The Manchester Democrat.

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WORK FOR CONGRESS.

Defects in Pure Food Law to be Remedied at Next Session.

When Congress meets in December one of the questions to be thrashed out will undoubtedly be the revision of the food laws to meet the demands of the general body of consumers for further improvements in the methods of many food factories.

One of the points overlooked in the original act was the treatment of peaches and apricots in canning plants. It is the practice of many canneries to immerse peaches in a boiling solution of caustic soda and allow the fruit to stew in this chemical until the skins of the fruit are eaten loose. The fruit is then put through several washings until the skins are washed away. This process is about a cent and a half or two cents a can cheaper than peeling by knife. Those who are calling attention to this chemical treatment say that the use of the lye is not the worst feature of the process, but contend that in order to use this cheap peeling process it is necessary to use green and unripe fruit for canning. Ripe fruit will not stand the lye-process but becomes discolored and disintegrated in the caustic soda. The little flavor which the unripe peaches have is killed by the lye treatment, so that the result is a woody tasteless, canned peach which depends for flavor on the syrup which is added in the canning process.

The way to tell a lye-peeled peach is to wash away the syrup and then taste the fruit. If it is tasteless and pulpy the chances are it is a lye-peeled peach.

In the several washings to which the peach is subjected after it is peeled by lye, most of the chemical is undoubtedly washed away but if any of it is left the consumer gets it with his fruit.

Congress did not mention this subject in the pure food laws, consequently the canners using this method are not compelled to state the fact on their labels. The present agitation has for its purpose the enactment of a measure to remedy this defect.

If this movement proves successful every canner will have to state on his label if the peaches he used were peeled by caustic soda or any other chemical. That of course will put the question right up to the consumer. If they would as soon eat fruit which has been soaked in lye they can do so. Many of course will prefer to have their fruit handled in the good old fashioned kitchen way, by knife-peeling, which also means much for the quality of canned fruit by keeping intact the original fruit flavor.

The last two years have seen a great advance in the methods used in various canneries and with the new law a still further advance in the direction of wholesome productions will be assured. When the processes employed in canneries are known to be perfectly wholesome, there will be a greater use of canned fruits and the final result will be profitable for all concerned, including the farmer who will get a greater market for his product.

WHEN TRUSTS WILL BE SAFE

(From the Register and Leader.)

The Wall Street Journal presents the argument for unrestricted consolidation of business in the following comment on the Standard Oil decision:

"If the latest interpretation of the Sherman anti-trust act is sustained by the supreme court, the law must be amended.

The commanding commercial position of the United States is due to the strength and efficiency of its industrial combinations. The usual effect of such combinations has not been a "restraint of trade," using the words in their ordinary sense. Congress, when enacting this law, was not seeking to prevent 200 shoe factories in Brockton from consolidating, reducing their manufacturing costs, improving their combined credit and expanding their output.

Hence the surprise when the court of appeals in the tobacco case ruled that a consolidation of any two competing companies was illegal because the elimination of their competition was a "restraint of trade."

Now it is held that the combination of any two or more corporations engaged in the same line of business, though not actually competing is a "restraint of trade," because while uncombined, they are potential sources of competition.

It is no longer a question of good and bad trusts. There is strong popular feeling that the Standard Oil company has repeatedly employed unfair and illegal methods in attempting to monopolize the industry. But the decision goes against it not because it has employed such methods but solely because it is a combination of several separate corporations.

Every holding company and hundreds of other corporations throughout the country from the steel corporation down, whose business methods are and always have been honorable, are in precisely the same situation. To disrupt them, and this construction of the law requires it would be to demoralize the business of the country to no good end.

It is time for congress to declare that business combinations which eliminate wasteful competition, without interfering with the freedom of competition, which tend to increase rather than restrict trade, are lawful."

It is not necessary to go further for illustration than the steel trust, which the Journal refers to as a legitimate combination, to understand just what is contemplated by those who stand for the modification of the Sherman law.

During the panic the steel trust met to discuss prices and to decide whether fluctuation should be permitted in steel to accommodate the prevailing tendency. It was decided to maintain a stable equilibrium, and throughout the crisis there was no variation whatever in the price of steel. The steel trust was so thoroughly master of the situation that by vote it could determine the market of the most important single product sold in the United States.

The question is not whether this control of steel was for the good or injury of the market or of the consumer. The question is whether the people can afford to trust it to any board of directors to decide without appeal. If the directors of the steel trust have this right the directors of Standard Oil have the same right until in the end the directors of some one vast holding company may have the right to fix prices for everything made or handled by a corporation.

It may be found that consolidation is the part of wisdom and that the enforcement of the Sherman law is not the last word to be said. But preliminary to such consolidation as is represented in the steel trust there must be some public inspection and public regulation that will protect the market place. The enforcement of the Sherman law, more than anything else, will bring business men to see that this is so. When there is a national incorporation law, so guarded that fraud is impossible under it, limiting stock and bonds to money actually invested, preventing stock manipulations, and insuring safety to the investor, and fair consideration for the buyer, then the Sherman law will have served its purpose.

