

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

There has been much said of late against the adulteration of food, and some are invoking legislative protection for the community from this evil whose magnitude is so universally acknowledged. At a recent meeting of workmen in Chicago, "Adulterated Food" was the subject of an essay read by a Mr. Charles Billows, who made the point that largely due to food adulteration is the fact that the workingman of to-day is not as hardy, as strong and healthful as was the workingman of 25 years ago. Mr. Billows, however, said that no law to prohibit the sale of adulterated food would benefit the workmen, but that it would, under present conditions, result in making it more difficult to obtain food. Mr. Billows is quite right. The cause of the evil lies too deep to be remedied by legislative enactment which contemplates nothing more than prohibiting the sale of adulterated food. If laws could put an end to rascality, the millennium would have come long ago.

Of course it is not pleasant, when shaking the pepper castor, to know that we are flavoring our food with ground cocoanut shell, and we don't like being haunted with visions of cotton seed and peanuts when buying "pure olive oil," nor is it comforting to think that our sardines may be only herrings and moss bunkers. But laws, however stringent, cannot save us from these unpleasant reflections while we continue our present social policy of permitting the few to monopolize our markets and production. Working people buy adulterated food products because they are cheaper than the genuine. The workingman has but a small income, which we call wages, and the margin between this income and the rent he pays to the landlord for the privilege of occupying a small spot of earth leaves him little, out of which subsistence must be provided. For most people this margin is so very small that they are absolutely forced to take the risk, or even the certainty, of adulteration for the sake of saving a few pennies to buy clothing, fuel and other necessities, and to pay for the children's schooling.

It is not so much the fault of the grocer if adulterated food is sold, since, in conducting his business he must be guided entirely by the purses and demands of those who patronize him. He sells adulterated food products partly because his customers demand low priced goods, and partly because the margin of profit above rent to landlord is so small that without the advantage of adulteration many grocers would be forced out of business entirely. There are people who insist on having pure food, and there are grocers who make a specialty of furnishing it to them; but, as Mr. Billows says: A law which should effectually prevent the production, sale and consumption of adulterated food products would, under present social conditions, simply result in preventing many poor people from using groceries of any kind, and would drive many grocers out of business and into the ranks of the army now fighting for the privilege of employing themselves. When natural opportunities are opened to labor so that all may employ themselves, wages will go up, prosperity will be general and no family will purchase adulterated food products.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SINGLE TAX

There are many strange things in this queer old world, but what strikes me as being uncommonly strange is the attitude of Christians—people who believe the Bible an inspired work—towards our present system of land-holding. If they approve of the present system, then their interpretation of the Bible must be a contortionist's act. "Thou shalt not hold the land in per-

petuity; it is mine, said the Lord." Listen to this: "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest; thou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger." If these precepts were acted upon, the rage for wealth, the grinding monopolies, the iron heel of oppression which grinds the unfortunate—these would no longer exist. But what are Christian people doing? Do they not glean the last straw from the fields? Do they not dismiss the servant who leaves a little for the poor, as unprofitable? When our Christian friends get to understand that the land is not theirs, and that God himself has put in an inviolable claim, despotism, grinding oppressions which crush the weak and helpless—selfishness on the part of the employer—all this will disappear. A simple tax on the value of land will regulate it.—"Clito" in Sunday Truth.

PREPARING FOR TROUBLE

The Carnegie firm made further additions to the fortifications of their gigantic steel works at Homestead on Saturday night in the anticipation of serious trouble with their workmen growing out of the wage scale problem. One hundred open-hearth workmen were discharged and four furnaces were taken out of blast. Almost every one at Homestead now looks for another fierce labor conflict. That trouble in the near future is expected by the firm is evidenced by the fact that a portion of the large double fence which surrounds the Homestead works has received special attention. Portholes three inches in diameter have been bored in the fence at intervals of twenty-five feet, completely commanding the vicinity of the railroad station, the scene of the memorable fight three years ago. Large water pipes are being laid from the mill to different parts of the fence, and the workmen claim that either hot or cold water can be turned on any one on the outside at a moment's notice. The 4,500 employees are hopeful that the firm will reconsider its expressed determination to ignore the Union scale.

PITTSBURG, June 29.—At five o'clock this afternoon the 17th convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steelworkers adjourned sine die, and the organization having approved the work done by its representatives is ready to stand or fall by the position now taken.

