

## AN ATLANTIC STEAMSHIP'S LARDER.

One tidy little refrigerator, about six feet wide and twice that depth, is the buttermilk stall in this market under the sea. Little tubs of butter are arranged on shelves to the amount of 5,000 pounds, and in company with these are 20,000 eggs. Twenty-five hundred quarts of milk and cream are stored in a separate room, all having been sterilized. This market has a room especially for salt meats, and here are hams, bacon, and tongues to the amount of 4,000 pounds. There are some articles of food without which the epicure would be unhappy, and which must be alive when cooked. Chief among these are oysters, of which 16,000 are carried to meet the wants of the passengers. Clams are only provided to the number of 1,500. Lobsters are not abundantly supplied; 700 pounds is all the storeroom shelters.

This market in the bottom of the ship contains, besides the things mentioned, fruits, green vegetables, and an enormous stock of groceries. The latter is only limited by space, for groceries are not perishable goods and will keep from one voyage to another until used. Tea and coffee are used in large amounts—about thirty-three pounds a day of tea and fifty pounds of coffee. Perishable supplies are taken on board in proportion to the number of passengers booked, and anything of this kind, which is left over when the ship reaches port, is eaten by the crew.—Ladies' Home Journal.

## PRESERVATION OF SPRUCE.

Special attention has recently been called to this subject by the studies and investigations of Mr. Gifford Pinchot in the spruce lands of the Adirondacks, a work undertaken at the instance and by means of the public spirit and wise liberality of Dr. W. Steward Webb, president of the Wagner Palace Car Company.

He has shown that the spruce is a tree of remarkable vitality, and great reproductive powers, and that it will grow and thrive under the most untoward conditions. It is especially noteworthy for its ability to live under the crowns of other trees, a trait known in forestry parlance as tolerance of shade. It is found also that this tolerance is not confined to the early life of the tree, but persists far into middle life. Specimens of spruce from 100 to 150 years old, and less than six inches in diameter are said to be common. It is shown further that the spruce has a wonderful capacity to recover from long years of suppression, and grow almost or quite as vigorously and rapidly after they had ended as though all the conditions of its life had been favorable from the beginning.

A large part of Mr. Pinchot's labors were directed to ascertaining how far the growth of the spruce might be accelerated by thinning out a given area of heavy forest growth and giving the tree a better chance for development. A large number of acres at different points and under different conditions were experimented on for this purpose. The final result was to show that the spruce responded very promptly and generally to improved conditions. The percentage of trees, whose growth was accelerated by the thinning-out process, went as high as forty-two in some cases. The practical value of this experiment in the matter of the conservation of the spruce-timber industry lies in the fact that it shows that this forest product only needs a reasonable chance to grow and perpetuate its kind anywhere in our northern lands, and that there is no danger of its extinction here or elsewhere, if the most ordinary care is taken.

## NOT AGAINST INSURANCE COMPANIES ONLY.

While the anti-trust or anti-combination laws that have been adopted by several States apply equally to all corporations, why is it that their enforcement is attempted only against insurance companies? It is a matter of common notoriety that there are "combines" among railroad, telegraph, telephone, and, in fact, all great corporations, for their mutual protection and advantage, yet no prosecutions of any of them for alleged violations of anti-compact laws are reported from any of the States that are so actively proceeding against the insurance companies. Why this discrimination should be made it would be difficult to explain. Possibly it is due to the fact that insurance organizations are open and above board, there being no attempt to conceal their actions, and so are more readily reached than the others. Or is it because they are an "easy mark," and readily brought to terms by judicious "bull-dozing" and bluster? They have so often surrendered their rights and their purses on demand that opposition is scarcely expected of them. It was probably a surprise to the Attorney-general of Arkansas when the companies "combined" to contest the suits he brought against them, and decided to give up business in the State rather than submit to his arbitrary ruling. But as such an agreement was entered into by the companies, it is to be hoped that no one will falter or fall out by the way. If the property owners of Arkansas are left without insurance protection for a time there will undoubtedly be a change in the law at an early date. But why does not the Attorney-General flush some other game, and not waste all his energies on insurance companies?—N.Y. Spectator.

