

COMPLEXION. The Orange Judd Farmer, of June 8, contains comment on the Grout bill which proposes a heavy tax upon "oleo colored in imitation of butter" and commends the aforesaid paternal legislation for re-introduction at the next session of congress.

The question of what "color" really imitates the complexion of normal butter is quite puzzling. Butter depends for color upon the food of the cows. It is white in winter and golden in summer. If "oleo" is white it is imitation of naturally colored, winter-made butter. If "oleo" is yellow it is like the butter made in June. Under the Grout law, as advocated by the "Orange Judd Farmer," can oleo of any color be sold at all without violating the statute?

The dairy journals, and even ordinary agricultural periodicals, constantly advertise various artificial compounds and concoctions for giving an artificial complexion to butter. One of these coloring substances is described as "fadeless" and entirely capable and efficient in giving the genuine "June tint" to butter.

By what sort of discriminating consciences are artificial coloring and complexion for butter made perfectly proper and right, and artificial coloring for "oleo" altogether improper and wrong? Why is it right for rancid butter, bought up by creameries, all over the west, to be chemically treated, colored and put upon the market as "the best Jersey," when it is wrong to place clean, wholesome and pure oleomargarine for sale alongside of it, if the same has been colored even by feeding carrots? Why has one product of the bovine a right to artificial complexion and another no right to such make-up? Why should the selfishness of dairymen be enacted into law any more than the selfishness of oleomargarine makers? Do the American people know enough to purchase the oleaginous substance they use for spreading on their bread? Can the people be injured by a wholesome, cheaper and better substance than much of the chemically-treated butter, even if left free to buy it, in preference to butter, though it may have, like most butter, an artificial complexion?

Is not the sole object of the Grout bill to increase the price of butter by killing off the use of a competitor of butter called oleomargarine?

OWN AND CONTROL.

The incorporated capital, which built and owns industrial plants, has, and ought to have, the right—within the limits of the public good—to control those plants and their operation. Employees who are promptly paid an agreed sum for their labor have no right

to demand changes in hours of labor and wages to which they have been an agreeing party, except upon reasonable notice, for good causes and without threats of a strike.

The right to own a plant carries with it the right to control a plant. And the two rights cannot be divorced by the mere edict of any association, union or other labor combination.

If it is right for labor to demand ten hours pay for nine hours work it is equally right for capital to demand pay for ten pounds of bacon, sugar or other staple product, when it weighs out only nine pounds. It is as reasonable to make fifty minutes an hour, by statute, as it is to decree, by legislation, that seven hours is a day.

Equal rights to labor and capital will make their best footing and stand most firmly after walking delegates and designing agitators have ceased to force regulatory legislation upon the country. It is far better to close a manufacturing plant, and let it rot in disuse, than to operate under the dictation of non-owners and in abject duress.

A COOK.

The Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, New York, offers a reward of one thousand dollars for the best all-around feminine cook, twenty-one years old, whose father was worth one hundred thousand dollars when she was ten years old and has remained wealthy up-to-date. A girl cook, competent to get up a plain meal, a breakfast, for instance, of muffins, corn-beef hash, soft-boiled eggs and baked potatoes, who was born and reared in affluence, is an American curio. She is as rare as a white black-bird. All girls must pound a piano. But few prepare food for eating. The diet of music is not fattening. Let us have fewer tunes from and more good meals by American girls.

BALANCE OF POWER.

The alleged republican party is incapable of electing any man to the presidency and so is the alleged democratic party. The two candidates for the presidency in 1900 have each so declared. This being an acknowledgment of the independent vote, which carries the balance of power in the United States, why will partisan journals continue to decry "the new party?"

EMPEROR.

The empire having been decreed by the supreme court, and the Fourth of July having been abolished by the gold standard, what shall be commoner than the dukes, counts, earls and lords whom the American people may soon salute in high places? When shall the dukedom of Lincoln and Lancaster be instituted? Who shall be the duke?

SINGLE TAX.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

DEAR SIR:—It was with much interest that I read the article in your last issue, writted by Johan Waage and, as this gentleman stated a good many things and will answer all questions, I would be pleased to have him answer the following—that is, if he can: Will not the landlord shift the tax upon the tenant, as he does all other taxes today? What benefit would the laborer derive from such a tax? If you were to levy all taxes on land no one would own it. Is there not plenty of idle land out west? And, if so, why don't the people go out there? If the single tax would do everything he states, why don't the people get it? What would Mr. Waage do for the poor widow who had saved a few dollars and had purchased a piece of land, and it was the only means of her support? Would he tax it out of her possession?

I shall watch with interest his reply in your coming issue. Respectfully,
G. J. FOYER.

Chicago, Ill., May 28, 1901.

More Inquiry.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

DEAR SIR:—It would please some of the readers of your valuable paper if Mr. Johan Waage would explain how he would put "single tax" in operation. Would people own their lands as now, or would the government own them?

If A. should rent a lot and build a \$1,000,000 building on it, and B. would offer to pay a higher rent for the lot, how would A. and B. settle for the building? Respectfully yours,

D. J. S.

Fremont, Neb., May 28, 1901.

MYSTERIOUS MISS DACRES.

Secretary of the Navy, Long is a great admirer of a good detective yarn or story of mystery. It is his relaxation, and he apparently reads with critical judgment as well. He recently wrote to Mrs. Schuyler Crowninshield in regard to her latest novel, "Mysterious Miss Dacres," which was printed in Lippincott's Magazine: "I read it with a very lively interest. The charm is in the dialogue, the extravagance of situation, the constant unexpectedness of situation. For this reason it reminded me of Frank Stockton, and Stockton at his best. In its touches of New England character and scene and dialect nothing could be more real. Of all things it is not conventional, unless it is in the final page or two in which the mystery is unravelled."

HE MUST ATONE.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan is not an old man now. But he will be a very old man if he lives long enough to atone to the democratic party for the injury he has done it.—Beaumont, Texas, Age.