The real work begins from this day on, and the doings of the next two weeks will tell the tale. To-morrow midnight the western iron and steel scales of 1891-92 will cease to be in existence and all mills desiring to continue at work can do so only under the scale of 1892-93. The situation right on the eve of the great shut down is threatening.

A special from Homestead, Pa., says: The intense feeling of the workmen at the Homestead Steel Works of Carnegie, which has been heretofore well controlled, has at last broken forth. To-day there were numerous hostile and exciting demonstrations on their part. H. C. Frick, Wm. McBroome and several others were hanged in effigy in the mill yard on electric light poles. When James Dinkey, chief of the electrical department, climbed the poles to cut down the effigy of Frick, the workmen turned the hose on him that had been prepared as a defence for the plant and caused him to beat a hasty retreat. Another figure was cut down by a Hungarian laborer upon command of the yard master. As he carried the figure through the yard he was met with looks and jeers on every side. Wm. McBroome is the chief of the steel works police. To-night James McNeely, a policeman, supposed to be in the employ Carnegie Co. was arrested, charged with carrying concealed weapons. He was held for court in \$600 bail. The Carnegie

works here have shut down except the beam mill, and the idle workmen are to-night patrolling the streets of the town on the look-out for "scabs."

June 30.—The Carnegie steel company stole a march on their Homestead employees to day by serving notice of discharge on every man of them. This was twenty-four hours earlier than expected, the scale not expiring until June 30 at midnight. The notice was posted at midnight, and directed the men to call for their pay on Saturday. The shut down involved 3,500 men.

TERRIBLE BALLOON ACCIDENT

A terrible accident occurred at the Crystal Palace, London, Wednesday afternoon. One of the attractions in the palace grounds was a balloon ascension. It ascended with four occupants and after reaching a height of 100 feet it burst. Capt. Dale, one of the occupants, struck the ground with terrific force and was instantly killed. The other three passengers were terribly injured, and it is not believed they will live. Quite a crowd was watching the ascent when the accident occurred, and they were horror-stricken when they saw the balloon collapse and the occupants of the car falling through the air. When the unfortunates struck the ground several women fainted.

PROFESSOR ASHLEY.

Much regret is expressed in Toronto at the resignation of W. J. Ashley, professor of political science in Toronto university, to accept a similar position in Harvard university. He was the brightest member and most profound and advanced thinker on the professoriate here, and he has always displayed an active interest in social questions and has been regarded as a high authority on such subjects.

PRICE OF COAL RAISED.

The sales agents of the anthracite coal companies have advanced the price of coal to eastern points as follows: Broken coal 15c a ton, stove 30c, egg 35c, chestnut 35c. This practically means an advance to consumers of 50 cents a ton over the present prices.

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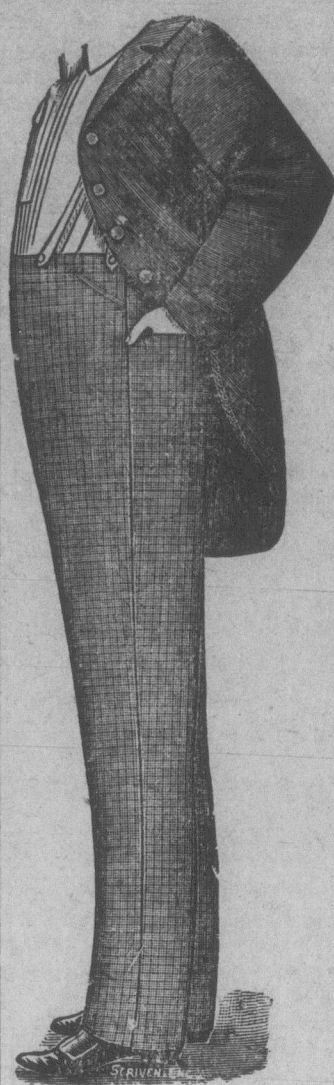
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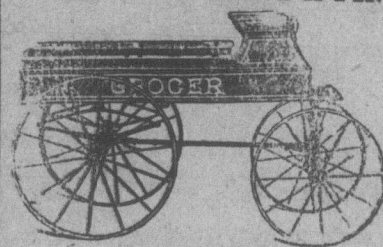
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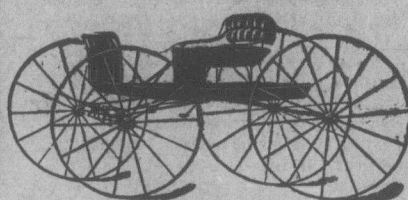
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