

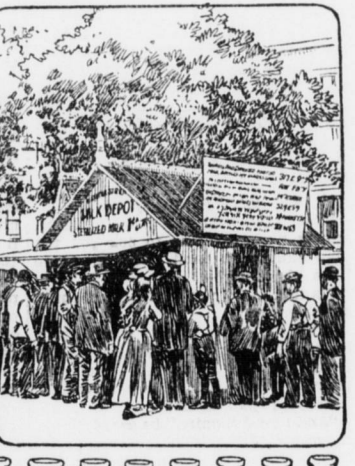
# Nathan Straus, Pure Milk Crusader

Merchant Prince and Philanthropist Who Heads the National Democratic Business Men's Bureau—Founder of Pasteurized Milk Depots and Saver of Many Lives.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.  
THERE is a soul satisfying sound about the word philanthropist—lover of man. It is the term universally applied to Nathan Straus, the New York merchant who has crowned a life of charity by establishing pasteurized milk depots throughout America and Europe. If there were a word that meant lover of children, it would be still more appropriate to Mr. Straus, as he has saved the lives of thousands of little ones by his pure milk crusade. This should entitle him to a fame as much above that of the conquerors as it is greater to give life or preserve it than it is to take it away.  
Mr. Straus is the head of one of New York city's immense department stores. His brother, Oscar S. Straus, is a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet and was formerly minister to Turkey under President Cleveland. Nathan Straus, however, is a Democrat and was recently appointed chairman of the committee to organize the business men of the country in behalf of the Bryan ticket. Despite his work as a business man and philanthropist Mr. Straus has always found time to devote to public affairs. He has been

in the past, it is not in sufficient quantity to affect adults or children of vigorous constitutions. Many diphtheria, scarlet fever and other similar scourges have been traced to this source. In one experiment made by Mr. Straus, where the infant mortality had been over ninety in a hundred, it had been reduced to twenty. In New York the year before he began his work the infant mortality during the five hot weeks of July and early August had been 1361 per 1000. The next year, after he began distributing pasteurized milk, it fell to 117.9.  
During ten years he kept up the distribution, and the death rate among children was still further decreased to 72.1. He began by giving the milk free to physicians of the board of health and those engaged in charitable work. They started erecting booths in the parks. In this he was

Supported by the Government.  
In America even greater success has attended his crusade. A year or more ago the government came to his support. The agricultural department, after thorough tests, gave out a report that agreed with all of Mr. Straus' contentions and urged the pasteurization or boiling of milk in all cities, villages and homes of the land. The warning awakened the medical profession, the health boards and the public generally to the peril of impure milk. Since then the work has been going forward more rapidly. It takes a long time to get the great inert mass of humanity to moving—it has taken Mr. Straus fifteen years, and much yet remains to be done—but, once started, it goes with its own momentum. This movement will proceed with all the greater force because it will have behind it the love of children. Once let mothers and fathers thoroughly understand that impure milk means the possible murder of their little ones, and pasteurization will be swiftly established from ocean to ocean.  
At the time the government gave out its report on the subject it also imparted a formula for home pasteurization. This I do not remember in detail, but it will be supplied any one writing to the agricultural department at Washington and asking for the bulletin. As I recall the formula it is to bring the milk slowly and gently to the boil and then let it as gradually cool. It should be kept above a certain temperature—not the boiling point, however—for some time, as that is necessary to kill the germs. If allowed to boil too violently or too long, the life giving properties in the milk are killed. Better than home pasteurization, however, is the establishment of pasteurization plants in all cities and villages of the country.  
Nathan Straus, the man who is chiefly responsible for bringing this peril to the attention of mankind, and not only so, but who has done more than any other dozen men to remove the danger, was born in Rhenish Bavaria in 1848. His father was Lazarus Straus, who came to this country before the war, going into business in Tallahassee, Ga. Mr. Straus was a pronounced Union man, however, and secessionist sentiment was so strong about him that he was compelled to move to Columbus, Ga. In 1865 he again removed, this time to New York, where he went into the crockery business under the name of L. Straus & Sons. Nathan up to this time had been in Lavant college, but now at the age of seventeen went on the road for the firm. In 1874 he took charge of the crockery department of his present business house, a few years later was made a member of the firm, and now, with his brothers, controls a majority of the stock.



