

Topics of the Home and Household.

To remove pencil prices from handkerchiefs and other linen pieces, use alcohol. It takes them out like magic.

No matter how carefully sealed it is, jelly, after it has been laid away, is apt to mold. To prevent this, stick four or five cloves in the top of it after it gets hard.—Pictorial Review.

When a lamp wick is too large for the burner and does not turn up readily, draw a few threads from the middle, instead of cutting down the sides. This method is more satisfactory, as it keeps the wick from raveling.

Egg Omelets and Custards.

The woman who does not know of the composition of eggs is apt to cook them in anything but the best way.

One must always remember in the cooking of eggs that albumin coagulates at a temperature of from 134 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit, hence if one would make eggs digestible, they should not be subjected to such a length of time in cooking, or such heat as starch foods, for instance, which require a much higher temperature.

Eggs should never be cooked in water which makes them hop merrily about. They only grow tough and indigestible in boiling water. If cooked in water at a low temperature they may be digested by a child or an invalid.

Eggs to be used for cakes, souffles and omelets must be divided, the yolks and white beaten separately. The success of such dishes depends wholly upon the amount of air beaten into the eggs. The expansion of that air by rather slow cooking means the success of such dishes.

Beat the yolks until they are thick and lemon colored, the whites until so stiff and dry that they fly from the beater like foam.

While beating the white of eggs, hold the rotary beater at an angle instead of straight up and down in the bowl. The work in this way can be done in much less time. Use, too, the wrist movement, not the strength of the whole arm.

The eggs for custards require yolk and white to be beaten together, not so hard as for an omelet. Never break them all into the same dish at once. Drop them one by one in a cup. In this way if a bad egg should occur, it would not ruin the half-dozen that came before.

Omelets.

The first recipe, for a plain omelet, calls for four eggs. The yolks should be well beaten. To them are added half a teaspoonful of salt, a few grains of pepper and four tablespoonfuls of hot water.

Hot water makes an omelet much more tender than milk, and if you want to make an individual omelet use the rule of one egg to one teaspoonful of liquid.

Into the yolks turn the dry whites, cut and folded into the mixture. The omelet pan should be heated and greased with a teaspoonful of butter. Rub with a spatula about the sides to prevent sticking. Pour in the omelet and spread evenly, then set on a portion of the stove where it will cook slowly, turning it around frequently in order to brown evenly. When it has puffed up and browned deliciously on the bottom, it should be set in the oven to finish cooking on top.

Test by touching with the finger, and when moistness and stickiness disappears it is ready to turn. Cut through with a knife, double deftly and serve on a hot platter, a softly browned roll of golden creaminess.

Poached Eggs.

Poached eggs require a shallow pan two-thirds full of boiling salted water. Place three buttered muffin rings in the water and drop an egg carefully into each one.

The water should just cover the eggs, and as soon as a film settles over each, showing the yolk through like a delicate pink ball, each egg should be lifted to a slice of toast with a buttered skimmer. Serve, for an invalid, on a round piece of toast, garnished with parsley and toast points.

Custards.

For boiled custard, the yolks of three eggs should be beaten lightly, stir into them one-fourth of a cup of sugar and one-eighth of a teaspoonful of salt. Add slowly two cups of scalded milk. Pour into the double boiler and stir slowly until the mixture begins to thicken and forms a coating on the spoon. Strain and flavor when cool with a teaspoonful of vanilla.

In making boiled custard be very careful that it does not curdle. It ought to be taken from the fire immediately on beginning to thicken. It will curdle in the minute you are getting ready the strainer and bowl, so have them right at hand.

If it does curdle, do not throw it away; strain it into a bowl and beat rapidly with a rotary egg beater. It will be smooth, but not so thick. A curdled custard can also be used for ice cream. Once it is frozen you will not dream it had not been a success.

Serving Baked Custard.

The baked custard is made from four slightly beaten eggs, mixed with one-half cup of sugar and one-quarter of a teaspoonful of salt. Pour slowly over this four cups of scalded milk. Strain into buttered molds, set in a pan of hot water and sprinkle with grated nutmeg. The custards should be baked in a slow oven until firm, being tested by running a silver knife into each. When the knife comes out clean, the custard is cooked. When cooled, unmold, cover with a meringue, if liked, and brown slightly in the oven.—Irish World. Dorothy Dexter.

