

OLD ACCOUNT BOOK SHOWS PRICES

RANGE IN COMMODITY COSTS SINCE 1856

An old account book, which has just been brought to light affords some interesting comparisons in the local prices of seventy years ago with those of the present day.

The book was issued to a well known local resident, long since deceased, by a local store which has also passed out of existence.

The book covers the period from January, 1856 to February, 1858. Both groceries and dry goods are listed and some of the interesting items are as follows:

One barrel of flour, \$3.75; twenty pounds of granulated sugar at three cents a pound; two gallons of New Orleans molasses at twelve cents a gallon; five pounds best smoking tobacco at twenty cents per pound; twelve pounds best side pork, salted at eight cents per pound; one (wood) pound hunk at ten cents per pound; one bushel white beans at forty-five cents; eight pounds of best sugar cured bacon at nine cents per pound; four dozen tallow lip candles at seven cents per dozen; one pound black pepper at ten cents; one pound of ginger at ten cents; fifty pounds buckwheat flour at \$1; ten pounds of oatmeal at two cents per pound.

In the dry goods line some of the most interesting items are:

One pair of calfskin dress boots, \$2.75; one pair ladies dress shoes, \$1.25; ten yards best apron gingham at five cents per yard; ten skeins of wool yarn "for knitting socks", six cents per skein; ten yards of dress calico, four cents per yard.

As was the custom in those days, this man brought in some produce to trade in for his groceries, and the prices he was allowed are as follows:

Twenty dozen eggs at seven cents per dozen; fifteen pounds of newly made butter at ten cents per pound; five barrels of potatoes at seventy-five cents per barrel; two cabbages at two cents each; fifty Hubbard squash at three cents each; ten bushel of turnips at twelve cents per bushel.

The fuel shortage was not known in those days and coal strikes were no trouble, wood being the only fuel used. This customer furnished the storekeeper with ten cords of "best body wood" at the surprisingly low figure \$2.52 per cord.

Labels did not command the wages in those days as is now the rule, for one from the book gives the interesting information that on May 20, 1856, this man rendered the storekeeper a bill of services of man and team, two days, in hauling goods, \$2.55.

There are many other items in the book, but the few listed above are sufficient to prove that residents of this section in the fifties were certainly not haunted by that old jinx, "high cost of living."

A number of old residents claim they can remember when commodity prices were nearly as low as those in the book and they sadly shake their heads as they bewail the passing of the "good old days" which they say will never return.

THE OLD-FASHIONED GIRL

The old-fashioned girl doomed to live her life as a "wall flower" or do you prefer her to the sophisticated flapper type?

Here's an answer to the question by Miss Meta H. Given, home economist for the Better Health Bureau of Chicago.

"It's the old-fashioned girl who usually marries the worth-while husband," said Miss Given. "She attracts him for the reason that she is like his mother, who is ordinarily the young man's ideal of what a good home manager and wife should be."

The ideal may be vague or the man may be entirely unconscious of it, but it's there. Men have a natural proclivity bent. They have an ingrained sympathy for the masculine in women as portrayed by the modern flapper with her cigarettes and her gin flask. They want wives who know how and what to cook.

In the light of present-day health education, young women should not be surprised if they are subjected to cross examination on their fitness for the job of home manager. The man who marries a girl has the right to learn whether she knows what foods contain proteins, carbohydrates and fats. She may expect such questions as: Why is evaporated milk more easily assimilated by the human than ordinary market milk, and what process makes it twice as rich as the bottled product? Or such a query as: Are bulky menus advisable for business men.

"You know the old-fashioned girl will know. That's why she succeeds in matrimony."

His Idea
"Why is it, do you suppose," musingly asked Mrs. Fumblebuck in the midst of her perusal of the weekly paper, "that I'm always when you read about a woman being up in court the account of how she was dressed, but when it's a man not a word is said about his clothes?"
"Well, I reckon," replied Farmer Fumblebuck, "that mostly by the time the man gets—that is, his clothes are worn, describing."—Kansas City Star.

KILLED IN RUNAWAY

Robert Denning, Roscoe, Found Unconscious In Ditch

Robert Denning, 39, who resided on a farm in the town of Roscoe, was accidentally killed last week Tuesday night about nine o'clock when the horse, which he was driving ran away tipping the rig over and throwing Mr. Denning out.

