

**TOPICS OF THE TIMES**

"The old hen laid a dozen eggs, writes the poet. Which is important, if true.

Chicago school children are taught how to cook beef. Why not show them how to get it?

The man that wore his affinity's name in his hat band evidently had something on his mind.

Ty Cobb will receive \$9,000 a year for three years, which goes to show that it is the hits that get the money.

A man in California caught a young octopus. The accounts did not specify whether it was of the milk or beef variety.

Kentucky raises more hemp than any state in the Union, and yet she has substituted the electric chair for the gallows.

William Rockefeller announces that the Standard Oil Company is going to test the Sherman act. The Sherman act must be a pretty good act.

One of the scientists announces that there is a fortune in skimmed milk. Perhaps he lives where the health department doesn't watch very closely.

The movement to cultivate vacant lots is a commendable one. They should certainly be able to raise something better than a crop of oyster and tomato cans.

A chemical analysis shows that 99 per cent of a cup of tea is water. This does not refer to boarding house tea, which contains even a greater percentage of water.

As he did not pass the endurance test of a ninety-mile horseback ride, one of the rear-admirals of the navy is to be retired. Would it not have been more appropriate to try him on swimming?

A Massachusetts commission of investigation has found that the cost of living is less in Canada than it is in this country. But of course the battling average of the joy of living in this country is higher.

In a New York court a baby's cry saved it from going to prison by moving the pity of the judge. If it had been a good baby that never cried, this wouldn't have happened, which makes the moral of the story rather mixed.

Some small boys in Gotham tied up a playmate and set his clothing on fire and only prompt rescue by passersby saved him from serious injury. The little tormentors were dismissed with a reprimand, which shows why some people think Solomon knew what he was talking about.

"Gypsy Smith," the famous evangelist, who conducted a series of successful religious meetings in America last winter, has been leading a ten days' mission in Paris. This is the first time since Moody and Sankey visited the city in 1852 that Protestant revival meetings have been held in the French capital.

The national House of Representatives has passed a bill creating an art commission which shall exercise powers of supervision over the esthetic side of such work of the government as the erection of public buildings, the placing of statues and other monuments, and the laying out of public parks. The lack of such a body is apparent in almost every American city.

**The Hedgehog.**  
The hedgehog is the possessor of tastes which, like Sam Weller's knowledge of London, are "extensive and peculiar," says the Scotsman. Scoring fastidiousness, it can make a hearty meal on nearly any insect and is one of the vertebrates which can tackle the cockroach. For effectual extermination of beetles and crickets it is as useful as a mongoose among the rats, but it is not generally known that it has a partiality toward snakes and adders.

The methods it employs for the attack are interesting. Having come upon the adder, it goes that reptile to the offensive and at the first dart immediately rolls into a ball. The adder is then left to attack the spine, in which encounter it naturally comes off second best. After awhile, when the hedgehog feels that his antagonist has exhausted his power, it once more opens out and makes a bite at the adder's back, thereby breaking its spine. It then proceeds to crunch the whole of the reptile's body by means of its powerful jaws, and after that it is said to start at the tail and devour its prey.

**A More Advanced Stage.**  
Mrs. Caller—Do you know the woman next door well enough to speak to?  
Mrs. Subbubs—Well enough? I know her too well to speak to.—Boston Evening Transcript.

**Wears the Unquestionables.**  
Jack—Who was the best man at your wedding?  
Tom—My wife; but I didn't know it.—Boston Evening Transcript.

Everybody likes to attend a wedding—with the possible exception of the bridegroom.

you will not slip a cog, but will make others follow as fast as they made you.

President Emeritus Elliot of Harvard University was recently quoted as favoring a law to authorize physicians to put hopeless patients out of their misery by painless means. He denies the accuracy of the report. He says he does not believe in the right of one person to kill another to end his agony, but he does believe that we should avail ourselves of anodynes, even though their use in a hopeless case may shorten the brief remaining span of life. This amounts to much the same thing as the statement alleged to be erroneous, except that Dr. Elliot seems to hint at suicide rather than professional murder. The patient may take anodynes until his pain is relieved and risk fatal consequences. But it must be remembered that many agonized patients are in a condition which incapacitates them for voluntary action, and most of them could not procure the powerful anodynes required without a doctor's prescription. What shall the doctor do in such a case? Shall he give the medicine with the primary object of relieving the pain and risk the killing? If the patient dies would the present law exonerate the physician? Would the court and jury presume, as in the case of a serious surgical operation, that the intent was merciful and not homicidal? In case of an arraignment and trial the verdict would undoubtedly be influenced by the circumstances. The surgeon who performs what is called a major operation, first notifying the patient and his friends that the effect may be fatal although he hopes for recovery, is never molested if the sufferer dies under the knife. Why may he not take chances with a drug as well as with a saw or cutting instrument? Probably no change in the existing law is needed to cover reasonable cases. Where the parties are all reputable it will usually be presumed that the exigencies of the case required the medication and that the death was the incidental and not the premeditated outcome.