A Mexican Battle.

Eagle Pass, Tex., Dec. 12.—It is reported here that Mexican forces headed by Gutierrez, an independent leader, have captured Montelovano, Mexico. With communication with that place has been cut and train service discontinued.

Bobby says "No doubt about us kids—we all like Post Toasties"



PIGEON WITH GERMAN NOTE

A Bird Captured in Halifax Carried Message Under Wing

WAS WOUNDED BY EXPLOSION

And Entered a Home in the Burned Area of the City

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 12.—The capture of a carrier pigeon, under whose wing was a message in German, was reported to the police yesterday. The pigeon, probably wounded in the explosion on Thursday, entered the window of a home near the burned area. Its number was "New York No. 29."

The pigeon was delivered to the chief of police of Dartmouth, who declined to make any statement pending the delivery of the message to the military authorities. The woman who captured it said the bird was suffering intensely from the cold and seemed to have come in for shelter.

PRICE FIXING NEEDS TO BE EXTENDED

Federal Trade Commission Thinks Government Should Apply the Principle to Iron and Steel Because of the Economic Conditions.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—Extension of the government's price fixing power to other products than food and fuel and especially to iron and steel, is believed necessary by the federal trade commission in the light of experience gained in investigating economic conditions since the United States entered the war. Recommendation that a temporary administrative body be established to determine reasonable prices for prime necessities and also to regulate the distribution of raw materials and finished products was made in the commission's annual report, submitted to-day to Congress.

Other recommendations suggest that the commission's powers of obtaining information be broadened to authorize requirement of reports from individuals engaged in commerce, as well as corporations; that information gathered by temporary semi-official organizations such as the council of national defense, including all correspondence, be ordered preserved; that trade association files should be made public records; that investigation of foreign trade conditions be made to permit proper measures with regard to American industrial organization now and when peace is concluded; that the Webb bill to eliminate associations from export trade from the operation of the Sherman law be passed, and that the salary limitation of \$5,000 a year be removed from the commission's expert employes.

Declaration of war has not lessened either the number or importance of the complaints made to the commission of unfair competition, but on the contrary has increased. During the fiscal year ending June 30, a total of 102 complaints were disposed of without formal proceedings, leaving 191 complaints still under investigation. Applications for remedial procedure by the commission showed a decrease from the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916. In nine cases during the last year, the commission issued formal complaints, and in four the matter was disposed of by the issuance of orders to cease and desist.

Besides its regulative functions, the commission has been engaged in economic investigations, the most important of which concerned the newspaper, paper, gasoline and coal industries. At the request of the president, the commission has undertaken extensive inquiries into industries furnishing war supplies to the government and information thus obtained is being used as a basis for government contracts.

Regarding the necessity for governmental price fixing, the report says:

"The experience of this government in the question of fixing prices is one that has been carefully followed by the commission, which has furnished extensive data for this purpose to the fuel administration and to the war industries board. The commission has also had under consideration the experience of other countries in this matter, and particularly England and her colonies, France, and other allies. It is convinced that price fixing by authority of law will have to be resorted to in the case of such commodities as food and fuel, and that such authority is preferably exercised by a temporary administrative body. In particular it is of the opinion that such price fixing power should be established and exercised with respect to the iron and steel industry, for which a bill has already been introduced in the Senate. Equally important, in its opinion, with the fixing of reasonable prices is the regulation of the distribution of the raw materials and intermediate products in the industry affected and of the distribution of the final products to the consumer. In this connection also should be considered the question whether bonafide contracts made prior to the passage of a price fixing law should be allowed to be enforced. This commission is of the opinion that the exact merits of the proposition might differ somewhat in different industries. With respect to the iron and steel industry, however, it believes that the greatest public advantage would be attained by not allowing such contracts to be fulfilled, at least over long periods of time. In the case of coal it is the opinion of the commission that the continued fulfillment of long-term bonafide contracts of sale made prior to the enactment of the law would militate against the most successful operation of price fixing by the government."

The need of a comprehensive investigation of trade associations according to the report, has been developed from the commission's other inquiries. Lack of adequate trade information has been found to be one of the chief obstacles in many industries to the operation of natural competitive forces, and where trade associations collect such information, it has discovered that temptation frequently results to control prices artificially and the channels of distribution. Publicity of trade association files, it is urged, would extend the knowledge of demand and supply and help to prevent

SAVE MEAT

by serving more stuffing when you serve roast meats, poultry, fish and game.



abnormal fluctuations in prices, as well as tend to curb association activities of objectionable character.

