

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Japan is bent on having "a real navy." Russia thought it had one.

Since being endorsed by Mark Twain spelling reform will look funnier than ever.

Spain is saving large sums of money every day by not having Cuba on its hands now.

In spite of the bountiful crops throughout the country, whiskers are coming in style again.

Bishop Berry says the church boss must go. Oh, but this is going to be a cold winter for bosses!

Chancellor Day says the man who smokes is a fool. Most men will recall that they felt worse than that after their first smoke.

Banker Stensland is said to have four trunks of clothes. All the same, the State of Illinois will insist upon giving him one more suit.

Since one Russian general has been scared to death, we can better understand why the terrorists wear such frightful looking whiskers.

It appears to be a rule of action for the Russian soldier that if he cannot find and punish the guilty person, three innocent persons will do as well.

A Philadelphia child has been christened Mozart Beethoven Liszt Mendelssohn Luck, and it will be just his father's luck to discover that there is music in the heir.

Physicians say the Sultan of Turkey can't possibly live more than a year. A year isn't long, but an average Sultan can receive a good many ultimatums in that time.

The souvenir postcard craze is a great nuisance, of course, and causes much extra work for postmasters and letter carriers, but it adds materially to the sale of stamps.

The latest discovery made by the doctors is that angel cake is full of microbes, but as the chief function of microbes is to make angels, the cake appears to be properly named.

A Cleveland health officer at last has brought relief to a suffering world by announcing that after all there is no danger in kissing. More of our cities should appoint bright people as heads of their health departments.

It appears that the Standard Oil profits in Missouri amounted to only 600 per cent. How many people would be content with only 600 per cent when they had the power to take 1000 per cent? Let us admire the moderation of the trust.

When the German Emperor appointed a Jewish banker as director of the colonial office the other day, much surprise was expressed in Berlin that a business man and a Jew had been called to so high an office. Such an appointment would have caused surprise neither in the United States nor in England.

Some day there may be a United States of Central America. A party has lately been organized in San Salvador, the leaders of which hope to bring about a federation of the Central American republics. The experiment of federation has been tried once or twice; but the people are better qualified for it now than they used to be.

In these days, when families are moving from one place to another in the hope of bettering themselves, it is interesting to read of an aged woman who died in a New England town in the same house and in the same room in which she was born. For the better part of a century she had been active in the kindly Christian work of the village, and had come to be looked upon as one of its institutions. Families when have an old homestead that has been in the family for generation after generation have a possession worth more than dollars and cents, as every member of an itinerant family without such a homestead will testify.

That high collars tend to produce nervous headache among both men and women is the most recent discovery of a well-known Viennese physician. Quite accidentally the doctor's attention was directed to the very high and very tight style of collar worn by a patient who was always complaining of headaches and giddiness. The collar was laid aside, thus removing the compression of the neck, and the patient's headaches and giddiness disappeared. Struck by this result, the doctor paid particular attention to the kind of collars worn by his "headache patients" and in very many instances the change to lower and easier fitting collars brought immediate relief. In the case of women wearing high, stiff neckbands it was found that doing away with these had a similarly beneficial result. The doctor declares that nobody with any tendency to headache should wear high collars.

Estimates of the unmined supplies of iron ore was extremely uncertain and untrustworthy. Some of them are based on surveys made at a period when low

grade ores that are now being profitably worked were regarded as worthless; others took into consideration factors of fuel and transportation which no longer apply, and none of them attempted an accurate view of the possible sources of supply in the undeveloped countries of the earth. There are also involved in the vital question of the future supply fundamental differences among the geologists and cosmologists themselves. One school holds to the theory of Sir Robert Ball that the metal came originally from outside the globe and that we can hope to find little more on its surface. Another takes the more optimistic view that the dense center of the earth is largely iron. If the latter be the case then the problem of our utilizing it resolves itself into the improvement of mining methods and the development of the science and practice of metallurgy.

In official language there are postal cards and post cards. The former is the penny card issued by the government with the stamp printed upon it, while the post card, usually pictorial, can be produced by anybody, subject to restrictions in size and weight, and must have a stamp affixed. Lately the souvenir post card has become a sort of avalanche in America as well as Europe, and forms a serious problem in the working arrangements of post offices. The post card is one of the things that were never definitely born, but just grew. Pictorially, it first came into notice in Germany, ten years ago, and that country, with France and England, still lead in its use, mailing last year 1,200,000,000, valued at \$22,000,000, and calling on thirty different occupations in their manufacture. Their popularity in the United States dates from 1902 and has kept growing until they have almost overwhelmed some of the postoffices, especially in the vacation season. At Coney Island, with its Labor Day outing, 175,000 souvenir cards were sent in the outgoing mail, and a week later at the same resort a baby show resulted in the mailing of 200,000 souvenir cards in a single day. An unexpected addition like this to postal labors is a serious question to those who must deal with it practically, but it is evidently an innovation that has come to stay. A certain degree of epistolary gulf is found in the souvenir post card. There is scant room for writing and the communication must necessarily be short. If the picture is striking, beautiful, and has an associated interest in time and place, the excuse is gracefully put, and the answer can be in kind. The pictures preserved in order form an album of travel and have in that respect a lasting interest. But how letter writing has fallen from its former high estate when it was a branch of literature! Now a pleasant scrawl under an Alp, a waterfall, an architectural view or a market scene, answers the purpose, and there are few persons who would not rather send thirty souvenir cards on thirty consecutive days than to write one letter a week. Travelers are supposed to have unbounded leisure and flow of spirits, and expected to give a lengthy and graphic account of their experiences. Buying a pictorial gem instead and writing, "just a line while waiting at the station," may be more acceptable than receiving a many-paged letter that calls for a considerate response in which brevity is out of the question. It is an age of concentration and dispatch. Moments are precious. The merely perfunctory induces a tired feeling. The souvenir card has a charm even though speeded with subterfuge. Evil natures seized upon the post card to turn it into comic valentines or something still more objectionable, but postal authorities effectually stop that tendency by throwing perversions into the dead letter waste basket. Its range of legitimate uses is large, and they will continue to unfold.

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Towers of Russian swords and rifles in the grounds of the Kudan shrine, Tokio, put up in honor of the Shokochi celebrations for the spirits of the Japanese soldiers fallen in the war.

Signs of Brain Exhaustion.
A doctor says that when a person begins to have doubts about the spelling of common words, to write an unnaturally small hand that shows a tendency to waver above and below a straight line and to grasp the pen with unnecessary force, especially at the end of a long word, then that person is suffering from brain exhaustion and ought either to take a complete rest or else to find work of an altogether new and different kind.

The trouble is when there are plenty of seats for all, the band concert is poor.

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