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FAD IN ENVELOPES.

The latest fad with the ultra-fashionable is the absence of the envelope. We have gone back to the days of the olden times when the red wafers and the sealing wax and the folded paper were all that custom demanded. The modern fashion has substituted the daintiest-tinted wafers to match the paper, heliotrope, robin's egg blue, cerulean, lilac, fawn or cream, for the mucilaged flap of the envelope.

PLACING THE BLAME.

She looked at him scornfully, even indignantly.

Would you let a woman stand while you occupy a seat? she asked.

Madam, he replied, do not blame me. The fault primarily lies with your own sex.

How so? she demanded.

I did not receive proper home training, he answered.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It cannot have escaped observation that during the war in South Africa the Japanese, alone among great peoples, have expressed a wish for the speedy success of the British arms. The Mikado was, we believe, the only Sovereign who telegraphed to Queen Victoria congratulations upon the relief of Ladysmith, the victory of Paardeberg, and the occupation of Bloemfontein. It must also have been noticed that since the beginning of April when the early triumphs of the English began to seem assured, almost the whole of Japan's Navy has been mobilized, together with a considerable part of her Army. As to the doings of the Japanese fleet, great secrecy has been observed, no one except the British Commander-in-Chief on the China station having been invited to be present. It is understood, however, that the purpose of the naval manoeuvres in the Straits of Korea was the blockade and capture of a squadron, supposed to represent the Russian fleet.

There is, in fact, no doubt that the Japanese regard a war between themselves and the Russians as inevitable; that, in their opinion, they have much to lose by delay; and that they will enter upon a trial of their strength, as soon as England's hands are left free by the subjugation of the Transvaal. Why must Japan wait for the close of the contest in South Africa? Because, while she may not need England's co-operation in order to hold her own against Russia in the Far East, it is indispensable that England should enforce neutrality upon France and Germany. It was because Russia was backed by both France and Germany that Japan felt constrained to surrender the territory acquired on the Chinese mainland by the Treaty of Shimonoseki, and she knows that it would be impossible for her to face a renewal of that combination, or even to cope with the conjoined navies of Russia and France. Now, it is almost certain that, unless England forbade it, France would place her fleet at the Czar's disposal. England will issue no such injunction, so long as she is occupied in subduing the Boer republics. When, however, the subjugation of the Transvaal is completed, England's strength will be generally recognized as greater than it has been at any other time since the close of the Peninsula War. She may then count upon securing deference to her announcement that she could not view with indifference the attempt of any European Power to assist Russia against Japan in any way.

The moment the war in South Africa is over it will be for Japan's interest to enter forthwith upon the contest with Russia which, in no event, can be long postponed. Just now, Japan's naval power in the Far East is somewhat superior to Russia's, but the disproportion will not long continue, for Russia's fleet is growing faster than Japan's, and large reenforcements are being hurried to the Pacific. If Japan could fight this year, she would have a great advantage in respect to docking facilities and of coal, for the new docks, now in course of construction at Port Arthur, can hardly be finished for a twelvemonth, and for coal Russia must depend exclusively on the supplies forwarded to her naval stations from Europe. Japan, on the other hand, has half a dozen dock yards and coal mines which yield a combustible, inferior in quality, it is true, to the Welsh product, but unlimited in quantity. It is also to be borne in mind that the instant the war breaks out, Russia will be unable to reenforce her squadrons in the Pacific, because she will no longer be permitted to use the British coaling stations on the routes thither. Her battleships would have to turn back as did those of Spain which were on their way to the Philippines.

The Japanese undoubtedly believe that they can beat the Russians, if they can fight this summer, and if, with England's help, they can compel France to remain neutral. Should their expectation be fulfilled, Russia's southward expansion would probably be deferred for many years, for the Japanese would not be content with the acquisition of Korea, but would reassert their title to the Liao-Tung Peninsula, which they won from China, but of which Russia deprived them.

WASHING FURNITURE.