**LOWER STANDARD OF LIVING.**

Way to Defeat Present System of High Prices, Prof. Goodnow Says.

There is very little improvement in sight toward lowering the high prices, declares Prof. Frank J. Goodnow of Columbia University in the Delinquent. When eastern farms were cultivated at a profit prices of agricultural commodities were much higher (allowances being made for the then purchasing power of a dollar) than now. And prices will have to go considerably higher than now before those farms can again be profitably cultivated.

It would appear that in the meantime the people will be obliged to adjust themselves to the changed conditions. This will probably involve a lowering of the standard of living, the increase of the rural as compared with the urban population, the development of eastern agricultural lands and of local markets everywhere throughout the country and the abandonment of our present expensive system of distribution.

It will inevitably be accompanied by considerable distress, particularly in the cities. The suffering due to this process of adjustment may undoubtedly be somewhat alleviated by energetic action on the part of the government with reference to the violation of laws prohibiting monopoly and restraint of trade, and by the removal at once of all duties on food products.

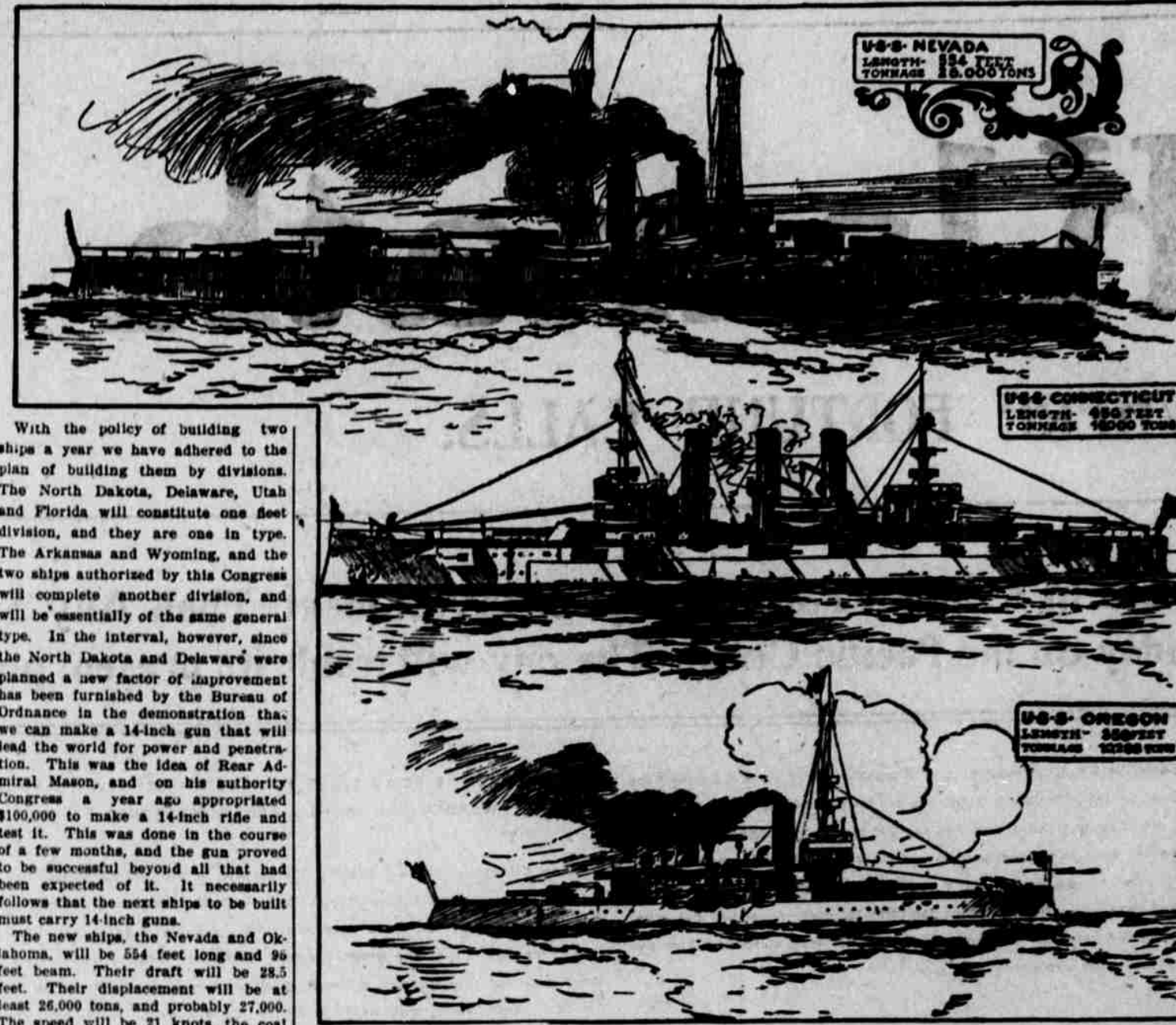
But, until the adjustment has been made, prices will probably continue to increase, and, after it has been made, will remain higher than they used to be. For it is hardly conceivable that agricultural commodities can permanently be sold at the prices to which the present generation has been accustomed unless some almost revolutionary changes in agricultural methods are made.

