JOHN A. LEE DEFENDS VOTE ON ALUM BILL IN SENATE.

Quotes Many Missouri Doctors to Show That Alum in Food Is a Poison Deleterious to the Public Health—Says the General Opinion of Experts Has Given Him That "Alum Distaste" and Not Alum Taste—Is Proud of His Stand in the Matter.

To the Editor of The Republic.

Jefferson City, March 6.—I have read your article of yesterday in relation to my casting the tie vote in favor of compelling manufacturers of baking powder to label their products and state upon each can the ingredients of the compound.

Kindly note that the substitute providing for labeling was reported favorably by the committee, and that where the vote is a tie that it is a courtesy which the presiding officer owes to the committee which he has appointed to sustain its recommendation if he consistently can.

PUBLIC POISONING.

I could not only do so consistently, but conscientiously. I am the publisher, and have for years been the editor, of two trade papers in the food-product line, have studied the subject carefully and believe that I know it. I have maintained for many years that alum was a harmful and unwholesome food admixture, and voted to put a label on the cans, so that those who believe as I do, that alum in any quantity introduced into the human stomach, is a poison, can know what they are buying and eating, if we must continue to at all permit public poisoning for profit.

Your Jefferson City correspondent, who is usually accurate, reliable and fair, misunderstood me as to statement published yesterday morning. I did not say that "I believe there was corruption on both sides." I did say that I believed that there was as much corruption on one side as the other.

I did say that any one who would manufacture and deceptively market a food product containing alum was away from home every day he was outside of the Penitentiary.

INJURIOUS EFFECTS.

Many seem to share my views, and especially those competent to judge. No one is so capable of estimating the effect of an article of food upon the human system as a practicing and experienced physician. They are much more competent in that respect than analytical chemists, for the physician almost daily diagnoses conditions of injurious effects of food products, while chemists give their opinions from a knowledge of probable effects. The one is theoretical, the other practical.

Knowing that this question was coming up at this session, I concluded last August to ascertain the sentiment of the physicians of Missouri on this subject. From a medical directory I selected one physician in each county who, from the information given in the directory, had graduated at a well-known and reputable medical college, and usually a man of some years' practice, without any knowledge of his politics.

I wrote a circular letter to 114 physicians, there being that many counties in Missouri, asking their attention to the law, which was in effect prohibiting the use of alum in baking powder or any other food product, and asking whether or not they thought it should be repealed.

Among many others I received the following replies, of which publication was not prohibited: Out of the entire number of replies received only one or two vaguely stated that they thought the law should be repealed for political reasons.

OPINIONS OF PHYSICIANS.

The following replies are from physicians of Missouri, men in whose hands the lives and health of our citizens are constantly placed, and in whose judgment I have absolute confidence, and in whose honesty and sincerity I most earnestly believe:

A. M. Conway, M. D., Columbia, Mo., says, of date August 28, 1902:

"Alum is undoubtedly deleterious to the human system. Some individuals resist its effect more than others, but continued use will gradually impair the healthful functions. It is a powerful astringent, and, therefore, poisonous. I would, therefore, recommend that the law be not repealed."

T. W. Foster, M. D., Butler, Mo., under date August 27, 1902, says:

"Alum in baking powder is deleterious and harmful to the health. I would suggest that you attempt to defeat the repeal of the present law, believing it to be for the welfare and health of the people."

Carl Brockhausen, M. D., of Hermann, Mo., of date September 3, 1902, says: "Alum is considered by all good authorities one of the mineral poisons. Its total or partial substitution for cream of tartar in baking powder is an adulteration and an injury to health, and should be prohibited by law."

D. Claiborn, M. D., Waynesville, Mo., of date September 5, 1902, says: "The bill prohibiting the sale of alum baking powder meets my hearty approval.

"The eating of bread containing alum for a protracted time will certainly produce constipation, as well as numerous other diseases."

T. V. Baldwin, M. D., Forsyth, Mo., of date September 10, 1902, says:

"In my opinion, alum in baking powder is injurious. I indorse the action of the Legislature in prohibiting the admixture of alum in baking-powder compounds, and trust the law will not be repealed."

