



Everything



BY AL FAIRBROTHER

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ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

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TURKEYS CHEW THE VILE WEED

The wise men of the far east, up Boston way, deal exclusively in economic questions and they always find the First Cause. The First Cause having once been found it is an easy matter to traverse the winding intricacies of Speculation and Fact. The Boston Traveler the other day contained this editorial, which is comprehensive, enlightening and worth while:

There is a man in New York who knows all about turkeys, and he talks about them in a very practical way. His name is Foy, he is a market expert, and he doesn't conceal his thoughts in the slightest degree. For example, he tells people to remember that "butchers of the present generation aren't like the butchers of old. Ninety per cent. of them know nothing about turkeys or quality of any meat. So never mind what they say."

That may be all right as far as New York goes, but in this city and others outside of Boston there are men who know as much about meat as anybody who sells it ought to know, for their fathers and grandfathers were meat experts before them. But Mr. Foy talks more helpfully when he says:

Pick a bird with a plump breast, good legs and fat evenly distributed along the back. Look at his eyes. If they are fresh and bright the bird is recently killed. If the eyes are all but gone it's a storage bird. See that the breast is double, but not broken. Dealers pound the breasts of cold storage turkeys to make them even tender, and sometimes break a bone. If the skin is cracked the chances are the bird has been mismanaged.

Mr. Foy advises the buyer not to take a turkey that was reared in Virginia or North Carolina. The birds down that way eat tobacco leaves, and the juice of the plant does not add to the sweetness of the meat. But in all probability the tobacco-chewing turkeys are reserved for New York. Hereabouts more genuine Vermont turkeys are sold every year than are raised in Vermont.

It so happened that about the time this wonderful bit of information was spread before the readers of the Traveler in the Hub of the Universe Mr. Martin Douglas, of this city, was stopping down at the Tourane or Young's Hotel, and his eye fell upon the sacred page and he read aloud of the tobacco-chewing turkeys of North Carolina. In a letter to us enclosing the editorial above copied Mr. Douglas expressed some doubt as to the entire truth of the story, saying, however, that it was only his observation on his own farm that turkeys for the most part neither chewed tobacco nor smoked cigarettes. However, he was willing to admit that if an occasional quid of tobacco was now and then found in a turkey's craw it would only tend to sweeten the disposition of the national bird and would in no wise entitle it to exemption under the Thanksgiving or Christmas draft.

It is refreshing to read what these learned men have to say about the natives of the pine woods—the turkeys and the men and women. With the high prices of tobacco looks like a regular tobacco-fed turkey could find some justification in asking thirty cents a pound for itself—a price very cheap when we consider that common Burley is worth seven cents a pound.

THE CHRISTMAS ADVERTISER.

In these days the live merchant wants to help you. He goes over his stock of goods and tells you what he has that will make appropriate Christmas gifts. The man who reads the advertisements these days gets information worth while. The perplexing problem of what to buy for a Christmas gift puzzles us all, and by intelligently scanning the advertisements at this season one derives great help. The Hand Bill carries the announcements of most live merchants. Read them and profit by them.

BUY THEM ALL THE TIME.

From now on until Christmas is over see to it that a Red Cross seal is on your letter. Buy enough to adorn your Christmas package with them. The money obtained from the sale of Red Cross seals will help a stricken tubercular patient. This is worth your while. It is handing to a suffering fellow brother a little bit that will do him great good. Buy your Christmas seals today and tomorrow and next day. Use them all the time.

WHEN?

When will Greensboro be bold enough to set its rabbit gum for that Carolina and Yackin railway. It can be secured and at little expense, and if secured we will practically have a railroad to the sea—something long wanted. Of course war times may not be opportune to talk new railroads, but it would be business to plan it right now.

The time to send your Christmas package is now.

GETTING CLOSE TO SOCIALISM

The usually level-headed Raleigh Times makes a serious mistake by turning in an alarm concerning fuel. It proposes to print each day a statement showing the exact number of cords of wood and the exact number of tons of coal on hand. Naturally, because farmers, filled with agitation and hot air, are holding their wood for ten dollars a cord and dealers unable to secure much at any price, this showing will cause a "run on the bank." Those with money enough to buy are over-buying. That has been shown in this town. Men who never before got busy for the winter fuel have bought more coal than they will consume. This reduces supply, and the man without money to buy gets left.

To print each day the amount of actual coin in a bank would cause a run on the bank and burst it wide open.

To print each day the number of sticks of wood in a city, implying that things were in bad shape, will naturally cause a run on the woodyard, and the man with money will beat his unfortunate neighbor without money to it.