Perhaps you all know, but I didn't until a few days ago, that furniture can be washed with a chamois skin writes Mrs. H. I noticed that my friend's furniture looked clean and well polished, and asked her how she kept it so. She replied that a neighbor who worked in a piano factory had told her that he washed his piano once a week, though once a month would answer. He wet the chamois skin in tepid soft water, wrung it, shook it out, and wiped the piano with the grain of the wood. My friend wiped her piano and all her furniture in that way, and there is not a finger mark on it. Furniture must be wiped before it is very dirty to obtain such results. My friend tried to wash a desk for me which the children had used, and, though it was greatly improved, all the marks did not disappear.

AS OTHERS SAW HIM.

She—Did your ears burn to-day?

He—I don't remember. Why? Was I talked about?

She—Yes. Nell Wellington was here, and we had a long argument concerning you.

He, eagerly, Indeed—What was said?

She—Well, Nell gave it as her opinion that you ought to let your mustache grow to hide your mouth, and I claimed that what you need to balance your face are chin whiskers.

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

THE RELATION OF FOOD TO MILK FAT.

This subject has been before us as one of the most interesting problems of the industry of feeding cows for the dairy, for fully a score of years and more, but it was many years before it was regarded as one of the problems to be studied and settled by the medical profession and physiologists generally, writes Dr. Henry Stewart. It might seem to be really a subject better fitted for the attention of such experts rather than for persons who do not make their experiments in a truly scientific manner.

The question to be put accurately is, does the cow extract the fats from her food by ordinary process of assimilation convey, we cannot say convert, the fats thus consumed into that part of the milk which we call the butter fat? In other words, is it possible to increase the quantity of butter a cow will yield by feeding foods rich in fat? The question is not whether we can make a cow eat animal fats or oils and thus increase the proportion of fats in her milk, but this simple proposition—can the dairyman, by feeding foods naturally rich in fat, and such foods as the cow naturally is able to digest and assimilate, increase the proportion of fats in the milk, or increase her yield of butter in any way?

Dairymen generally believe this, and feed their cows in accordance with that belief. As it is a common practice among the most intelligent of butter-makers to choose these foods quite as much for the quality of the butter made as for the quantity, and it has been a result of long practice to find that the choice of foods has been one of the most important parts of their business, they have come to the reasonable conclusion that they are acting in strict conformity with a natural law, that the fats in the food do increase the proportion of butter in the milk as well as affect its quality.

The scientific physiologists and the medical profession are a unit in the belief that the fats of the food do go directly into the blood, and are thus assimilated into the system directly, without change. It was not always so however. I remember during my training as a physician, that this was a moot question, then under the most skilful study and experiment, and after a series of tests most carefully conducted, under the control of the British medical members of the Royal Association, the conclusion—quite unavoidable—was unanimously arrived at that the fats of the food were assimilated without digestion into the blood directly, and then distributed through the body.

Of course, if this is true, the fats of the food go into the milk. Dairymen in practice know, beyond question, that the quality of the butter is varied as the fats of the food vary. The oily beechnut makes soft butter, as it makes soft, oily pork. The butter made from cotton seed meal is soft, while it has precisely the same reaction with nitric acid as the cotton seed oil has. Indeed, there are such an abundance of proofs to support this that it is the practice among intelligent butter-makers to choose such foods as contribute the best flavor and consistence to the butter, and it is a matter of rather considerable indifference to them what scientific chemists say to the contrary of their belief.

But it may be well to point out the fact that a bulletin has been issued by the New York Experiment Station on this subject, giving a great variation in the beliefs of some of those scientific students who are investigating this matter, some of them agreeing with the contention of the practical business dairymen, while others differ. But one point I think will have great weight with those who are on the fence, and this is that while the New York Station decidedly affirms the belief that the kind of food as to the fat in it has no relation to the proportion of fats in the milk, nevertheless it gives, as the result of a test the clearest evidence and figures to support it, that the feeding of palm-nut meal does increase the proportion of fats in the milk. Here are the figures;

	Per Cent. Fat.
Usual ration, three weeks.....	5.28
Same, next three weeks	5.80
Palm-nut meal ration, three weeks.....	5.80
Same, next three weeks	5.80
Usual ration, three weeks ...	5.80
Same, next three weeks	5.80

It is stated as extraordinary, and, as I understand, as an objection to the belief that the palm-nut meal had the effect of increasing the proportion of butter percentage of fat in the milk for the two periods of three weeks next after the test was made, that the increased quantity of fat in the milk was maintained. I say extraordinary, because it is a part of the contention of those who believe in this effect of the fats in the food, that the cows not only yield more fat in the milk, but at the same time accumulate a surplus which inures to the increased quantity of fat in the milk for a considerable time after the feeding of the meal has been suspended.

