

OUR HOME PAGE

HOUSEHOLD NOTES

RHUBARB DISHES

A Curious Soup

If you've forced your own rhubarb in cellar or store cupboard, you've been having lovely pink stalks of it for some time, but if you are dependent on the shops it has not yet come down to your price.

Rhubarb soup—do you know that healthy dish? It is not, as many fruit soups are, just the juice mixed with other sweet ingredients, but is a bone and vegetable stock made healthier by the addition of rhubarb. A weak stock will do excellently made from bones, onion and carrot. When made and strained, add pieces of rhubarb cut up and pieces of crusty bread, seasoning at the same time. Boil up, skim, simmer until the rhubarb is soft; strain off and serve hot.

Rhubarb Pudding

Rhubarb jelly makes a good basis for any mixed fruit jelly, particularly for one with very finely chopped nuts in it. Gingered rhubarb is the best basis for a fruit food. Rhubarb pieces fried in batter should have nutmeg to flavor it, or it may seem rather tasteless.

Carbonate of soda is often added to plain stewed rhubarb, and it certainly improves it. Make a syrup of sugar and water in the proportions of a quarter pound of sugar to each pint of water, and add for that quantity a saltspoonful of carbonate of soda. Cut up the rhubarb stems, drop into the syrup and cook until tender but not broken. Remove and cook the syrup until it thickens. Pour it over the cooling rhubarb and serve cold with sponge fingers.

ON COOKING VEGETABLES

Keep a special enamel bowl into which you pour the water used in cooking vegetables. This water, being full of nourishing qualities should never be thrown away. When you want water to add to stock, to moisten meat in cookery, to make a white sauce, this is just what you need to use.

Always buy fresh, young vegetables. Always drain well before serving. Serve a sauce on your vegetables every second day.

Don't soak greens; wash well, but don't leave lying in water. Take dead leaves off as soon as you get your greens home.

Use soft water to cook all vegetables. If your district provides hard water, use a very small piece of soda, or about a mustardspoonful of carbonate of soda.

All greens are improved if blanched—that is, plunged into boiling water, then into cold, and then cooked in boiling water.

Uncovered pans and much boiling water, mean nicely colored greens.

RAISED APPLE BISCUIT

Scald one cup of milk, add one tablespoon of sugar and one tablespoon of butter; let cool. Add one-half cake of yeast dissolved in warm water, one teaspoonful of salt and one cup of flour.

Let rise; add cup of apple, pared and grated, and one cup of flour sifted with one-half teaspoon of soda. Let rise for one hour. Shape into two flat cakes, let them double their bulk, bake in hot oven, split while hot and butter. Serve hot with sugar and butter.

APPLE CREAM PIE

This pie is made of early apples, which are always so tart and pungent. Line a rather deep pie pan with flaky pie crust and fill with well-sugared, sliced apples. Drop bits of butter over them, using about one and a half tablespoonfuls of butter altogether. Dredge the pie lightly with flour, then pour cream slowly over the apples, allowing it to permeate the layers well.

Bake thirty minutes or until the apples are thoroughly done. If desired the pie may be further enriched with decoration of whipped cream and dots of red jelly, arranged just before serving.

APPLE SNOW

Core, quarter but do not pare, three large tart apples. Stew until tender and rub through a sieve. Beat the whites of three eggs stiff, add half a cup powdered sugar and beat again. Then add the apples and beat until like snow. Pile lightly in a dish and serve with custard sauce.

CUSTARD SAUCE

Put a pint of milk on to scald in a double boiler. Beat yolks of three eggs, one teaspoonful of cornstarch and one teaspoon of sugar together until light and smooth. Then turn milk over this and mix well. Return to the fire and stir and cook until like thick, smooth cream. Remove from the fire and add flavoring, vanilla or orange, and set aside to cool.

B.C.'S PAYROLL WAS \$150,000,000 IN 1923

Vancouver, B.C.—British Columbia's payroll for 1923 was \$150,000,000, according to the annual report of the Workmen's Compensation Board, made public here. The payroll for 1922 was \$128,592,502, and for 1921 \$130,090,375. Employing firms operating at the end of last year numbered 6,524, an increase of 145 over the previous year.