J. R. Boyd, M. D., Springfield, Mo., head physician for the Modern Woodmen of America, of date November 26, 1902, says: "In reply to your letter, received some time ago, I would say that the law should stand. Alum, even in minute doses, is an irritant to healthy tissues. Some people consume a large amount of bread, especially the poorer class of people, and they would be, from obvious reasons, the greatest sufferers. I trust that you will be able to prevent the repeal of the law."

E. C. Parish, M. D., Memphis, Mo., of date October 23, 1902, says:

"Alum, according to Potter, an editor of therapeutics and materia medica, is an astringent, coagulating albumen, stimulating muscular contraction.

"It coagulates pepsin and arrests digestion, stops peristalsis and usually causes constipation. If taken into the stomach for a length of time it will be injurious.

"Many eminent authorities condemn its use in food. I have opposed such use of it for many years."

D. A. Yarnell, M. D., Versailles, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "I consider alum, if taken continuously into the system, very deleterous. It is strongly astringent and will cause atrophy, and finally almost complete obliteration of the gastric tubules, with consequent anemia and constipation.

"I consider it very unhealthful, and it should be excluded from all articles of food."

B. E. Finley, M. D., Charleston, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "Alum in baking powder is injurious to health, and the manufacture should be prohibited by law."

Doctor H. Bartens, Lexington, Mo., of date August 30, 1902, says: "Any and every baking powder containing alum ought to be prohibited by law in this and every other State. Food adulteration in this country is carried on in a shameless way. Alum baking powder is poisonous."

R. M. Bradbury, M. D., Maryville, Mo., of date August 30, 1902, says: "The law excluding alum from all articles of food should stand and not be repealed. There is no doubt that these alum compounds, when incorporated with food, are injurious."

Elton S. Smith, M. D., Stockton, Mo., of date August 29, 1902, says: "The use of alum in baking powder or any food product is undoubtedly injurious to health, and is so considered by nearly all physicians and chemists, especially those who have investigated the subject. In my opinion, its use in any article of food should be prohibited."

George M. Moore, M. D., Linn Creek, Mo., of date August 29, 1902, says: "I am opposed to the use of alum in baking powder for several reasons. First, the local irritant effect upon the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, stomach and intestines. Second, it causes constipation and incident ill health. Third, literature tells that it will constringe the minute blood vessels. It should not be used in food products."

J. K. Cantrell, M. D., Alton, Mo., of date August 29, 1902, says:

"No burnt alum baking powder should be on the market. I heartily indorse the present law from the fact that I know that alum baking powders are unhealthy. Alum arrests digestion, stops peristalsis and causes constipation. It also arrests secretions, especially of the mucous surfaces of the stomach. It is a gastro-intestinal irritant and should never be used in preparations of food. I think the present law is a good protection. It should not be repealed."

W. E. Bell, physician and surgeon of Osceola, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says:

"I am pleased to see you taking an interest in this matter of food adulteration.

"There need be no uncertainty as to alum in baking powder. When brought in contact with the mucous membrane of the stomach it produces whitening and constriction, thus obstructing the action of the gastric glands, largely stops the flow of the digestive fluids that are necessary in the digestion and assimilation of food. This is a very potent cause of the indigestion and dyspepsia so prevalent in this country. It is in its local action, not its constitutional effect, that alum does great injury.

"It is to the interest of our people that this law be not repealed."

J. A. B. Adcock, M. D., of Warrensburg, Mo., member of the State Board of Health, of date September 18, 1902, says:

"I think the use of alum in baking powders is running a useless risk, as a very small amount of alum taken into the system daily would be hurtful to many persons and the law prohibiting its use works no hardship to any consumer, therefore let the law stand."

C. S. Austin, A. M., M. D., of Carrollton, Mo., of date August 30, 1902, says: "You may quote me as being opposed to the use of alum in anything which goes into the stomach. 'Tis true that in baking powder it may be infinitesimal in quantity, yet the continuous and constant use is very liable to produce irreparable structural changes and injury."

