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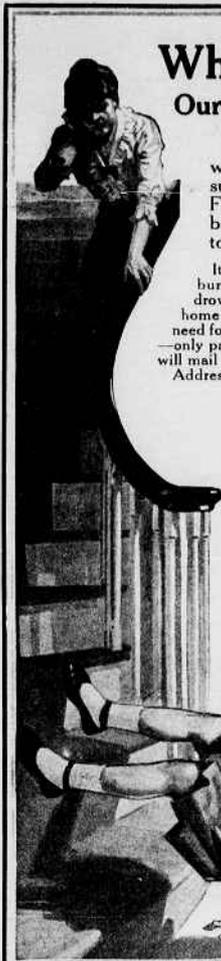
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## A Letter to a Young Man in the Food Business

A YOUNG man employed by a large food manufacturer writes me a letter.

He despises his business; he wants to be a writer. He says he feels he is worthy of "something better than merely packing food."

I say to him that there is nothing better: I say that the man who can discover no glory, no romance, no thrill in the business of feeding the world, will find no glory in any other business.

Let me picture the food business as it looks to me.

There was a famine in Egypt.  
Wan, emaciated men crowded about Pharaoh's palace, clamoring for corn. Women fainted in the streets, and little children died.

Only one man had been wise enough to foresee the famine: he through seven piteous years had stored up corn. When the famine came, "all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn."

And Joseph, who fed Egypt, became the ruler of Egypt. No honor was too great for the man who fed the ancient world.

Always through history the men who have fed the world have been honored by it.

Apicius was "almost deified by ancient Rome for discovering how to maintain oysters fresh and live during a long journey."

He must have been the father of cold storage.

Four hundred years before the Christian era, Hippocrates announced his belief that all men are born with the same mental capabilities. What they develop into later, he said, depends almost entirely upon what they eat.

And now, more than two thousand years afterward, scientists are coming back almost to the position of that wise old man. What a nation eats, they tell us, determines what it shall be.

"An army marches on its stomach," was Napoleon's phrase.

Victory or defeat; mental vigor or mental decay; health and optimism, or disease and distress—these are a nation's lot, according to its food.

The men who feed the nation make the nation.

And, little by little, the men who feed the nations have pushed back one of man's great enemies: the fear of famine has almost been banished from the world.

This generation, and the one that preceded it, and the one that preceded that, have never known that fear as their ancestors did.

It never occurs to us that there may not be food enough. We have never known a time of want: we assume that the world has always had enough to eat.

Yet, all through ancient and medieval days, the awful fear of hunger was never absent from men's minds.

Periods of plenty alternated with starvation. Men never knew when a storm or a frost or an enemy attack might wipe out the harvests of a year.

And when the single year's harvest was wiped out, famine stalked.

It is a very recent thing in the world—this conquering of the fear of famine. Only within a few generations have men learned so to store their food and so to distribute it that, though the crops of States and nations might fail, the world would still be fed.

I pity this young man in the food business who sees in it only the means of making a living; whose vision does not penetrate beyond the dull routine of each day's work.

Such a man will not go far. Around him and over him will rise the men who can catch a glimpse of the bigness of their task.

Men who see themselves, not as mere parts of a vast business machine, but as the servants of humanity—the banishers of the fear of famine from men's minds: sharers in the glory of feeding the world.

Bruce Barton, Editor.

Have you sent me 4 cents for Dr. Bowers' book, "Eating for Health and Efficiency?" My address is 95 Madison Avenue, New York.