

## For Thin Babies

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### A Large Affair.

Mrs. Stigley's maid was a treasure. Everything that she did was well done, and when she told Mrs. Stigley that she intended to invest her savings in the purchase of a piano for her niece, the whole Stigley family was interested.

"Well, Mary," said Mrs. Stigley, "if you have really decided to make the purchase, Mr. Stigley will look about for you, and see where you can do the best, and I am sure Miss Marion will be glad to step into the piano warerooms and try the different pianos, and see which has the best tone."

Mary smilingly expressed her thanks, and the Stigley family at once began their search for the right kind of a piano for Mary's niece. Mrs. Stigley gave up a club meeting in order to make inquiries as to the best make of the lower-priced pianos. Mr. Stigley consulted several agents, and Marion gathered illustrated circulars for Mary to look over, and made calls at various music stores to consult experts as to the most desirable piano.

Mr. Stigley suggested that they should not bother Mary about it until they had looked about sufficiently to be sure where she could do the best. Then they would take her to see the piano decided upon, and she could think the matter over carefully before purchasing.

"Of course it seems a large affair to Mary," Mr. Stigley smilingly remarked. "It will probably be months before she really makes up her mind to the purchase, but we must do the best we can for her."

Some ten days after Mary's mention of the piano she asked permission to "step out for a half-hour" one morning, and Mrs. Stigley assented. She was gone about thirty-five minutes, and explained the delay, as she came into the kitchen flushed and smiling, by saying:

"Ye see, ma'am, it's my niece's birthday tomorrow, and I had nigh forgotten that I was going to give her a piano, so I just run down the street this morning and bought the fine piano, and they'll be sending it to her this afternoon."

"Brought a piano!" exclaimed her surprised mistress.

Mary nodded. "Yes'm" she said. "I did not want to bother any one about it. I just said to the clerk, 'I'm wantin' a good piano.'"

"How much do ye want to give?" says he.

"I've three hundred dollars in me pocket to pay for one," say I.

"He smiles and says, 'Ye couldn't do better than to take this one.'"

"Then I give him me niece's address, and he give me a receipt for me money, and I hurried home, ma'am."

Mrs. Stigley's further inquiries brought out the fact that Mary had purchased a piano acknowledged to be the best for the price in the market.

Butter Paper for sale at this office.

### The Persistent Gipsies.

"Such as wake on the night and sleep on the day, and haunt taverns and ale-houses, and no man wot from whence they come nor whither they go." So quaintly describes an old English statute against the Gipsies. Ever since the year 1530, says a writer in the London Standard, Great Britain has tried to get rid of this strange people without appreciable success. Every year or so some county is up in arms against them, yet they persist in returning, and apparently thrive under persecution.

The Gipsies are popularly supposed to come originally from Egypt, as their name indicates, but their origin is traced farther east than the land of the Nile. Wherever they come from, they are a separate people, a tribe quite by themselves.

They appeared in England about 1505, and twenty-six years later Henry VIII ordered them to leave the country in sixteen days, taking all their goods with them. "An outlandish people," he called them. The act was ineffectual, and in 1562 Elizabeth framed a still more stringent law, and many were hanged.

"But what numbers were executed," says one old writer, "yet notwithstanding, all would not prevail, but they wandered as before, uppe and downe." They got into Scotland and became an intolerable nuisance. Both in that country and in England legislation proved quite ineffectual. The acts gradually fell into desuetude. Under George IV all that was left of the ban against the Gipsies was the mild law that any person "telling fortunes shall be deemed a rogue and a vagabond."

Gipsies are no longer a proscribed class," says a recent writer. "Probably the modern Gipsy does little evil beyond begging and petty theft, but his determination not to work is as strong as ever, and it seems curious that an industrial people like ours continues to tolerate a horde of professional idlers." How numerous the horde is may be gathered from the fact that the number who wintered in Surrey one year was estimated at ten thousand.

The language as well as the life of the Gipsy tribe has a tenacity of its own. Many of their words have taken firm hold in a half-slang, half-permissible way. Shaver is the Gipsy word for child. Pal is pure Gipsy. Codger means a man. Cutting up is Gipsy for quarreling, and cove stands for "that fellow."

