

**17 CENTS A MEAL
ELLIS ISLAND COST**

**Buying is Competitive and
Waste Eliminated—Lesson
for Restaurants.**

Seventeen cents a meal is what it costs to feed the immigrants at Ellis Island, writes Mary Lee in the New York Evening Post. And it feeds them pretty well, too. I got there just at supper time, as the "P. D.'s" or temporarily detained immigrants, were being ushered into the white-tiled dining room. The waiters, each of whom speaks four or five languages, asked them as they came in if they were Yiddish or Catholic, or what not, and then conducted them to tables where food was served suited to their own particular creed.

Catholics found low rows of plates with hot fish hash on them, and the Jews had a sort of sausage of strictly kosher killed meat. There were potatoes and a third of a pound of bread for each. Real butter was on the table, and dishes of delicious looking jelly to eat on the bread. This caught the very eyes of the children and there was a scramble for the jelly dishes, which were soon emptied.

I saw a little Italian girl, with a large spoonful of the shining pink jelly on her plate, look across at the empty plate of an old Czecho-Slovak woman, who had not been so quick, with a look of pity. She hesitated a minute and then with a smile cut her jelly in two with a spoon and passed half of it to the old woman.

Eat Pie Before Soup.

"Sometime," said one of the matrons, "they don't know what to do with it. At the Thanksgiving dinner I saw some



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using the whole edible part of the animal. When he buys a lamb, for instance, he uses not only the legs and ribs, which are the high priced parts of the meat, but also the heads, necks, kidneys, etc. in stews, goulashes, and other such dishes.

"Nine out of ten Americans," said Mr. Macgowan, "know only how to buy the most expensive meats. My wife would not think of buying anything but a leg of lamb or a mutton chop. Yet there are parts of the sheep that are quite as nourishing and only half as expensive."

Overhead expenses at Ellis Island are low. The element of rent does not, of course, enter into the matter. But aside from this, the immigrant gets 80 cents' worth of every dollar spent for his food. The labor used in preparing the food, caring for the restaurant, etc. gets 14.48 cents of the dollar, and the overhead expense and profit amount to 4.86 cents. The low rate of overhead depends partly on the rate of immigration remaining practically constant.

Estimates as to the quantity of food needed for each month are made in advance on the basis of the amounts used in the month preceding, and the labor needed to prepare the foods is also hired on that basis. Should there for any reason be a temporary suspension of the stream of immigrants the meals would immediately rise in price. But as long as the balance remains fairly constant between the labor employed, the food ordered and the number of immigrants fed the cost of a meal remains at 17 cents.

**HEARTBROKEN OLD MAN
IN ROXBURY GRIEVES
FOR BELOVED TREE**
(Boston Globe.)

Somebody has a queer sort of Christmas spirit out in West Roxbury, in the vicinity of LaGrange street—a very queer sort of Christmas spirit indeed.

