

LAST DAYS OF SPANISH RULE

Officials Gathering All the Spoils They Can Lay Their Hands On.

BUSINESS IN A STATE OF SUSPENSE

Open Evacuation of Customs Duties—The Government Selling Provisions—Some Odd Features of Commercial Transactions.

HAVANA, Oct. 24.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Business in Cuba is in a state of suspense—of complete stagnation. No progress in any industrial branch is to be expected until the political status of the island becomes fixed and stable.

Robbing the people, cheating the government, stealing public funds, picking private pockets, fleecing the lambs called strangers, plucking the geese called promoters; these are the occupations of the Spanish military officials, of the Spanish civil authorities and of Spanish and Cuban merchants at present.

Flour Passed as Charcoal.

Corruption is practiced openly, even ostentatiously like the charity of the hypocritical. If one doubts this he has only to walk down to the machine, the custom house wharf, to find the proof. Here he may see, as the correspondent did the other day, blacks at work unloading sacks from the lighters. The sacks were labeled "charcoal," but the process of piling them in heaps on the wharf scattered a fine white dust. This does not mean that white charcoal has been invented, for when the correspondent dipped his fingers in the white dust and tasted it, he

quantities of provisions in the hands of the military government. The statement that during the war the Spaniards in Cuba had no supplies was quite erroneous. As a matter of fact, the Spanish military government, for the purpose of prosecuting the war, made immense shipments of food to all parts of the island, stocking every store and consigning goods to all the importers and jobbers. And now, with the end of its domination in sight, the Spanish military government has still on hand about 25,000 sacks of flour, 15,000 barrels of beans, 10,000 boxes of Norwegian codfish and 1,000 cases of condensed milk. These goods are offered at prices below cost, are sold, in fact, at any figure, with the idea of turning everything into cash before the revolution comes to give an accounting. At the same time the stock in the hands of private dealers is spoiling for want of purchasers at even reasonable prices. And the government, as long as it has a pound of food left will continue to undersell the dealers.

Thus the expulsion of a rotten government is being marked by an epoch of shameful intrigue, of underhanded dealing and of wholesale lying and cheating. Individuals following the example set by the government, and many a merchant in Havana, honest till now, will never be honest again. No one asks questions, and each simply pockets the money that comes his way.

Making Money from Starvation.

The feeding of the reconcentrados has been a source of gain to nearly all who handled the money contributed for the purpose. During the blockade and up to the present time enough money has been contributed, in Havana alone, to feed every one of the city's 30,000 reconcentrados three square meals a day. For instance, 8 cents a day buys enough food for each hungry one. It is sufficient to give each a quart of soup and a half a pound of bread daily, the reconcentrados received a quart of soup and a half pound of bread weekly. In other words, the 8 cents for each starving one was expended on every seven days instead of every day. The balance, which was a magnificent amount, was put down as "expense." This matter will probably never be investigated, although there are reliable witnesses in the

New York and Chicago daily newspapers sell here for 40 cents each. The retailers who sell these articles are, if nothing else, dealers. The correspondent asked a motion dealer of whom he had bought some pins to direct him to the office of the British consul. The polite dealer at once came from behind his counter and personally conducted the correspondent to the consulate, seven blocks away, leaving his shop open to who might come, presumably expecting his customers to await his return.

SELF SUCCUMBS TO THE FEVER

Member of the Marine Corps Dies at the St. Joseph's Hospital—Plans for Funeral.

Lieutenant Commander Stedman has received no instructions so far from the navy department with regard to the disposition of the body of George Self, the United States marine, who died Friday at St. Joseph's hospital. It has been decided that he will be given a military burial today. The funeral will be held at 10 o'clock from Heat & Healy's, with interment at Holy Sepulcher. A file of marines will be designated as pall bearers and the obsequies will be attended by all the honors of the service.

Very little is known officially in regard to the friends or relatives of the deceased. His most intimate friends among the marines understand that both his father and mother are dead. He enlisted three years ago from Leonardtown, Md., and so far as is known his only relative is a sister whose address is not known. He was stationed at Washington barracks until the war broke out and there he was sometimes visited by his fiancée, a Miss Woodward.

