

Green Peas for Feline Gourmets

It is generally supposed that cats are carnivorous animals, yet from investigations recently undertaken by a French cat fancier it would appear that vegetarians are to be found even among the feline tribe.

Green peas, cooked, are among the vegetables most favored by these four-footed gourmets, and asparagus is regarded as an extraordinary dainty, even the white, hard stalks, usually rejected by the most fastidious "humans," being eagerly devoured. Haricots beans and sorrel are not much thought of, nor spinach, but cooked chicory and lettuce are more to their taste. Carrots are generally appreciated and are said to be beneficial to cat health. They are also excessively fond of maize, either green or even the hard grains when cooked.

Fruit apparently does not appeal to puss, apples, pears, peaches and apricots failing to rouse her appetite. On the other hand, they show a decided taste for melons and bananas, while some were found to be absolutely greedy over cocoanut in any form.

There is evidently likely to be an opening in the future for a cat's vegetable man to compete with the peripatetic cat's meat man of the present. —London Daily Telegraph.

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THE COST OF LIVING

Joseph W. McDonald of Pawtucket, R. I., writes for the New York World an interesting article on the cost of living. Mr. McDonald says:

"I notice that the republican papers are trying to make a good deal out of Carroll D. Wright's reports on the cost of living. In looking over Mr. Wright's report for March I notice that he uses figures in such a way as to make it seem that the cost of living has increased but a trifle.

"On page 260 are the prices of fifty-three different articles of food, upon some of which prices have increased and on others prices have decreased. Striking an average, Mr. Wright finds that the cost of food has increased but a trifle over 5 per cent.

To show how figures can be made to teach an untruth we will take the following articles from this table, with the increase and decrease in price of each:

Increase in price:	
Flour	104.5
Butter	112.9
Codfish	118.6
Cheese	121.6
Potatoes	126.2
Beans	130.2
Milk	127.5
Eggs	193.6

Average price* 129.3
Decreased in price:

Soda Crackers	90.5
Vinegar	88.0
Dried apples	72.8
Prunes	67.8
Nutmegs	67.1
Soda	64.6
Rice	87.0
Corn starch	93.6

Average price 78.92
Average cost of food, 104.16.

*Calculated from an arbitrary standard.

But the cost to the average family of any one of the articles that have increased in price is greater than the cost of the whole eight articles that have decreased in price.

Take nutmegs. The average family doesn't use fifty cents' worth in a year, while its flour bill would be at least \$25. Yet Mr. Wright sets off the decrease in the price of nutmegs against the increase in the price of flour.

Increased in price: Flour, 104.5.
Decreased in price: Nutmegs, 67.1.
Which shows a decrease of 14.2 per cent in cost of living and an average cost of 85.8 as far as these two articles are concerned.

Take two other articles, butter and vinegar:

Increased in price: Butter, 112.9.
Decreased in price: Vinegar, 88.0.
Average cost, 100.4.

By comparing these two articles the cost of living remains stationary by setting a 12 per cent increase in the price of butter against a 12 per cent decrease in the price of vinegar, yet the butter bill of the average family is fifty times as great as the vinegar bill.

In Mr. Wright's table on fuel and lighting we find that the average price has risen to 139.8. This table includes a number of different kinds of coal, candles and petroleum, also coke and matches. Coke and matches show a decrease in price, while all the others show an increase:

Increased in price: Anthracite coal, chestnut, 137.7.
Decreased in price: Matches, 85.4.
Average for both articles, 111.5.

Which goes to show that the cost of fuel and lighting has not increased

a great deal, although many men will think that the decrease in the price of matches is hardly a fair set-off against the increase in the price of coal.

The table on building material shows that the cost of building a house has not increased so much as we might think. Take two articles that enter into the building of every house:

Increased in price: Brick, 130.3.
Decreased in price: Putty, 71.5.
Average price, 100.9.

I am afraid that a contractor, figuring on what he could build a brick house for, would hardly be willing to set off the increase in the price of bricks against the decrease in the price of putty.

Life Story of a Tree

Remarkable recuperative power following an injury was found after examination of the sequoias of the Converse basin. The facts are told in a letter from William Russell Dudley to Senator Platt.

The effects of certain tremendous forest fires occurring centuries ago are registered in the trunks of these trees, and the record completely concealed by subsequent healthy growth.

Among a number of similar cases the most instructive record of these ancient forest fires was observed in a tree of moderate size—about 15 feet in diameter, five feet from the ground. It was 270 feet in height and 2171 years old.

This tree when felled had an enormous surface burn on one side, 30 feet in height and occupying 18 feet of the circumference of the tree; this was found to have been due to a fire occurring in A. D. 1197.

The tree when cut in 1900 had already occupied itself for 103 years in its efforts to repair this injury, its methods being the ingrowing of the new tissue from each margin of the great black wound.

When the tree was cut the records of three other fires were revealed. The history of the tree was as follows: 271 B. C. it began its existence.

The first year of the Christian era it was about four feet in diameter above the base.

254 A. D. at 516 years of age, occurred a burning on the trunk three feet wide.

One hundred and five years were occupied in covering this wound with new tissue. For 1196 years no further injuries were registered.

1441 A. D., at 1712 years of age, the tree was burned a second time in two long grooves, one and two feet wide, respectively.

One hundred and thirty-nine years of growing followed, including the time occupied by covering the wounds. 1580 A. D. at 1851 years of age, occurred another fire, causing a burn on the trunk two feet wide, which took 56 years to cover with new tissue.

Two hundred and seventeen years of growth followed this burn. 1797 A. D., when the tree was 2068 years old, a tremendous fire attacked it, burning the great scar 18 feet wide.

One hundred and three years, between 1797 and 1900, had enabled the tree to reduce the exposed area of the burn to about 14 feet in width.

In each of the three older burns there was a thin cavity occupied by the charcoal of burned surface, but the wounds were finally fully covered and the new tissue was full, even, continuous and showed no sign of distortion or of the old wound.—San Francisco Argonaut.

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