Until that time the more strictly the Sherman law is enforced and the more holding companies as we now have them that are disbanded, the better.

A PLEA TO SANTA CLAUS.

By William Lightfoot Visscher.

Oh! Santa, dear Santa, please keep
the old team;
Your bonny brown pair, so swift
and so strong,
For should you displace them then
Christmas would seem
A memory marred and the ghost
of a song.
Dear Donner and Blitzen the eke the
old sleigh,
Are part of the tune that the
Christmas bell rings,
And never must they, dear Santa,
give way,
To new-fangled autos and wild
flying things.
So come with your reindeer,
Your sweetmeats and grin, and
your beard of snow white;
With your fat and your furs, your
jolly aplomb,
And in the small hours of Christmas Eve night,
We will longingly wait till the dawning of day,
With trust in the stocking and
faith just as leal,
But come as dear Santa, and come
in your sleigh,
And not in a honking old automobile.

SNOW CRYSTALS.

By Isabel S. Mason.

The mystic Genius of the air
Hath loosened all her stars
And strung their chains of fantasy
Across the cedar bars.
A storm of myriad crystal flowers,
With breath the pulse to stir,
Wild blooms that glint the rabbit's coat
And gem the squirrel's fur.
They glisten o'er the rising hills,
And traced across their light,
There shines the track of Reynard's seal
Escutcheoned on the white.
And where the crust the rigid bole
I hear the Pecker tap;
Against the silver fastened door
He hangs his crimson cap.
A scren of vital dancing stars,
Across the field they blow;
Waif rainbows dropped from opal skies,
Enchanted into snow.

SPOILED CORN AND PELLAGRA.

(James E. Downing in Wallaces Farmer.)

A serious indictment has been rendered against corn in connection with the disease known as pellagra, a few cases of which have been recently discovered in the United States. The charges contained in the indictment are based on the fact that this disease has not been discovered in countries where corn is not generally raised. Of the foreign countries where it has found the most victims, Italy and Roumania claim first attention, and it is pointed out that it has been traced to the use of spoiled corn as human food.

Last yea there were consumed as human food in one form and another by the people of the United States 80,000,000 bushels. The early chronicles of Virginia contain many descriptions of the cultivation of corn and other plants by the Indians and in very early days in the Jamestown colony Indian prisoners were forced to teach the English settlers how to plant and till corn. Subsequently corn and civilization have gone hand in hand down to the present time, in this enlightened age were presumed to know good from bad food, yet students tell us that much of the quantity of corn consumed last year was spoiled. An explination for this assertion is found in a recent address by Carl L. Alsberg, M. D., an expert in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

"Varieties of corn planted have been changing considerable in the last decades. In ten generations the oil or fat content has been raised 2.67 per cent. Now this change in the oil content may well be of importance to pellagra. When corn becomes moldy it is always the embryo that is affected first. It is into the embryo that the fungus first makes its entry, and there it flourishes best. Not merely does the fungus flourish best, but the greater part of the toxic material is in the decayed embryo. Now it happens that the greater part of the oil is located in the embryo. Therefore one rich in oil is also one with a large germ. It is therefore not ureasonable to assume that such a large embryo variety of corn would, when it does become moldy, produce a greater amount of the poisonous material."

This, however, is not the whole story. There are mills and mills. Some modern, while others are ancient. Modern mills tend to eliminate the germ, while ye old-time mill is operated along different lines. In Tennessee and Georgia the diet of the mountaineer is made up of 23 per cent corn, while that of the negro is 33.5 per cent. An insufficient quantity of corn is produced in the south, and much of the supply comes from the corn belt states. This is of the large germ full of oil variety, intended mainly for stock feeding. It is shipped south and milled in old-style mills. The first cases of pellagra were discovered in the south, and it is not difficult under the circumstances to understand why.

The discussion of the cause of the disease has brought out more clearly an agricultural aspect which is worthy of serious consideration by the corn grower in the corn belt states. As a matter of fact, the price paid for corn is according to its grade without any thought of its water content. No up-to-date consumer of coal would consider the purchase of a quantity of coal without first ascertaining the heat units. Corn varies far more in water content than coal does in heat units. The former runs from 10 to 35 per cent water. Yet it is sold by grade and never any question as to its water content. It is not reasonable to presume in this day and age that this method of buying and selling can go on much longer; in fact, an effort will be made at the coming session of the legislature in the state of South Carolina to enact a law requiring all corn imported into the state to be subject to a condition test as well as a grade inspection.

Dr. Alsberg, in speaking of the quantity of water in corn causing so much to spoil, said: "Annually many million gallons of water are hauled from the corn belt to the seaboard, an enormous waste and one that it is to the interest of public health as well as public wealth to prevent. The dealing in moist corn has been so great that the exporters have overreached themselves. Not only have they brought it about that American corn fetches a low price in the world's markets, but they have practically closed these markets to this, one of our most important crops."

