

Modern Shopping

Scene: State street (Chicago), of a March afternoon. It is 5 o'clock. Streams of busy women pour in and out of the swinging doors of the great shops. Outside all is slush, sloop, muddiness, mingled with visions of petticoats mottled-patterned, and ankles anything but neat. Inside it is shove, shop madness, encounters between the motors of balloon sleeves, entanglements of endless skirts. At the corner of State and Washington streets two women meet, one a blonde in a brown crepon, the other a brunette in a vivid plaid.

Mrs. Plaid: "How d'y do, my dear? How loaded down you are!"

Mrs. Crepon: "Don't speak of it. I have just picked up a treasure."

Mrs. Plaid: "Still going to auctions?"

Mrs. Crepon: "Yes, I can't help it. I've just been to one and got a most glorious old silver soup tureen."

Mrs. Plaid: "Why didn't you have it sent?"

Mrs. Crepon: "They don't send. And you have to carry things away on the spot or you lose them."

Mrs. Plaid: "Take a cab, then."

Mrs. Crepon: "I was just looking for one."

Mrs. Plaid: "There's one now."

Mrs. Crepon: "No, I won't have a coupe. I want a hansom."

Mrs. Plaid: "You can never find one when you want it. Take your tureen into Shield's, buy something, and have them send both."

Mrs. Crepon: "I can't think of anything I want."

Mrs. Plaid: "What difference does that make? You can send it back. Come along. It's fearful windy."

The two women enter a portal which is opened before them by an assiduous small boy.

Mrs. Plaid (continuing): "When I have a big bundle I go into the 'Bazaar' or come here and buy, no matter what—gloves, lace, pins. It's better to buy small things. I ask the clerk to take my bundle, and when they deliver it I send back what I have bought. It is quite convenient."

Mrs. Crepon: "How dare you do it?"

Mrs. Plaid: "Everybody does it. You see it doesn't hurt anyone, and, besides, what else would the big store be good for?"

Saleswoman: "Silk shirts, madam?"

Mrs. Crepon: "No."

Mrs. Plaid (poking her). "Why go any farther? Yes, we will look at them."

Salesman: "What color, please?"

Mrs. Plaid: "Oh, it doesn't matter at all."

Mrs. Crepon: "Give me lilac."

Saleswoman: "I don't think I've got a lilac one. Here's pink."

Mrs. Crepon: "That will do very nicely. Please send, and kindly have this package sent up with the skirt."

Mrs. Plaid: "Now, let's have a soda. I am dying of thirst."

And the plaid and the crepon thread their way along State street till they reach a place where endless nectar flows.

They seat themselves at a small marble-top table.

Mrs. Crepon (over a strawberry soda):

"What if they should forget my tureen?"

Mrs. Plaid: "What a goose you are. It's a very simple thing to do. You'll always do it after this."

Mrs. Crepon: "No, I shan't. I'd be afraid. Weren't you ever refused?"

Mrs. Plaid: "Never. That is to say, only once, and then by a brute of a clerk. I made the mistake of only buying hair pins and my package was huge. You remember the enormous lamp shade I got at the church fair?"

Mrs. Crepon: "Yes; did you have to carry it yourself?"

Mrs. Plaid: "Don't be alarmed. I went straight up to the furniture department and bought the biggest thing I could find—a

wardrobe with three drawers. The salesman could have hugged me; he took the shade, and would of sent ten of them, I'm sure."

Mrs. Crepon: "and you had that wardrobe sent?"

Mrs. Plaid: "Yes, my dear; but not brought inside. I left word with the janitor to receive only the shade."

And Mrs. Plaid gulped down her soda, oven to the last drop.—Chicago Tribune.

Advantages of Cleaning Grain before Shipment.

With the opening of a new grain season there is more or less difficulty developed in the disposal of consignments, says the Trade Bulletin of Chicago. Buyers scrutinize sample offerings very carefully, and on slight pretenses insist on very reasonable prices. While commission merchants generally are very anxious to obtain best prices possible for their customers, they are sometimes hampered by obstacles which might in a measure be avoided. Interior shippers would in many instances greatly enhance the value of their consignments if more attention was given to properly cleaning their grain. They might as well have the benefit of good prices for a properly cleaned article as to be compelled to accept a low price for an inferior article, in the latter case probably purchased by parties who properly clean it, and resell it at a good profit. If country shippers would pay more attention to preparing their grain and seeds for market they would materially benefit themselves financially, and relieve commission merchants of considerable trouble in disposing of their consignments. While the receipts of grain and seeds are liberal, buyers are generally independent, and having a good supply to select from, give the better grades and samples the preference.

