

FASTING AT A HIGH COST

LENTEN FARE MAY EASILY COME TO \$100 A PLATE.

Russian Caviar at \$10 a Pound, Terrapin at \$1 a Pound and Upward, Fish and Out of Season Fruits and Vegetables Increase Bills in This Season.

While it is no easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it was 2,000 years ago, it is certain that the proverbial American ingenuity is making it much easier for the rich to conform to these rules and observances which are supposed to make for the entering of the kingdom of Heaven than it was even a score of years ago.

All this has been accomplished by the brain efforts of the studious and intelligent chefs whose life labors and ambitions are to gratify the rich in the most materialistic of their desires; and so deftly and tactfully have they succeeded that their patrons are enabled to feast at a cost of \$100 a plate, and even at a higher rate, but without transgressing the severe and straitened limits and traditional observances prescribed by the church for its scrupulous adherents.

New York's world famous caterers have resorted to the securing of Lenten luxuries to something approaching an exact science and the competition has become so keen that the wealthy can now feast at a cost quite as extravagant as the figure just mentioned without putting any special strain upon the resources of the high salaried chefs of any of the strictly first class hotels or restaurants.

To begin with, a fish diet, as every one knows, is conducive to a very comprehensive and extremely exacting thirst and in consequence when the gourmet sits down to one of these costly Lenten meals his demands upon the wine list are much more expensive than under other circumstances and conditions.

This alone means no small outlay, as a bottle of such a brand as Steinberger Cabernet, 1884, a correct wine to go with his fish, costs not less than \$25, and should the Lenten asstetic be content with one bottle he would be rated abstemious.

Then comes the meal proper. Here are some of the supplies from which it may be selected. Imported anchovies of the finest quality make a more costly appetite than salted herrings.

Real fresh Russian caviar, which is imported in very much the form of butter, costs the caterer \$10 a pound. This Lenten luxury is not for a moment to be confounded with the mere everyday caviar of commerce, which is pickled or preserved and shipped in jars or sealed packages.

The fresh Russian caviar which is in demand with these epicures who soften the rigors of the penitential season with the rarest delicacies which can be comprehended in a fish diet is a product not easy to ship from Russia to America in good condition. Special care is taken in its transportation and even then much of its decorative luster and becomes a dead loss. It is among the correct delicacies for these Lenten epicureans and the high class caterers of New York must have it, regardless of cost.

German carp, which brings about \$1 a pound in the market, is another of the costly necessities for the fashionable observance of Lenten deprivations. Efforts have from time to time been made to breed the carp in this country and the fish have thrived and multiplied in the American waters which have been stocked with them, but the American carp has thus far utterly failed to replace the German fish with the epicurean connoisseurs, who insist that the peculiar flavor and quality of the imported product cannot be duplicated outside of German waters.

Just now the boys of Japan are worshipping the sacred carp as personifying the god of war or the martial spirit, while the New York millionaire is bowing down to the carp and its distinguished kindred as they come hissing hot from the fire to be served upon the table to mollify the hardships of his Lenten fast.

The southern part of the coast of Frank, outworn idolatry with the matured New Yorker it might be termed, with a little extra strain upon the euphemism, an act of religious observance modified to fit peculiar exigencies.

Wholly conformable to strict Lenten observance comes the rich and delicious early salmon from the tributaries which fall into the great salt water volume of the lower St. Lawrence and its vast funnel-like gulf from where the Saguenay pours through its weird and sombre cañonlike ravine and loses its black frocked flood in the gray green waters of the greater stream at Tadoussac, all the way out to the wild and sullen rock-bound shores of Labrador. Thus early in the season the best salmon costs in the market \$1 a pound or upward, and by the time it reaches the plates of these Lenten ascetics its price is of course greatly enhanced over these figures, which later in the season would be deemed extravagant.

Among the costly luxuries which find their way into the Lenten menu of these ascetic devotees and shining exemplars of the virtues of inexorable self-denial and the mortifying of the flesh, even the dead snouts no unimportant figure early in the season. In a way too this is a historical fish, as the older men of the present generation remember how, before the war, Gen. Breckenridge was wont to superintend the planking of shad on the banks of the Potomac. At this season such early delicacies as shad and shad come to New York from the Susquehanna and the Potomac.