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Bindery Girls and the Wage Board

Toronto, Ont.—After a month of work, bindery girls of local No. 28, International Brotherhood of Bindery Workers, who questioned the budget and the minimum wage of the minimum wage board, and were determined to make investigations if need be, have completed their labors. The girls have decided that \$15.45 is the minimum weekly wage on which a girl can maintain herself in frugal

comfort. Board and lodging is fixed at \$8.45, clothing at \$3.56, and sundries at \$3.64 a week. The minimum wage of the board is \$12.50, and while there is some difference in board and lodging, the major differences between the girls and the board are regarding clothing and sundries. In a letter accompanying the budget, the girls state that their feeling toward the board is not one of hostility, and that they are prepared to recognize the work which has been done in their behalf.

Consider This

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More Militant Union Is Desired

C.P.R. Employees Devise Ways and Means of Increasing Organization Revenue

Montreal, Que.—To enable their union to become "more militant," railroad shopmen of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company recently devised ways and means of increasing the revenue for their organization by 100 per cent.

The decision was made by forty delegates who attended a convention of the system's federation of railway employees, Canadian Pacific Railway, held here. The exact scheme worked out was not divulged, but the action is regarded as significant in view of the railroader's approval of a draft wage scale which would raise earnings of shopmen fifteen per cent. and reinstate the 1920 wage scale.

Shop management details were discussed, special attention being given to the wages paid triple cleaners. The men hold that the cleaners are losing 16 cents an hour by being paid helpers instead of mechanics' rates.

Officers were elected as follows: Frank McKenna, Montreal, president for the past fourteen years, was re-elected; J. E. McGovern, Montreal, was named vice-president for the Eastern lines; The vice-president for the Western lines will be named later. William Lester, Montreal, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Prices and Production Cause Difficulty

Price of Raw Materials and Fuel Blamed

A striking feature of the economic situation in Russia is the continued and heavy rise in the prices of industrial products. This increase far exceeds the rise in the prices of agricultural products, and makes industrial goods too expensive for the peasants, whose purchasing power is diminished. Industry finds it difficult to dispose of its output, and as stocks accumulate in the undertakings them-

selves, they are obliged to cut down production, a process leading to increased unemployment and contributing to unfavorable working conditions.

One of the main causes of the phenomenon is the increase in cost of labor. From the beginning of 1923 there has been a substantial rise in wages, under the influence of the new policy which laid down the general application of collective agreements, the payment of wages almost entirely in cash, and their determination in goods roubles according to the index number of prices and not in soviets roubles, which continually depreciate in value. Thus average wages, which were equivalent to 7.4 "real" roubles in October, 1922, had already risen to 12.5 roubles in March, 1923, an increase of 74 per cent. On the other hand, the individual output of a worker, which amounted to 578 real roubles during the second half of the fiscal year 1921-1922, increased only by 15.5 per cent. to 668 real roubles in 1922-1923.

The productivity of labor, which had fallen heavily since 1913, did not alter much in 1923, as compared with the last months of 1922.

In the mining industry, for example, the first half of 1921-1922 (October to March) amounted to 42 per cent. of pre-war productivity, and during the first half of 1922-1923 to 38 per cent; whilst wages had risen to 50 per cent. of pre-war wages.

While the increase in the cost of production is also due partly to the high price of raw materials and fuel, it has been affected in a very large degree by a great increase in general overhead expenses. These expenses are due not only to heavy taxes, but also to participation in the maintenance of undertakings which have been closed down, in the administration of commercial unions and trusts, in the maintenance of sales agencies, the payment of middlemen, etc. These expenses are held to be responsible for 93 per cent. of the increase in the cost of production of cast iron since 1913, for 85 per cent. of the increase in the cost of production of wool, 75 per cent. in the case of matches, 95 per cent. in that of electric light bulbs 73 per cent. in that of sugar, and 63 per cent. in that of leather soles.