Self belonged to the detachment of marines that was sent to Guantanamo April 22, and he participated in all the stirring scenes that attended the landing at that point and the subsequent campaign. The detachment went from Guantanamo to Santiago and thence to Manzanillo and finally returned to Portsmouth, N. H., in charge of Admiral Corvera and other Spanish prisoners. Self was one of the detail of five sent to Omaha as a sort of reward for gallant service, but he has had no opportunity to enjoy his holiday. He was taken sick in Chicago with fever and on arrival in Omaha, October 7, he was sent to the hospital where he died. Self was only about 25 years old and was considered the best specimen of physical manhood in the entire corps. Out of the corps of 650 men he was the first to die on account of sickness.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET

Little Business is Transacted, but a Social Time with John Jenkins is Enjoyed.

The meeting of the county commissioners yesterday was a rather uneventful function, almost all the business being of a routine character. One of the officers of the grand council of Nebraska: E. L. Sargent, grand regent; F. L. Gregory, past grand regent; T. G. Magrann, grand vice regent; Alfred Cannon, grand secretary; A. P. Hinkley, grand secretary; C. M. Rich, grand treasurer; and Rev. T. J. Mackay, grand chaplain. There were also in attendance Brothers J. L. Martin, E. R. Perfection, F. L. Weaver, W. M. Miller, J. W. Maynard, W. H. Kennedy and D. Alberry, who are members of the grand council. After an interesting meeting and the conferring of the degree upon new members all present took an active part in the closing exercises, the serving of lunch and cigars.

Autie Room Echoes

At a meeting held Saturday evening, October 21, the initial preparations were made for both the annual benefit and the annual memorial exercises, which will be held in one of the opera houses. It is customary to hold the memorial exercise on the first Sunday in December and the date this year will be December 4. The date of the benefit has not been determined. Committees were appointed as follows: Committee on the benefit, A. H. Briggs, E. P. Mullen, George P. Cronk, L. W. Rober, W. B. Taylor. Committee on memorial exercises, M. P. O'Brien, L. E. Estelle, L. I. Abbott. Another committee was appointed at this meeting; it was that for the arrangements for the stage social that will be given at a time in the near future. Those who were appointed are: J. E. Peard, J. C. Farish, W. I. Canada, J. Ainsworth, F. Crawford. These socials used to be held every month, refreshments were served, the supply of cigars was inexhaustible and members of the order used to turn out full force to enjoy them. Lately the exposition proved to have more attractions and the socials were discontinued, the one in prospect being the first by way of resuming them.

Woodmen of the World.

For the last week visitors from every part of the United States have visited the sovereign camp. The last days of the exposi-

tion and the number of people taking advantage of the low rates accounts for the many members of the order being in the city at one time. Deputies Sweet of Michigan, Stellenberg of Minnesota, Gunn of Iowa, Kivett and Whitney of Nebraska, Nelson of Missouri and others were among the visitors transacting important business in connection with the order. Judge Balliett of Des Moines, a prominent Woodman, was a visitor, also Dr. Lindley and M. Kohn, both of Davenport, Ia.

Fraternities of Omaha.

Banner lodge No. 11 gave a reception Thursday evening to Frater E. M. Holton, who plans to move to St. Louis soon. A pleasant and enjoyable time was had by all and an interesting farewell address by Frater Holton was responded to by members of the order. Fraters Mr. and Mrs. Hough also intended to move to St. Louis, where they will make their future home. This lodge will give its regular monthly social next Thursday evening. Invitations have been sent and it is expected that a large number of members and friends will be in attendance. Mondamin lodge No. 111 gave a very successful entertainment on Monday evening which was well attended.

Business and Fraternal Association.

Omaha lodge No. 1 will give an entertainment and ball Wednesday evening, November 5. Previous to the dancing there will be a musical and literary program and the feature of the evening will be an address by ex-Attorney General Churchill Tuesday evening, November 1. Omaha lodge will hold a regular business meeting, making it the occasion of the initiation of ten candidates. The degree conferred will be that of Princes of the Orient. The degree team has been doing special practice in preparation for these exercises, held a meeting Saturday last for the purpose of perfecting arrangements for exempting the work. New robes and accoutrements have been provided for the occasion.

Supreme Vice President W. E. Cady visited Stella, Neb., Saturday evening, October 22, and addressed the regular business meeting of Stella lodge No. 18. A large crowd of members was present to hear his remarks.