Another very expensive food with the local gourmet is the oyster crab, a minute and enormously expensive delicacy usually done up in dainty patés. This curious shellfish attaches itself to the shell of the oyster and it is easy to understand that it is a rare and costly product.

Smelts from the St. Lawrence constitute another Lenten luxury which is now high in favor with the New York bon vivants and for which high prices are paid, although less than two score years ago and possibly later the smelt's prototype, the plebeian tenney, was caught by the habitué fishermen of the St. Lawrence and sold for tenner at 12 1/2 cents a bushel.

The English sole and the whiting from the far off Caspian Sea are also highly valued and imported Lenten luxuries.

backed terrapin at this time of year is from \$7 to \$8 each and this brings the cost of a supply for four persons up to \$50 at the restaurant.

All the leading hotels and restaurants have their special specialties in the line of salads fitting for Lent, and for these shrimp from California and soft shell crabs from the Mexican Gulf coast are favored.

Broiled live lobsters are among the Lenten delicacies, as are also Blue Point oysters from Rhode Island, Chesapeake Bay from Maryland and Shrewsbury from New Jersey.

The proprietor of one of the first class hotels said the other day: "A man can, without discomfort, eat \$100 worth of food at one meal. Suppose, for example, he calls for a high priced fish brought here from the Caspian Sea, for fresh Russian caviar which would cost at a cost of \$10 a pound, and him begin with a green turtle soup made with fine wine and continue with diamond backed terrapin and side dishes and sauces concocted of the most expensive articles out of season in the market and the menu would easily run up to \$100, for it costs as much to provide an especially rare dish for one person as for ten. Then wines and cigars to go with such a dinner would make an additional \$50 note dissolve like gelatine."

Another catering specialist dwelt particularly upon the rare and out of season fruits and vegetables entering into these Lenten repasts. Asparagus tips, Belgium and Brussels sprouts raised in England and almost individually under small glass domes might be said to cost the consumer on an average about \$2 a mouthful.

Passing over such minor considerations as Florida pineapples and Louisiana strawberries, he referred to grapes raised under glass in foreign countries, ripe fresh peaches, apricots and nectarines from Africa and other out of season delicacies gathered, some of them, from the remotest corners of the civilized world.

"Then," he continued, "these epicures in the matter of fish diet must be humored with all sorts of fads and novelties. Their terrapin must be carried to them in small rattled dishes. One for each plate is the correct thing."

"Then of course they are connoisseurs; they know that the American flounder is sometimes substituted for the English sole and that the American pickled herring is known to masquerade as the costly imported whiting, and they not infrequently when ordering a filet of one or the other or any imported fish insist upon having it brought in and rolled, breaded or otherwise prepared for cooking in their presence. When these operations have been completed the fish is carried away and cooked."

In the matter of decorations, souvenirs and everything in that line the opportunities for expenditure are practically unlimited, although it is hardly probable that a practical Lenten diner would follow the example of some of the Creole planters of Louisiana, who in ante-bellum days passed around among their dinner guests a tray laden with ten dollar bills carefully folded, to be used as cigar lighters.

It is also improbable that the New Yorkers of to-day would follow such a precedent as that set by the Creole planter who entertained Louis Philippe during his visit to Louisiana. In anticipation of the arrival of his distinguished guest, he had secured the costliest dinner set of imported china then obtainable in America, and after the dinner services were summed up, gathering up the table cover by the four corners, carried it and all it contained to the end of the gallery, from which it was thrown to the ground, where half a dozen slaves with sledges and axes demolished the china in order that it be not afterward desecrated by serving a less honored guest.

The New Yorker will serve the rarest wines obtainable for his Lenten feasts, but he will hardly copy Caligula, whose taste so ran to expensive cocktails that he was wont to drink priceless pearls dissolved in vinegar, or Leopatra, whose custom was occasionally to drink pearls dissolved in wine.

100,000 TREES PLANTED.

That Is the Record of the Forestry Service for One Year.

