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AS TO HIGH PRICES.

There is no occasion for had temper on the part of any class of business men, on account of the public demand voiced by the press of the City for an inquiry regarding the conditions governing the prices on the necessities of life. The local conditions are not exceptional. They are similar to those noted all over the country, and the consumers everywhere are being aroused to self-defense. The bigger trusts are being denounced and condemned by all. It has become fashionable to take a kick at the gigantic combinations that control certain lines of business. It is but natural that the smaller concerns, too, should come in for a share of criticism. But there should be no occasion for excitement on that account.

The retail dealers in a given locality are not responsible for the prevailing prices. A thorough investigation of that subject would lead the inquirer on from the retail to the wholesale market, and then to the factory, and it would not stop there. The question regarding the influence of the tariff on prices would then come up, and the field of inquiry would finally assume the vast proportions of national politics. No one organization, no one factor in the industrial and commercial life of a nation is wholly responsible for conditions that depend on a multitude of causes and may be said to be the result of their combined energy.

There is, however, another phase of this question which may be inquired into profitably. It is charged that much of the goods sold to the stores is short in weight, or measure, and that the public is defrauded in this way more than most people even suspect. The dealers are, of course, not to blame for this, since they merely distribute the goods as they receive it, and at a very moderate profit.

The San Francisco Chronicle, after a careful inquiry asserts that exactness in this form in the bills of an average family are equal to the house rent for a month and a half. The Chronicle tells of the experience of one retail grocer who decided to check up everything received in his store. It was too much work for himself, so he hired a man to do it. He paid the man \$3 a day. The first day the man made \$2 an hour for his employer. This grocer did a large business, and he saved his customers this \$20 a day. "There are," the San Francisco paper says, "three sources of this fraud—the manufacturers, the wholesalers and the retailers. In the end the consumer pays for it, but still the retailers have an interest in preventing fraud from being practiced upon themselves."

We do not know to what extent the San Francisco conditions prevail in other parts of the country, but it seems to us that this would be a legitimate and fruitful field of inquiry. If the facts are as represented, they would be easily ascertained, and as easily remedied, and the consumers would be benefited.

DUBOIS REBUCKED.

The oratorical efforts of ex-Senator Dubois are estimated at their true worth by people in the West who are acquainted with the conditions here. He has told the ladies back east that "Mormonism" is a fearful menace to the country and especially to the states adjoining Utah. A Colorado contemporary, the Grand Junction Sentinel, takes the ex-Senator to task for his untrue and extravagant statements. That paper says:

"The statements of Senator Dubois on the Mormon question in his speech at Aurora, Illinois, are to our mind largely extravagant. Dubois has some purpose back of these statements. He believes that the Mormon power has some ability to grow, but we do not believe that it is the national menace that Dubois attempts to make it appear. If the very flamboyant statements made by Chautauqua orators are not better timed and have more sense, the public should make the attempt to suppress the speakers."

"If the conditions of a whole section of the country is to be maligned, that a Chautauqua orator may find material to create an impression upon the public platform, we say it is time to call a halt on such spell-binding."

"Colorado has suffered much the present year. The Chancellor-Governor, Henry Augustus Babbitt, has made an honest penny, but he has made the imagination of the easterner in his Chautauqua speeches."

"Following him has been Judge Ben Lindsey, who made somewhat of a reputation as a juvenile court officer, but who has passed that stage in his career and wants to be recognized as a full-blown statesman, but who has failed to abolish all the country's ills, but more especially those of the state of Colorado."

"But, to the subject of this article, the statements of Senator Dubois that the Mormon power is a constantly growing one, and that all this inter-mountain country is being overwhelmed by the power of the Mormon Church, is preposterous to one who lives as close to the state of Utah and the capital city of the Mormon Church as do the people of this state, and especially those of this city."

"Does anyone fear for one-half an instant the statement of Dubois that the balance of power are long in the United States senate will be held by the Mormon Church?"

"Dubois may be ambitious. Brutus, who lived power on in Caesar and Caesar, drew Caesar on the pretext that his power was too great, and that the liberties of the people were threatened. Truly Dubois you may be as easily about this Mormon matter as Brutus about the ambition of Caesar, but the subject matter by which you may reason that you can climb to prominence, is too near wanting to permit you to rise very high on any wave of excitement over the Mormon question."

