

Master of Arts, though it might seem in appearance the most useless, was still the most useful and most popular. The University being removed from political and business life, might be said to rest in the shade of back-water. A university was not required to produce an epic poet, for instance. Infant life the State had claimed for its own, but he felt that the three years that could be claimed under a conscription system for military service might be allowed to a small percentage of the population able to recognize the value of university education. Let them say with Aristotle that "the highest aim of education is the noble employment of leisure." (Chorus: "Last lap.") Professor Tubbs concluded with the following verses by Cooper:—

Pathos of these attention, thinking heads—
 How more rare, as education spreads,
 Till teachers seat around one general
 Table all entertain us or we die.

The students then sang another song with a final line, "And my name is Tubbs Tubbs," after which three cheers were given for Professor Tubbs and "For he's a jolly good fellow" was sung.

The Vice-Chancellor said they would like a few remarks from one of the students. (Applause.)

Mr. E. de C. Clarke, rising in the gallery, said that the students felt much gratified at being allowed a legalised voice in these proceedings. On their behalf he would like to call attention to the fact that the Auckland University College was being rather neglected by the business people, who should take an interest in it. The University was a place where business men might be trained, and for that reason he thought the business men of Auckland should take more interest in the College. The want of a proper site for a college was evidence of the absence of zeal for higher education. Though athletics were not the main object of university life in Auckland, as evidenced by their exploits at the Christchurch carnival (laughter), still it would do them no harm to pay some attention to athletics, but they had not even a playground at the College. (Laughter.) Yet all primary schools had them. Mr. Clarke then referred to the great courage and ability shown by their blind student, Mr. Clifty, and said he felt sure next year he would take the next step. (Applause.)

This ceremony then terminated as usual by singing "Gardeamuz."

CHICAGO MEAT PACKING DISCLOSURES.

ALLEGATIONS WHICH LED UP TO INVESTIGATION.

It was early in the present year that the London "Lancet," the leading medical journal in the world, printed four articles upon the insanitary condition of the Chicago stock yards, written by a "Special Sanitary Commissioner." These articles attracted wide attention, and pictured a most revolting state of affairs. Then Mr. Upton Sinclair made a study of the yards for the purposes of writing a novel, which has just recently been published. The allegations were too dreadful to be allowed to pass, and an agitation resulted in the setting up of a Commission to investigate. The cables inform us of the publication of the Commission's report and the horror caused by the revelations. The principal allegations of the spectator are given below:

1.—"At Chicago the cattle step out on the bare earth which they soil and contaminate. . . . At Anderlecht, near Brussels, the stables for cattle awaiting slaughter are built with the same care as hospital wards."

2.—"The most obvious defect of the stockyards is the absence of slaughterhouses. Here living animals are treated in exactly the same manner as ordinary raw material. The Chicago stock yards consist of a number of factories instead of slaughterhouses. Slaughtering, it need hardly be said, should be done on the ground, but the ground should be rendered watertight by a special non-slippery, convex, and elaborately drained paving. The surrounding structure should be built exclusively of iron, glass, or enamelled brick. Of course, there should be no upper floor, and there should be ventilation above and on both sides. That is how slaughterhouses in the technical sense of the term are built."

3.—"The exportation of pork products from Chicago to Germany, Austria, France, and Denmark is prohibited unless accompanied by a certificate issued, not by any local authority, but by the Government of the United States itself. The entire American nation thus pledges its honour that no product that has not been carefully examined under the microscope shall be exported from Chicago to those countries. As for American citizens or for British citizens it does not matter. They may swallow trichinae whole; no one seems to think it worth while to attempt to protect them. Yet it was formerly shown that of the hogs taken to market three per cent were infected with trichinae."

4.—"In these dark places the meat falls on the floor and comes in contact with the dirt from the boots of the workers and the bacilli from the sputum of a population among whom pulmonary tuberculosis is more prevalent than among any other section of the inhabitants of Chicago. Close at hand there are closets, and they are in some places only a few feet from the food. These closets are at times out of order, deficient, defective, or entirely devoid of flushing. There used to be no provision whatsoever for the workers' meals and they had to eat amid the filth in which they worked. Even to-day and after many protests and agitations, there are no proper lavatories for the workers to wash themselves conveniently and to change their clothes before they begin handling the food which is sent from Chicago to all parts of the world."