Stella lodge No. 18 held a regular weekly meeting Saturday evening, October 23, when the degree Princes of the Orient was conferred on a number of new candidates. Supreme Vice President W. E. Cady was present at the ceremony.

Royal Arcanum.

Union Pacific council No. 1069, at a regular meeting Monday evening, October 21, in the Bee building, entertained the following officers of the grand council of Nebraska: E. L. Sargent, grand regent; F. L. Gregory, past grand regent; T. G. Magrann, grand vice regent; Alfred Cannon, grand secretary; A. P. Hinkley, grand secretary; C. M. Rich, grand treasurer; and Rev. T. J. Mackay, grand chaplain. There were also in attendance Brothers J. L. Martin, E. R. Perfection, F. L. Weaver, W. M. Miller, J. W. Maynard, W. H. Kennedy and D. Alberry, who are members of the grand council. After an interesting meeting and the conferring of the degree upon new members all present took an active part in the closing exercises, the serving of lunch and cigars.

Modern Woodmen of America.

At the last meeting of the Omaha camp No. 126, held Saturday evening, October 26, degrees were conferred upon two new members and applications from seven candidates were received. Invitations have been extended to all the camps of this city; South Omaha and Council Bluffs to unite with Omaha camp No. 126 in a social gathering to talk over the interests of the order. This meeting of the Tri-City camps will be held November 9.

Lodge Notes.

Mount Calvary commandery, No. 1 of the Knights Templar, conferred the degree of the Templars at the meeting held Friday evening, October 23. The Union Veterans' union resumed meetings October 1. The members meet regularly the first and third Friday evenings of each month, and at the gatherings which have already occurred many new members have been admitted. Tanglewisp temple, Mystic Shrine, held a regular meeting Friday evening, October 23, and decided to send a representative numbering forty members to the ceremonial session held at Carroll, Ia., by El Kahir temple, Cedar Rapids, Thursday evening, November 3. The grand officers of the Ancient Order of United Workmen held a regular monthly meeting at Grand Island, Neb., Monday evening, October 24, and transacted the routine business brought before it. It was found necessary to levy an assessment for the purpose of New York. The Independent Order of Foresters have issued a dedication souvenir commemorating the completion of their new temple at Toronto. The souvenir is in the form of a calendar containing information relating to the order and the progress it has made in the last few months. The Knights and Ladies of the Maccabees will unite with the exposition in a body on Omaha day, Monday, October 21. Their headquarters will be at the Nebraska building. The badge of the order will be worn by the members in the box, but will be spent sight-seeing. Alfaretta council, No. 3, Degree of Pioneers, Imperial Order of Red Men, will hold its initial ball on Tuesday evening, November 1, at Myrtle hall. A good time is anticipated. All brothers, sisters and

ORCHARD & CARPET WILHELM COMPANY 1113-16-18 Douglas St. We close at noon tomorrow.

Our Good Carpet Sale and Fall Exposition of house furnishings beam in attractive variety. Never have we assembled a more brilliant assortment of rich and dainty carpets for house keepers. Women will delight to linger in this airy salesroom, and to participate in this season's distribution of carpets for the chamber, the dining room, the living room or the parlor. Every item bright and new in this great carpet store—where we will be in full trim to meet you tomorrow. Words cannot do justice to the wealth and beauty of our carpets. Tomorrow will start with a good crowd of economical housekeepers who have waited for this announcement. The fact that season after season our sales have increased, that we add new lines is self-evident to those who have watched the growth and advancement of this store. Our full stock of carpets is far superior to any previous showing—the prices a shade lower—note these few hints—money savers that the smart buyers will take advantage of.

Tapestry Brussels The very best ten wire Brussels made by Alex Smith & Sons. There were 100 pieces of these at the beginning of this sale—about 25 patterns, with plenty for large rooms left to select from, at 50c. Ten good patterns left. Such well known and unquestionable makes as—Glen Echo Mills, Worcester Mills, Whitall Mills, Amsterdam Mills, Body Brussels in full 5-frame standards at..... \$1.15 Other makes..... 1.00 Axminster Carpets—wonderful parlor Carpets at triumpant..... 85c

