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The Milk Crisis is a Crisis Throughout the World

Some Aspects of the Problem from the International Point of View.

The new crisis in milk is neither strictly new nor intrinsically evil. It is worldwide; but in France and England at least, it exists rather to satisfy a demand for good milk than to promote the sale of bad. It is therefore an event of high importance, the causes of which lie deep in some of the best and some of the most commercial of human instincts. But, what is meant by milk? A little reflection will tell us that the name is highly generalized and somewhat misleading. The public is inclined to take everything in the guise of milk to be genuinely good milk, provided it is sold as it comes from the cow. Beyond the crude fact that the milk dealer sells cow's milk, not goats' nor asses' milk, the public has no scientific definite notion at all what milk is nor of its qualities nor of its legal standards. Generally, it may be asserted, the public is fairly content if there is no adulteration of milk, either positive or negative, and does not contemplate the possibility of adulterating the cow herself by feeding her on water herbage and washy corn. As to the merits of raw and pasteurized milk even experts differ. Hence Dr. Janet Lane-Clayton aptly says in her specialized but nevertheless interesting book, "Milk and Its Hygienic Relations": "Although at first sight the problem may seem to be a simple one, its study opens up such a variety of intricate questions and the number of issues arising is so great that it is difficult to form a well balanced judgment." Experts will fully agree with this sober view. At present there is no complete answer, either public or expert, to the problems of milk.

To-day the international problems of milk are the most novel and require a special notice. It will take the world some time to recover from its gorge of blood and from the disturbance of social and economic conditions which, in the case of milk, have led to demand which exceeds the supply. To this crisis "The Sun" has in the past year called attention more

State. It is of no avail to argue that if he so contrived that his cows gave only the poor quality of milk he deserves conviction, as the effect on the public health would be the same in both cases. The law, however, as declared in the cases in point, does not adopt this view, for there are other difficulties. For example, the circumstance is well known that the cows of a farmer, though well fed, could not on the whole attain the proper standard, though some particular cows might be depended on for producing the required quality; but as it is the practice to mix the milk from a herd and send the mixed milk to market a majority of cows giving an inferior quality of milk will lower the grade of the whole product. This custom of mixing milk, though it has its good side, has led to much ignorant thinking, even by officials. As the "British Food Journal" points out, a Minister of the Crown, Lord Selbourne, is capable of asserting that "the average composition of the milk of a herd of cows is fairly constant." Even if this were so, Government acceptance of such a rule prevents the examination of milk as it comes from the cow, the only satisfactory way of testing it. Dairy farmers, of course, prefer the cheaper way of mixing the milk and having samples tested. Obviously, to take the milk of each cow and bottle it for transit would be too expensive. This is the ideal way, but the price of such a milk would be prohibitive for the general public. (Criticism on the Board of Agriculture's milk circular, "British Food Journal," February, 1916.)

The campaign for clean milk has been strenuous in France and England. The needs of the people have greatly increased. On account of the war the employment of married women has had the inevitable effect of increasing the number of artificially fed infants. It is essential to obtain for these babies clean milk and milk with at least 3 per cent. of fat. As milk is the basic food of infancy and childhood, something more is required in this case from sellers of milk than conforming to the less discriminating nutritive demands of adults. To preserve the supply of clean, whole milk for infants the "Journal d'Agriculture Partique" recommends the French Government to bottle skimmed milk for the use of grownup people. It is recommended that this milk be pasteurized and be accepted for gratui-

tous transit by the Government railways.