The trees used in the national experiments in reforestation are grown at eight Government nurseries in the existing national forests out West. These eight stations now contain over 9,000,000 trees from one to the year old.

The preliminary stage of forest planting within the national forests is now past, says *Morris's Magazine*, and several of the planting stations have produced trees of sufficient size to plant directly on the permanent site. About 700,000 trees were planted during the winter and spring of 1907.

At the nursery in the Dismal River national forest more stock has reached an age suitable for planting than at all the other stations. This nursery contains approximately 2,500,000 trees.

At present there are about 600,000 trees for planting in the sand hills. The species largely in use up to this time are Western yellow pine and jack pine. Other species, chiefly Scotch pine, Norway pine and Douglas fir are being tested in the nursery and in experimental plantations.

The State forests of Saxony, comprising 450,000 acres, are in charge of a forestry bureau at a yearly expense which averages \$8 for each acre, but such is the extent and value of the timber and other products that the net yearly revenue averages \$2.30 after deducting all expenses. The appropriation of the United States for the bureau of forestry is so insignificant that it amounts to a little less than one cent for each acre.

FATE OF CURIOUS COUGARS.

Big Washington Cats That Were Inclined to Be Too Observing.

Several weeks ago a cougar, measuring over eight feet in length, followed Miss Mary Burr, the teacher of the school at Messlers, in the edge of the Rainier forestry reserve, from near the schoolhouse until she met with a forestry ranger who, with others, subsequently ran down and killed the animal. The cougar was then sent to Messlers, in the edge of the Rainier forestry reserve, from near the schoolhouse until she met with a forestry ranger who, with others, subsequently ran down and killed the animal.

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WOMEN FOR ENGLAND'S ARMY

SOME WOULD MERELY NURSE, OTHERS WOULD FIGHT.

Proposed Regiment of English Women Who Can Ride and Shoot—Many Recruits for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps—Needn't Ride Astride.

LONDON, March 3.—"Screaming a fierce battle cry pitched in a high soprano, the Fifteenth Royal Mounted Yeomanry, by their gallant commanding officer, Brig.-Gen. Diana Dobson, V. C., made a brilliant charge which quite demoralized the enemy, who fled in a panic as though the very furies themselves were at their heels."

Is this the sort of thing war correspondents will be sending their journals when next Great Britain comes into conflict with a foreign foe? Such a possibility will not be so very remote if a scheme now under the serious consideration of martial minded English women is taken up as widely as they expect.

Already there is being formed in London a mounted corps of women nurses whose duty it will be to follow the army in battle and render first aid to the wounded. The latest feminine candidates for military honors, however, are not satisfied with the scope offered them as members of a nursing corps.

The first woman officer of the First Aid



LADY ERNESTINE HUNT (ON THE RIGHT), LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRST AID YEOMANRY CORPS, ACKNOWLEDGING THE SALUTE OF CORPORAL MISS E. SLYFIELD.

and are good horsewomen and fine game shots, and they think these qualifications could be put to better practical use than in doing hospital work. They want to stand shoulder to shoulder with their brethren in the fighting line should there ever arise an emergency desperate enough to require their services. They propose that the many women throughout the British Empire who possess the same qualifications as themselves shall be formed into a league on the lines of the British Legion of Frontiersmen, thus becoming an imperial regiment of Amazons with branches in every colony, ready to answer the call to arms whenever it is sounded.

It is suggested that the headquarters should be in London. The regiment would be entirely feminine from drummer girl to officer. Influential and capable women would be appointed squadron leaders and troop officers, and the instruction would include riding, scouting, driving, rifle and revolver practice, signalling (telegraphic, lamp, flag and heliograph), despatch carrying and all sorts of postal work. Such, in brief, is the scheme.

What is the meaning of this latest phase of feminine activity? Is it that English women are disgusted with the indifference of their menfolk to the question of national defence and wish to put them to shame? The young Englishman of to-day seems to take pleasure in any form of outdoor exercise rather than that of shouldering a gun and fitting himself for military tasks. Inducements of all sorts have failed to wake him up to a sense of duty, and nothing short of compulsory service seems likely to bring the British army to its proper strength.