The Times is well intentioned, but to print the amount of fuel on hand in no way increases the supply. It diminishes it, and no good is accomplished.

If the people are not worked up to excitement they will get along better, and the man in the country will not conclude to mark up his wood another dollar a cord. The other day in this town a farmer came in and had a load of wood worth perhaps in war times a dollar and a half. It wasn't a much larger load than the dealers sell at that price, but the farmer wanted three dollars for it. He had heard, he said, that there was a wood famine here and that the city was going into the wood business; that people couldn't get wood, and he took a day off to bring in a load and expected three dollars for it. This paper interviewed him and watched him for information. He sat all forenoon on his wagon—his time seemed without value—and after dinner he reduced the price to two dollars and a half. At three o'clock in the afternoon he hadn't "unloaded," and what finally became of him we do not know. The Times says in an editorial:

Human nature being what it is, it is too much to expect the individual to translate suffering in the city as his own failure to sell what he can sell or not as he chooses. A farmer who three years ago was peddling six-cent cotton for ten cents a pound to charity inclined "buy-a-bale" Raleigh merchants stated recently that he had wood, but was going to hold it for ten dollars a cord. Unsavory as the incident sounds, it is a perfect example of thoughtlessly selfish instinct. And parties of the other part are dealers who hesitated in the beginning to offer to pay prices in advance of custom—until prices got away from them. If they cannot now buy at prices enabling them to do business in the line which is supposed to be their specialty, the fault is the common one of enchantment with "war profits"—to be paid by the "other fellow."

Much truth in the above, but the longer the Times prints it on its front page that there is no wood in Raleigh—a scant 188 cords—the more the farmer is going to be convinced that his good time is coming and if he can hold up his city neighbor for forty dollars a cord he will do so with a chuckle. The Times thinks the city should buy wood—not a municipal woodyard; it wouldn't call it that; but it would have it that—in order to hold down prices. It says:

In this situation the remedy must in the end be applied by the city—not through a municipal woodyard, which is not needed, but through the maintenance of a supply of city wood sufficient to defeat the demands of the peddlers of fuel who come in to sell at any wild price which the emergency makes possible. The city, so far as wood is concerned, has the duty of stabilizing prices in reason. It has made a beginning of doing so by getting wood. It remains for it to make the supply adequate for its purpose, to saw it with its own engine and gasoline, to haul it with its own wagons—not as a general proposition, not in unlimited quantities or as a business, but as a deterrent to increasing petty speculation and as a safeguard against further economic brigandage.

If dealers cannot buy wood, if farmers want ten dollars a cord, how in Sam Hill can the city buy it and deliver it any cheaper than the retailer unless the city cuts the profit from the sale of wood and charges up the expense of handling to "general expense?" It can't be done. Agitation concerning a scarcity of wood which did not exist has run the price to the skies, and the more agitation the higher the price, while the forests are full of wood to be had for the cutting.

WILSON MAKES LOYAL SPEECH

The intensely patriotic address of President Wilson to Congress has doubtless given new inspiration to the loyal members of Congress who heard the President explain that this country was going to fight to an honorable finish, and that there would be no peace which wasn't peace. The chances are that before many days elapse there will be on foot a determined movement to impeach a few Congressmen and Senators—not many, but perhaps more than one. Senator La Follette is already under investigation and it will not take much of a match to kindle a mighty big blaze just now. The New York Herald, which is as intense in its loyalty as any newspaper can be, figures on the situation and says that "Senators and Representatives returned to Washington for the reconvening of Congress speak with enthusiasm of the attitude of their constituents in support of the war. 'The people,' they say, 'are all right.'"

"Never has there been doubt of the 'all rightness' of the American people. The only thing that concerns them, the only point upon which they themselves have had doubt, is whether the American Congress is all right."

"Some of the members of that body are under suspicion. These have been prolific with lip service in behalf of patriotism, but their acts clearly have warranted doubt of their Americanism. One Senator is under investigation by a committee of the body of which he is a member, at least one other Senator deserves to be put in the same to-be-investigated class. Still other Senators and Representatives have been guilty of utterances that, in the opinion of many patriots, were designed to give aid and comfort to the enemy."

"Congress should understand that the American people expect it to purge itself of any semblance of Hun-Americanism. Fathers and mothers who are sending their boys to the battle fronts on land or sea, will not submit to the spectacle of the halls of Congress being used for the utterance of treason, near-treason or anything approaching treason. When the people are being called upon for the supreme sacrifice they have a right to expect, and do expect, that man in public life make willing sacrifice of such portion of the 'sacred right of free speech' as covers freedom to speak the words of disloyalty or of a questionable patriotism. The people are not hypercritical; they are willing enough to permit loose thinking during the period before the United States entered the war to be offset by thinking in straight American lines now, but they will countenance no fifty-fifty patriotism in members of Congress or in anybody else while this nation is at war."