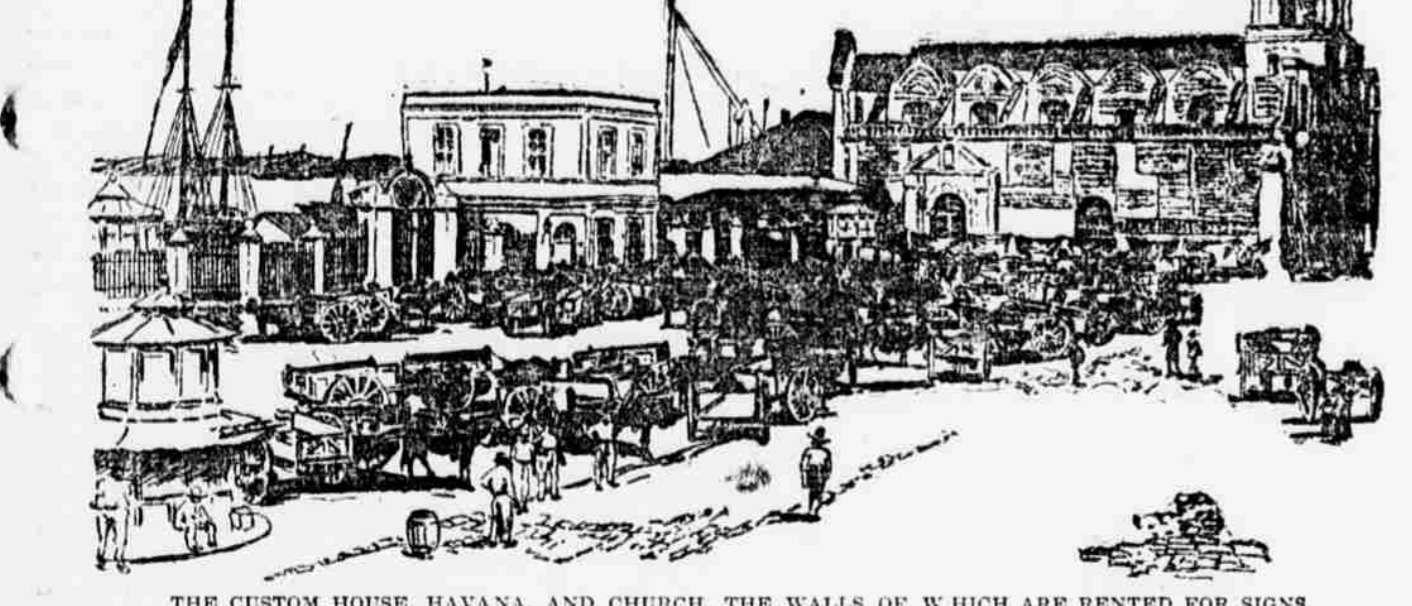
Ingrain Carpets gathered from makers who have made reputations for good goods. All wool two-ply carpets..... 50c Extra super fine worsted work..... 65c Three-ply carpets..... 55c Best all wool and worsted warp 8-ply carpet sold fashioned 3-ply..... 90c

Made up rugs We have made up a new assortment of stock rugs from short ends and will put them on sale tomorrow at prices that insure their ready sale—Why not take advantage of this opportunity to select a fine rug for little money—bring your measures.

Rugs well worth pricing Wilton rugs 9x12, 8x10, 6x9, 4x7. Smyrna Rugs 9x12, 7x8, 10x6, 6x9, 4x7. Scotch Axminster 9x12, 8x10, 6. Smyrna and Wilton Rugs in small sizes, Fur Rugs in plain and Combination colors, mounted wolf and fox skin rugs. You must see these offerings and learn our prices to appreciate the wonderful bargain we are offering in our rug department.

A Few Misfit Carpets accumulated in our work room during the season, must end during this sale, we have priced them to end quick—you will save a large part of the price of a carpet if you find one to suit—All qualities—mostly odd sizes.