Doctor John W. Angle, Assistant Physician at State Hospital for Insane, Nevada, Mo., of date August 30, 1902, says: "I am fully convinced that the adulteration of baking powder with alum or ammonia is very deleterious to the health and believe that the law prohibiting the use of alum in any food product should not be repealed.

"I stand ready to lend my aid to assist in making the law even stronger than it is.

"As to the toxic effect of alum, that has been known to housewives for many years back, and you will find that old grandmothers have used it in a mixture of sorghum to produce vomiting in cases of croup in children. It is very weakening, produces excess of nausea and the reaction of the vagus nerve readily explains its irritant action on the mucous membrane of the stomach."

J. W. Hendrix, M. D., New London, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says:

"I am forever against alum in every way as a food mixture, especially in the making of bread. It produces inflammation of the walls of the stomach and bowels, and finally, if the use is persisted in, the result will be death. Let the law stand."

Doctor J. A. McComb, Lebanon, Mo., of date October 3, 1902, says:

"I hold that commercialism is transcending its legitimate province when it, in any way, interferes in the problem of pure diet. It is ours to suggest and that of commercial people to do the bidding of conscientious chemists, physiologists, hygienists and physicians. If alum be injurious to the human system then no consideration of cheapness has any place in the problem.

"That it is injurious has been held by the chemist with his mortar, beaker and test tube, the phylogist with his microscope, by the physician with his years of experience in watching cause and effect.

"The ten physicians of Lebanon, Mo., are a unit in saying that alum is not good for use in baking powder, so you have ten opinions instead of one."

Doctor L. T. Hall of Potosi, Mo., of date August 29, 1902, says: "I am, of course, aware of the deleterious effects of alum upon the human system and the dangerous consequences attendant upon its constant and protracted use, even in small quantities, for illustration, in our daily food. It is a wise law that protects the public by prohibiting the manufacture of harmful ingredients into food products.

"It is to be hoped that no backward step will be taken along this line."

G. G. Bragg, M. D., Huntsville, Mo., of date August 29, 1902, says: "I heartily approve of the bill passed in 1898 prohibiting the use of alum in baking powders.

"The phosphate and cream of tartar baking powders are much more wholesame, and even if not so cheap, when it comes to taking things into our system the best is not too good.

"I am opposed to the repeal of the law of 1898 and will do all I can to sustain same."

Doctor John A. Crum of California, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "Kindly permit me to say that I am honestly satisfied with the law as it now stands for the health of the people."

G. W. Stephens, M. D., Montgomery City, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "Alum baking powders have a slow undermining action on the health of the user, vitiating the secretions, thereby starving the blood and the nerves, leading to a long train of diseases. I consider alum baking powder more harmful, than strychnia, arsenic or other poisons, because they are used only for a specified time, while baking powders enter daily into use for years or life. I am anxious the law shall stand."

M. B. Chandler, M. D., West Plains, Mo., of date, August 28, 1902, says: "The use of alum in food should be strictly prohibited by law and the law should be enforced, as alum certainly lays the foundation for most of our stomach troubles and it certainly should be made a penitentiary offense to incorporate it in our food in any manner. The law should be enforced, not repealed."

S. Elliott Woods, M. D., Jackson, Mo., says: "I think it would be a serious thing if the law would be repealed, as it has so much good in it and nothing bad. When I was a student at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, in 1888, I made a series of tests for alum in baking powder and its harmfulness, and wrote my thesis on that subject.

"I am a firm believer in pure and wholesome food products, and would consider it a great calamity if the restrictions were repealed. I sincerely hope that the bill will stand and not fail."

Ulysses G. Miller, M. D., of Union, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "Alum when used in sufficient quantities and for a sufficient length of time is injurious, there can be no doubt, and herein lies the danger in baking powder containing alum. Any law, therefore, prohibiting its use for such purposes is desirable. Permit me to say that you are to be commended for interesting yourself in such a laudable purpose as the prevention of food adulteration, a question in which we all are vitally interested."

