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SHOPPING IN CHINA IS A FINE ART; GETTING 100 CENTS WORTH FOR THE DOLLAR IMPOSSIBLE

(By Dorothy Gould in Detroit News)

Peking, July 15—Getting your money's worth in Peking is a fine art, which no foreigner can master. But those living here must, of course, make an effort in that direction and, for an American the endeavor to get his money's worth begins with the task of getting merely his money.

Assuming that he is fortunate enough to get his check through the mail, for warfare often disrupts the postal service in China, it is only a slip of colored paper until it is converted into local currency. This involves juggling with exchange, for the rate varies from hour to hour, differs with every bank, and allows a wide margin between buying dollars and selling them. As the banks make their rules as they go along it is inevitable that Americans feel that they lose in most transactions.

Accepting as much local currency as the banks see fit to credit him with, the foreigner next is confronted with the problem of distinguishing between the various Peking notes and coins. All is not silver which is silver-coated here and some paper is only paper. Spurious coins and notes on bankrupt banks seem to circulate freely until they get into the hands of an innocent American. After that, every one becomes wary and the holder of the false money can give it to nobody but his baby.

Right Procedure

Getting a hundred cents for the dollar is not to be attempted in Peking. The proper procedure is to demand about 400. There may have been a time once when a copper was worth one cent and a dime was one tenth of a dollar, but the copper silver rate of exchange has spread until the wide difference between the so called big and small money is thoroughly re-

cognized. This rate changes daily and some stores find it so inconvenient to keep their accounts on the fluctuating standard that they give and take small money when purchases involve fractional amounts. That is, a dime is received at its face value of ten cents, instead of its actual value of about eight cents. But other stores prefer to be strictly accurate.

Either method usually works out to the disadvantage of the average foreign shopper. He goes into a store buys something for ten cents, pays a dollar and receives nine dimes (worth 72 cents) as his change. If he protests he is told that this store gives and takes small money. Then he goes into another store, makes a sixty cent purchase and tries to pay for it with six dimes. But he is told here that this store receives small money only at its current market value and he is forced to add some dimes and coppers to make up the correct amount.

Your Money's Worth

Getting your money's worth here is further complicated by the fact that there probably are not a dozen stores in the city which operate on a genuine one price basis. The stores owned by foreigners, seldom follow the common Chinese system of bargaining; that is five dollars is not asked for a two dollar object in the hope that the purchaser will think he is getting it cheap for three dollars.

The foreign stores use the discount scheme instead. That is, there is a plainly marked price, but ten per cent discount is allowed; and except in August and January when twenty per cent is allowed; except at cheap sales when prices are arbitrarily reduced. Besides ten per cent rebate is given when bottles are returned and some things are cheaper in quantity lots, and old customers are sometimes entitled to special discounts and some times the cost is suddenly boosted because trains are not running to bring merchandise up from the sea coast.

The trick here is for the customer to know more about these discounts and rebates than the shop clerk knows and to dazzle him into allowing as many assorted discounts as possible. The method is slightly different but the result is the same as when one puts his wits against those of a Chinese shopkeeper.

Some Americans frankly confess that they find themselves inadequate in dealing with Peking finance. They always get poor rate of exchange, accept counterfeit money, and are short changed when they break a dollar. They lack the psychology and language for bargaining with the Chinese and forget which stores give what discounts on which articles at what times.

Sometimes these Americans succumb to the temptation of permitting their servants to do their shopping for them. The servants are never cheated. They are natives of China and they know by instinct and by training how to make every copper produce its full value.

GRANDMOTHER SAYS

"That when she was a wee, tiny baby and her mamma did not have enough milk to nurse her, she gave her Eagle Brand Milk, which made her strong and healthy—and now my mamma is giving me Eagle Brand, and I have gained over half a pound a week since I was three months old."

The high quality, uniformity and economy of Eagle Brand make it the first choice for cooking and table use.

If your baby is not gaining in weight as it should—if it cries or is fretty or restless—something must be the matter with it.

In this paper from time to time you will find an advertisement of Eagle Brand Milk, a food that has raised more healthy babies than all the prepared infant foods combined. Out to the advertisement and mail it to The Borden Company, Limited, 140 St. Paul St., West, Montreal, and they will send you free of charge, a very helpful baby welfare book containing authoritative feeding directions and a vast amount of useful information on the care of baby. Also ask for Baby Record, a diary of baby's progress.



Whenever Baby is constipated, colicky, fretful — he needs this remedy. Know the genuine by Chas. H. Fletcher's signature.

CHILDREN CRY FOR IT

PRAIRIE WIND

There is no refuge for the one who rides
The silent reaches of the prairie grass
That bends and breaks in dull gold rhythmic tides
To let the horseman of the prairies pass,
There is no chart that guides him on his way,
No compass that will tell him north or south
But with the last gray lavender of day
He rides alone. No words come from his mouth
To tell just why he comes or where he goes,
His stallion's hoofs are swift across the night;
The prairie questions do—it only knows
That when the moon is high and cold and white
That he will ride beneath the silent sky
And prairie grass will bend to let him by.
—DANIEL WHITEHEAD HICKY
in New York Sun.

Carried A Spare

Mrs. Fatleigh (at the beach)—My chin is getting all sunburnt.
Her Friend—What do you care? You've got another.—Smith's Weekly.

Harvard has lost two alligators. They should be easily identified by their pronunciation.

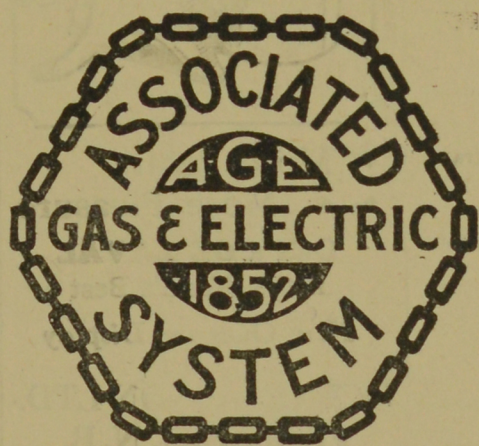
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- 6 Argyle and York Sts.
- 7 Victoria Public Hospital.
- 8 Children's Home.
- 2 Westmorland and Aberdeen Sts.
- 13 Northumberland and Saunders Sts.
- 14 Brunswick and Smythe Sts.
- 15 Charlotte and Smythe Sts.
- 16 George and Northumberland Sts.
- 17 King and Northumberland Sts.
- 21 York and Queen Sts.
- 22 York and George Sts.
- 24 Queen and Westmorland Sts.
- 25 Brunswick and Westmorland Sts.
- 26 Charlotte and Westmorland Sts.
- 27 King and York Sts.
- 33 Saunders and York Sts.
- 31 Queen and Regent Sts.
- 32 Needham and Regent Sts.
- 34 Queen and Carleton Sts.
- 35 Brunswick and Carleton Sts.
- 36 Charlotte and Carleton Sts.
- 37 George and Regent Sts.
- 38 King and Regent Sts.
- 43 Aberdeen and St. John Sts.
- 44 Queen and St. John Sts.
- 45 Brunswick and St. John Sts.
- 46 Charlotte and St. John Sts.
- 51 King and Church Sts.
- 52 George and Church Sts.
- 53 Union and Church Sts.
- 54 Shore Street and Waterloo Row.
- 55 George Street and University Avenue.
- 56 Lansdowne and Waterloo Row.
- 57 Grey Street and University Ave.
- 112 Aberdeen and Smythe Sts.

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