These recommendations should be compared with those of the National Clean Milk Society of England. The comparison will show at once the difficulties of producing clean milk and the probable cost. If the manufacturer or great supply companies were forced to adopt the rules of the British and French analysts the result would be a good clean milk, but a much dearer one. It seems to be only a private opinion that it would be possible for all milk to be of a quality which exists as an ideal in the analyst's mind. The law and the dealer hold out no such ideal. Perhaps it may be attained if the consumer pays the price. The recommendations to bring it into existence, recommendations both French and British, may be grouped together. The two influences at work in making these recommendations are the needs of the increasing number of artificially fed babies and the unprecedented number of sick and wounded, who must be fed almost entirely on milk. Clean milk, then, should be milk from (1) herds that are free from disease, tuberculosis. (2) The cowsheds should be inspected once a month (3) The cows should be washed and groomed before milking. (4) All samples of milk for bacteriological examination should be taken either at the point of distribution by the retailer or of delivery to the consumer. (5) All certified milk should be bottled in bottles of imperial measure, with labels stating: (a) The name of the farm where it is produced; (b) the name of the certifying authority; (c) the date and time of milking.

The last recommendation will be exceedingly unwelcome to retailers and supply companies. They know that the cow varies her milk according to her age and health, and so on, and even varies in the morning and evening qualities. To put the date of milking would interfere with the condensed milk trade, and condensed milk is now being produced in vast amount for war purposes. Thus the more attention that is given to the problem of milk the more casuistical and complex they seem. Still it ought to be possible to solve the conundrum of milk at once—clean, standard and cheap. It seems likely that it will be solved. At first the consumer will have to pay, but gradually the price will fall, if the opinion of one of the most competent authorities be true. (W. G. Savage: "Milk and the Public Health"). He observes: "If it be important for the community to have clean milk, the milk trade, using the term to cover all who deal commercially with it, must be made to provide it. It is essentially a question of supply and demand."

Whether the public will be content to pay a high price for milk when the quality is no higher is a question of this time throughout the world.

PEACE RUMORS FILL PAPERS

Crowd Out the News in Vienna, Budapest, Berlin and Sofia—End of the War by Easter—Basis of Wagers Made in These Cities, According to Correspondent.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Karl H. von Wiegand cables to the World: "There has been considerable betting in Berlin and Vienna in the last few days on peace by Easter. The public interest in peace is best shown by the manner in which news about every peace rumor crowds hard in the newspapers the news of the coming funeral of the late, and the coronation in Budapest of the new King-Emperor.

"High officialdom appears to have no illusions about peace in the next few weeks, and is not getting excited or enthusiastic. In those circles there appears to be a disposition to regard it as a case of 'more smoke than fire' in the talk of almost immediate peace, but they consider it as a favorable sign.

"President Wilson has not yet sounded any of the Governments of the Central Powers on the subject of a preliminary peace or other peace conference.

"I have recently been in all the capitals of the Central Empires except Constantinople, and have this from sources in Berlin, Vienna, Budapest and Sofia in a position to know, and which I have no reason to doubt, I was again assured of this to-day.

"For this reason it is the impression in circles close to the Governments in Berlin, Vienna and Sofia that any intervention or step by President Wilson is not as imminent as might be concluded from surface indications."

Discouraging.

Hobbs—I don't know how to thank you for this loan, old man. It seems as if I could never properly repay you.

Dobbs—Say, if you'd talked that way before you made the touch you'd never have got it.

All Are Well Cared For.

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir.—Hoping this letter would find space in your esteemed paper I thought I would write and let you know how we are all getting on at Wandsworth Hospital. We are quite a few in number here, sick and wounded, but we manage to enjoy ourselves, as they take us diving now and again, and we have quite a few visitors, as Newfoundland soldiers are looked upon as heroes, but where the hero part comes in, I am sure I don't know, for we only went to the front as every other soldier has done. I intend to describe to you our last drive. We left the hospital here at 1 o'clock, a mixture of Newfoundlanders, Australians and Canadians and a South African. We proceeded by motor to the London Opera House. After a splendid time there we left for Hyde Park and saw some of the thousands of London people of all classes. Then we crossed London Bridge, from which we could see the Parliament Houses, and continued our journey to the British or the Zoo rather. This certainly interested us, for there we saw animals of all descriptions, after which we made a round about track for the Palace, that is Buckingham Palace, driving around and around it, and saw in the grounds the Queen Victoria Memorial, which certainly interested us. It was more interesting to us, as the corner stone was laid some three years ago by that blood-thirsty fiend, Kaiser Bill. It rises to a very great height, and is of pure white marble. Next we visited the Prince Albert Memorial and climbed it and went all through it, after which we visited the Royal Exchange

Buildings, the Bank of England, after which we went round about to some club and had our tea and finished up the day by being played off by the Boy Scouts' Band. This ended a very pleasant and enjoyable day. So you see, Mr. Editor, we are quite well looked after by the people of London, especially the Ladies.

