

## Commercial Catechism

What is the price of Flour now? Ans. \$5.80. good.  
Is Sugar likely to be dearer? Yes.  
Under Confederation, will our fishermen get a bounty on fish? Yes.  
What do you think of the Muscle as an article of food? Excellent. Only recently a famous professor of one of the American Universities, who had been experimenting with the Muscle for six years, handed down his report, which says that it is just as good as the Oyster. He goes on to say that in view of the high cost of living it would be a grand thing if the nation would realize the value of this excellent shell fish, as ten persons could be fed for 25c. He further states that the opinion widely held in the United States as to Muscles containing a poisonous part is erroneous, simply a superstition introduced by the Indians in early days.  
Is there more business done by mail in Newfoundland today than there was twenty years ago?  
Yes! twenty times as much.  
Name a house that makes a specialty of selling by mail?  
Well, there are several mail order houses in St. John's, but one house that figures largely in this line is J.M. Devine, The Right House.  
Does he send the goods without the money? Well, the system, if we are correctly informed is cash in advance or cash with order, and money refunded if goods are not satisfactory.  
But will he really refund the money if the goods are sent back to him for any reason? Oh, yes, you get a money back guarantee with the goods if you are not satisfied.  
What is his correct address?

**J.M. DEVINE, The Right House**  
167 Water Street, St. John's.  
You had better write him for all information.  
Does he give credit? Oh, certainly, to well-rated people.

## SEWING MACHINES

**The Famous Expert B.**  
at greatly reduced prices.  
Call and see them at our Sample rooms.

**Chesley Woods,**  
Manufacturers' Agent  
140 Water St., Up-stairs  
Outport correspondence solicited

## Pope's Furniture and Mattress Factory.

We have been Furniture and Mattress Manufacturers of Newfoundland for over half a century.  
Manufacturers of House, School, Church, Lodge and Office Furniture. All orders receive prompt and careful attention. Our Upholstering and Bedding Department is up-to-date. Nothing but pure, clean material used in the manufacture of same.  
Factory, Office and Show Rooms  
**WALDEGRAVE and GEORGE STREETS.**  
ST. JOHN'S.

## Wall Paper and Bordering

Arrived ex S.S. Sardinian:  
**2029 Bundles, 75,000 Rolls**  
**Wall Paper!**  
Specially selected for the Newfoundland trade.  
**EXCEPTIONAL VALUE**  
**ROBINSON EXPORT Co.**

## HALF A MILLION PEOPLE USED RUSSIAN RAILWAYS WITHOUT PAYING FARES

Some Had Forged Tickets, Others Attempted to Steal Rides Without Any Ticket At All—Lots of Others, Doubtless, Were Undetected

### GENERAL SYSTEM OF CORRUPTION

Conductors Take Bribes From the Passengers and Wink at Their Robbery of the Government Railway Authorities

More than 948,000 people were last year caught travelling on the Russian state railway with forged tickets or with no tickets at all.  
How many travelled in this way without being caught no man knows. Probably several millions. At any rate, the legend is that one out of every five Russians travels without a ticket.  
It is so easy to do this successfully that ticketless travelers are known as "hares." "Zaytsi" is the word. To travel as a "hare" is the ambition of every Russian, and it's a rare Russian who does not succeed at least once.

Just before Premier Kokovtseff resigned he received the report of the Ministry of Communications for 1912. In a statement about the 984,120 "hares" and also statement that in 1912, 18,703 railroad officials were prosecuted, dismissed, degraded or punished with disciplinary fines for tolerating or conniving at the free trips of the "hares." This shocked Kokovtseff.

Not only did he hate dishonesty though surrounded when in office by thieves, but he was also Finance Minister, and Russia's finances badly need the money which is pocketed by the "hares" and their allies, the grafting officials. Kokovtseff put on that bluish which he always wears when angry, and then talked seriously to M. Ruchloff, then Minister of Communications. But Ruchloff gave a shrug and said, "Nichevo," which means that the million "hares" don't matter, and intimated that all devices have been tried against them in vain.

**System Flourishes.**  
Ever since Nicholas I. built the first short railroad from St. Petersburg to Tsarkoe Selo, 60 years ago travelling as a "hare" has been the fashionable system. The system flourishes because the administration helps the "hares." The simplest way of travelling as a "hare" is to get into your car without a ticket and hand the "konduktor" a reasonable fee.