"Each house of Congress is the judge of its own members. Each must judge them by the yardstick of true Americanism and promptly part company with those who do not measure up to the one hundred per cent American standard."

FILLED WITH SPIES.

The officials tell us that this country is filled with German spies; they bob up in all sorts of guises and in all sorts of ways. The duty of every citizen is to be always on the alert, and anything looking at all irregular should be reported at once. There is no defense of the spy. There is no defense of the pro-Germans who pretend to be talking for peace or moderation when in fact they are aiding and abetting the enemy.

Judge Boyd, of this city, hands out the best along this line that is handed out. He boldly says that every man in sympathy with an enemy doing what Germany is doing is a traitor, and we all know that when one is guilty of treason he richly deserves death.

The talks of Judge Boyd are doing much good. Let every loyal American talk against the common enemy, and there is no use to wear gloves. Talk it straight; talk it loud and talk it often. And when you hear some fellow insisting on free speech and wanting to defend the Germans set him down as a traitor to his country. This is the long and the short of it.

Christmas shopping is reported as far ahead of last year. The old slogan to do your Christmas shopping early is gradually bearing fruit. It will take some time to put the idea over, but it will be put over.

THE MESSAGE.

Ordinarily the President gets his message ready for Congress and sends it to the printers and gives it to the news agencies, and it is held in confidence for release. But the message to the present Congress was not finished until Congress met, and therefore the wires had to carry what the President had to say.

A message from the President at this time is of peculiar interest to all our people, and no doubt the document delivered will be eagerly read by all those who are taking an active part in keeping up with the progress of the war.

AUSTRIA NOW OUTSIDE PALE

It is announced that by Friday at the latest this country will declare war against Austria-Hungary, and many of those who have been looking over the war map think this should have been done long ago, but that it is better late than never. Just what we will do in this move is not yet known, but Italy will certainly be glad to hear the news. Austria-Hungary is a country that is inhabited by all kinds of people. In a recent address to the students at the University of Chicago Dr. Judson had much to say about the German campaign and plans, and in his address he referred to Austria-Hungary in a manner interesting at this time. He said "the house of Hapsburg has reigned in Vienna for centuries. It has come down from the Middle Ages and retains to the full the medieval ideas of absolutism. It is only since 1806 that the title of Emperor of Austria has been used; in fact, the head of the house of Hapsburg reigns in many of the crown lands of the empire by inheritance as duke, count or what not. In 1526 the Duke of Austria was elected King of Bohemia, and in the same year he was elected King of Hungary. These titles and the regal authority which they gave, although in each case the crown was by right elective, the Hapsburgs have kept as hereditary and despotic, quite as much as their hereditary upper and lower Austria. Thus, in the first place, we have as an essential factor in the dual monarchy a medieval and aristocratic monarch—and a monarchy in a German family."

"The second striking fact is the diversity of races and languages. Germany is nearly homogeneous. It has on its borders some non-German subjects, inhabiting lands which represent some of the plunder of Prussian wars—Poles in Posen, Danes in Sleswick, French in Alsace-Lorraine. But the great mass of the people of the empire are German in blood and speech."

"In Austria-Hungary, however, the Germans are a minority. In a total population of about 50,000,000 there are only 12,000,000 Germans. The other races are, in round numbers: Slavs, 24,000,000; Magyars (Hungarians), 10,000,000, and Latins, 4,000,000."

"In other words, the population is 24 per cent German, 48 per cent Slav, 20 per cent Magyar and 8 per cent Latin."

However, if there are twelve million Germans and this country goes up against them they will be counted in the general results when the war is over—and the allies win.

The truth of the matter is the man who opposes a Muny Cippal woodyard isn't guilty of treason.

THE WAY THEY HANDLE NEWS.

The Associated Press does things. This morning its operators or receivers over the broad land received information that the lunch hour must be changed for the day; that four or five thousand words were to be put on the wire, the President's message, and that while it was on there was to be no cutting in or butting in, and nothing save an E. O. S. flash would be looked at. Then at twelve o'clock the message was started; it was to be let loose all over the world, because it was of international importance. In San Francisco, in New Orleans, anywhere and everywhere in this country and under the waters of the sea the message traveled, and was read wherever man can read.