NATHAN STRAUS AND ONE OF HIS TYPICAL MILK DEPOTS.

Authors and Speakers of Ability.  
Of these brothers there are two—Hon. Oscar S. Straus, already mentioned, and Isidor Straus, almost as well known, since he has been a member of congress and prominent in his opposition to a protective tariff and free silver. There is no family in New York more thoroughly respected than the three Straus brothers. They belong to that high type of philanthropic Jews of which the world contains many noble examples. They are unostentatious, cultured, public spirited, intellectual and given to good works. All are authors and speakers of ability, and have held high public place, all are capable business men, and all are objects of public esteem.  
Of the three, Nathan Straus excels in works of philanthropy. He is rather slight in build, of nervous, intellectual face, which is covered by a full beard running to two points. Mr. Straus has a home of quiet elegance, loves a fast horse and tells a good story on occasion. One tale of his relates to a stableman. One morning Mr. Straus found this man rubbing the leg of one of his trotters with a spike nail dipped in liniment. When asked what he was doing the man replied that the directions said to apply the liniment "with a nail or tooth brush," and as he had no toothbrush he thought if he had to use a nail he had better take a spike. The stableman was evidently not acquainted with nailbrushes.  
Mr. Straus has a sad face, seeming to feel the suffering of all the unfortunate. Yet if the saving of many lives can give joy, he should be the happiest man in the world.

Strange Race of Ancient Britons.  
Among the races of humankind which away back of history's records passed like clouds over various parts of the earth one of the most puzzling to ethnologists is that of the early bronze age men who dwelt in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and are supposed to have constructed the special forms of stone circles which remain are now found there. These men differed significantly, says J. Gray, from all the prehistoric racial types previously determined in Britain. They were remarkably broad headed, and their average stature was only five feet three inches, as shown by skeletons. The British neolithic race was markedly long headed, and the bronze age race, which built the round towers, was also long headed and tall.  
Man and Woman.  
Father Vaughan of London, preaching on marriage, remarked that a woman said to him: "When you have seen one man you have seen them all in their moods and tempers. They are all alike." His reply was: "It may be so, but woman is like an irregular French verb, and unless a man studies her in all her peculiar moods and tempers he will misconstrue and misinterpret her, much to his disadvantage."

An Overdressed Drama.  
It is only in the last fifty years that the true purpose of the theater, the decent interpretation of the drama, has been utterly obscured. Today carpenters, costumers and wigmakers throw the humble playwright into the shade.—National Review.  
Reprieve.  
"What, divorced already? Why, my dear fellow, I supposed you were up against it for life."  
"No; I got time allowance for bad behavior."—Puck.

## FIERCE FOREST FIRES.

Enormous Loss Caused in Spring and Summer of 1908.

### MANY TOWNS DESTROYED.

Timber Burned Equal in Value to Good Sized Navy of Battleships—Continued Experience in Fighting Flames. Historic Forest Fire Incidents.

