

GOSSIP

HOW HILL REPLIED

Some years ago the province of Manitoba wanted to transfer to McKenzie and Mann, the owners of the Canadian Northern, a railway that was a burden to the province.

There are advocates of Government ownership of all railways in Manitoba, as elsewhere, and these men protested. They said the road should remain the property of Manitoba. They organized a committee and went to Ottawa.

They protested to Parliament, but made little progress. McKenzie and Mann wanted the road and it seemed the right thing to let them have it. While the committee was in Ottawa either McKenzie or Mann was there, too, watching the committee.

James J. Hill, the great American railroad man, was reaching up into the Northwest, and the Government ownership people from Manitoba decided to bring Hill into the game, pit him against McKenzie and Mann and make trouble all round. They sent a long telegram to Hill, detailing their plan, and retired to a convenient waiting place to see what happened.

After a time the door burst open and big Dan Mann, six feet three by three feet six, blocked the doorway. "What are you skunks wiring Jim Hill for?" he thundered.

One man objected to the designation. "I am no skunk," he said, "and we have sent no wire to Jim Hill."

"Well," shouted Mann, as he stepped forward and spread a telegram out on the table, "perhaps you haven't, but there's your answer."

And when the Government ownership committee had the nerve to read the telegram they found it was a copy of their own telegram to Hill, wired back by Hill to McKenzie and Mann—which shows whatever you think it should.—*Saturday Evening Post.*

MEN AND BIG MEN

There are two kinds of fat men—fat men, and men who are fat; or, to make a closer analysis: (a) fat men in whom the fat predominates, and (b) fat men in whom the man predominates. Fat men of type (a) are of no consequence. You could set up a row of them a block long and blow them over by waving a straw hat at them. They are the chaps who have no shoulders, no chests, no legs—nothing but paunch. Fat men of the other type are big fellows, with broad shoulders, fine chests, sturdy legs and some stomach, men who do not look as if they had swallowed a bass drum, but have their weight evenly distributed over them, albeit there may be a trifle too much about the equator. All the fat men in history have been of this type, and history, it may be remarked in passing, has been made by fat men, and unmade, too, if that side of it should bother any.

At that, fatness is a relative term. The man who weighs 140 thinks the man who weighs 180 is fat, and the man who weighs 180 cannot see how the man who totes 210 pounds can move about. The man who weighs 210 thinks himself just about right, and looks with amazement on the chap who has a burden of 250 pounds. So it goes up to the behemoth stage. There are few men who acknowledge themselves to be fat. The other fellow may be fat, but not me. That is the outward and vocable sign of the inward and spirituelle desire. Secretly, every fat man envies every lean man and every lean man envies every fat man.

The whole world is divided into two classes, generally speaking: Thin people who are trying to get fat and fat people who are trying to get thin.

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SERIOUS SHRINKAGE IN MEAL EXPORTS.

Figures are now available showing the amount of meal exports from the United States during the first six months of the present year. They denote a serious shrinkage in all lines except hogs. April, May and June, in particular, have shown a remarkable falling off. Cattle and sheep have been unusually scarce, but hogs plentiful; in fact, hog products all through show only a normal shrinkage, if any, bacon exports, for the six months, being considerably over the quantity of that product exported during the same months in 1907.

The following tables indicate the number of meat animals exported during the six months of 1908, in comparison to the exports for the first six months of 1907:

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	1908	1907	1908	1907	1908	1907
Jan.	33,980	33,335	2,286	1,690	6,207	15,364
Feb.	33,392	30,759	3,620	1,096	12,624	14,441
Mar.	33,391	35,087	4,120	1,532	8,918	12,781
Apr.	23,009	32,890	3,123	3,216	5,000	10,908
May	15,083	36,205	2,504	3,240	5,953	8,480
June	15,870	35,730	4,027	2,966	13,431	5,903
Totals	154,725	204,006	19,680	13,740	52,133	67,877

The table following shows the total numbers of pounds of meats exported during the six months of 1908 and 1907:

	1908	1907
January	154,222,472	165,252,927
February	186,563,417	151,383,393
March	162,221,119	140,608,850
April	128,705,466	134,841,312
May	95,356,204	137,741,401
June	97,549,261	138,235,212
Totals	824,617,939	868,063,095

CHINESE BECOMING FLOUR EATERS.