"If there are any hysterical old

ladies in the east who should have to take scalp over these extravagant Chautauqua statements of Senator Fred Dubois to quiet their nerves, we hope that they will not hearken greatly to the tale of the senator, however sensational it may sound, because we don't believe much of what we hear that he said, and we live quite close to Utah."

Everybody here knows that Dubois is not sincere. He tried to make anti-"Mormonism" an issue in Idaho, a ladder on which to climb again into the paradise of the Senate, and failed. And now he is going round the country to gratify his thirst for revenge. And yet he is on record as a witness to the fact that the "Mormons" helped elect him when he first realized his political ambition. Before the political parties in Idaho had found it necessary to abandon him as a standard-bearer.

AN ULTIMATUM.

Word comes from Constantinople to the effect that the German Ambassador there has virtually told the Sultan that he must either yield to the program of the powers for reform in his administration, or risk the loss of his throne. It is believed the German Chancellor, in sending this message to Constantinople, expressed the views of all the powers interested in Turkey, and that Abdul Hamid will, take the "tip" and govern himself accordingly.

The present ruler of the faithful is a great diplomat. When he succeeded the unfortunate Abdul Aziz—Murad's reign being very short—the outlook at Stamboul was gloomy indeed. Today Turkey has become an extremely important factor in the great concert of nations. By playing on the rivalries and jealousies of the various governments represented at Constantinople, the Sultan has not only prevented the organization of any concerted intervention by the powers in the administration of his empire, but has managed to recover much of the authority and prestige that had been forfeited by his predecessors. The ultimatum delivered by the German Ambassador must be regarded as an indication that the usual tactics of the Sultan are no longer the success they used to be.

Abdul Hamid has the reputation of being a cruel despot, but if he were nothing else, he would not have been able to build up the empire as he has done. Today his influence extends far and wide. He has fostered many improvements demanded by civilization. One of the monumental works he has undertaken is the bridging of the straits at Constantinople which divide Europe from Asia, and another is the construction of that great railroad which is to connect the railroad systems of Mecca and Medina. Turkey was once "the sick man" of Europe, but it is quite healthy today, and that is mostly due to the remarkable diplomacy of Abdul Hamid.

THE FLEET WILL SAIL.

In spite of the vehement criticism of the government because of the projected dispatch of a strong squadron to the Pacific, the plan will be carried out, it is said. And why not? Japan has no objection. Why should Americans object?

European nations enter into compacts with one another and with Japan concerning China, without consulting that country. Japan and England have recently signed treaties relating to Asia. So have France and Japan and Russia and England. But the Chinese are beginning to resent this protective policy, and the time has come when all kinds of complications may be looked for in that part of the globe. It is a wise policy to have enough ships in the Pacific in case an emergency should arise demanding a strong defense of American interests.

And this eventuality is not considered far off. A Chinese writer on the Coast, commenting on current events, says:

"The Chinese in some respects admire the Japanese for their present power and aggressiveness and are even willing to follow in their footsteps. There are from 15,000 to 18,000 Chinese being educated in Japan at the present time. We like to learn of them their military, judicial and legislative methods, and even would like to be their pupils. We would like to stand together for our common good, but we do not want to have the Japanese impose on us, and as soon as Japan tries to practice the same methods with us that she has employed toward Russia, which nation she has expelled from our domain, we shall kick, and kick vigorously, and this time is now approaching."

If this is true, the wisdom of having a number of American ships in Pacific waters should be apparent to all.

DEFAMATION.

It may sometimes be fair to print extraordinary charges against a man if apparently made in good faith, however false the accusation may afterwards be proved; but it is execrable to magnify an ill report or to print with approbation and exultation unspeakable and bestial accusations against citizens of known probity and respectability.

This general rule of public decency and of respect for the rights of accused persons is sometimes and with questionable propriety relaxed in the case of aspirants for public favor or of actual office holders; but the affairs of a private citizen are of less public consequence, and his good name should be held inviolate until his guilt has been shown, or plainly indicated.