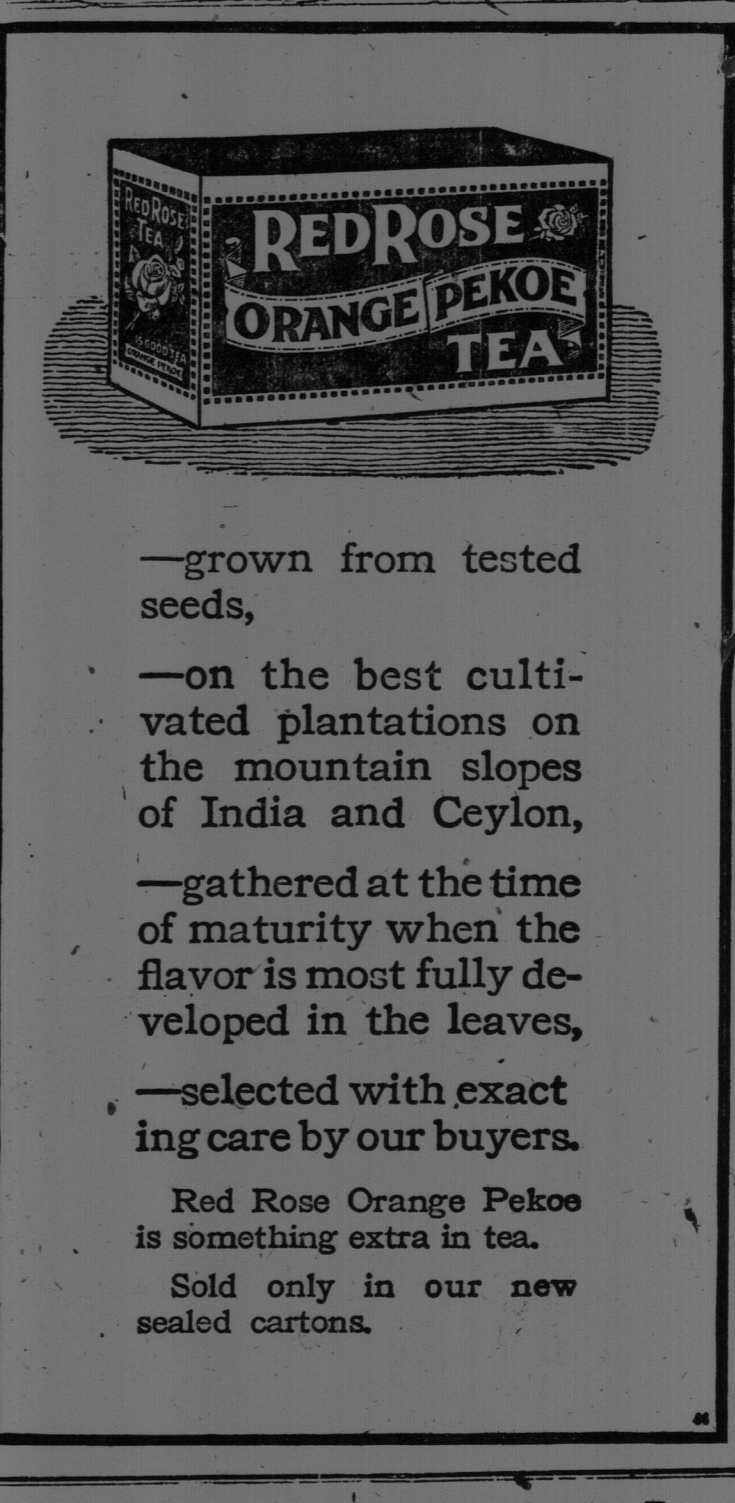
And as a result of it, an old man who lives on LaGrange street, West Roxbury, an old man with one leg who hobbles about the district with a kindly smile and greeting for everybody, is this morning as close to heartbreak as an old man could be.

It was nothing much, nothing much at all. Simply a spruce tree which grew on the lawn at "Doc" Maloney's home. If you happened to know "Doc" and passed by any time these past few years, you might have seen him caring for it. You might have seen him lugging buckets of water in the summer droughts, to save it from the sun. Perhaps you might even have watched him covering the broken soil about its roots with leaves in the winter. Certainly, if you knew him, he would have spoken about it to you. He would have told you what a fine spruce tree it was. And if you had any eye at all, you would have understood.

But somebody didn't understand. Or perhaps somebody didn't care, somebody who was stirred with the inexplicable sort of Christmas spirit that is willing to throw a shadow across the life of another. And somebody last night visited the home of "Old Doc" Maloney, and cut down the spruce tree, close to the ground, hauled the trunk into splintery mass, and carried away the tree.

And perhaps somebody will cover that tree with Christmas ornaments, with silver icicles and pendant candies and crimson, delicate blown glass ornaments. And tinsel. And popcorn strings. And perhaps somebody will stand back and view his handiwork, and find it good. For what is a bit of heartbreak, when you don't have it yourself?

