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POLITICS COMPLICATES TASK OF U. S. HOUSEWIFE ABROAD

No Celery, for Example, Unless Trade Balance is Okay, Says American Woman Residing in Vienna; Natives Masters of Poetic Excuses

(By Irene Norman Steinkopf)

VIENNA, June 28—"I recommend myself highly, gracious lady, and I should like, this pleasant morning, to call your attention to my excellent artichokes."

That, literally translated, is what the genial market man says to this American housewife when she goes to the shops to investigate first-hand the English celery and Palestinian grapefruit situations.

Grapefruit from Palestine, it develops, is being received in plentiful quantities. But as to English celery: "You see, gracious lady," the market man explains, "Austria's trade balance with England has been unfavorable the past month. So the chancellery, to correct the situation, reluctantly has disapproved of celery importations this week. I am sure the minister of commerce doesn't mean to inconvenience you. And as for myself, I am utterly crushed to have to tell you that there is no celery today."

"But, gracious lady, such divine hauplet salat!" whereupon he holds up for admiration the Austrian counterpart of head lettuce. It isn't very firm, and it's dark green almost to the heart.

So it goes in Austria—politics and federal economic policy reaching right into the kitchen, creating problems unknown to an American household.

I couldn't match a piece of red linoleum because it was manufactured in Holland and, for the moment Holland and Austria had broken off linoleum relations.

Watch Your Change

They are inclined to be a little careless in their own favor when they hand you the change for a ten schilling note.

They don't sweep in the corners very well. They would rather waltz than work.

But despite the butcher's soiled apron they are a highly civilized folk. It's sometimes very hard to live with them—and sometimes very nice.

An old schoolmaster who has become a great pal of mine told me: "The chief exports of Vienna are medical science, waltzes and shiftlessness." (Schlamperel is the German word for the latter commodity.) "And so much of the shiftlessness stays right here."

I have waited time and again when listening to the plaintive and sometimes downright poetic excuses of Viennese who have tried to do something or other for me. Some sample excuses:

Poetic Excuses

"Gracious lady, one leg of the chair you bought is a little short, but maybe, if your floor is uneven, it won't wobble."

"Gracious lady, the tail of this shirt was a little scorched in the

PIPE-LINE GIVES RODEO CHAMPION A "HIGH RIDE"

CALGARY, June 28—Frank Sharpe former Canadian steer-riding champion, got a "high ride" in the Turner Valley oil field when a pipe line exploded yesterday. He was tossed ten feet in the air and the force of the explosion tore the heavy sole off one of his work boots. Sharpe is in hospital recovering from shock and bruised ankles.

laundry. But you'll be happy to observe the spot is far down.

"Yes, gracious lady, we can clean this gown, but why must you be in such a hurry? We'll deliver it to you ship-shape in two weeks."

But then, up from the street comes a tune, an itinerant musician scratching across his violin.

He plays "My Mother Was a Viennese," and "Stories from the Vienna Forest." All in three-quarter time, of course.

Then I realize that I am here in Vienna, that these pleasant folks must waltz in their own sweet way to whatever their destiny may be. One couldn't change them if one would, and why should I try?

ALLENTOWN, Pa., June 28—A business man here uses an alarm clock in his store to avoid paying traffic fines. He sets the alarm hourly, just five minutes before it's time to move his car from a restricted parking area. After paying \$4 in parking fines, he decided it was cheaper to buy an alarm clock.

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