It might be urged that the feeding of the foods rich in fat, for short intervals of three weeks, is not so satisfactory a test as the feeding through some months, during which, in my own practice when feeding palm-nut meal having 12 per cent. of fat in it, comparison with corn meal having half as much fat in it, for six months steady, the yield of butter from one cow increased nearly 50 per cent., or half as much as the difference between the corn meal fed and the palm-nut meal fed afterwards.

It should be borne in mind that cows may be educated to consume a greatly increased quantity of food and turn it to profit; also that cows differ in their natural ability to make profitable use of food, and while some will respond favorably to a test of this kind, others will not; and that some dairymen are obliged to discard some cows on this account, while they keep others year after year, and find them often to be steadily improving by the culture they are subject to in this way of feeding. Some of my cows have continued to improve with high feeding until they were old-aged, and their calves improved in respect to habit of profitable feeding year after year.

FIGHTING THE CODLING MOTH.

Regulations Adopted for the Suppression of this Destructive Pest.

One of the most destructive of the insect pests which assail the fruit crop is the codling moth, the ravages of which detract greatly from the profits of apple raising. At the recent session of the Ontario Legislature an act for the prevention and destruction of noxious insects was adopted, in pursuance of which steps are being taken which, it is anticipated, will greatly lessen the evil. The Act provides that such regulations as may be issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture for the purpose shall have the force of law in those municipalities which have adopted the Act by by-law.

On the 24th of May an Order-in-Council was issued under the Act embodying regulations for the destruction of the codling moth. It is made the duty of every occupier of a lot, or the owner in case of non-occupation, within one week after receiving notice, to place bands upon all bearing apple and pear trees, and also upon all other orchard trees of bearing age within forty feet of them. The bands are to be of "burlap,' sacking or other suitable material, not less than four inches in width and of three thicknesses, and are to be fastened on at a convenient point between the crotch of the tree and the ground. The occupant or owner is to have the bands removed and inspected, all larvae destroyed, and the bands replaced at intervals of not more than two weeks, during June, July and August.

Municipalities adopting the Act are required to appoint inspectors, who will see to the enforcement of regulations. In case the occupier or owner does not comply with the regulation the inspector may cause the work to be done, and the cost may be charged up against the owner in the collector's roll and collected as taxes.

UNLOCATED.

Mrs. Stubb—John, the kangaroo has pockets in which her young conceal themselves at the first scent of danger.

Mr. Stubb—Well, Maria, if they are as difficult to locate as those of the majority of her sex I can't see how the young ones find them.

The Inspector of Steamboats
For the Dominion Government was unable to find a cure for Itching Piles—After 9 years of torture he was positively cured by
Dr. Chase's Ointment.

Mr. O. P. St. John, the Dominion inspector of steamboats, residing at No. 246 Shaw street, Toronto, was for many years chief engineer on the lake steamers, and is a prominent citizen.

In the following voluntary letter Mr. St. John tells of his efforts to rid himself of the misery of Itching Piles, and of his final success by using Dr. Chase's Ointment. He says:

"I suffered for nine years from itching piles, at times being unable to sleep on account of the annoyance caused by them. After trying almost all remedies in vain, I began the use of Dr. Chase's Ointment, which entirely cured me. I cannot speak too highly of it. I have recommended it to several of my friends, all of whom have been cured by its use."

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STORIES ABOUT KRUGER

SOME INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE TRANSVAAL PRESIDENT

How He Served His Rival—Saw a Game of Nap and Never Forgot It—Opinion of Ballet Girls.