"Old Man" Maloney, tapping his slow way up LaGrange street, through the bitter cold, in West Roxbury—what does it matter that he loved a tree? What does it matter that he should have discovered between himself and that glittering green shrub an attachment which only the years, and the dim eyes of age know or understand?



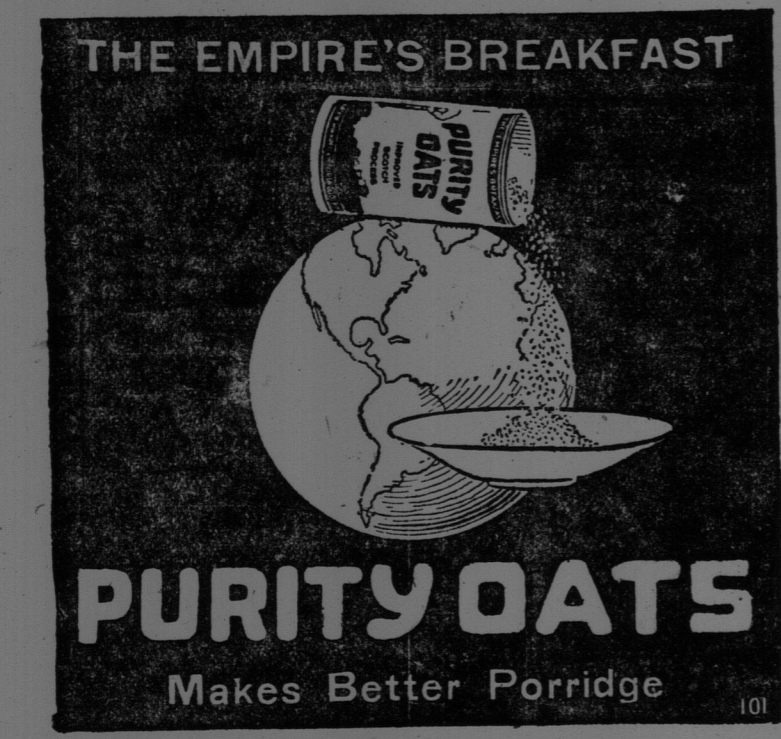
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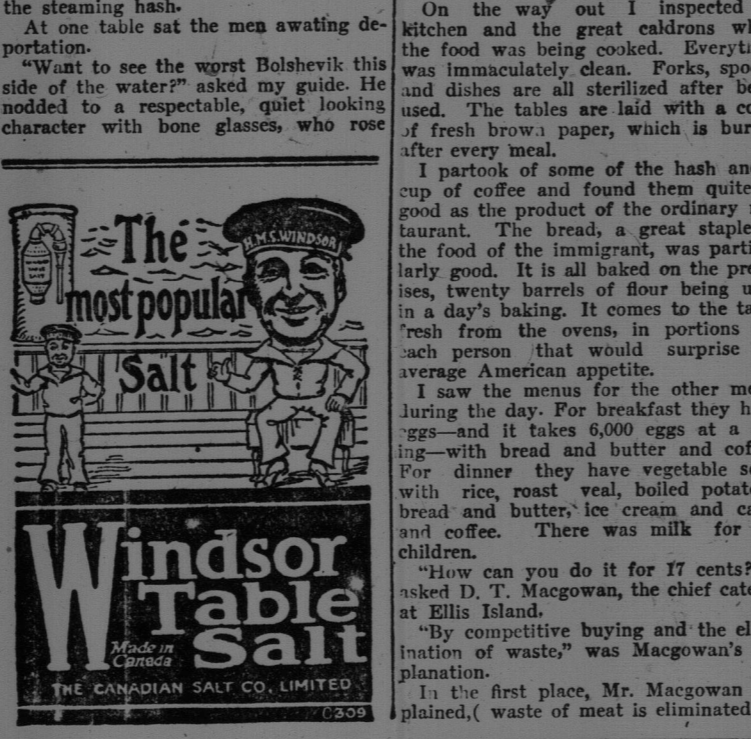
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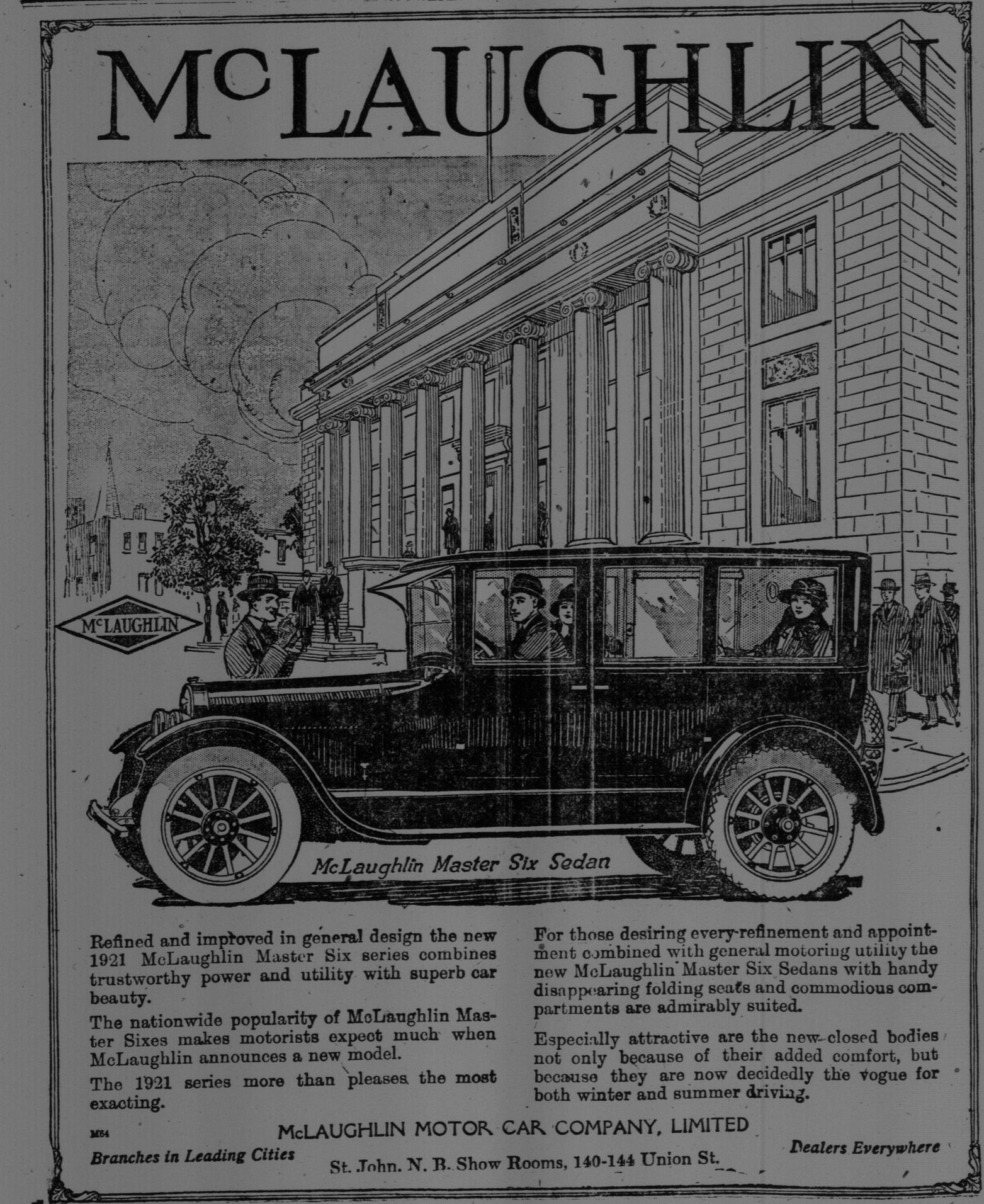
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