Thanking you for space, Mr. Editor, I now bring this, my long epistle to a close, at the same time hoping the readers of your paper are enjoying themselves, as we sick and wounded soldiers are here. Let me be the first to wish you a merry Xmas, Mr. Editor.

PTE. HERBERT J. FISHER,
3rd. London Hospital.

[The writer of the above is a native of Bonavista Town.]



OUR QUESTION IS,

What will you do if you have a fire and haven't any insurance? Can you stand this loss?

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HAVE US INSURE YOU in one of our companies. Why not do it to-day?

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Insurance Agent.

Breaking the News

"I bring you tidings of your son—
"He's dead?" He is; due rest,
"His glory and not grief for you—
"His wound was in his breast.
He'd fought his way right through the
ruck—
He rallied those who'd run—
"Fight for the Flag!" he cried, "Come
on!—
We've got to save that gun.
Across its breach he fell at last.
Unconquerable in death.
"The Maple Leaf! The Flag"—He fell.
"Fight on!" . . . 'twas his last
breath.
We did. 'Twas foot to foot we fought,
"Twas inch by inch we gained—
While all about the shrapnel shrieked,
And death above us rained.
And then—set up a British cheer—
We'd gained the trench, we'd hold the
trench,
But, madam—on the Honor Roll
Your son leads all the rest,
And he sleeps well 'mid the turmoil.
The Flag round his torn breast.
And you the nation's ward shall be—
For your son died to keep us free."
—Jeanne d'Arc.

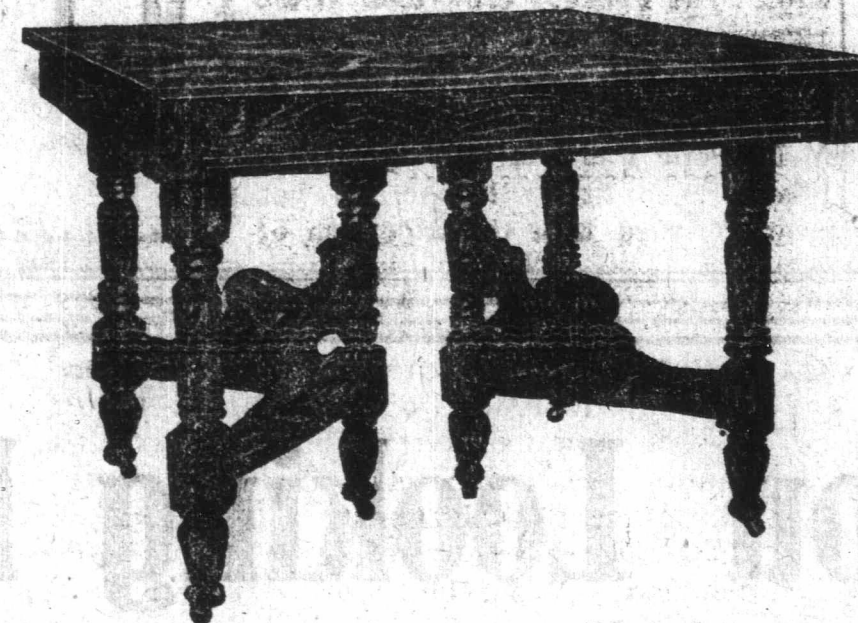
WAGES INCREASE

New York, Nov. 29.—An increase in price of from 35 to 40 per cent. to meet the increased cost of living will be given the 32,000 employes of members of the American Clothing Manufacturers' Association, beginning December 18, it was announced here to-day. The advance will represent an increase in wages of \$8,000,000 a year.

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