

Topics of the Times

Grandfather Kaiser Wilhelm better cut off those mustaches.

Society would be safer were the Pittsburg millionaires to wear muzzles.

That Japanese murderer who apologized on the gallows was certainly a polite man.

One penalty of being rich is to fear somebody will steal our bodies after we are dead.

Moralists agree that a bad man may be reformed, but it is different in the case of a bad egg.

As to school children who swap chewing gum, it is a waste of time to try hygienic arguments on them.

The bank examiner is a good deal like a stroke of lightning. The worst has already happened when we hear the report.

The fellow who sent a fifteen-pound turtle through the mail may have had a creeping suspicion that the clerks always welcomed a snap.

As for the people at large, they balk at the idea that the orthography of the language has swelled in the cans and ought to be condemned.

Mr. Rockefeller is boasting that he beat his doctor at golf. He should remember that it's a pretty dangerous thing to gloat over a doctor.

If Clerk Samuel Byerly can with a 2-cent stamp turn \$5,800,000 worth of Government bonds, he might borrow \$100 or so and buy the Steel Trust.

In view of the high cost of living the funeral directors cannot see their way clearly toward making any reduction in the expense attendant upon dying.

The Norsemen address Haakon as "Mr. King." This may be a trifle irregular, but it is a great deal more polite than some of the pet names the Russians are bestowing on Nicholas.

Naturally, the President hopes that the country will not become so interested in the discussion of the fact that he is in favor of spelling reform as to forget that he is opposed to race suicide.

Over in Canada the people regard phonetic spelling as an evidence of ignorance and bad breeding. This, we may be sure, is due to the fact that the phonetic spelling movement was not started in England.

Belva Lockwood says it is just as necessary for women to study the law as to learn to cook. A good many other women seem to take the same view of the case, and they are not studying law either.

Over in Russia the revolutionists regard it as a great triumph for their side when they succeed in looting a bank of \$50,000 or \$100,000. What a wild hurrah they would set up if they had a Stensland or a Hippie to operate for them.

Industry waits closely upon legislation. Already Western farmers are considering the planting of crops from which they can manufacture alcohol, to be denatured and used as a source of power. There is a great desire for some cheap and effective substitute for gasoline, the supply of which is limited and the price of which has steadily advanced for several years.

Prof. Ray Lankester, in his opening address before the British Association, pointed out what has been many times remarked, that in no country is so much aid given by laymen to scientific investigation as in America. The habit of giving telescopes, laboratories and research funds has become common among rich men, and we rather take their gifts for granted. It has been humorously said that the will of a Massachusetts man which does not provide a gift for a hospital, an art museum, a university or an institute for the investigation of human pedigree is in poor form, and reflects on the social standing of the testator's family.


That neat and lovable little coin, the dime, has had a most useful history. As far as we are aware it is unique among the world's coins, having no nearer equivalent than the English sixpence, which is worth 2 cents more. It is one of the handiest of coins, being about as small as a silver piece can conveniently be. Being less in size and weight than the nickel, which is worth only half as much, it is vastly more convenient to keep and hoard, and that is one reason why it is becoming extraordinarily scarce in spite of the fact that more dimes are now turned out of the mints than ever before in the country's history. There is a rage for "dime banks," and some of these mechanical contrivances are so pretty, so ingenious and so alluring that they force people to save dimes, who have no earthly occasion to do so.

The Philippines government has enjoyed a revenue of from \$80,000 to \$70,000 from the imposition of tonnage and navigation dues upon ships from outside ports. But on Aug. 31 the govern-

ing commission passed an act for the abolition of the dues. It gives up a tax of which there has been some complaint, and Manila gets the advantage of being a free port. In the same connection reference is made to her improved harbor facilities. The improvements will cost, when completed, several million dollars, and include the dredging to a depth of thirty feet over an area of 400 acres, the reclamation of waste land, and an eighteen-foot channel entrance to the Pasig River. The statement concerning the abolition of dues which was sent out by the bureau of Insular Affairs makes a comparison which shows that while Manila is now a free port there is not such a port in any other oriental country. Hongkong, commonly called a free port, imposes a tax, designated light dues, of 1 cent Mexican per ton. This is the smallest charge, and there are variations for different ports ranging as high as 20 cents. In the Philippines the duty has been 6 cents per ton, or 30 cents per ton per annum. Manifestly under such a system short sailing vessels which made many entries, like those from the Asiatic coast, had an advantage over those which made long distances and paid full rates. American ships, therefore, should be among those that receive distinct benefit from the change.

Two English delegates who came over to a great convention held in Milwaukee were "thunderstruck" at the "remarkable democracy of America," as displayed when as one man the other delegates removed their coats, vests, collars and cuffs and prepared to be as comfortable as possible in a hot convention hall. It was new to them, but is not new to us. Men in America are quite apt to make themselves comfortable when by themselves, though sometimes the conventionalities are rudely disturbed. But why shouldn't men be comfortable? It's a mighty absurd custom which permits women to wear the thinnest sort of clothes, while men are compelled to sweater in many thicknesses of cloth, woolen, cotton and linen at once. The lining of a man's coat sleeve is thicker than all a woman wears upon her arms in summer. Add a thick layer of woolen cloth and frequently a sleeve of an undershirt, and see what a difference there is. Men's shirts are cool enough in themselves, but look at the collars, the ties and the cuffs which encumber them. Almost every man wears thick padding in the shoulders and several thicknesses of "wadding," haircloth and various other things in the front of his coat. It is well enough to talk about "delightful democracy," but for some reason this same "delightful democracy" has not yet dared to defy established conventionalities by permitting men the same freedom in dress and comfort that it allows the women. Ridicule and criticism always await the man who tries to be comfortable in public, and the ones who criticize most are those who most need reform. It's a peculiar thing that men stand thus in the way of their own needs and desires. If they wanted to, they could by a concerted effort overturn all the old ideas and establish a code permitting rational dress; but, bless your soul, they will continue to stick to thick, stiff linen bands about their necks, heavily padded coats, plug hats and all the other uncomfortable things, time without end, because they would much rather be uncomfortable than ridiculous. That is to say, they will do this in public. But when they get out of sight they will "peel off" quickly and say hard things about the custom which makes them cowards.

TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA,
PRESIDENT OF CUBA.



President Palma, with whose regime the Cuban insurgents are dissatisfied, has shed his blood and suffered imprisonment for the Queen of the Antilles. He took part in the Cuban revolution of 1895-78, was president of the Cuban republic during that war and for a year was incarcerated in a Spanish prison. For many years he conducted a school for Cuban boys at Central Valley, N. Y., and when Cuba was turned over to its people by the United States became its President. A few months ago he was re-elected, and since he took office his political opponents, who declare they have not had a fair show at the polls, have plotted to bring about his downfall.

Church Towns.

The town of Willis has 183 inhabitants, and 170 of them belong to the church. Four of the seven who do not belong are town loafers and the other three are infants, who will be taken in as soon as the weather warms up and they can be baptized.—Kansas City Journal.

People are compelled to sweater re-arrangements at least a dozen times a day.

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