The idea of women warriors suggests a way out of the difficulty. Why not have a mixed corps? Start each corps with nucleus of a few pretty maidens and there would be no lack of men offering themselves for enlistment.

In speculating upon the chances of this projected army of Amazons coming into existence the mere man at once jumps to the conclusion that much will depend upon the question of uniform, just as if the feminine mind can never under any circumstances soar above such trifles as appearances. Is it really possible to keep a body of women in a uniform? Would not there be an irresistible tendency to put little embroideries here and there until it became no longer a uniform?

Speaking seriously, however, the matter of uniform is offering no obstacle to the rapid growth of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps, already referred to in *Sun* despatches. All the members seem perfectly content with a dress by no means elaborate. They look very smart in short dark blue skirts, high black boots, scarlet tunics, white belts and peaked cloth caps, all of which they have to provide themselves, for the body is purely voluntary.

Each applicant for admission to the corps is told, "Your work in war time will be to follow the fighting line and catch the men as they drop." This prospect does not discourage applicants, and a steady stream of smartly attired women, many of them wives and daughters of army officers, pours into the recruiting office to interview Capt. Baker, the commander of the corps.

All members are expected to remain in the corps for at least twelve months and to attend riding school once a week. Applicants must pass a corps doctor and acquire a knowledge of first aid.

Many of the women who join are sufficiently well to do to have horses of their own, but for those who cannot afford the expense Capt. Baker is recruiting a corps of nursing infantry. In each case he is ambitious, and says that he is aiming at a strength of one thousand yeomanry and three thousand infantry.

It has been said that the women would not be able to mount unaided, when on

active service unless they rode astride, but in reply to a question on this point Capt. Baker said:

"There is no need for members of the corps to ride astride. They ride side saddle, and I undertake that they will mount entirely unassisted as smartly as any body of men."

The minimum height for recruits in the yeomanry is 5 feet 3 inches, as a woman under that height has difficulty in mounting without help. There is no intention that these nurses when on active service shall encroach upon the work of the ambulance corps. They will not remove the wounded, but will render first aid, further hospital work being left to the organizations within whose province it falls. In the summer it is proposed that the Yeomanry Corps shall go to camp, where they will attend personally to their horses and perform many of the duties which fall upon a cavalryman under canvas.

The establishment of this corps of trained nurses should do much to prevent a repetition of what happened during the Boer war, when a number of highbred and romantic women, seeking notoriety more than anything else, went out to South Africa as nurses. Totally incompetent, not even capable of nursing their own children at home, these women were not only in the way but the cause of much unnecessary suffering on the part of the unfortunate patients who happened to fall into their hands.

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NEW GAMES OF SOLITAIRE

PROBLEM OF THE FIVE POKER HANDS A NOVELTY.

They Must Be Pat Hands and Made From the First 25 Cards Drawn—Can It Always Be Done?—Streets and Alleys a Newly Invented Form of Patience.

Early this winter a new game of solitaire was going the rounds of the clubs for which some rather extravagant claims were made.

The idea is to make five pat poker hands out of any twenty-five cards that may be taken at random from a pack of fifty-two, and some persons succeeded in doing it so often that they insisted they had never seen any twenty-five cards that they could not work out. These assertions led others to go a step further and to assert that it was impossible to find any twenty-five cards that could not be evolved into five pat poker hands with a little patience. A number of persons have written to THE SUN asking whether or not this is so.

The answer is: It is not true that "any" twenty-five cards can be worked out. What is true is, that if one is allowed to change just one card when he gets stuck it is apparently impossible to find any twenty-four cards that will not do the trick with the assistance of this exchange.

The rules of the game are that the pack shall be thoroughly shuffled and an out and the twenty-five top cards shall be run off, taking them as they come without looking at them. No matter what these twenty-five cards are the player is to turn them face up and form five pat poker hands with them; that is, five hands which are straights or better; because there are only four hands which can be legitimately classed as pat; straights, flushes and fours. It is not necessary to draw to improve any of these hands.