The Canned Goods Trade.

A Baltimore exchange says: "The canned goods trade of this city (Baltimore) is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and those interested in the various branches of the business do not look very favorably on the future. The entire pack of corn and tomatoes last season, which are the leading staples, was small compared with that of the preceding year, but the demand fell flat, and even under the decreased production these goods are reported to have dragged heavily through the winter, and prices got down to the lowest known during the past seven years. A well known representative of the trade stated yesterday that the dulness in the business was almost entirely due to the depressed condition of the working class throughout the west, southwest and northwest, where the greater portion of the pack of this state goes into consumption. During the season of 1895 standard corn sold at an average of 50c. per dozen, but the average price for the same class of goods was from 2½ to 5c. lower during the past winter. Tomatoes sold at 55c., as compared with 60c. in the year previous, but are now doing slightly better, as the supply is rapidly decreasing. These prices, it is stated, do not more than cover the actual cost of packing the stock, including cost of cans, boxes, labeling and handling. It is due to these stringent conditions that a number of long-established packing houses have been financially embarrassed during the past two years. Owing to the low price of canned goods a few packers in Hartford county, New Jersey and New York will operate during the present season, and a very small pack is anticipated. Authorities on canned goods state that tomatoes cannot be put up and marketed at less than 75c. to gain any profit, and from 60 to 65c. for corn. In 1892 corn sold at as high \$1.25, and, although all

other products used in packing were higher, very fair profits were obtained. Three-pound tin cans then sold at from 3 to 4c. each, while now the prices range from 1½ to 1¾c. Canned peaches are now selling at about 75c., but during the winter went as low as 50c., while five years ago they brought 90c. Apples and smaller fruits are comparatively low, with but little demand from any source.

"The cove oyster trade has been dropping steadily since 1889, and no profit of any consequence has been gotten out of each year's pack during the period intervening. In the seasons of 1889 and 1890, the pack of cove oysters each season amounted to about 8,750,000 bushels, while last year's pack barely reached 1,250,000. The prices during a normal season have ruled at \$1 for standards and \$1.55 for seconds, the prices now being obtained are 70c. and \$1.80 respectively."

Transporting Perishable Food.

The New York Sun says: "In no more emphatic manner are modern facilities of transportation emphasized than in the safety with which perishable food is conveyed from a great distance. In this particular Australia, South America and the United States are no further removed from Europe than a single province formerly was from the capital of which it formed a part. Algeria is now supplying Paris markets with camel meat. An extensive plant has been created in that French colony for the killing and refrigerating of these animals, and daily shipments are made to Paris. The meat of the camel is described as not unlike beef, with the tenderness of veal. The hump is the choicest portion. Eggs that formerly were gathered near the localities where they were sold now come from distant points. Four million daily are received in London from foreign countries. Most of them come from Russia. They command in England twice the price they bring in the home market. The export of eggs from Russia, that in 1885 amounted to 255,000,000, increased in 1895 to 1,250,000,000. These are official figures. The larger proportion of this product goes to England. In addition, great quantities of dressed fowl are annually exported from Russia to all European countries."

Nicaragua Canal Outlook.

The Engineering News says: "The Nicaragua Canal report to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce states that the committee believes the canal entirely feasible, and strongly recommends that the government assist in the completion of the work even if it costs more than \$150,000,000. The difference of opinion between the engineers for the government and for the company is thought to affect in no wise the practicability of the project. The committee believes that the main question now is, who shall build the canal and who shall control it when built. The committee feels justified in recommending that Congress should take immediate action to give such aid to the enterprise as may be necessary to obtain the funds which are requisite to complete the work."

Silver.

The market for bullion at New York and in London has been steady to firm all week. The commercial inquiry is fair, and the exports on the usual scale. The London price for bars has been between 31½d. to 31¾d. per ounce, while in New York the variations were from 68½c up to 68¾c. Trading in silver bullion certificates at the New York Stock Exchange was small, the total dealings being only 99,000 ounces at between 69½ to 69¾c. Silver prices on July 17, were: London, 31½d. New York, 69c.