Doctor William Carson, Shelbyville, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "The law of 1898, in regard to pure food, is a step in the right direction, and instead of being repealed should have more stringent amendments added, so as to preclude the possibility of having any excuse whatever for using alum in any form at all, not only in baking powder, but in bakers' bread or pastry, as it is dangerously injurious to health.

Thomas H. Egbert, M. D., of Kennett, Mo., of date August 28, 1902, says: "Continued use of alum will cause constipation, impotency, loss of procreative power and other serious complaints. It should not be used in baking powder or bread or any food product."

These letters are, as said, from Missouri physicians of education and experience. Written in the interest of no baking powder trust, but in the interest of the most sacred of all trusts, the health and happiness of the people of this State, to me, a State officer, sworn to foster and care for the happiness of the people.

They are only a small number of the entire number, and such testimony is what has given me that "alum distaste," not alum taste, which we have heard about.

I would hang my head in shame and resign my office before I would cast a vote giving to a job lot of public poisoners for profit the right to continue to curse and afflict the people of this State with their fraudulent, deceptive, lying, poisonous preparations.

I again repeat that the man who knowingly and wilfully puts upon the market poisonous and harmful food preparations is away from home every day that he is outside the walls of the Penitentiary.

PROUD OF ACT.

When the bill to label baking powders came up as a substitute to the repeal bill I cast the deciding vote in its favor, not only to prevent the entire repeal of the measure, which was imminent and which would have been a great public calamity, but, in order that the people should know what they were putting into their stomachs, and I am prouder of it than of any act that I have heretofore done in public office.

The Senate to-day passed Senate bill 222, introduced by Senator McIndoe, which, in my opinion, is a most excellent measure, and which will prohibit the use of alum in baking powder and other harmful and rascally adulterations and admixtures. I have the utmost respect and esteem for the gentlemen of the Legislature and the Senate who voted for the repeal bill. It is their right to cast their vote as they choose, and not my right to question their honesty or sincerity of purpose.

I look upon their action as the result of misinformation, and as a surrender to a false political hue and cry raised by a lot of Republican alum baking powder manufacturers and poisoners of Chicago and the East, who have for years regarded Missouri as the dumping ground for their infamous compounds. It is the old cry of "stop thief" made by thieves, and does not deceive me.

The reputable and respectable manufacturers of Missouri have long since discontinued making alum baking powder, and no such concern is now engaged in it in the State.

POLITICAL SIDE.

Let's consider the political side of the question. These alumites are all Republicans; there is not a Democrat in their ranks. They say that they are, but they do not tell the truth. They have for years fought me politically because I, in my trade papers, have denounced them as an infamous gang of public poisoners for profit.

They fought me for nomination, and the people rallied to my support and stampeded the convention for me against six able opponents.

They fought me for election after nomination, and the people of Missouri sustained me by giving me 583 more votes than they gave William J. Bryan for President.

They sent committees around to my advertisers and agents to my subscribers to my paper to induce them to desert me, because I dared to expose and oppose their schemes for destroying the public health and my subscription list has doubled and my business increased.

Why should Democrats fear the howling of a lot of such rascals.

When I stated that I would organize the Senate this time, to the best of my ability, in the interest of the people, I made an honest effort to do so, and feel that I have been fairly successful. I formed no combination nor did I enter any combination giving it a right to dictate my conscientious opinion or control my vote.

My conscience is my own and my convictions are my own. I will vote with those whom I placed in positions of importance in the organization of the Senate as long as I think they are right, but no longer. A majority of a committee of my own appointment recommended the substitute to the alum repeal bill. I knew nothing of their report until it came up. I asked the Secretary of the Senate, before voting, if there was a minority report and there was none.

It was the report of a committee which all through the session has been honest and true to every trust, and I voted to sustain its report and am proud of the vote.