Mr. Menager, the head cook at Buckingham palace, occupies an important post in the royal household. His salary is \$10,000 per annum and he is recognized as being one of the greatest culinary artists in the world. The royal kitchen and the whole kitchen staff are under his complete control. Opening of the main kitchen at one side of it are half a dozen smaller kitchens, and on the other side there are four offices, where the clerical work in connection with the kitchen department are attended to. One of these offices is Mr. Menager's private room.

Mr. Menager does not live in Buckingham palace, but has his private residence close to it. On arriving at the palace—usually about 11 o'clock in the morning—his first care is to inspect the lunch menu for that day, which has been prepared by his first assistant, and also the menu for breakfast the following morning. He then prepares the dinner menu for the following day—a task that occupies him usually a couple of hours.

No two dinners at the royal table are ever the same. Certain dishes are from time to time repeated, frequently by special request of the king, but what may be termed the general scheme of each dinner is always different. One of the side kitchens is reserved solely for Mr. Menager's use, where he carries out experimental culinary operations and is constantly elaborating and working out new ideas. Some dishes have taken him months of preparation before he has decided to put them into the menu. There is one particular sauce which Mr. Menager invented some years ago to which the king has a particular liking. Mr. Menager was making experiments for over three years before he served this sauce to the royal table.

**Navy's New Dreadnoughts to Be Greatest Afloat**



With the policy of building two ships a year we have adhered to the plan of building them by divisions. The North Dakota, Delaware, Utah and Florida will constitute one fleet division, and they are one in type. The Arkansas and Wyoming, and the two ships authorized by this Congress will complete another division, and will be essentially of the same general type. In the interval, however, since the North Dakota and Delaware were planned a new factor of improvement has been furnished by the Bureau of Ordnance in the demonstration that we can make a 14-inch gun that will lead the world for power and penetration. This was the idea of Rear Admiral Mason, and on his authority Congress a year ago appropriated \$100,000 to make a 14-inch rifle and test it. This was done in the course of a few months, and the gun proved to be successful beyond all that had been expected of it. It necessarily follows that the next ships to be built must carry 14-inch guns.

The new ships, the Nevada and Oklahoma, will be 554 feet long and 96 feet beam. Their draft will be 28.5 feet. Their displacement will be at least 26,000 tons, and probably 27,000. The speed will be 21 knots, the coal load 3,600 tons, and they will carry a complement of 75 officers and 1,500 men. The armor will be 11-inch on the belt and on the barbettes and 8-inch on the sides. There will be, in addition to the ten 14-inch guns, seven 6-inch guns. As a floating fortress the ship will thus have two guns for every sector and with overlapping ranges. A 5-inch gun has been placed at the stern to protect from torpedo attack. A similar provision would be made at the stem but for the difficulty of putting a shutter there that will keep out water in heavy seas.

There will be no superstructure for turrets. The middle turret aft and the rear turret forward are raised above their neighbors so that their guns may fire over them. This is an American idea. Foreign navies are just beginning to adopt it. Years ago the superimposed turret was believed to be a good thing, but it was doubted if heavy guns could be used in the superimposed turret. And there was doubt if they could be used in turrets raised above other turrets, although not superimposed over them. To determine the matter once for all in the presence of much debate about it, a practical trial of the matter was made.