Economic investigations during the year have been made into the news print, paper, book print, petroleum, beet sugar, flag, lumber, anthracite coal and bituminous coal industries. Results of the inquiries were made public as completed, but the commission takes occasion in the report to point out that the passage of time has confirmed the correctness of its deductions from the coal investigation that the delay in the movement of cars is what is limiting the output of the mines.

"In the absence of sufficient reformation in the use of rolling stock the coal situation in this country will continue to increase in its menace to the public welfare," the report adds.

Opportunity also is taken to rectify a misapprehension which the commission found to exist regarding a paragraph in its coal report, which said: "Whatever measure of success has marked the efforts of the commission with relation to anthracite coal has been largely because the car supply has been adequate by reason of the close corporate relation between rail transportation and anthracite production. Quite the contrary condition exists with relation to bituminous and rail transportation and with relation to water transportation as to both kinds of coal."

This statement, the report says, has been misconstrued to mean that a close corporate relation between coal mining companies and transportation agencies is desirable. The report continues: "On the contrary, the commission was seeking simply to show that if sufficient interest in existence can be made adequately to care for stimulated production, the speedy movement of coal by interested transportation companies was pointed out to emphasize by contrast the misuse of rolling stock by other transportation companies. The evils of a community of interest between coal producing and coal transporting companies are fully recognized by the commission. Directly as to anthracite, this is shown by abnormal freight rates which have been secured by interested transportation companies for the movement of such coal. Instead of being in the public interest, this community of corporate interest, therefore, makes for unduly high prices of coal to the public and has in it the making of further monopoly."

In order to obtain corporation reports in a more serviceable form, the commission has been advising industries regarding uniform methods of cost accounting, but because of the lack of funds, this work now has been turned over to the department of commerce. Reports from manufacturing concerns, classified by industries, were requested on a voluntary basis, but the returns were disappointing. The commission points out the desirability of a general survey of corporations and adds that information thus obtained could be used in enforcement of laws against intercompany stock holding and interlocking directorates. While the commission in some instances has intervened to prevent suspected projects of this kind, it is said that many violations of law will escape detection unless some systematic investigation is made.

Investigations of war materials at the direction of the president have been concerned chiefly with the preparation and marketing of meats, grain foods and canned vegetables and fish, the operation of produce exchanges, coal and coke, iron ore, iron and steel products, petroleum products, lumber for ship building, cement, fire brick, copper, lead, zinc, nickel and other metals or alloys.

"He Has Achieved Success who has lived well, laughed often, loved much," and insured liberally. The best kind of insurance fitted to the individual case. Colonial National Life Ins. Co., of Vt. (Mutual). S. S. Ballard, general agent, Rialto block, Montpelier, Vt.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children In Use For Over 30 Years Always bears the Signature of J. C. Watson

ITCHING BURNING RASH NEARLY DROVE MISS PRATT WILD

Healed by Cuticura in Less Than a Month With Two Boxes Ointment and Two Cakes Soap. Cost \$1.50.

"I was taken first with a fine humor on my hands and around my ankles. The general appearance was of a red rash, and there was such itching and burning that I nearly drove me wild. By scratching the affected parts they got moist and I was obliged to keep my ankles and fingers wrapped in linen. It bothered me most at night."

Then I used Cuticura Soap and Ointment, and in less than a month, after I had used two boxes of Cuticura Ointment and two cakes of Soap, not a trace remained. I was healed. (Signed) Miss A. B. Pratt, Ossipee, N. H., Aug. 21, 1916.

The majority of skin and scalp troubles might be prevented by using Cuticura Soap exclusively for all toilet purposes. On the slightest sign of redness, roughness, pimples, or dandruff, apply a little Cuticura Ointment. Absolutely nothing more effective.

For Free Samples by Return Mail address "Cuticura, Dept. R, Boston." Sold everywhere.