The five hands may be laid out in any order at first. Then the cards may be shifted from one hand to the other and tried in all sorts of ways until the solution is found or the player's patience is exhausted. It will usually be found very easy to arrange the hands at the first attempt, two or three of them probably being flushes.

Then the agony begins, because the hands which were made up so nicely have to be broken in order to get cards to make up the fifth hand. As soon as this fifth hand is complete it will be found that two of the others are no longer pat hands and the borrowing and shifting has to begin all over again.

A careful calculation of the possible permutations of fifty-two cards taken twenty-five at a time, and a thorough examination of their grouping into pat poker hands, would seem to show that there are certain combinations of twenty-five cards that cannot possibly be arranged into five pat poker hands, and that these adverse conditions can be recognized by laying out the twenty-five cards in a certain order at the start, instead of following the usual plan of making up many pat poker hands as possible with them at once.

This order of laying out the cards is to place them in four horizontal rows, one suit in each row, keeping cards of the same denomination under each other alphabetically, in the following example:

♠ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♥ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♦ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♣ 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q

In this group there is no ten, therefore the court cards are useless for straights. There are, of course, possibly six there is no possibility of a flush in that suit. These two adverse conditions force the kings and queens into the pairs, as they are useless for either straight or flush and they are not enough of them for triplets or fours. Those four cards are therefore definitely fixed as parts of two hands.

If there were any four of a kind the fifth card in such a hand might be a card which was useless elsewhere, but in this group there is no four of a kind, so every card of the twenty-five must be used. Under adverse conditions is that there are five of spades have no partners, so both those cards must be used to fill out straights or flushes.

By analyzing any twenty-five cards along these lines it is clearly possible to demonstrate that no certain group can never be arranged into five pat poker hands. Nevertheless, it is an extremely interesting game of solitaire, and has the advantage of giving others that it can be done very much oftener than it cannot be done.

But the king of all solitaires so far invented is a comparatively new arrival, which is known by the name of "streets and alleys." As a time killer it is worse than a jigsaw puzzle.

A full pack of cards is thoroughly shuffled and cut and then dealt out into four horizontal rows of thirteen cards each, beginning on the left but leaving a space between the seventh and eighth cards of each row. This gives us a tableau of four rows of seven cards each on the left and another four rows of six cards each on the right of the central space. This central place is for the building of the cards are to be built up, in sequence and suit, to kings.

Unlike other solitaires, only one card can be moved at a time and the only cards available are the cards of "streets and alleys" found on the extreme outer ends of the four lines. Any of these eight cards may be removed and built up on any of the remaining seven, regardless of suit or color, but they must be built in downward sequence, the five going on the six, the six on the seven, and so on.

As soon as a card is removed from the end of the line the card which it leaves covered at that end becomes available for play. As it is usual to lay out the rows with the cards only slightly overlapping each other, even on the left, it is distinctly in view and the player can see for a long way ahead what is going to happen and how cards that he wants can be reached.

If we suppose, for example, that the following cards are at the ends, right and left:

♠ 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♥ 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♦ 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q
♣ 5 6 7 8 9 10 K Q

If the heart 5 is placed on the diamond 6, the heart ace is free to go in the centre, where it will serve as the foundation for the heart suit. The duke of hearts can then be placed on the ace if the player wishes, but it is not compulsory to put any cards anywhere except the ace.

When a king is exposed it blocks that row as a king cannot be built on any other card except the queen of the same suit in the centre space. But if by shifting the cards about in the tableau you succeed in getting a row of six on the right or seven on the left all used up, you may place any card you please in the vacant row, and kings are usually the best for that purpose.

It is a most good thing to build up on the ace too soon, even deuces being left alone until the tableau has been carefully

HIS 161 RIDES ON THE GOAT

THE REV. J. R. N. BELL, A MA-SONIC RECORD BREAKER.

Oregon Minister Has Joined About Every Order There Is—He Belongs to Every Lodge—Said a Speaker of Ill. and Made a Hit With Almost Every Man.