The "konduktor" makes the military salute and lets you travel free.  
If the "konduktor" who controls the conductor, boards the train, the "konduktor" simply pushes you under a seat or sells you a ticket which he has in reserve. Or he takes the "konduktor" aside and gives him half your modest bribe.

Railroads which are the best for

hares are the Moscow-St. Petersburg line, the long line of Archangel, the South Russian lines, and the Great Siberian. On the Moscow-St. Petersburg line there is a regular hare's tariff, so that no hare is swindled or charged too much. You cannot travel as a hare on the courier train, which is the quickest train of the day. But you can easily travel free on the slower passenger and post trains.

In a post train, as a second-class hare, you can travel the whole 400 miles on giving the "konduktor" \$3. Yet this is the highest hare tariff in the Empire. On the Siberian railways you can travel for two days for \$1, and some peasant hares are allowed to travel 300 miles for 10c.  
The main cause why the Siberian Railway produces a large annual deficit is that there is practically no paying local traffic. Travellers from Europe to China or Japan pay their fares but on the local trains three quarters of the short-distance travellers do not pay at all.

### Tried to Kill Hares.

Former Minister of Communications Ruchloff tried hard to put down hares. He first dispatched a dozen minatory circulars, which had no effect. Last Summer he tried a braver system. Other Russian Ministers kept their noses to their bureaucratic desks and never saw the great world, but M. Ruchloff resolved to act like Caliph Haroun al Raschid and travel through his railroad empire incognito, so as to find out what people were saying, doing and stealing.

Ruchloff started operations on the Moscow-Nijni Railroad. This is a moderately busy "hare road." Posting

### COAL FOR THE POOR

The "Can't Lose" will bring a load of coal from Sydney for disposal at St. John's in about 10 days. Orders now booked. Price \$6.80 delivered. Orders should be left at the office of the Trading Co. The quantity is limited and this chance may not offer again before Christmas.—Jy1.t

### A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN

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as an ordinary mortal and without a ticket, he entered a second-class compartment at Viansniki. The "konduktor" understood. Then M. Ruchloff gave him two roubles, which is about \$1.00.

Before they got to Nijni along came the "konduktor" to test the "konduktor's" honesty.

"Now," said Ruchloff to himself, "the rascal will be found out." But the "konduktor" looked at the "konduktor" just as M. Ruchloff had looked at the "konduktor," and the pair laughed. Then into the "konduktor's" hand clipped one of the Minister's two roubles. The pair saluted in the insinuating, courteous way that you see in Russia only among successful thieves.

M. Haroun al Haschid Ruchloff was delighted. As they steamed into Nijni depot he reflected triumphantly how he would order the depot gendarmes to arrest both the grafters. But the two grafters suddenly began a whispered conversation, and Ruchloff began to see that they suspected him of spying.

At Nijni, before he could get to the gendarmes the grafters had got to them, and the gendarmes arrested the Minister.

"On what charge?" asked angry Ruchloff. "On the charge of traveling without a ticket and trying to bribe us." And they told the gendarmes how the villainous second-class passenger had in vain asked them to take a two-rouble bribe. Only when the station master came was Ruchloff released.

### Regarded as a Right

Ruchloff last Summer sent an agent to Siberia to report on the hares. The agent reported that all peasants are hares or sympathize with hares and consider they have a grievance against the State for not letting them travel gratis.

This notion they inherit from pre-railroad days. Then, whenever going to weddings or funerals, they had a right to free places in State post cars or sledges. When the railroad was built they lost this privilege, but felt they had a right to use the trains free of charge.

Siberia's muzhik will travel under any conditions. One a peasant got into a refrigerator wagon and froze to death. A wedding couple had the same fate some years back. Peasants travel on the car couplings, and some times fall off. One man fell from a car coupling into the lattice work of the Yenesel bridge. The railroad administration, in best Oriental style, purposely let his body hang there for a week, "in order to frighten the hares."

### Desperate Effort

Honest Premier Kokovtseff made a desperate effort to stop graft and corruption in all the earning departments. He practically stopped robbery in the vodka monopoly. As a result of measures taken in 1911 against robbers the State saved \$2,000,000 a year.

Kokovtseff tried hard to get a law passed which would adequately punish the hares. Under the present law the railroad officials can be severely punished, but the same is left off on payment of a double fare, Kokovtseff wanted to send the hares to jail. The trouble is that the hare, when caught, puts on an innocent face and swears he has lost his ticket.

Numerous ministers have tried to kill hares, but always with the same result. The hares multiply—like rabbits.

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