

It is therefore merely in the public interest and from no sense of personal vanity that I reproduce the substance of one or two of them in this preface. There was a whole section, for example, on Eggs, which I am extremely loath to lose. It showed how by holding an egg down under boiling water till it is exhausted, it may be first cooked and then be passed under a flat iron until it becomes an Egg pan-cake. It may be then given a thin coat of varnish and served in a railway restaurant for years and years.

I had also an excellent recipe for Rum Omelette. It read. "Take a dipper full of rum and insert an omelette in it. Serve anywhere in Ontario". I am convinced that this recipe alone would have been worth its weight in rum.

But it would be childish of me to lay too much stress on my own personal disappointment or regret. When I realised what had happened I felt at once that my cooperation in this book must take some other form. I therefore sent to the editors a second telegram which read :—

*"Am willing to eat free of charge all dishes contained in volume"*.

This offer was immediately accepted and I am happy to assure readers of this book that I have eaten each and every one of the preparations in the pages that follow. To prevent all doubt I make this statement under oath. I had intended to make merely an honest statement of the fact but my friends tell me that a statement under oath is better in such a case than a mere honest statement.

It was only after my collaboration that I discovered that the proceeds of this book were to go to the Belgian and French Refugees. As soon as I knew this, I sent a cheque to the editors and begged them to put me down for a thousand copies. I am sorry to find that my cheque has come back to me, the bank having very generously refused to accept it.

But my sympathy and cooperation in this good work are none the less sincere.

Stephen Leacock