Think of it. And yet we read a few of the miracles recorded in Holy Writ and wonder if they be true. Where is there a greater miracle than that a man can read a message in Washington and by wireless it is flashed around the world? And where is there a man who thinks he is not now living in an age of miracles—miracles greater than were performed when Christ said to the troubled waves, "Be still?"

The W. C. T. U. with a thousand delegates in Washington will urge Congress to pass the bill that will give to all states the chance to vote on a constitutional amendment to put likker out of the running. With New York just coming in with over a million women voters it would be a wonder if New York state didn't vote for prohibition, and when New York slips from her moorings and goes to dry land the Nation may be pronounced a dry one.

Already the prohibition sentiment is strong enough to carry the question nationally. And, as we long ago predicted, 1920 is liable to see National Prohibition. No doubt of it, and the W. C. T. U. workers will rejoice as no organization ever rejoiced before. Then they go after cigarettes and tobacco and a long fight is on. Finally, the reformers will get all they want, and the question is, Where will they get off?

If this weather keeps up, Old Santa can come in on his sled. Looks like snow—but looks do not always count.

Cold storage eggs for 45 cents is a good proposition if you can't get fresh laid ones at any price.

WOMEN MAKE BEST JURORS

Now, that women have secured the right to vote in New York state the New York Herald sees a little in the field of speculation and it proceeds:

The reduction through the war in the number of men available for service as jurors and the fact that women in this state have obtained the suffrage suggest that before long we shall have women in the jury boxes.

If the next legislature makes woman eligible it will be interesting to see whether they will willingly serve or whether they will be like the men who daily besiege the office of the commissioner of jurors seeking exemption and resorting to questionable devices in the attempt to obtain it.

In the case of a woman on trial for crime women jurors would have a hundred clues to character and conduct that are imperceptible to men. And when passing upon one of their own sex there would be no danger of women being so emotionally lenient as men have shown themselves to be.

And why not a woman juror? Why leave it to the man to decide the important questions handed down by the judge? Isn't a woman as well qualified to say whether a divorce shall be granted as a man, and can't a woman get an idea as to whether or not the fellow accused of arson really set a house on fire? The woman is the best juror in the world. She is called upon to decide one of the greatest questions ever propounded to a mortal being, and she is generally left without advice and acts on her own responsibility. When a man comes along and proposes to marry her and take her and live with her and go through the world with her, she becomes a juror in one of the most solemn propositions ever submitted. Once in a while she makes a mistake, but it is because the evidence is false. She has allowed herself to be gold-bricked by the hot-air artist, and the mistake is a natural one. Left alone to decide a question of what is right and wrong and give her all the evidence, a woman will get about as much justice out of it as there is in it. It is our belief that women would make better jurors than men, and there is no reason why women should not act.

It might be in some of these unwritten law cases the defendant would fare worse than when being tried by men, because if a woman was notoriously guilty of murder there would be no weeping among a jury of virtuous women. That jury would not stand for the sobs and the soft pedal. It would go to the bottom of the question, waive all sentiment, and if the frail sister who had shot her victim was guilty and had no justification she would be promptly thrown to the wild beasts and the matter dropped. But in all cases where justice was wanted, where evidence counted, the women in the jury box would return a fair verdict. No doubt of that; and why a woman isn't qualified to sit as a juror we do not know.

The Red Cross seals will be on sale at many places and every man should buy some. This money goes to the nurses who are helping the stricken ones. No better charity—come across.

CHRISTMAS SOON.

Christmas comes on Tuesday, and, as the fellow remarked, "I'll swan, it comes on the 25th." And the 25th is not such a great way yonder, and every one intending to make a purchase for Christmas use should get it early. Not only does the early buyer stand a better chance to get what suits him, but delivery of his present should be considered. Do your Christmas shopping now is a slogan worth while for the next few days—but of course there are going to be a few hundred good-natured shoppers who will postpone it until the eleventh hour.

RUSH THEM OUT.

The railroads and the government call on people to hurry up with their Christmas packages. The mail this year will be large. Cars are scarce and the parcel post business is called upon to handle a great deal of stuff that generally goes by express. Those who intend to send packages to friends Christmas can, if they only knew it, do their shopping early, and thus help all around.

The parcel post business has grown to wonderful proportions, and since the war it has doubled. That means that often a parcel post package is a few days behind. Get your packages off as soon as possible. This not only assures their delivery in time, but it prevents a congestion that will be terrible.

The War Stamp will soon be on sale and every man will have an opportunity to help Uncle Sam. Just lend him a quarter every now and then, and Uncle Sam will pay it back with interest.