5.—"The dirtiest work (where the entrails are taken out) is done in the closest, the darkest, and the dirtiest place, instead of being carried on in the open air, or under such slight shelter as would not prevent the free access of air and sunshine. It would be quite impossible to disinfect such premises. There are innumerable rafters, sharp angles, nooks, and corners where blood, the splashing of offal, and the sputum of tuberculous workers can accumulate for weeks, months, and years."

6.—"Natural disinfection cannot take place because daylight and the direct rays of the sun cannot reach the greater part of the interior of the buildings where the work is done, the meat is handled, and the tuberculous attendants expectorate. That the surroundings are foul, that in any case there is something wrong in the conditions of the work or of the workers, is shown by the fact that the smallest scratch or cut will result in blood poisoning if the wound is not at once treated with a strong antiseptic."

7.—"It is obvious that the destructors (the tanks in which the condemned tuberculous carcasses, entrails, and offal are destroyed) should be placed in a far-off and isolated corner. Any condemned carcass should at once be removed well away from all the buildings where food is prepared. Nothing of the sort is done. . . . The lid of the destructor is removed within a few feet of meat that is to be eaten. The promiscuity of the two occupations, the examination and destruction of diseased carcasses and the preparing, the cutting up, or the washing of carcasses that are not diseased, is most disgusting and reprehensible."

Mr. Upton Sinclair, whose book has played such a prominent part in the exposures, says: "The inspection of meat was so lax that several Governments of Europe have been led to pass laws restricting the importation of American meat. As the result of this, the packers now provide for a thorough microscopic examination of all meat intended for shipment to Europe. In the course of inspection it is found that one and one-half per cent of the pork killed contains trichinae. There is no microscopic examination of pork intended for sale in Great Britain or the United States—which means simply that we eat our own one and one-half per cent of trichinae, in addition to the one and one-half per cent of the share of Europe. Another deadly disease of hogs is tuberculosis; tuberculous pork is full of ptomaines, a deadly poison. All of the inspecting for this disease in one of the largest concerns is entrusted to two Government inspectors, and the most casual observer may satisfy himself about these inspectors, as I did, by watching them let twenty or thirty hogs pass by without even a glance. . . . All the best meat goes to Europe. That which is found utterly spoiled and impossible of sale is either ground up into sausage or canned. The fatness which I have found in the canning and sausage departments could scarcely be set down in print. There is never the least atten-

tion paid to what is cut up for sausage. There comes back from Europe old sausage that has been rejected and that is mouldy and white. It is doled with borax and glycerine and dumped into the hoppers and made up again for home consumption. The sausage meat is stored in great piles, and water from leaky roofs drips over it, and thousands of rats race about on it. One can run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the filth of rats."

THE GREAT ICEFIELDS OF THE GLACIERS AT FRANZ JOSEF AND THE FOX GLACIER.

(By E. W. CHRISTMAS, Artist.)

The Franz Josef Glacier, West Coast, New Zealand, is said to be the most beautiful glacier known. It certainly is the most wonderful. About eleven miles long, rising from some thousands of feet, it comes down to within seven hundred feet above sea level. It is a glorious sight to see these vast peaks of ice standing in the sunlight with their border of purple and grey rocks and scarlet rata-covered hills; then away above all this stand the great vasty snow peaks and ridges of the Spenser, Drummond, Franz Josef and a score of others. Twenty miles further south lies the Fox Glacier, smaller, but in many ways just as beautiful as Franz Josef. It is easier by far of access; in fact, one can manage to cross it without the aid of an ice axe. Both glaciers are so far little known to tourists, but the Tourist Department are now making the journey fairly easy, so that by next year the trip can be made without any inconveniences. The stages are easy, and accommodation is very good. The journey is made from Grey-mouth, via Hokitika, thence via Ross to Waioho, or Franz Josef Glacier—a trip of about 90 miles, accomplished in three days by coach. The scenery on the way is most beautiful, interesting, and ever changing. Comparatively few people have yet visited the district, and I am the first artist ever to have "done" the glaciers, and claim my large picture, "The Icefields of the Fox Glacier," is the first picture ever painted of that glacier. This, with others, I have been commissioned to paint by the New Zealand Government, and are to be exhibited at the International Exhibition. There is no doubt, to my mind, that these glaciers will shortly become one of the leading attractions to visitors and tourists visiting New Zealand.

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