Every man is presumed innocent till proved guilty. Every man, woman and child has an inalienable right to be secure from the attacks of unnamable slanders until the proper showing shall have demonstrated to judge and jury beyond reasonable doubt that such in-describable turpitude exists; and in such case, when it does unhappily arise, the public interest is best served by saying as little about it as possible.

Yet the reputation of innocent men is too often tarnished by scandal mongers. Stories of crimes of which they are in all probability not guilty are spread to the four winds for dissemination no one knows where. To their endless mortification and continual humiliation whenever they must refute the vulgar libels, they will encounter them in unexpected places, and the taint of the im-

putations will cling to their name for years.

It is base and cowardly to publish rumors and even accusations, if unsubstantiated, against any man; but when a person is in no sense in the public eye, to seize upon some silly yarn, told of him perhaps by an avowed enemy and spread it, luridly magnified, before the public, is really satanical.

In this respect the Tribune has not neglected to illustrate the infamy of its policy and the inevitable mental depravity of those who are responsible for the continuous repetition of falsehood and slander that blacken its pages.

The price of coal never slumps.

The weather summary is not so summary as it was.

Give a politician time and he will talk himself to death.

Governor Hughes stands so well because he stands straight.

The Tribune makes a great deal of blow about its curfew whistle.

The frost hasn't been quite severe enough to kill off all the straw hats.

"Put your shoulder to the wheel," was never written of the automobile.

Those who gather in the salt harvest will be, for the time being, of the salt of the earth.

A new chief of the Creek Indians has been appointed, the old one having gone up the spout.

The difference between an irrigator and an irrigator is the difference between theory and practice.

The description of the charge of the Moors on the French at Casa Bianca reads like a page from "The Talmud."

Ex-Mayor Thompson insists on himself paying that fine for contempt as mayor. His insistence shows a fine appreciation of the proprieties.

The chief cause of desertions from the army and navy is lack of character in the men who falsely swear to serve their country honestly and faithfully.

A London paper declares that "tipping" has been reduced to a reasonable basis in that town. But it is harder to define a "reasonable basis" than a "reasonable doubt."

And now it is announced that the great battleship fleet is not to remain on the Pacific coast but is to make a voyage around the world. It will create almost as much talk as the voyages of Magellan and Drake have.

"What's the use discovering the north pole with a telegraph strike on?" says the Beaumont Enterprise. What's the use of discovering it with a strike off?" asks the Washington Herald. What's the use of discovering it, anyhow?

A priest attached to the church of Santa Maria Magdalena, Rome, impelled by his desire to visit the United States, embarked twenty-four thousand dollars of the church funds and disappeared. Laudable as is the desire to "see America first," resort to village rough treatment for the return of a bad Penny!

The home-coming of Ferdinand Penney Earle, the artist who sent his wife to France, her old home, to secure a divorce so that he might marry another woman, was hardly what he expected, he being hissed and hooted, pulled from his carriage and dragged through the mud of the streets of the village. Rough but just treatment for the return of a bad Penny.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN JAPAN.

Chicago Journal.
Mr. Yamada, the Japanese, has a still more interesting piece of news than anything about war and its possibilities. That is that the English language is compulsory in Japanese public schools, that all children are compelled to learn it, and that the probability is that in a few years Japan will be an English speaking nation. Mr. Yamada himself, though this is his first visit to this country, speaks English like an American, and he learned to do so in the public schools of Tokyo.

MAN HAS NOT GROWN.

New York Times.
While there may be more or less change of variation men are of practically the same stature and the same size of brain today as they were before the dawn of history. In prehistoric times the size of the human brain increased enormously. It is now larger relatively to the bulk of body than that of any other mammal, and is proportionately five or six times larger than that of any animal in mammals generally, as in the elephant and horse, wherever there is much cerebral substance there is a corresponding "educability" or power of storing up individual experience as opposed to instinctive racial experience. But in man the increased bulk of brain ceased in the early paleolithic times. "Educability" then began to differentiate the human races.

CHILD IS FATHER OF THE MAN.