I beg to assure the general public and the physicians especially of Missouri, who have informed me of their views and advised me that despite abuse, misrepresentation and lies, I have been faithful to my trust and to the preservation of the public health, and that if any law which permits the use of alum in food product passes this Assembly, it will provide under heavy penalty that the article shall be labeled "alum," so that the people will know the risk they are taking in eating it.

I believe that the Senators and members of the House of Representatives, who do not believe as I do, have been honest and sincere, and regret that in this matter I cannot agree with them. The people send us here and elect us to represent them according to our judgment. I concede that privilege to all and surrender it to none.

JOHN A. LEE.

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Send us your name, post office and express office address and 40 cents in stamps to pay express and we will send you free one month's treatment of our celebrated Cascola Blood and Rheumatic Cure. If it cures you can send us $1.50; if not, you need not send us anything. It is the best remedy that medical science has been able to put forth. Cures cases of a lifetime even after all other remedies have failed. Gives quick relief and cures permanently rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, gout, nervousness, malaria, backache, asthma, constitutional catarrh, kidney trouble, Bright's disease, diabetes, heart weakness, paralysis, creeping numbness, stiffness of the joints, bad blood, ulcerations, scrofula, deep-seated abscesses, dropsy, nervous headache and all blood and skin diseases. No remedy ever produced will so certainly and surely cure rheumatism as Cascola Blood and Rheumatic Cure. It makes no difference whether you are suffering from inflammatory, acute, chronic, nervous, muscular or any other form of rheumatism, or whether every part of your body is aching and every joint is out of shape. Cascola Blood and Rheumatic Cure will positively give instant relief and effect a permanent cure. It cleanses the system of all impurities, purifies the blood and restores the patient speedily to health.

We also make the celebrated Red Cross Pile and Fistula Cure, which cures by absorption after all others have failed. We make Rea Bros.' Cascarin, which cures all liver, kidney, stomach and bowel troubles. These remedies are on sale at the leading stores throughout the country, or we will send a free sample treatment prepaid by mail to any one who will send us their name and address on a postal card. We are making this free offer in order to introduce our celebrated remedies. The Pile and Fistula Cure and the Cascarin will be sent by mail free. The Cascola, being too large for mail, will come by express. Only those interested need apply for this treatment. There is no string tied to this proposition. It is yours by asking for it, and we mean just what we say. Drs. Rea Bros. & Co., D. N. R. D., Minneapolis, Minn.

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We had our clearing sale the first part of February, and now announce to our many friends and customers that we

Will Open With an Entire New Stock

Entering into our forty-third year of business

ON MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 9th.

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We control the output of over three-fourths of the goods made by the best makers in Grand Rapids and other prominent furniture manufacturing towns, and are the distributers of same in St. Louis and St. Louis territory.

Our Prices Are Not Alone Right, but We Guarantee That They Are Lower Than You Can Buy Similar Goods For of Any Other House.

On Our Fifth, or Parlor, Floor you will find an elegant line of gilt and mahogany parlor cabinets, gilt and mahogany tables, also an exceptionally good display of upholstery on gilt and mahogany frames, suitable for the most elegant parlor, music room or library.

On the Fourth Floor we display a most complete line of iron beds, dressers, chiffoniers, dressing tables, chairs, and such other goods suitable for the hall, bedroom or sitting room.

Our Third Floor represents a most exclusive line of elegant brass and mahogany beds, chiffoniers, dressers, and other pieces for beautifying a home.

Our Second Floor represents furniture most suitable for the dining-room, made of solid mahogany, oak and other woods.

On Our First Floor we display principally office furniture. Having had great success in furnishing the most elegant offices last year in this city, among others such as The Mercantile Trust Company, Waters Pierce Oil Co., Carnegie Steel Co., Colonial Trust Co., Commonwealth Trust Co., etc., we have therefore made a special effort, AND HAVE ADDED THE CUTLER MAKE OF DESKS, which is the highest grade of desks made in this country, to our previous strong line.

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TOBACCO WAR ON IN NEW YORK.