## PAPER FROM CORN HUSKS.

After months of experimenting and investigation, entailing the expenditure of many thousands of dollars, the problem of the cornstalk, as a commercial and manufacturing commodity, has been solved by an Illinois chemist. As a result of his searches and experiments, paper and cardboard are now being manufactured from corn shives at Rockford in that state.

The department of agriculture at Washington has carefully watched the experiments. Heretofore the shive, or outside the cornstalk, has been regarded as absolutely useless, but this promises to become the most valuable part of the stalk from a commercial standpoint. The corncob has been adopted for pipe purposes, the pith has long been used in the manufacture of cellulose. The shive of the cornstalk has hitherto been discarded as useless, but last November the plant at Owensborough, Ky., was selected to accumulate shives, and experiments begun under the direction of several experts. The results of these investigations and experiments is that recently an old Rockford paper mill was purchased, special machinery installed, and the manufacture of paper from corn shives begun.

## THE KENTUCKY VICTORY.

Fire insurance circles were made glad last week by the announcement that the Kentucky Court of Appeals had rendered a decision favorable to the companies in the famous so-called conspiracy cases which were brought against the latter and their agents in Franklin and Kenton counties in that State. The verdict of the Court was in effect that neither by the statutory or common law were the companies guilty of an indictable offence in combining to maintain rates, and a gratifying fact in connection with the matter is that six of the seven members of the court joined in the decision. This was

certainly a sweeping reversal of the action of the Lower Court, and coming, as it has, so soon after the similar victory in Arkansas, it helps to materially lighten the rather dark outlook which has of late characterized the fire insurance business in the South and West, through the demagogue hostility of legislatures and juries. In other words, the moral effect of the decision cannot but be far-reaching and most salutary, as, if the decision had been adverse to the companies, it would, undoubtedly, have been promptly followed by similar legal proceedings against them by numerous other States, whose zeal against trust combinations has blinded them to the real facts in the conduct of the fire insurance business, and made them so hostile to the established practices therein. We wish it could be said that the decisions in the Arkansas and Kentucky cases marked the end of all such troubles in those States, but we fear that it is not unlikely that the zealots who have made the trouble thus far, will seek later on to secure by anti-compact legislation what the existing statutes do not provide them with.—U.S. Review.

## REFINED SLANG.

He was quick at picking up slang expressions he heard in the street, and yesterday morning he said at table to his little sister: "You be blowed!" "Oh!" said his shocked governess, "little boys should never say anything so vulgar as 'You be blowed!'" To-day a similar situation arose, and he said, with an affected air: "Clara, you be blown!" He was a refined little lad when he liked.—San Francisco News-Letter.

## OLD-FASHIONED CYCLING.

In the amusing "Etchingham Letters," first printed in Cornhill, there is a chapter on bicycling. As specimens of gnomish wisdom on the subject, we cite the following:

Three things are plagues to a wheelman—yea, and a fourth is abominable; a boy which leadeth an unruly horse, and a swine which strayeth in the road, and a rash woman among traffic which regardeth not the right hand or the left, but the most grievous is the County Council, which scattereth heaps of stones in the highway, and saith it is well mended.

Of two manner of people thou shalt have a care, and flee from the third as an host of the heathen, a deaf man which walketh in the darkness, and a constable with girded loins who lurketh after sun-setting.

## WAGES OF MINERS IN ROSSLAND.

The following is from the Rossland Miner, and can be accepted as correct:

	Per shift,
Foreman or shift bosses, day	.....\$5 00
Foreman or shift bosses, night	.... 4 50
Engineers	..... 3 50
Fireman	..... 3 00
Blacksmiths	..... 4 00
Blacksmiths' helpers	..... 3 00
Carpenters	..... 3 50
	Per shift,
	8 hours.
Miners (hand drill)	.....\$3 00
Miners (hand drill) in shafts	..... 3 50
Miners (machine drills)	..... 3 50
Miners (machine drills), in shafts	.. 4 00
Pumpmen, timbermen	.....\$3 to 4 00
Carmen, shovelers, nippers	..... 2 50
	Per shift,
	10 hours.
Roustabouts (surface)	.....\$2 50
Ore sorters	..... 2 50

—The Alberta Railway & Coal Company have given \$1,000 to the municipality of Lethbridge, to be expended in planting trees in the town.