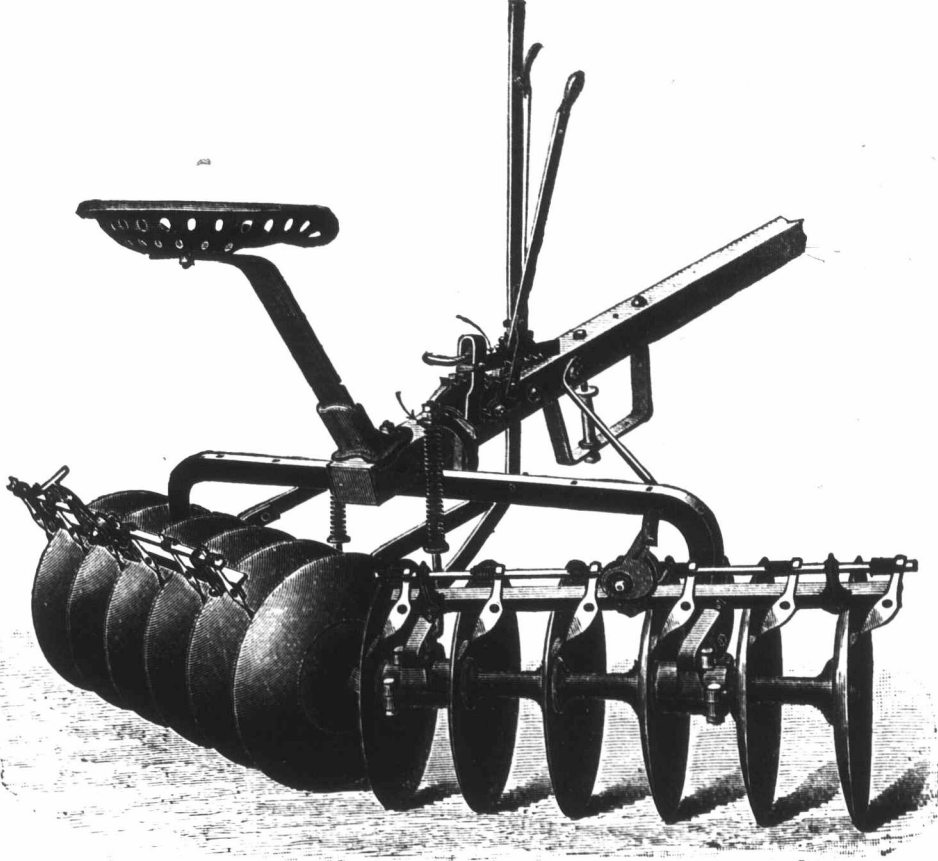
It is said by those posted in the matter that the opportunity for foreign goods to be sold in China is growing every day. One cannot turn any way without observing evidence of the inclination of the Chinese to consume foreign products. This is particularly noticeable with regard to food products. A few years ago flour was almost unknown to the Chinese, and was an article of luxury. This latter condition is still true, but to a less extent than formerly, while to-day almost every Chinese would use flour if he could afford it. Even the coolies eat it eagerly whenever it is placed within their grasp. The street vendors now offer all kinds of flour edibles, where a few years ago nothing of the kind was to be seen. Flour mills are being built in all parts of China, and the people encouraged to cultivate wheat. Until recently, the average Chinese thought that to put anything cold into the stomach meant almost certain death. Now they eagerly buy from the ice-cream vendors whenever they have spare cash. Among the wealthier classes this disposition is even more apparent. They have a growing inclination to eat in the foreign hotels and restaurants.

The Chinese guild is one of the institutions of the country. In fact, there is not a phase of commercial life in China that is not directly controlled by the guilds. Each great branch has its own organization, such as the silk, tea, piece goods, tobacco, flour, oil, etc. Even various branches of labor have their various guilds, such as the "Rickshaw Coolies' Guild" and the "Stevardore Coolies' Guild." Then there are the trades unions, an off-shoot of the great guilds.

Recently a public school at Nian... girl complained to... another little girl... called her a... what it... did not like to... regular... to tell the... "wee-wee" the girl... charged...
* * *

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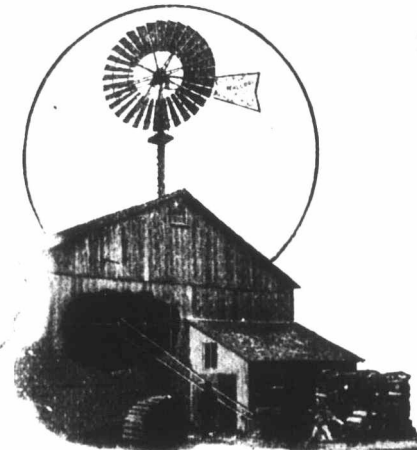
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