### The Canadian Hog Raising Industry.

Investigations by the Live Stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture into the alleged shortage of hogs have shown that for some months past the supply of bacon hogs in Canada has been falling off. Even before the order was issued debarring packers from importing United States hogs to be slaughtered in bond, difficulty was experienced by Canadian packers in procuring sufficient hogs. The amount of the shortage during the summer and fall is indicated by the fact that packers claim to have been able to secure only from 30 to 50 per cent. of the capacity of their factories.

Hog raisers on the other hand claim that the production is considerably nearer the normal than would appear from the statements of the packers. It is, they say, partly an increase in packing house capacity rather than a decrease in hog raising. In some of the dairying sections the supplies are reported to be very little if any below the normal, while in other districts the shortage is placed at about 20 to 25 per cent.

Enquiries as to the cause of the shortage brought from packers and producers a variety of replies. The packers claim that for the past three years or more the competition between buyers of hogs has been so keen that top prices have been paid continuously and that these prices have been high enough to give a profit to the producer. They claim therefore to be at a loss to understand why there is a shortage at this time. Speaking from the standpoint of the producer, well informed authorities claim that the price has not been as uniformly high as it should have been. At times of the year when the packers anticipated heavy runs, prices dropped to a point where no profit was left to the feeder. This, they claim, took place last season when sows would be bred for the supplies of the fall just past, and as coarse grain were high and labor scarce at that time many brood sows were sent to the market.

Again it is argued that the majority of packers have not encouraged the production of hogs of the bacon type and weight. For a number of years improvement in the hog stock of the country made satisfactory progress, but during the past season at least the producers of the ideal sort have received no encouragement to continue their good work; a flat rate has been paid for good and bad alike. The hogs fit only to compete with the low price American stock brought quite as much as the sort that competes with Irish and Danish bacon for the highest place on the British market.

Whatever may be the extent of the shortage or the real cause of it, the fact remains that unless producers and packers grapple in sympathetic co-operation with the situation, Canada's valuable bacon industry which has

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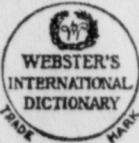
must win upon their merits. The International Dictionary has won a greater distinction upon its merits and is in more general use than any other work of its kind in the English language.

A. H. Sayce, LL.D., D.D., of Oxford University, England, has recently said of it: "It is indeed a marvelous work; it is difficult to conceive of a dictionary more exhaustive and complete. Everything is in it—not only what we might expect to find in such a work, but also what few of us would ever have thought of looking for."

A supplement to the new edition has brought it fully up to date. I have been looking through the latter with a feeling of astonishment at its completeness, and the amount of labor that has been put into it.

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cost years of strenuous effort to build up may become seriously demoralized.

In 1890 there were only two packing houses in the export trade with a weekly capacity of some 3,000 hogs, while in 1905 the weekly capacity of the 16 packing houses in operation was some 50,000. While this limit has not been reached within from 10,000 to 15,000 hogs weekly, according to the season, the output from Canada has reached about \$15,000,000 annually or 20 per cent of the total quantity of bacon imported by Great Britain. To jeopardize so valuable an industry would be nothing less than a national calamity.

If the farmers who have been in the habit of raising hogs will accord the bacon industry a steady, persistent support begotten of the knowledge that hog raising pays year in and year out, the future has very large possibilities for the Canadian bacon industry. Canadian bacon having won a place on the British market commanding respect, as it increases in quantity and improves in quality, will undoubtedly become a daily necessity of the British consumer. That it may occupy this enviable position both farmer and packer must co-operate, the farmer by producing a steady supply of the right class of hogs, the packer by paying a fairly uniform price from month to month and from year to year; and he must give value per pound according to the quality of the product he receives. Let each do his part and there will be little trouble about the supply of hogs for keeping the factories going at normal capacity. What appears to be most needed at the present time is that relations of confidence be restored and maintained between packer and farmer through fair dealing and intelligent co-operation. With these and an appreciation on the part of the producers of the possibilities of the industry, hog raising cannot fail to be one of the most profitable branches of Canadian agriculture.

Live Stock Branch,  
Dominion Department of Agriculture.

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