SUGAR AND COAL INQUIRY

The Senate Without Debate Orders an Investigation

OPPONENT OF HOOVER HEAD OF COMMITTEE

Resolution Is Introduced by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts

Washington, Dec. 12.—Investigation of the causes of the shortage in coal and sugar was ordered by the Senate yesterday without a word of debate. This action was taken in accordance with a resolution offered by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts directing the committee on manufactures to make such investigation and report to the Senate, with any recommendations it may see fit to make with a view to remedying present conditions and preventing their recurrence. Immediate consideration was asked by the Bay state senator and granted, and the Senate adopted the resolution without division.

This innocent measure bids fair to take its place in the history of war, for research discloses that the chairman of the committee on manufactures is James A. Reed of Missouri, who has opposed the conservation plans of Herbert Hoover from the start, while other members of the committee are Senators Gallinger and Lodge, the ranking men of the minority. The proposed inquiry will attract special attention, moreover, because of the belief which many senators have not hesitated to express that the coal and sugar famine created by authority rather than brought about by conditions which could not have been avoided. While Senator Reed may be expected to make Mr. Hoover his target in the coal situation, he may be moved to inquire whether in attempting to regulate the price of Cuban sugar—which measurably failed—he was acting under orders. It has been understood in the sugar trade that the interference of the administration was responsible for the sugar shortage, for the crop has been the largest for years.

The coal inquiry will play up directly against Secretary of War Baker, whose action in condemning the Lane-Peabody agreement upset all the plans of the coal operators to deliver a sufficient supply for all needs and so embarrassed the situation that it has not been straightened out yet. The inquiry also is likely to develop that the action of the navy department on commandeering vessels in the New England coal trade, particularly in the case of the *Albatross*, was responsible for delaying the coal supply for that section to such a point that the shortage could not be made up. While the committee may decide that the course of the navy department was warranted by military demands, its investigation will place the responsibility exactly where it belongs, and relieve some of the coal operators of the prejudices against them and their class which has done service as an inspiration for legislation hostile to the employing interests.

The action on the Lodge resolution, taken in conjunction with that of the Senate committee on military affairs yesterday, indicates that despite the success of the administration in stepping on all measures intended to lead to a general inquiry into the conduct of the war, senators as individuals and members of important committees will bring about practically the same result at the capitol.

PLAINFIELD. Mrs. Niels Neilson entertained the Mothers' club at her hospitable home on east hill Thursday. A good number were present. At 1 o'clock a delicious chicken dinner was served and the afternoon was spent in sewing and thoughtful Christmas planning. It was decided to have the Christmas tree at the South school house Saturday evening, Dec. 22.

Any system of personal cleanliness is incomplete, that does not include a Sanitary Hair Dressing—this can only mean NEWBRO'S HERPICIDE

Applications at the better barber shops Guaranteed by The Herpicide Co. Sold Everywhere

To Liberty Bond Buyers PATRIOTS:—

If ever we New Englanders should set an example to our countrymen and to the world, it is now. The determination with which we Americans maintain our choice in this world struggle, and the vigor with which we conduct our part of it, will do much in creating the morale which will hold our Allies with an unbreakable front. Our devout patriotism, our ardent support of our Government in its Thrift and Conservation plans, our willingness to devote large portions of our incomes to the purchase of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps, will show that we stand unitedly behind all the agencies seeking to maintain Freedom and Self-Government for ourselves and all peoples, and that we love liberty more than lucre and mankind more than money.

May we advise you not to part with Liberty Bonds in exchange for merchandise? Now is the time to KEEP Liberty Bonds.

NOTICE:—Those who bought bonds on governmental partial payments will please pay 40 per cent. of the amount subscribed, at the place the subscription was made, in time to permit remittance to reach the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston ON DECEMBER 15.

Your anticipation of this payment a few days will greatly assist in securing prompt and complete payments.

Liberty Loan Committee of New England CONTINUE WEARING YOUR BUTTON

Christmas Tree Outfits

Light your Christmas tree with electric lights and avoid danger of fire with candles. No bother. No dripping. No odor.

Barre Electric Company Tel. 98-W 153 North Main Street, Barre, Vermont

URGES RESTRICTIONS IN ROAD BUILDING

Director Page of the Office of Public Roads Urges Adoption of Definite Policy for Next Year.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—Emphasizing the war-time stress being placed on all transportation facilities in the United States, and pointing to the necessity for selective highway construction as a means of relief, Director Logan Waller Page of the office of public roads and rural engineering, to-day sent a letter to state highway departments urging the adoption of a definite policy in good roads matters with a view of eliminating from next year's construction the non-essential roads and obtaining effective guarantees for the construction of those which are essential. Need for efficiency through co-operation of all persons directly or indirectly instrumental in road construction, is the keynote of the letter.