The forest fires which have recently laid waste whole countries in Minnesota and Michigan and extended into Wisconsin, destroying many towns and making thousands of persons homeless, have focused the attention of both government and state forest officers on the enormous losses of forest wealth which will be checked up to the year 1908.  
In the whole northern half of the United States, throughout the territory extending from coast to coast, the reported destruction by forest fires has been terrific, and it is likely that the year will go down as one of the worst in the last quarter century, says a forest service bulletin. It seems that no part of the country has escaped the work of the devastating flames. The latest disasters in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin are the worst of the many that have visited the lake states this year. Other sections have also suffered from forest fires during the spring and summer months, and the people of the Pacific coast, the Rocky mountains and the New England states and Canada have had a thorough and in some cases a continuous experience in fire fighting.  
Officers in the United States forest service at Washington say that it is doubtful if this year's actual losses from forest fires in all parts of the United States will ever be known, but it is certain that they will run up as high in the millions that the country will be started when a compilation of statistics at the end of the season makes it possible to give even the most conservative figures. Suffice it to say, were all the timber burned up this year in all parts of the country converted into cash it could provide for a good sized navy of first class battleships.  
The fires have done good in one way. They have called the people's attention to the seriousness of the forest fire problem, practical foresters say, and have started a widespread movement in many states to check them by adopting rational systems of fire protection. Among thinking people there has been awakened an intense interest in showing a better protection around the forests, which grow more important as a natural resource as the timber supply dwindles.  
The terrible work of the flames which have burned over and destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of timber and property to the value of millions in the lake states recalls to memory other great forest fires which have attained historic importance.  
One of the earliest of these was the great Miramichi fire in 1825. It began in the afternoon of Oct. 7 of that year at a place about sixty miles below the town of Newcastle, on the Miramichi river, in New Brunswick. Before 10 o'clock at night it was twenty miles below Newcastle. In nine hours it had destroyed a belt of forest eighty miles long and twenty-five miles wide. Over more than 2,500,000 acres almost every living thing was killed. Even the fish were afterward found dead in heaps on the river banks. Five hundred and ninety buildings were burned, and a number of towns, including Newcastle, Chatham and Douglastown, were destroyed. One hundred and sixty persons perished and nearly a thousand head of stock. The loss from the Miramichi fire is estimated at \$300,000, not including the value of the timber.  
In the majority of such forest fires as this the destruction of the timber is a more serious loss by far than that of the cattle and buildings, for it carries with it the impoverishment of a whole region for tens or even hundreds of years afterward. The loss of the stumpage value of the timber at the time of the fire is but a small part of the damage to the neighborhood. The wages that would have been earned in lumbering, added to the value of the produce that would have been purchased to supply the lumber camps and the taxes that would have been devoted to roads and other public improvements, furnish a much truer measure of how much, sooner or later, it costs a region when its forests are destroyed by fire.  
The Peshtigo fire of October, 1871, was still more severe than the Miramichi. It covered an area of more than 2,000 square miles in Wisconsin and involved a loss in timber and other property of many millions of dollars. Between 1,200 and 1,500 persons perished.  
The most destructive fire of more recent years was that which started near Hinckley, Minn., Sept. 1, 1894. While the area burned over was less than in some other great fires, the loss of life and property was very heavy. The Hinckley and six other towns were destroyed, about 500 lives were lost, more than 2,000 persons were left destitute, and the estimated loss in property of various kinds was \$25,000,000. Except for heroic conduct of locomotive engineers and other railroad men the loss of life would have been much greater. This fire was all the more deplorable because it was wholly unnecessary. For many days before the high wind came and drove it into uncontrollable fury it was burning slowly close to the town of Hinckley and could have been put out.

## PROVED A POET.

A Youthful Experience of John Greenleaf Whittier.

John Greenleaf Whittier used to declare that at a very early age he knew himself to be a real poet and would often relate, writes Mrs. Abby J. Woodman in her "Reminiscences of Whittier's Life at Oak Knoll," an amusing experience when he was a student at the Haverhill academy. Mrs. Woodman gives it in Mr. Whittier's own words:

"There is but little doubt that at the age of twenty I felt myself to be a real poet, somewhat unknown to fame, but sufficiently acknowledged as such by the committee directing the dedication of the new academy for them to invite me to read an original poem on that occasion.  
Robert Dinsmore, an old Scotch farmer in Windham and a writer of rhyme and doggerel verse, was also invited to do the same. The honor of leading the procession which marched through the streets of Haverhill to the new academy was given to the two poets.  
I often laugh when I recall the scene to memory. The hale old Scotchman, short and plethoric, his uncertain step and bearing slightly exasperated by a generous draft of old Scotch whisky before we started, was somewhat of a contrast to me, a rather tall and slender Quaker lad in Quaker hat and coat and half frightened out of my wits by the honor heaped upon me.  
However, we delivered our poems all right, and I am thinking that must have been the time when I was dubbed "the Quaker poet."

