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Western Kansas World

Issued every Saturday and entered into the postoffice at Wa-Keeney, Kansas, as second-class matter.

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Display advertisements 10 cents per inch. Locals, 5 cents per line.
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ESTABLISHED MARCH 2, 1879.

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.

SATURDAY, NOV. 26, 1910

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Prompt Action is Pleasing Many Wa-Keeney Citizens.

Get down to the cause of everything. Bad backs are caused by sick kidneys.

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Mrs. Henry DeWitt of Wa-Keeney, Kans., says: "I take pleasure in recommending Doan's Kidney Pills in view of the great benefit they brought me. About a year ago I had an acute attack of backache and this was accompanied by a dull, nagging pain across my loins. I knew that my kidneys were disordered and finally procured a box of Doan's Kidney Pills from Gibson's Drug Store. They promptly relieved me and I have had no need of a kidney medicine since."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Pickled pork at Baker's.

Read the World Want Ads.

KANSAS TOPICS

A Solution of the High Cost of Living.

Kansas City Journal.

You can get a whole lot more attention from the average householder with a suggestion to revise downward the high cost of living than you can with a harangue about the "cardinal tenets" in any of the political party platforms. Reducing his grocery bill is a subject much closer to his heart than the reduction of the tariff. The initiative and referendum pales away into thin smoke when set up alongside of the problem of making the equilibrators work on the biplane where the wings are "in-come" and "outlay."

"I think that a good deal of the high cost of living is due to the fact that the grocery wagon come about once a three or four times a day," was a declaration made the other day.

The listeners looked at him blankly. "That's no talk to give an innocent bystander," suggested one. "When the prices were low the grocery wagon came to our house just about as often as it comes now."

"But I mean," retorted the suggestor, "to change the programme and have the grocery wagon come about once a week."

"Starve to death the rest of the time?" asked one of them. "I guess we could cut down the cost by eating one day in a week."

"No," was the reply, "the groceryman brings enough stuff of a general nature on that one trip to last a whole week. In other words, all such things that you can buy that way, buy in bulk."

"Then you mean that you can reduce the price of living by having the groceryman come once a week," was the retort, "and not that the high prices are caused by having him come two to four times a day."

"Have it that way," was the answer, "if you want to. But my dope is safe to bet on. I tried it and I know."

Of course, that started an argument of the pro and con nature, and the man who was brave enough to make the suggestion was given ample opportunity to prove his statement, and he proceeded to do it. It is worth investigating anyway, and the experiment entails no added expense.

"You get at that telephone," he proceeded, getting his defense under way. "I'll give you the names and telephone numbers of grocers, and you ask them the questions I tell you to ask. The rest of you fellows keep the books. We'll try this out and the smokes will be on the rest of you."

So they started in on the program. The man at the telephone got a first class grocery store on the wire. "Ask him the price of a bushel of potatoes, bought by the bushel," was the question.

It was asked. "He says 80 cents a bushel," was the answer.

"How much by the peck?" The question was asked. The answer was 30 cents.

"There is one point," said the man who made the original suggestion. "You can buy a bushel of potatoes in one lump and get it for 80 cents. Potatoes will keep. You use up a bushel soon enough. Now buy four pecks at four different times at 30 cents a peck. In that way the bushel costs you \$1.20. You save 40 cents a bushel on potatoes in that way."

"Call up this number," he said, directing the man at the telephone. "Ask him the price of a ham, bought in the whole ham, and how much he will have to pay for ham by the slice."

The information showed that the best ham on the market, bought in the whole ham, is about 18 cents a pound, while sliced ham costs 25 cents a pound. An average ham will weigh about ten pounds.

"Figure that," went on the suggestor, "and you will pay \$1.80 for a whole ham of ten pounds and \$3.50 if you buy it by the pound in slices. Savvy?"

"Go ahead with your blissful idea," they said.