October Sale Furniture Bargains Continued Many people have been too busy to buy furniture—for their advantage we will continue our special October sale all this week—Onyx Stands, Gold plated brass stand with onyx top and shell, will not tarnish..... 7.50 Other onyx stands—new lots just in—3.75, 4.50, 6.00, 7.50, 8.00, 9.50 and 10.00. Adjustable Morris Chair—upholstered in velvet mahogany finish—October sale price..... 5.50 The frame alone is worth the price we ask for chair upholstered. 6-foot Extension Table..... 3.90 Cane Seat Dining Chairs..... 70c Slideboards—a few specials—\$9.25, \$11.50, \$11.99, \$12.75, \$13.00, \$23.00. Oak Table, 24-inch top with shelf..... 85c Small parlor stand, 16-inch pattern quilted oak and mahogany..... 7.00 3-piece Parlor Suit (divan, arm chair, parlor chair) inlaid back, upholstered in damask, sale price..... 17.50 3-piece Chamber Suit—for October sale—solid oak and birch, polish finished, neat hand carving, swell top, trimmed with cast brass pulls—large 23x30 beveled glass A gentle and artistic bed room suit—either wood—sale price..... 24.00 Odd Dressers to use with Iron Beds—6.50, 8.00, 9.50, 11., 12.50, 14.00, 17.50, 19.00, 22.00 and up. Woven wire Bed Springs..... 1.00 Wool Top Mattresses..... 1.50 Pillows—per pair..... 1.00 Cots—woven wire top..... 1.00



THE CUSTOM HOUSE, HAVANA, AND CHURCH, THE WALLS OF WHICH ARE RENTED FOR SIGNS.

tasted flour. The sacks were consigned to a Spanish importer in Manzanillo—1,000 sacks of flour marked as charcoal. It was clear that some one was cheating the government out of import duties, or that the custom house officials were permitting the government to be cheated.

Later, on presenting a letter of introduction to a well known Cuban merchant in Havana, the correspondent mentioned the flour which had come in as charcoal. "Tut," said the merchant, "that is a mere item. That man in Manzanillo has been receiving monthly shipments of that same charcoal for years. The thing is easy. You see my neighbor across the street. He cables his buyer in New York to ship a thousand tierces of lard. The buyer gets the consignment on board ship and mails to Havana a manifest calling for 1,000 barrels of potatoes. Here the customs house inspector allows the importer's dray to haul away the supposed barrels of potatoes, a cargo upon which there has been this difference in tariff prices: A tierce of lard weighs 500 pounds, and the duty is 5 cents a pound; a barrel of potatoes weighs only 130 pounds, and the duty is only 2 cents a pound. The duty on the cargo of lard would have amounted to \$25,000, but the amount paid for the cargo of potatoes was only \$3,000, a saving of \$22,000. In consideration of this saving, the customs house inspector, of course, receives his reward."

Increased Port Duties.

Such is the way business has been conducted in Havana for years. Robbery of the government has been so systematized that it has become a science. With a termination of this state of affairs in sight, the extent of bribery now is almost beyond belief. In a stay of a week or so a man who keeps his eyes open can see a score of cases to be explained only on the hypothesis of bribery of officials. The largest and most valuable cargoes detain to almost nothing under the skilful handling of the importers and the officers of the port. The approaching end of various sinecures is causing the participants in benefits accruing from the present system to neglect no opportunity. If it is a case of "steal quickly, grab everything in sight, for soon we will have to cut and run." Meantime, port duties have been trebled, obsolete rules have been revived and new rules created. Importers who do not or will not stand in with the customs house inspectors have been obliged to suspend business. For instance, the port duties on a ton of flour valued at \$70 amounting to \$42.50. A case of a dozen cans of beans valued at 80 cents is taxed \$2.20. These exorbitant duties have been imposed with the object of excluding, as far as possible, all shipments of food, the ulterior motive being one of which the world at large is ignorant, namely, the disposal of

city who will testify that one merchant alone has made \$75,000 as his share of the profits of feeding the poor. Officials who were in power during the war are now buying city real estate.

Gambling houses are wide open in all the principal streets. With the interpreter from the Inglaterra hotel the correspondent visited seven of these houses in one evening. All within gunshot of Blanco's palace. The principal patrons of the tables are Spanish army officers. These gambling houses were given licenses at the beginning of the war, and were made to pay a heavy tax, which was to swell the fund for feeding the starving. Within the past few days the government has ceased feeding the starving, but the gambling houses are still doing business and still paying the heavy tax.

Odd Business Ways.