### AN AMUSING CUSTOM.

Spaniards Trick Themselves Into Wanting a Glass of Water.

Writing of experiences with Spanish hospitality, Ellen Maury Slayden in the Century says:  
"The cafes were always crowded to suffocation, and yet we lingered past the small hours, the men smoking dozens of cigarettes and the women dipping bits of wafer into chocolate as leisurely as if they had the night in the bag of day before them. A favorite drink was a thin almond milk which looked like some thing of the complexion and which, after tasting, I would have much preferred applying externally. There was a refreshing absence of the highball and cocktail element, and no one ever seemed to take too much to drink.  
It is always amusing to see these most temperate people tricking themselves into wanting a glass of water. They recommend certain dishes and enjoy their eternal chocolate chiefly because "it makes one so thirsty." Visiting a country house once, we were invited into the dining room, and I hoped for tea. The table was elaborately spread. We were seated and each helped to a delicious conserved peach and tenderly urged to eat it to make us want some water. When we had eaten the peach and drunk the water the ceremony was complete."

### SENIORITY IN CONGRESS.

Experience Carries Influence—Old Members Relied on For Work.

A man's standing in congress is gained by seniority. His influence there comes from length of service, provided, of course, that it is the right kind of service.  
New men, no matter how ambitious and zealous, have very little influence. They do not and cannot begin their work where their predecessors left off. Speechmaking does not bring them influence. Work brings it—committee work.  
Members rank in their committees by seniority. Besides, new members do not get and cannot get in the usual course of things appointments to the more important committees. These appointments go to the tried men, who by length of service coupled with ability are chosen in the house for the vacant places.  
Some constituencies know this and act accordingly. Some constituencies ignore the fact and gain nothing by ignoring it. In fact, they lose weight in the councils of congress by frequently changing their representatives simply to gratify the ambitions of local politicians.—Boston Herald.

### A Story About Rodin.

The Cri de Paris tells a most amusing story of how Rodin and some unnamed rich American woman who had selected him to make a statue of herself, full length and so far as possible a portrait. She had posed ten times in antique costume when Rodin told her that he did not need her any more and that he would finish his work at his leisure. When the American came again she found to her amazement that the head of the statue bore no resemblance whatever to her. She complained bitterly that "no one would ever recognize her." "It is true," said the great sculptor dreamily, "Your head did not inspire me at all. At first I thought I would not put any head on the statue, as I have been accustomed to do of late, but after I had thought it over carefully in order not to offend you I put in place of your face that of Mme. de R. She had ordered hers of me, but never paid for it. At any rate, you will gain much by this change!"

### Not a Bit Conceited.

Wife—You are positively the most conceited man I ever met. Hub—I conceived! Woman, there's not a conceited bone in my body. Why, another man with the same abilities would be absolutely carried away with pride.—Exchange.  
A Crushing Come Back.  
"I started to tell my wife about a woman who made her own gowns."  
"Well?"  
"She capped my story with one about a man who made a million dollars."—Louisville Courier-Journal.  
Poisonous Nettles of the Tropics.  
In tropical regions there are nettles far more powerful than that of our own country.  
The one called Urtica stimulans, which is found in Java, and that called Laportea granulata, found in Hindustan, when bruised emit an effluvium which poisonously affects the eyes and mouth and if swallowed produce convulsions and serious swelling and pain in the arms, which may last for three or four weeks and in some cases cause death.—London Telegraph.

## ESCAPE FROM PRISON

Nashville's Bastile Will Defy Most Skillful Jail Breaker.