He directed that another grocer be called up, and the question asked concerned bacon. This didn't show a great saving in buying a whole side of bacon at a time. In buying a whole side bacon can be bought for about 35 cents a pound, and by the separate pound at 40 cents a pound. On a side of bacon of ten pounds the sum of 50 cents is saved.

"But that is worth something," he said, rather triumphantly.

"Go on," they commanded.

So he had questions asked concerning sugar. It developed that one store offered sixteen pounds of sugar for a dollar, or three pounds for 25 cents. Buying a dollar's worth of sugar at the price saves about 25 cents. At another store nineteen pounds were offered for a dollar and four pounds for a quarter. Buying there would save the same amount.

They called up about flour. A forty-eight-pound sack was offered for \$1.45, a good brand. Two twenty-four-pound sacks at the same store cost 80 cents each. There was only a saving of 15 cents.

"The groceryman on the other end

of this line," said the man at the telephone, "states that it is the aim to give just about the same proportion of flour in large or small quantities."

"Call up about apples," was the next direction. It developed that apples were offered for 75 cents a bushel, but by the peck the cost was from 25 cents to 30 cents. These were a fair grade of apples.

"There is a saving of 30 cents a bushel there, anyway," said the chaps who were figuring.

"How about canned goods—like canned corn and canned tomatoes?" was asked.

It developed that on a dozen cans of 12 1-2 cent corn, or a dozen cans of the 10 cent tomatoes, only the price of one can per dozen was saved, hardly worth the trouble of buying in bulk. In buying a half gross of assorted cans, however, from 50 to 60 cents was found to be gained.

"Let's just make up a bill out of all this," said the man who made the original suggestion, "and see what we have. Things like butter, eggs and steaks and beef meats, of course, one can't buy in bulk and he will have to pay for them the regular small quantity 'by the pound' prices. He can't keep those things on hand, even in winter—at least not without considerable trouble, unless he has a special place of storage and can cut the beef meats himself successfully. But this stuff I have given you can be bought and kept in bulk without any extra trouble—and not in very voluminous bulk at that. Just figure this up now by bulk, and by the pound."

This was the result: One bushel of potatoes at 80 cents a bushel, one ham of ten pounds at 18 cents a pound, one side of bacon of ten pounds at 35 cents a pound, sixteen pounds of sugar for \$1.45, one bushel of apples for 75 cents a bushel, and six dozen assorted canned peas, corn, tomatoes and so forth of staple stuff aggregated a total cost of \$16. This is stuff and price bought in bulk.

The same things bought by pecks, pounds, half sacks and cans aggregated a total of \$20.03.

"There is a saving of \$4.03 on that one bill of goods," said the high price of living reducer. "Now those figures are conservative. I don't doubt but that if you would have called up some of the grocers who have bargain days in lump sums that you could have saved an additional \$2 to \$2.50 on the bill. But these figures are just plain every day prices, and the comparative figures were from the same store—not a lump or bulk price from one store and a per pound or a per peck price from another store. I tried this idea. I tried it in my own family. We saved \$10 last month on our grocery bill and had practically the same stuff that we had the preceding month. We just tested the thing. Of course, when some people have a lot of stuff in the house they use more, but there it is purely a matter of household management."

"But what does the grocer think of selling the stuff in bulk?" was asked.

"I talked to several," was the reply, "and they are willing. They are perfectly willing. It makes no difference to them in the long run. Take a grocer who comes to your house two or three times a day with little 20 cent and 40 cent meat orders. That grocer can't do that delivering for nothing. He must have pay for his wagon, his horse, his deliveryman and all that sort of thing, and all of the work that putting up small orders entails. With the average groceryman one person must be at the telephone orders over the phone. He must have pay for that. Now suppose you buy a lot of these thing in bulk. He has to make but one trip to your house with the whole load, which if you bought in small quantities he might have to make a hundred trips to get it to your house. The grocer can afford to sell things more cheaply in bulk."

"Take it from me, the scheme is good for four bases. Every time you hit the ball with it you'll make the leather grunt."

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We have a book on Kansas and its resources which will be mailed to some friend in the East for the asking. Please send us his address.

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