It was claimed that the concussion from the 12-inch guns would kill any living being within the lower turret. At first cats and dogs were placed in a turret on the old monitor Florida, now the Tallahassee, and the big guns were fired. The cats and dogs sustained no injury from the concussion, although the former were somewhat shaken by the contact with the latter once or twice. Then a few midshipmen were put in the turret and again the big guns were fired, and again with no bad results. Then, to make a final and permanent test of the matter, three tough old rear admirals were put in and fired over, and when they came out all right the principle was held to be established that heavy guns could be fired in an engagement over a neighboring turret without any distress to the inmates. That test has been of incalculable value to our navy, and as a consequence the two new ships will be so arranged that they can fire four of their huge guns ahead or astern.

**KING OF KING'S COOKS.**

How British Sovereign's Meals Are Prepared by \$10,000 Chef.

There are many dishes, by the way, which can be tasted nowhere except at the royal table. The secret of their preparation is known only to Mr. Menager, and he guards such secrets with great care. None of his assistants has the least notion of how these special dishes and sauces are prepared. They simply have the handling of the raw materials and each assistant carries out different directions in its preparation for the table.

The dinner menu is submitted every day to their majesties for approval; but this is a mere matter of form, for neither the king nor queen ever thinks of altering or interfering with Mr. Menager's arrangements.

At 3 o'clock a report is laid before the great chef by the order cook of the various meats that have been ordered in accordance with Mr. Menager's instructions of the day before, and also what is called a kitchen report is given to him by the head assistant cook—which is a detailed statement of the manner in which the dinner for that night is to be prepared. After seeing that everything is in order for their evening's work, Mr. Menager generally leaves the palace about 4 o'clock, returning at 6:30, when he never fails to make a personal inspection of the various ranges, ovens and stoves and takes a careful note of the temperature in each.

**DAKOTA'S MIXED MARRIAGE.**

Unions of White Men and Indian Women Not Frowned Upon.

In the Dakotas when a white man weds an aboriginal woman and publicly acknowledges her as his wife he provides her with as good a home and clothing as he can afford, and he treats her as he would treat a white woman. He sees to it that she learns to cook, to sew and to keep house, and in other ways tries to educate, and uplift her.

Still more interesting is the fact that these mixed marriages involve little or no social disability. The white husbands are rarely, if ever, barred from associations with the whites because of their wives.

To be sure, a man known to be living with an Indian woman who is "without benefit of clergy," is, as a rule, in the language of one White River plainsman, "purty nigh ostrich-laid." But this would be true if he were known to be maintaining similar relations with a white woman.

"Such loose-hitched tie-ups used to be kind o' common around here," said my White River man, according to a writer in Everybody's, "and nobody thought much about 'em. But there's so many schoolmasks come out here from New England and other places that folks don't stand for that sort o' thing no more."

Legally married Indian wives pay no more social penalty than do their white husbands. Generally, the little red hen sticks to her home and does not go out with her white husband for a social evening as often as would a wife of her own race. But this is largely a matter of Indian temperament.

**Willingly.**

He—I asked your father's consent, by telephone.

She—What did he say?  
He—He said, 'I don't know who you are, but it's all right.—Home Life.

By the time you see where you made your mistake it is too late

community. Some of the handsome, well-educated young half-breeds are in as much demand at social functions as are those whose parents both belong to the "superior race."

In the schools, too, the half-breed children mingle with the children of white families on equal terms and suffer little, if anything, from race prejudices or preferment.

**Windmills as Newsmongers.**  
In Holland births, marriages and deaths are indicated by windmills. When a miller is married he stops his mill with the arms of the wheel in a slanting position and with the sails unfurled. His friends and guests frequently do the same with their mills in token of the ceremony. To indicate a birth the wheel is stopped in a slanting position, but at a more acute angle than that of a marriage, and with the two upper sails unfurled. Should a miller die the sails of his mill are all furled, and the wheel is turned round until the arms form an upright cross, in which position they are left until after the funeral.

**Self-Sacrifice.**  
"I guess I'll go back to the country, said the gentle grandmother.  
"What's the trouble?" inquired her son-in-law. "Aren't we treating you right?"  
"Yes. But the baseball season is here, and I won't be able to resist the temptation to see the games."  
"No. If I am seen in the grand stand looking hale and hearty I'll be almost sure to spoil somebody's excuse for being away from the office."—Washington Star.

As for the half-blood children, as they grow up they are asked to the country dance or the picnic with the white young men and women of the