ALBANY, Ore., March 8.—The friends of the Rev. J. R. N. Bell, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Corvallis, Ore., say he has advanced further in fraternal orders than any other minister in the world. Few men of any profession equal his record. He belongs to practically every widespread order in the world, except those in which insurance is the dominant feature. He has ridden the goat in secret orders 161 times.

Dr. Bell holds one world's record in Masonry. In point of service he is the oldest grand chaplain in the Masonic order in the world, having been grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Oregon for thirty-five consecutive years.

"He belongs to your lodge," was the statement a speaker made in introducing Dr. Bell when he delivered a lecture at the summer Bible school in this city last year. This statement applied to almost every man in the large crowd.

He belongs to all branches of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Eagles and the Red Men. He has taken 140 degrees in Masonry, including thirty-two Scottish Rite degrees, twelve York Rite degrees and ninety-six Egyptian rites. He joined the Masonic fraternity in March, 1872. He is a charter member of Al Kader Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Portland. He at one time joined the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Roseburg, Ore., but does not now maintain his membership in that order.

Many offices in all these orders have been held by Dr. Bell, and he is generally called upon to officiate as grand chaplain when any of them celebrates an event of unusual importance.

Dr. Bell was born January 25, 1846, in Pleasant county, Va. He was educated at the Masonic College at Wytheville, Va. He is a veteran of the Confederate army, having served throughout the war as a member of Company I, Twenty-sixth Virginia battalion, Eccles's brigade, Wharton's division, Early's corps. He participated in thirty-two battles and many skirmishes and was slightly wounded twice.

"Were you an officer?" he was asked. "No, and therein I hold a record," laughed the minister. "I am the only ex-Confederate living who went into the war a private and came out a private. Every other living ex-Confederate I know of was a Colonel or at least a Major."

Dr. Bell has lived in Oregon since March 28, 1874, and has been engaged in the ministry all of that time, doing some editorial work as a side issue. For ten years he was a member of the Board of Regents of the Oregon Agricultural College and at different times has been on the staff of lecturers at that institution. He is now serving his seventeenth year as a public school director.

A 335 Pound Sturgeon.

From the London Daily Mail. A female sturgeon of great size was caught by the steam trawler Rhodessa, on Sunday 280 miles northeast of the Nore Lightship, its length was 11 feet 4 inches, its girth 5 feet 4 inches and its weight 735 pounds. The last sturgeon approaching this one in size of which there is record was taken in July, 1905, and weighed 562 pounds.

At one time the sturgeon was considered so great a delicacy that all taken in Thames belonged by royal prerogative to the sovereign, hence the designation of "royal sturgeon." Up to about sixty years ago sturgeon were frequently caught in the Thames, and at the beginning of the century one was taken from the river as far up as London Bridge.

Dog Gave Hint to Stop.

From the London Evening Standard. Speaking at a Demos in the street at Regent's Park, Miss Violet Dering stopped when she saw her dog yawning. She explained that he invariably accompanied her to her meetings, and that when he thought he had spoken enough.

Advertisement for Nemo Self-Reducing Corsets. The ad features a woman in a corset and text describing the benefits of the product. Key text includes: 'STOUT WOMEN IN THE Nemo', 'NEW AMERICAN SHAPE', 'CAN WEAR Directoire Gowns with Grace and Comfort', 'The illustration shows one of the new Self-Reducing Corsets—No. 405, at \$4.00. Its long skirt produces extreme reduction of back, hips and upper limbs when you're standing. When you sit down, the pressure is released, and you are as comfortable as though you had no corset on.', 'The new Relief Bands add greatly to the hygienic value of this new corset.', 'Self-Reducing Corsets for Every Figure', 'At \$3.00 For short skirt figures—No. 314 and No. 318 (with Flatting-Back). For tall stout figures—No. 312; and No. 320 (with Flatting-Back).', 'At \$4.00 For tall stout figures—No. 405. For short stout figures (sizes 24 to 42)—No. 404. Both have new Nemo Relief Bands.', 'At \$5.00 For tall stout figures—No. 516 (white mercerized broadcloth) and No. 517 (white French coutil). For short stout figures—No. 518 (white mercerized broadcloth).', 'In Good Stores Throughout the World KOPS BROS., Mfrs.'