Washington Herald.
It is not pleasant reading the report issued by the census bureau on "Crime and Moral Delinquency." This report shows that in 1904 there were in prison 11,772 persons, exclusive of juvenile delinquents and persons held for nonpayment of fines. Out of every million of our population there were, at that date, 1,646 in prison. In 1890 the ratio was 1,667 to the million. In that part of the report dealing with juveniles it is shown that on June 30, 1904, there were 23,934 in prison, an increase of 82.2 per cent over the total for 1890. This is the discouraging part of the report, and, unfortunately, one can only speculate as to the causes of this increase in juvenile delinquency. That much of it is due to the carelessness and indifference of parents is undisputed. Modern conditions of life are doing much to kill that home circle in which every father was the guardian and preceptor of his boys, but there must be many other causes patent enough. One of them, in all probability, is the growth of crime literature and especially the wonderful increase in circulation of those comic supplements to the Sunday newspapers which, while humorous enough in effect, are quite careless of how the humorous

effect is gained. If the pictures show clever escape of a criminal, their fault is their publishers' purpose, but what of the lessons that these pictures inculcate? It cannot be doubted that the reading of the papers by young men does much, at least, to take away the horror of crime and criminals.

JUST FOR FUN.

The Laziest Man.
One of the contractors in Panama was much annoyed by the exceeding laziness of the sixty native workmen under him. He resolved to try to make them ashamed of their indolence, so one day he lined them up and said:

"Now, I've got a nice, easy job for the laziest man in this company. Will the laziest man please step forward." Fifty-nine of them stepped forward. The contractor turned to the other, who stood still, looking almost too indolent to stand, and said:

"Why didn't you come forward with the others?"

"And the answer came in a weary voice:

"I'm too lazy."—Judge's Library.

Ingratitude.
Not long ago an Irishman was seen with a live turkey under his arm. The turkey was squawking and gobbling in a distressed way, a racket to which the Irishman did not at first pay particular notice. Finally, however, the disturbance got on the Celt's nerves. Giving the bird a poke in the side, he exclaimed:

"Be quiet! What's the matter with ye, anyhow? Why should ye want to walk when I'm willin' to carry ye?"—Modern Society.

Condition Serious.
Gentleman Lodger—I say, Mrs. Napper, I don't care for your bacon this morning! It doesn't seem fresh.

Mrs. Napper—Very strange, sir. The shopman said it was only cured last week.

Gentleman Lodger—Well, it must have had a relapse.

Amused.
Miss Prim—My! wasn't it hot yesterday? I didn't seem able to dress coolly at all.

Miss Slimm—Yes, it was simply too warm for anything.

Miss Prim—By—you mean it was—simply to warm for scarcely anything, don't you?—Philadelphia Press.

Great Agent.
"Have you sold your country villa yet?"

"No, I'm not going to sell it now."

"How's that?"

"Well, I gave instructions to an agent to advertise it for sale, and the description he wrote of it was so enchanting that I couldn't make up my mind to part with it."—Polo-Mele.

Question for Question.
"Why do women insist on going to matinee for the sake of crying?"

Inquired impatiently. "Haven't they enough trouble of their own?"

"I don't know," replied she. "Why do men insist on getting into a poker game merely for the sake of experiencing a new kind of financial worry?"—Philadelphia Press.

So Indignant.
Mr. Yermer—I'm going to kiss you, Miss Koy—if you do I'll scream.

Mr. Yermer—You're cold—

Miss Koy—My cold? Yes, isn't it awful? I'm sure I'm losing my voice.—Philadelphia Press.

The Quick and the Dead.
The scene was in a certain country school. "Explain," said the teacher to the class, "the difference between 'the quick' and 'the dead.'"

"Please, sir," answered Tommie, "the quick is them as gets out of the way of motor cars, and the dead is them as doesn't."—Weekly Telegraph.

"John."

"Yes, sir."

"Be sure to tell me when it is 4 o'clock."

"Yes, sir."

"Don't forget it. I promised to meet my wife at 2:30 in the drug store across the street, and she'll be provoked if I'm not there when she comes.—Judge.

"He's a mean man." He never buys anything for his wife that he doesn't hope to profit by himself."

"Why, he got her an automobile for her exclusive use."

"Yes, and he got her life insured in his favor at the same time."—Cleveland Leader.

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