Rate Cutting Is Taken Seriously in High-Price Stores.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, March 7.—Those who puff 50-cent cigars may get them now for 46 cents, and a quarter cigar may be had for 19 cents if time is taken to pick out the right cigar store. Elsewhere the price of both domestic and Havana made cigars are selling at the same price as before the "cut-rate war" began, and dealers all over town say that no change will be made.

As the cut-rate war has neither reduced the price of the 10 or 5 cents cigars, or, in fact, of any kinds of tobacco, but little attention is paid by the bulk of dealers to this "merry war."

In the more gorgeously appointed establishments the rate-cutting is, however, taken more seriously, and dealers of experience predict that the net result will be the driving out of the market of the very brands of Havana cigars that have been reduced in price, by new brands that will come from Cuba.

It seems the opinion of many dealers that the tobacco business is at present in a stupendous muddle, and one of them explained: "It was begun by the establishment of the shops of the United Cigar Stores Company, which was followed by a loud protest from all the independent dealers that they were being driven out of business by the Tobacco Trust, and that there was not the slightest doubt in their minds that these banded cigar stores were simply an instrument devised by the trust as a crushing process.

"Then came the Acker, Merrall & Condit announcement of a cut, apparently in defiance of the machinations of the banded stores, though many retail dealers professed to doubt its genuineness."

Harry J. Lace, who is now the head of Acker, Merrall & Condit, said that the Tobacco Trust had not, nor has it ever had, any interest in the firm. "The reason for our cutting prices," said he, "was to enter competition with the United Cigar Stores Company. We could not sit by and see other dealers trading on our capital. We merely came down to the prices at which retailers were selling the cigars we made."

Meanwhile, the war goes on merrily, to the amusement of the people who are contented to smoke 5 and 10 cent cigars.

SMALL BOYS BESIEGE TREASURY OFFICIALS

Story That Premium Is Paid for Pennies of 1602 Brings Swarms of Applicants.

BELIEVE COINS CONTAIN GOLD.

Clerks Kept Busy Answering Questions and Explaining That the Coppers Are Worth Only One Cent Each.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, March 7.—Hundreds of men and women besieged the cashroom in the Treasury Department to-day, all seeking to have pennies of 1902 redeemed at 10 cents each.

A statement has been published that Uncle Sam is willing to pay 10 cents for every 1902 copper presented for redemption. It is claimed the gold and copper were mixed in some mysterious way in the mint and the pennies contain a large percentage of the precious metal.

The Treasury officials laughed at the first applicant, but the affair has assumed a serious aspect and is rapidly becoming a sore subject with them.

Not only have there been hundreds of visitors carrying handfuls of pennies, but letters are coming in from all parts of the country.

"It looks as though we would have to print an answer denying such a manifestly absurd statement," said one official, "or detail a special clerk to answer these letters."

One woman appeared at the redemption window yesterday with a purse full of 1902 pennies.

"Please give $1.50 for each of these," she said calmly.

"What?" asked the clerk.

"They are 1902 coins," she said, in a woman's last-word tone.

"Madame, I will sell you 500 1902 pennies for a $5 bill," said the clerk.

"Oh!" she gasped.

Another man insisted that he be paid 19 cents each for his pennies. Small boys have apparently collected most of the 1902 pennies in the city and are haunting the Treasury.

That any gold could be mixed in the pennies is an impossibility, the officials declare.

BABY'S VOICE

Is the joy of the household, for without it no happiness can be complete. How sweet the picture of mother and babe, angels smile at and commend the thoughts and aspirations of the mother bending over the cradle. The ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass, however, is so full of danger and suffering that she looks forward to the hour when she shall feel the exquisite thrill of motherhood with indescribable dread and fear. Every woman should know that the danger, pain and horror of child-birth can be entirely avoided by the use of **Mother's Friend**, a scientific liniment for external use only, which toughens and renders pliable all the parts, and assists nature in its sublime work. By its aid thousands of women have passed this great crisis in perfect safety and without pain. Sold at $1.00 per bottle by druggists. Our book of priceless value to all women sent free. Address BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

MOTHER'S FRIEND