The remedy that is given for this condition of affairs is to thoroughly dry it before transportation. To bring this about corn must be sold on a basis of its moisture content. But to make this possible there must be an efficient impartial system of grain standardization. Corn is transported in closed cars without ventilation The grain of corn is a live thing. It is breathing, consuming oxygen, giving off carbonic acid, and as the result of its respiration, heat. The heat thus given off increases the rate of respiration till the corn heats up not enough to create ideal conditions of temperature and moisture for the growth of fungi. Corn transported in this way into the northwest may have its tendency to ferment checked by the colder climate. Cars shipped to the south will, on the contrary, have the tendency to ferment augmented by the warm moist climate. A car of corn shipped from Iowa to Memphis or New Orleans arrives in a stinking condition. It is so reported to the shipper, who in turn swears that it left in first-class condition. After much wrangling the matter is adjusted, to the loss of the shipper and the disgust of the buyer generally. The buyer puts the corn in an oven and dries it. Then he elevates it and slides it down to the bottom to polish it. Some good corn is mixed with it and the corn is then ready to sell for food or any other purpose. the amount of spoiled corn shipped south is very great, for it is very difficult to keep it from moulding. This is chiefly due to its great moisture content, which is so much greater than that of any other grains. It must be thoroughly dried to keep well. The parching of corn by the Indians has always been regarded as a radical procedure, but they evidently knew that even ripe corn, unless it is thoroughly dried, is liable to mold. Corn that ripens late in the year has not time to dry properly before it is stored in the cribs and bins. Moreover, it is still the practice of some farmers to store it insufficiently protected from the weather so that during the winter it becomes thoroughly wet. As long as the weather is cold it will not spoil. The thorough drying of corn would very largely put a stop to the spoiling, and to pellagra as well.

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THANK GOD FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.

(By Dr. Washington Gladden.)

Thank God for peace. Over some of the nations the spectral fear of war is hovering not, happily, over ours. With our thanksgiving that peace is here, let us register our vow that we will never let her depart. Peace is the poor man's best friend. The taxes, which burden our industry and which must all be paid out of the product of labor, are largely burdens which have been heaped up war. Out of every dollar which our national government collects from the citizens, 72 cents goes to pay either for past wars or for preparation for future wars, and the heavy end of this load is on the poor man's shoulders. Thank God for peace, and pray that she may abide with us forever.

Thank God for friendship. It is the one unspeakable good. We may well thank Him for it, for His friendship is the heart of it all. There was a day when men thought of Him as a despot or a tyrant—as the central Ego of the universe; but most of us now know better than that; we know that He is every man's friend, and that the one thing He is seeking to do is to fill the whole world with the spirit of friendship. That is what the great Teacher tried to make us understand—that God is the friend of all of us, and that He wants us all to be friends with one another. And the great thing to be thankful for today is that this is coming to pass. God's good will to men is bringing good will among men. Good will is gaining steadily all the while. The gain is slow, but it is sure; there is a great deal more of good will in the world now than when I was a boy—a thousand times more than there was a thousand years ago. It is not so very long ago that nearly all the people who did the work of the world were slaves; it is not so very long since every man who spoke another language than your own was your enemy, to whom it was right to lie, whom it was virtuous to cheat, and no crime to kill. It is a better world today than it ever was before.

Thank God for friendship, and work to spread it all around the world!

To Preserve Zack Taylor's Tree.

Passengers on the new railroad which has been built through the most southern part of Texas are able to catch a fleeting glance of one of the most historic landmarks on the lower Rio Grande border as the train passes by. Standing like a sentinel in a large cattle pasture a short distance from the railroad is a live oak tree with wide-spreading branches under which Gen. Zachary Taylor was camped for several days while on his way to fight the Mexicans in the latter '40's.

It is now planned to inclose the tree with an ornamental fence and to beautify the spot. The first battle of the Mexican war was fought by Gen. Taylor's army and a force of Mexicans at a point about 65 miles south of here. This battlefield has just been converted into an irrigated farm. In clearing and plowing the land many cannon balls and other relics of the fight were found.

Character in Walking.

Walking is almost as common as breathing, eating and sleeping, yet there are many people who do not know how to walk. Some loiter along with a half-dead, half-alive air, while others madly rush as if but a moment of time was theirs.

Now, there is much character in a walk; it should embody energy, ambition and enterprise and at the same time grace and dignity.

To walk properly certain preparations should be made. In cold weather the clothing should be warm, but not heavy. The clothing should be loose, for a tight garment restricts circulation. The skirt should be short and the shoes should be low-heeled, wide and thick soled.

Deep breathing goes hand-in-hand with walking, and it is a good habit to breathe rhythmically, counting the while.

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We have selected our stock for the holidays with unusual care, and it embraces everything in the chair line, from the parlor to the kitchen.

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We will take care of your purchase until Christmas, so you will not be at any trouble or worry whatever.

BUY NOW

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