Calling attention to the fact that road construction throughout the United States has been seriously hampered by reason of excessive costs, scarcity of labor and inadequate transportation facilities, Director Page declares: "This situation would be serious even in normal times, but in this crisis when the public roads must in addition to their normal traffic be depended upon to relieve the tremendous strain to which the railroads are subjected, it becomes a matter of vital importance that some means be found at least to deal with next season's work so as to assure better results than are possible under our present system."

Mr. Page explains that he has discussed the subject with men who are identified with road work in various capacities. He urges the heads of the highway departments of the states to write to him, telling their views on the proposition. Copies of Mr. Page's letters are also being sent to contractors and others dealing with the constructive features of good road-making, with the view of placing the matter before them in a way which will give them a better understanding of the seriousness of the transportation situation and the need for all the good roads the country can build.

The policy proposed by Director Page, and on which he requests expressions of opinion, is outlined as follows:

1.—The selective consideration of all of next year's construction jobs in all the states and the preparation of a program of road work throughout the nation, in which program each construction job would be listed in the order of its economic importance to the particular territory in which it is located and to the nation as a whole. This arrangement, he points out, would permit the postponement of relatively less urgent undertakings.

2.—A co-ordination of this selective process with the railway and water transportation facilities with a view to insuring an adequate number of cars and vessels of suitable types, with proper distribution to transport materials for the construction of the approved jobs.

3.—A co-ordination with the materials industries with a view to insuring supplies of materials in adequate amount, distribution and deliveries to permit the construction program to be carried out.

PLAINFIELD. Mrs. Niels Neilson entertained the Mothers' club at her hospitable home on east hill Thursday. A good number were present. At 1 o'clock a delicious chicken dinner was served and the afternoon was spent in sewing and thoughtful Christmas planning. It was decided to have the Christmas tree at the South school house Saturday evening, Dec. 22.

ADAMS Pure Chewing Gum

a Stick a day keeps Indigestion away BLACK JACK

WOMEN APPRECIATE

the satisfaction and attraction of having bright eyes, red lips, clear skin, a buoyant step and lively manner. Only well women possess these charms, for they are the outward signs of good health. If your skin is sallow, the eyes dull, the steps heavy, and you feel listless and depressed you certainly need

THE GOOD EFFECTS OF

Beecham's Pills, a tested remedy for weak and run-down conditions. They have a prompt and beneficial action on the organs of elimination, relieve headache and biliousness, tone the stomach and restore appetite. These pills are made of medicinal herbs, without admixture of any harmful drug. They are safe, gentle and effective. For over sixty years women of many nations have been helped and strengthened by

BEECHAM'S PILLS

At All Druggists, 10c, 25c. Directions of special value to women are with every box "The Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World"

That Home of Yours

Do you want to make it more comfortable, more artistic, more home-like? Are you planning to build or remodel? Do you want to see many successful homes others have made, to learn in detail how those homes were built and furnished and how their surroundings were beautified? Yes? Then you will find, each month, a fund of helpful information in

THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL America's Foremost Home-Making Magazine

The men and women on the staff of THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL are experts in their respective fields—architects, interior decorators, landscape gardeners. Their articles, profusely illustrated by views of actual homes, are filled with practical suggestions on architecture, building materials, heating, lighting, woodwork, household conveniences, attractive interior arrangements, furniture, hangings, rugs, arts and crafts, yards and gardens—whatever goes into the making of a home where you would be proud to receive your friends.

Moreover, The Readers' Service Department of THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL offers to subscribers free personal advice on any home-making problem. A postage stamp may bring you aid worth hundreds of dollars.

The Woman's Club of Barre, in the interest of better homes, is showing, this evening, a series of Lantern Slide Views of interiors which have appeared in The House Beautiful. Thus the magazine is recognized as a source of real service—an authoritative guide to any family desiring a home that satisfies.

SPECIAL OFFER: Six Months for One Dollar \$2.50 a Year. 25 Cents a Copy at News Stands. For Free Sample Copy Address Miss Christine Sangster.

THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL 3 Park Street Boston, Mass.