Mr. Denning had been at the home of Noble Young a short distance from his home and left shortly before nine for home. About nine o'clock the horse ran into the yard of the Denning farm and stopped. Mrs. Denning went out to see what was the matter but could see nothing of Mr. Denning. She ran into the house and called James Welch who lives on a farm across the road from the Denning farm and told him that the horse had run away home without Mr. Denning. Mr. Welch called another neighbor Ed Campbell, and together they went in search of Mr. Denning.

They went back to the house of Mr. Young and learned that Mr. Denning had left there a short time before so they set out to search the road along which Mr. Denning would go. They failed to find any trace of him and were about to give up when they happened upon him. They were standing on Welch's porch at the time, and running out into the road, they found him lying in the ditch.

The two men picked him up and took him into Welch's house. Dr. George Horace of Antwerp was called and came immediately but the man died early Wednesday morning. The doctor thought the cause of his death was the shock of his fall and a weak heart.

In the morning the tracks of the horse and rig were examined, and it was found that the rig had struck a tree on the side of the road throwing Mr. Denning out.

NEW YORK BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR

Vincent B. Murphy, State Comptroller, in his speech before the National Convention of State Comptrollers and Auditors, underscored the vital need of New York and other states to put the brakes on the tendency of centralization of government which has become more and more prevalent in Congress. The subject, as Comptroller Murphy says, is one of particular interest to farmers, rent payers and tax payers, because New York state moneys represent a large share of funds used by the Federal government in the promotion of certain Federal activities which rightfully belong to the state and not to the Federal government.

Up to April 30 of this year the Federal government has expended approximately \$312,000,000 on highway construction through the so-called state aid program. New York's share of this cost was approximately \$78,000,000. In return, New York has received something like \$11,000,000. Federal aid, aggregate \$180,000,000 under construction or approved for aid for highway projects, either toward which sum the taxpayers of New York are contributing approximately \$45,000,000, receiving in return \$12,000,000.

The state of New York, the Comptroller emphasizes, in addition to the scores of millions which it has expended upon the development of its own road system, will contribute in the near future more than \$100,000,000 to the Federal government for road construction in other states over and above the amount which it receives from the Federal government. Thus, while farmers in New York state require highways for their own use, they are contributing towards the building of roads in the southern and western states, which they will never need and not even see.

The Federal aid program is a specific illustration of the drain upon the pocket books of taxpayers in New York and a few other states through the activities in Congress of a group which assumes the attitude of "Let Washington do it." A number of states in the Union profit by this program because it means no money out of their pockets. But Comptroller Murphy holds that the policy in any way it is considered is very shortsighted, and particularly so for New York state, which is by far the biggest single contributor of any state in the Union.

Speed Contests That Are Not on Record

A "speed" contest took place recently between a motorcyclist and an express train along the 500 miles between Sydney and Brisbane, Australia. The lone cyclist won, reaching his destination 30 minutes before the train. A kangaroo raced a train in Australia, keeping alongside the locomotive for three miles, according to TTT-Bits.

Perhaps the most grotesque railway races have been on occasions when members of the crews have had to race their own trains, after having signaled the train to proceed and then being unable to board any of the cars. One man in England gave the "right away" signal and then found the train had gathered speed so quickly that he was unable to board it. His absence was not discovered until the next station was reached. After several minutes the train was seen sprinting after the guard. He lost the race by 11 minutes. An other guard missed his train, but pursued it on a motorcycle which he commandeered.

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QUALITY AT LOW COST

These Sadder Days

On the whole, these are much sadder ages than the early ones; not sadder in a noble and deep way, but in a dim, wearied way—the way of *saunt*, and *judged*, *intellect*, and *uncomfortableness* of soul and body. Not that we are without *feativity*, but *feativity* more or less forced, *mistaken*, *ambittered*, *incomplete*, not of the heart. And the profoundest reason of this darkness of heart, I believe, *sur want of faith*.—Itskin.

Making Real Pearls

Japanese pearls formed by an oyster round a nucleus of mother-of-pearl can now be definitely told from real pearls by spectrography with monochromable K-ray waves. The mother-of-pearl center in the Japanese pearls produces a definite figure arrangement not unlike the Lane figures, while the real-pearl shows a definite unarranged series of lines. The difference between the simple structure of the true pearl and the double structure of the Japanese-made pearl can be immediately recognized.

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