of \$35,000 is barely large enough to keep the house from going to rack and ruin. The \$15,000 asked for is put under the head of extraordinary repairs. Congress will grant the money.

Uncle Sam's Budget Goes Above Billion



OFFICIAL figures have been prepared by Thomas P. Cleaves and James C. Courts, chief clerk respectively of the committee on appropriations of the senate and that of the house of representatives, showing that appropriations at the last session of congress reached \$1,008,397,543.56. Of this amount \$95,328,247 was appropriated for the army, \$122,665,885 for the navy, \$163,053,000 for pensions, \$222,970,892 for the postoffice department and \$111,923,088 for sundry civil expenses.

In addition to specific appropriations money was provided for continuing contracts to the amount of \$19,443,750. Among the continuing appropriations were the amounts to be paid for two first-class battleships, two colliers, ten torpedo boat destroyers and eight submarine torpedo boats, with the armor and armament for the battleships estimated to cost \$25,700,000. Appropriations for public buildings aggregated \$29,789,730. Comparison of the contract liabilities with those of the last session of the Fifty-ninth congress, amounting to \$67,934,349, shows a reduction of \$18,490,599.

The new offices specifically authorized are 16,824 in number, at an annual compensation of \$19,764,676, and those abolished are 6,142 in number, with an annual compensation of \$4,578,359, making a net increase of 10,682 in number and \$9,086,287 in pay. Of the net increase in the number of new employees 6,906 are seamen for the navy, 805 are additional officers and enlisted men for the marine corps and 2,968 are clerks and other employees of the postal service.

The total apparent number of salaries increased is 129,928, at an annual cost of \$9,146,575. Of this number 42,636 are commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted men of the navy, and 8,907 officers and enlisted men of the marine corps. A comparison of the total appropriations of the last session of the Fifty-ninth congress—\$920,798,143—with those of the first session of the Sixtieth congress—\$1,086,297,543—shows an increase of \$87,599,399. Increases are shown in all of the general appropriation acts, except those for the District of Columbia, the Indians and the military academy, the reductions in these three aggregating \$438,709.

LET PASTOR WASH IN CREEKS.

Two Congregations Can't Afford Bathroom for Parsonage.

Pennburg, Pa.—By a decisive vote the congregations of the Sunnyside Lutheran church have decided that cleanliness and godliness are not correlated to such an extent that a bathroom should be provided for the parsonage.

The pastor, Rev. Charles L. Dapp, is spending the summer in Germany, and some of the members proposed to equip the parsonage in Sunnyside with a bathroom prior to his return. Special meetings were held by the two congregations at Sunnyside and Keeler's church, which comprise the charge, and determined opposition to the bathroom project developed among the older members. They and their pastors had managed to get along for generations without bathrooms, they argued, and they saw no reason for introducing such new-fangled notions.

Three creeks in the neighborhood, it was intimated, afforded abundant opportunity for bathing.

When the vote was taken the result in the Sunnyside congregation was 24 in favor of the improvement and 74 against, while the majority against the bathroom in Keeler's congregation was almost as large.

"FREED" BY A CLOUDBURST.

Six Men Have Narrow Escape While Attending a Picnic.

Oxford, Pa.—Caught by a cloudburst up the stream, which swelled the water of the Octoraco creek into a raging torrent, six men were cut off from land and forced to climb trees, which for hours were repeatedly struck by wreckage of barns, out-buildings and bridges, and it was all they could do to hang fast.

During the entire time 500 friends, who had been with them at a picnic stood on the shore, not 30 yards away, but could do nothing to help them, as the boats had been carried away and no raft could live in the seething waters.

One of the marooned men was Samuel W. Wilson, 75 years old, who was almost exhausted from the trying ordeal when the stream finally receded and they were rescued. Several times, but for his son, Harry Wilson, who had climbed up the tree with him, he would have fallen and been drowned.

SENATOR CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW



Senator Chauncey M. Depew, United States senator from New York, is still actively interested in politics. He attended the recent Republican convention at Chicago and took a prominent part in the meetings of the New York delegation. Senator Depew has a lease on his seat in the senate until at least March 3, 1911. The above is his latest photograph.

GIFT OF MUMMY HORRIFIES.

Letter of Explanation is Delayed in Reaching Recipient.

Waterloo, Ia.—Jack Stone of this city was the recipient of a strange, uncanny gift from his uncle, J. P. Martin, a government surveyor in Panama.

Stone and were horrified when the grinning face of a portified mummy gazed into their eyes. The little shrivelled thing was about three feet long and fitted to one body were two well developed heads, four complete arms and four well developed legs. The strange freak was unattached by Mr. Martin in the Panama district.

A letter of explanation was delayed several hours and the horrifying creature was seen before the family was reconciled for the shock.

Society Girl Takes Her Second Husband



MRS. MINNA FIELD GIBSON, formerly Mrs. Preston Gibson, daughter of Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, has given society another surprise in her marriage to Algernon Burnaby of Leicestershire, England. The ceremony took place in the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Page in York Harbor, Me., where Mrs. Gibson and her sister Mrs. Lonsday of Boston, are summering. The future home of the bride will be Baginville Hall, Leicestershire, one of the oldest estates in the heart of the hunting district of England.

It was just a year ago that Mrs. Gibson surprised Washington and society by a divorce in Chicago, their home at that time from Preston Gibson. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gibson were well known in the social circles of both cities, since her divorce Mrs. Gibson has made her home with Mr.

and Mrs. Page. Mr. Gibson also moved east and established himself on an old estate near Alexandria, Va., where his house parties are society features. He is writing short stories and plays. One of his productions, a one act curtain raiser, was recently produced at a Washington theater.

Mrs. Gibson spent the greater part of last season in England with her late father's relatives. Her small son, Henry Field Gibson, was with her. She was admitted in England for her skill as a horsewoman. Much of her time was spent in the hunting district, where she met Mr. Burnaby. Mrs. Gibson has an income of about \$80,000 a year, left her from her father's estate. Her sister, Mrs. Lonsday of Boston, has an income equal to hers and they will receive more from their mother.

Mrs. Gibson is still very young, her marriage as a schoolgirl to Mr. Gibson, a schoolboy, being well remembered in Washington society, as it was an unexpected runaway match. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson made their home in Chicago, where they married five years ago.