Business methods in Havana have always been peculiar. Counting out the retailers, the merchants are divided into two classes, the importers and the wholesalers. There are four importers and twenty-three wholesalers. The wholesalers do no importing, but buy everything of the four importers, the reason being that Cuban merchants, or rather merchants in Cuba, long ago ruined their credit with the outside world. Of recent years it has become the custom to refuse to sell to wholesalers in Cuba unless the house making the purchase has a representative banker in the port from which the shipment is made. Thus the four importers of Havana, able to place money on deposit at the ports of shipment, control all the trade with the outside world. Among all the Havana merchants business methods are characterized by a looseness that is astonishing to an American. A merchant, for example, wishes \$5,000 cash to pay for a consignment of goods. He sends a clerk with a verbal message to another merchant, who promptly hands over the money. Then the borrower, having finished some transaction that was pending during the day, sends back the cash to the lender. There is no note, no memorandum. This is going on all the time. These are merely cash loans of convenience, based upon word of honor, and their security is the certain knowledge that the sale will be effected to make possible their redemption.

There seems to be plenty of floating currency in the city, but rates of exchange are peculiar. An American \$70-dollar bill is worth eight Spanish silver dollars; but a Spanish paper dollar, the currency of the Bank of Spain is worth only 9 cents in our money. The prices of the most ordinary articles are still exorbitant. For a bottle of mulligatawny, sold for 5 cents in New York, one pays 40 cents in silver here. A paper of pins is 55 cents, a siphon of seltzer 60 cents.

Special Announcement WE have at the exposition a number of Steinway, Vose, Ivers and Pond, Emerson, Everett, and other makes of Pianos too numerous to mention, which will be placed on sale Oct. 31st, at our store, 1313 Farnam-street, at greatly reduced prices. Prospective purchasers should not fail to take advantage of the above special offerings. Write for catalogue, prices and terms or call and be convinced of the marvelous bargains. Every piano guaranteed as represented or money refunded. SCHMOLLER & MUELLER, 1313 FARNAM STREET. STEINWAY & SONS' REPRESENTATIVES.

Bookkeepers! Investigate. Exhibit 735, West End. Liberal Art Printing. (Fisher Book and Typewriter Co.) Her Grand Hotel until Nov. 3rd.

Patronize Home Industries. By Purchasing Goods Made at the Following Nebraska Factories: BREWERIES. OMAHA BREWING ASSOCIATION. CARLOAD SHIPMENTS MADE IN OUR OWN REFRIGERATOR CARS. BLUE RIBBON, ELITE EXPORT, VIENNA EXPORT and Family Export delivered to all parts of the city. BOILERS. OMAHA BOILER WORKS. JOHN R. LGWREY, Prop. Boilers, Tanks and Sheet Iron Work. CORNICE WORKS. G. F. EPESETER. EAGLE CORNICE WORKS. Manufacturer of Galvanized Iron Cornices Galvanized Iron Skylights. Tin, Iron and Sheet Metal Work. Agent for Kinneair's Steel Ceiling. 108-10-12 North Eleventh street. FLOUR MILLS. S. E. GILMAN. Flour, Meal, Feed, Bran, 1013-15-17 North 17th street, Omaha, Neb. C. E. Black, Manager. Telephone 522. IRON WORKS. DAVIS & COWGILL, IRON WORKS. Iron and Brass Founders. Manufacturers and Jobbers of Machinery. General repairing a specialty. 1501, 1503 and 1505 Jackson street, Omaha, Neb. LINED OIL. WOODMAN LINED OIL WORKS. Manufacturers lined oil process raw linned oil, kettle boiled linned oil, old process ground linned cakes, ground and screened flaxseed for druggists. OMAHA, NEB.

Upholstered Furniture. The Largest Variety Ever Assembled—The entire of our second floor is devoted to this department. Hundreds of pretty Divans, Easy and Reception Chairs, Colonial Sofas, Davenport, Morris Chairs, Couches, etc. We are Absolutely Headquarters For all upholstered furniture, being the only manufacturers in the city we are certainly in position to give you better values than any other house. You can select the frame and material for covering and have each piece made to order lower than other houses can sell, cheap, ready-made goods. SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS THIS WEEK. Dewey & Stone Furniture Co. 1115-1117 FARNAM STREET.

DR. LEONARD'S ANTI-PILL Cures the Pill Habit. Constipation, Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Nervous Life. Action not followed by costiveness. Dose: 1 or 2 pills. Sample free. Druggists, etc., or address ANTI-PILL Co., Lincoln, Neb. To Live Well and Happily Use "Geland" Stoves and Ranges.