### FILE PROOF STEEL FOR CELLS

Model Jail Also Home of Criminal Court—Prisoners Can Be Tried, Convicted and Executed All in the One Building.

Work upon the new criminal court and county jail building in Nashville, Tenn., is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and despite the many delays which have retarded the undertaking, it is more than probable that the edifice will be ready for occupancy by Dec. 1.  
This was practically the answer of Superintendent of Construction Charles M. Little in response to a reporter's question. The exterior work is all finished, with the exception of a small awning which will be erected over the central archway entrance to the main court and building.  
It is probable that no city in the south and very few anywhere in the United States will possess a more perfectly appointed and secure bastille than will Nashville, and the prisoner who escapes therefrom when once the jailer has turned the key upon him will need all the cunning of a Jack Sheppard, and then it is likely he would not fall to gain freedom. There is a system of locks and counterlocks, cages within cages and steel barred corridors that is enough to baffle the most skilled jail breaker in the world.  
A more compact and complete arrangement for the handling of criminals would be hard to imagine, as the criminal court will also sit in this building, and it will be possible to try, convict and execute a prisoner without his ever leaving the building. There are provided kitchen, scullery, laundry, toilets and baths for prisoners and others who remain in the building all the time, and everything has been provided that could possibly be needed in connection with the several departments.  
In the basement are the boiler and engine rooms, heating boiler and ventilator fan rooms, laundry and ironing rooms, all finished in concrete and well aired and lighted.  
The main entrance to the building is through the grand archway, to the right and left of which are the jailer's office, road commissioner's office, board of charities and board of health. In addition to these there are a guard room, locker room and closets for the use of colored and white people. The light well or central court is at the center of the building, and when the prisoners are brought in the big mob cages may be closed before they are taken into the utility corridor, which is entered from the light well and which traverses the main building for its entire width. The cells open off this corridor and are arranged in five tiers, there being a hundred of them in all, arranged in tiers of twenty. Each cell is fitted with four bunks, and there are four cells in a row, with a bath cell with a porcelain tub at the end of each tier of four. There is a prisoners' corridor outside of the four cell groups and a jailer's corridor outside of this. A large steel barred cell is arranged at the center of the cell court, and here visitors will be allowed to see the prisoners. In order to keep them from passing articles such as files, etc., to those confined the visitors' cell is screened with a fine mesh wire steel screen or net.  
The cells are controlled from a locking box in the outer corridor and may be locked all together or one at a time. The condemned cells, which will be known as "murderers' row," are four in number and will be located so that the interior may be seen by the turnkeys and jailers at all times. All the cells on the upper three tiers are of saw and file proof steel, and the entire top ceiling is drill proof. Even the ventilating shafts are steel lined and barred. In addition to the regular cells there will be three padded cells for insane prisoners, one detention cell and three misdemeanour cells. There is a small corridor between the cell rows, and here are the closet pipes, ventilating pipes and other fittings which it is undesirable to have in the cells themselves. The doors and ceilings of the cell are of steel, the flooring being reinforced with four inches of concrete.  
The second floor of the building is devoted almost exclusively to the criminal court. The main courtroom, which is two stories high and 48 by 54 feet, will have a gallery for negroes and will be perfectly appointed. The offices of the judge, attorney general and assistant attorney general, witnesses and jury rooms, grand jury room and jury dining rooms are also on this floor.  
In the rear, in the utility corridor, a trap opens to the third floor, and, looking up, one may see a huge iron ring in the ceiling from which condemned prisoners will be hanged.  
On the third floor will be the operating room, female hospital, jury bed rooms, etc. In the space between the third floor and the roof there is a huge ventilating fan driven by a dynamo that will draw all the foul air from the prison and other parts of the building and force it outside. The roof is of steel and concrete, covered with tarred paper and gravel, guaranteed to be waterproof and durable. The main halls of the building will be tiled, as will the lavatories and closets. The entire jail property, which includes a large concrete yard, will be surrounded by a wall twenty feet high and absolutely sheer, over which no man could climb unaided. Hot water will be used for heating the building.