A G. Hales, the Australian correspondent who was captured by the Boers and released after some days, relates some hitherto untold anecdotes of Kruger, which he heard during his enforced stay in the burghers' camp. He says:—

On a certain occasion he was out on a love expedition, but found that another young man had arrived before him. The other suitor was a bit of a coxcomb, as coxcombs go on the veldt. He had a showy horse and a gorgeous saddle, and a new suit of clothes fresh from the hawker's van, and when Paul Kruger arrived on his rough but useful horse, with saddle to match, the clothing home-made to suit the outfit, the other chap passed some remarks which caused the lust of battle to surge up good and strong in the future President's blood; but the maiden, who had the shrewd sense to know the difference between a mule and a man, made him promise not to lay a hand on the other fellow, because he was not worth the bother that would be certain to follow such a blow as young Paul Kruger was sure to give.

HE SMOTE THE HORSE.

The dude somehow got an idea that Kruger had promised the damsel he would not strike him, and, as even in those days Paul was noted for his love of the truth, he thought he might very safely venture to be rude, so, climbing into the saddle he fired off an unbearable lot of insolence right in the young man's teeth. Paul stood it until human nature could stand no more. Drawing back until he got the full force of his giant strength well behind the blow, he lashed out and caught the horse behind the ear. The brute staggered from the shock as if a second-class earthquake had risen up and smitten it, then fell flat on its flank, breaking the rider's leg in the fall.

"Oh, Paul, Paul," cried the girl, "you promised me you would not hit him, no matter what he said."

"That is so, dear," said the young veldtsman, with a twinkle in his eyes, "and I kept my word to the letter, for I didn't say I wouldn't hit his horse."

SAW THEM PLAY NAP.

All Boers who profess to be really genuine in their faith have a horror of gambling in any shape or form, and the president would just as soon see the devil in a dress suit in his family circle as a pack of cards. There are only two kinds of people who gamble, the knaves and the fools, is an argument of his, which shows that he managed to pick up some sound worldly wisdom out on the veldt. Once when travelling on a steamer to England he noticed a young Boer playing "nap."

The old man watched the counters pass from hand to hand, and fancied that the men were merely playing for buttons, like children, so, giving a contemptous grunt, he moved away and smoked his eternal pipe. Happening to look across at the game a little later he saw an Englishman toss the Boer a sovereign in exchange for some counters, and light was at once let in on his darkness. He bounded from his deck chair, every hair bristling like a lion's mane. Fixing the Boer with his glaring eyes, he waded in and inundated him with language which the fiery and fluent prophet Jeremiah might have been proud to possess. Years afterwards that Boer called on Oom Paul in his home in Pretoria.

"Sit," said the president, gruffly. He sat. The president called for some coffee for his guest, and then went on with his pipe.

"Don't you remember me, uncle?" said the visitor.

"I remember you well," was the tart reply. "Have you a pack of cards in your pocket, and do you still gamble?" The visitor said he thought the room was very close or badly ventilated, or something of that kind. Anyway, there was more air outside, and he went out in a hurry to get some of it.

PREFERRED THE OLD SHOES.

When he was in London an English friend offered to show him the sights of the modern Babylon. Oom Paul fell in with the idea, and the Briton gathered him in to see a ballet show, thinking to get some fun out of his shocked feelings, but Oom sat and watched the whole show with evident interest.

"What do you think of the girls; nice and fresh, ain't they?" said the Briton, with a sly wink at the old patriot.

"The paint's fresh enough, I don't doubt," came the reply, through a cloud of smoke, "but I'd rather have the old shoes of the one I left behind in Africa than I'd have all the women you've got in England, on the stage or off it. She was good enough for me when she was young, and she's good enough for me now."

FOOD FOR CROWS.

Travelling once with a party of wealthy speculators in a sparsely populated portion of the Transvaal, it was discovered that by some untoward chance the hampers containing the food had gone astray. They were all so hungry that some of them were ready to eat a horse, if need be, providing it was some other person's horse. One godless money hunter tried to be blasphemously humorous at Oom Paul's expense.

"You are a great believer in the Bible and all its miracles, Oom Paul," he said, with a curling lip. "I am, and always shall be," was the quiet response. "Well then, seeing that the ravens took food to Elijah in the wilderness, why don't God send some to me by the crows? I'd have heaps of faith afterward if he did, old man." Kruger looked the scoffer full in the eyes for the best part of a minute, then he said, "Because Elijah was a prophet with a mission in life. You are only a fool with an appetite, and if God sends the crows to you sir, they will probably come to feed themselves, not you."

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