

Let some member of the family or the hired man or a visitor be taken down with typhoid fever. The deadly work of the cesspool immediately begins and those drinking the water may be infected.

The farmer, therefore, bearing in mind the fact that in the case of the water supply that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, should take no chances. If his well is not more than fifty feet from cesspool, outdoor toilet or other collection of filth, and on higher ground than any of these, he will dig a new well or move the contamination to that distance, and while about it he had best make the distance a hundred feet.

"The Cost of High Living"

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loaf instead of 5c. and his daily paper tells him that it is due to the fact that the price of wheat has gone up and as wheat is the stuff of which bread is made, bread must accordingly go up. He goes to his butcher to buy a ham and he finds that the price has gone up from two to three cents a pound and if he is a close observer of commercial conditions he will in a great many cases find that ham has had a lively time on the Board of Trade recently. He kicks and protests and says that he won't pay it, but an empty stomach never knows the value of a dollar with the result that he buys because he has to.

Somebody corners corn with the result that the price goes up ten to fifteen cents per bushel. The feeder of hogs hesitates to put 60c. or 75c. corn into something unless he can see a profit and the first thing we know the price of pork goes up and the man who buys it pays for it.

A group of packers get together in a friendly chat around the council table and they agree that they are selling beef too cheap and that it had better be jumped two or three cents a pound. Beef accordingly goes up and the man who buys it pays for it.

And thus I might go on through one industry after another. The manufacturer will tell you that the prices are based wholly and solely upon the cost of production with a reasonable profit added and he will present you volumes of figures and apparent facts to prove his statement of the cost, but when we get right down to brass tacks we find that in the majority of cases there is generally a small body of men somewhere behind closed office doors that controls the situation and whose far reaching tentacles permeate into every nook and corner where trade is to be had, and whose word is generally law.

Canada has not felt the sting of these members of the Octopus

family as much as the United States and there is as yet no great cause for alarm, but it is better to lock the barn door before the horse is stolen than to spend a large amount of money in tracing him up after he has gone. Canada is in a position at the present time where she can with a reasonable amount of effort and prudence keep the trust yet within the limits of the law and if she does not take a lesson from what has happened to our cousins on the other side of the line she can have no one to blame but herself.

The manufacturer of to-day will tell you that he does not make as much of a profit on what he

quickly. True, that there are more manufacturing concerns in the field and competition is keener, but these same manufacturers have become a great deal more skilled in doing business and are thus able to cope with competition a great deal better than when it was not so keen. This is the manufacturer's side of "the High Cost of Living." Now, how about the consumer's side.

The manufacturer is by no means entirely to blame for the present state of affairs. Twenty-five years ago the equipment of the average man was small. Give him a house and lot, simple clothing and three plain meals a

ago the old Red River cart was a convenient means of travel, while to-day nothing satisfies him short of an automobile. Twenty-five years ago a twenty-five or fifty mile trip was a thing to be talked of for a year, while at the present time his eye is set upon a trip around the world. Twenty-five years ago his farm equipment did not represent an investment of over \$500.00, while to-day nothing short of \$2,000 or \$3,000 is sufficient unto his wants. Twenty-five years ago the country boy or girl who went to college was a noted exception to the rule, while to-day the farmer's boy or girl who does not have

some sort of a college or higher education, is looked upon as one who has not made use of his or her opportunities. We find our farm homes to-day equipped with telephones, in some cases electric lights and bath room, large red barns with cement floors and expensive mechanical fittings, cement side walks about his farm, and everything else in proportion.

The same thing holds true of the average man in town. Twenty-five years ago one suit of clothes a year was considered sufficient unto his needs, while to-day three, four, five and in some cases a dozen suits go to pile up a large tailor's bill. We will find on the table of the average man in Canada in January all sorts of tropical fruits and vegetables that are three and four months out of season. Where formerly a round steak was sufficient unto his needs, nothing will satisfy his appetite to-day short of a surloin. We find him occupying a box at the theatre where a few years ago a seat in the gallery was a luxury. We find him mortgaging his home to buy an automobile. We find that his wife has a regular schedule of pink teas for practically every day in the year and we find that he himself is a member of all the best clubs in town. We find him smoking ten and fifteen cent cigars whereas his father was satisfied with a clay pipe. We find his wife and family on an annual trip that runs into hundreds of dollars, whereas in the olden

days such a trip could be nothing more than a semi-centennial affair.

All these things are laudable and are significant of an age of progress. They are indicative of an ambitious spirit on the part of the average man, but when reduced to the basis of dollars and cents, they cost money and are responsible in no small degree for the high cost of living. If we were to change the term and call it "The Cost of High Living" we would have discovered the cause of 75 per cent. of our expense troubles at the present time.

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A Picturesque Scene in Holland

manufactures as he did twenty-five years ago and he shouldn't. The volume of business itself to-day is out of all proportion to what was done twenty-five years ago; likewise the amount of the manufacturers' turn-over has increased in like proportion. He is selling one thousand pieces of a manufactured article to-day where twenty-five years ago, he didn't sell one. The channels of trade and commerce have become so systematized and the facility with which business can be done is so great that the average manufacturer is able to turn his money over a great deal more

day and he was satisfied. The furnishings of this house were of the simplest and the food which he ate was in a great many cases severely plain, but it was healthful.

The average man of to-day is on an aping race with the rich. A plain house will no longer satisfy him; plain food will no longer tempt his appetite and plain clothes are an abomination to be scoffed at.

Take the case of the farmer. To-day he must have a \$350 or \$400 piano where twenty-five years ago a Jew's-harp was a thing to be prized. Twenty-five years