## HOW HE SLEPT.

His Experience With a Noisy and Persistent Cuckoo Clock.

Wertz recently was presented with an old fashioned cuckoo clock. That evening he hung it on his bedroom wall, wound it up and after admiring it awhile went to sleep. He was drifting into very pleasant dreams when he was startled.  
"Coo-coo, coo-coo!"  
Wertz sat up with a start, but in an instant recovered his wits and listened to eight more coo-coos with a foolish grin. Then he lay back and went to sleep again.  
He had got into a fine doze by the time the thing went off again. This time he didn't grin.  
Wertz is a light sleeper, and though he tried to get used to the thing, he gave up after the cuckoo had announced 2 o'clock and got up and stopped the clock.  
Next evening Wertz junior, who had not seen the clock, went to look at it. "Why, it's stopped," he said. "What is wrong?"  
Wertz senior stroked his chin. "Maybe I didn't wind it this morning," he replied. "Ferd," he continued generously, "if you will promise to wind that clock every morning I'll let you have it for your room."  
Wertz junior was delighted, and the transfer was made.  
At the breakfast table next morning the heir of the house of Wertz looked tired and somewhat sheepish, but offered no explanation. After considerable general conversation his father said:  
"You look tired. How did you sleep last night?"  
Wertz junior yawned.  
"By the hour," he answered.—Kansas City Times.

## SAVED THE GIRL.

An Old Time Adventure With Solomon Island Cannibals.

One day on a Solomon beach a little girl ran to me and, before I was aware of it, placed my foot on her neck. One knows what this means well enough. In hot war it means that if a chief allows his foot to rest on the defeated one's neck the man's life is safe, but he is a slave forever, rescue or no rescue. I was puzzled at the child's action. It was soon explained. Shortly afterward down came a lot of villagers, and insisted on taking the youngster. I told them what she had done. They said they did not care. Her mother was being cooked in the town, and the child should go to the ovens with her.  
"Never!" I said. "What! We, who have eaten betel nut together many times, to quarrel for a mere child to whom I have granted life in your own way?" I swore they should kill me first. They replied:  
"Oh, that is an easy thing to do."  
A bold front was the only thing now. Luckily I had my sixteen shooter. Springing back and putting a mark on the sand with my foot, I swore I would shoot the first man who crossed it. They knew I could answer for a dozen of them or so, and, although clubs were up and bows bent, they hesitated, as well they might, and I knew I had mastered them. Then one proposed I should buy the child fairly. They cared not to fight a friend. To this I at once agreed, and a muss was thus avoided, and a mission as worth ten pounds made me a slave owner.—"Among the Man Eaters," by John Gargain.

### Apt Pupils.

Captain Jones (giving a short lecture to the recruits of his company on their demeanor in public)—If a civilian should make offensive remarks in a public house and try to induce a quarrel with the well conducted soldier should drink up his beer and go quietly away."  
After his address Captain Jones questioned his audience to ascertain if they had comprehended his remarks.  
"Now, Private Jenkins, what should you do if you were at an inn and a civilian wanted to quarrel with you?"  
"I should drink up his beer, sir, and 'ook it!'"—London Pick-Me-Up.

### With the Minstrels.

Bones—What am de difference 'tween er pastry cook an' er bill sticker? Tambo—Ah dunno. What am de difference, Mistah Bones? Bones—One puffs up de paste an' de othah pastes up de puffs.—Chicago News.

### The Unmaking.

He (boastfully)—It takes six generations to make a gentleman, you know, She (calmly)—Yes, and what a pity that it only takes one generation to unmake him!—Exchange.

### Bird Reservation of 70,000 Acres.

By an order of President Roosevelt about 70,000 acres of land adjoining the Oregon-California line are to be set aside as a reservation for the propagation and protection of native birds. The order includes land not suitable for agricultural purposes. The tract is probably the greatest breeding ground in the world for waterfowl.

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