

Topics of the Times

The tornado season is "on," and countless roofs are off, in several Western states.

No doubt there are a lot of men who think a great deal of the theory that laziness is a disease.

Mrs. Hetty Green's face may require beauty treatment, but the face value of her notes needs no poundage.

A clergyman has placed a ban on woman's big hats. Everything else was placed there by the makers.

Let nobody say the cottonwood is a useless tree. It has been tapped and found to contain natural gas.

The man who swallowed a check for \$150 must have some personal knowledge of undigestible securities.

Those night riders have been in the saddle long enough by this time to be bow-legged, so that detection should be an easy matter.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt admits that his income has been reduced to \$800,000 a year, but he is keeping a stiff upper lip and hoping for the best.

The man who led a double life on a salary of \$16 a week must seem like a wizard to the men who find it hard to live a single life on double that.

The "Rev." Billy Sunday makes a proper protest against the man who guzzles champagne. Down with the man who guzzles anything, especially soup!

The New York Evening Post quotes an article by Dr. Otto Fretter von der Pforden from the Naturwissenschaftliche Wochenschrift. Itisenough-tostaggerhumanity.

There is nothing new in the announcement that war has been declared against the house flies. Our grandmothers used to fight them from morning till night.

After the country's standing timber has been exhausted by a wasteful people the Missouri river will furnish a practically inexhaustible supply of snags for the use of the wood pulp trust.

The story is told of a Texas couple who walked ten miles through rain and mud to get married. Until some couple walks that far, under similar conditions, to get a divorce, we're going to remain optimistic on the subject of marriage.

Between the birth of the famous General John A. Dix, in 1798, and the death of his noted son, the Rev. Morgan Dix, this spring, every President of the United States has lived. Washington did not die till 1799, when the elder Dix was more than a year old. These two men, father and son, lived in three centuries, and were ornaments of two.

American national songs have been frequently criticized severely. The music has been objected to as having been borrowed, the words as not poetic. On the other hand, Dr. Walsh, the Scottish preacher, who lately visited the United States, remarks that "America" has one noble merit: "It is the least bellicose of national hymns."

America has offended some of its profoundest European critics by its chronic optimism. What an American philosopher calls the religion of healthy-mindedness flourishes in this country more than in any other; our determined good cheer and faith in prosperity make the sad-eyed world shake its wise head. The same critics will no doubt find another example of our incorrigible shallowness in the National Prosperity Association, recently formed in St. Louis, and will think its motto, "Give us a rest and sunshine," hopelessly silly. But underneath this campaign of optimism is some hard American business sense, and boards of trade and other business organizations all over the country have joined in an application of mind-cure to the financial depression.

Poor, blind, foolish creatures that we are, we seek through the whole world for remedies; and seek in vain, forgetting that God in His goodness has placed them right before us. The city man, sick and tired of the noise, the confusion, the dirt, the smoke, the unending bustle and rush and roar and rattle, yearns for surcease and for calm. If he will follow the true dictates of his soul he will cut out the trip to Europe, or to a watering place, and go to the good green country. It will save him much money, and maybe his life. Here may his weary heart find peace complete in miracles of color, in spicy, subtle odors, in sounds, firm, deep, tumultuous. Here may he be waked, fresh and bright, by the Bob White's whistle on the dewy dawn, to dream through days that are long-spun threads of gold linked by starry nights of silver. Here may he drink, through every quickened sense, the cup that Nature fills for us—a happy, draught, un-mixed with pain. Solitude, plain food, pure water, fresh air, clear sunshine and the good old earth, all roofed in by the sky—the best sanitarium that

ever was! All the learned specialists, with all their intricate formulas, may fail to help you, and a brief clasp by mother nature, close to her heart, may make a new man of you. All the medicinal baths, even at the furthest end of the earth, cannot equal a plunge at dawn into an ice-cold pool direct from a hillside spring. All the dieticians cannot prescribe a more healthful breakfast than eggs and milk fresh from the farmyard. All the physical directors cannot devise a better exercise than a brisk walk in the bright sunshine along a country road.

What would Dr. Johnson have said if he could have foreseen that within two hundred years of his time those whom he aptly characterized as "wretched unidea'd girls" would develop to the point where they could gather in a single city nearly a thousand of their sex, each of whom bore the time-honored degree of bachelor of arts? If the gruff old critic could have been in Boston at the recent assembly of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, he must have amended his savage comparison of a woman's preaching to a dog's walking on his hind legs—not well done, but surprising in that it should be done at all. For these learned ladies spoke well, presided with dignity and fairness, debated with courtesy, and got through a vast deal of business and pleasure in the week of their meeting. The association comprises the women graduates of twenty-five selected colleges. It numbers thirty-six branches and about thirty-five hundred members. It has an interest in every problem of education and sociology, and is full of a warm good-fellowship. The subjects of discussion at this twenty-fifth anniversary of the association were numerous; but two facts in regard to the meetings struck an impartial observer. First, the women were not anxious to do all the talking themselves. They called to their platform a large number of men wise in counsel, who gave of their very best to the large audiences, of whom certainly nine-tenths were alumnae. In the second place, the note of the meeting was in great contrast to the radicalism which marked similar conferences ten years ago. The conservative woman had her say and won her praise. The educated wife and mother was recognized as the finest product of civilization. The teacher—the foster-mother of society—was given the glory too often denied her. In short, there was good cheer in these alumnae meetings for every girl who wants discipline and knowledge just that she may use them to make herself a better daughter, friend, wife and mother, and an uplifting and regenerating social force, in whatever station it has pleased God to call her.

THE SICKROOM.

How to Disinfect It Thoroughly After Contagious Diseases.

Thorough disinfection after contagious diseases means the burning of such things as carpets, mattresses, comforts, blankets and curtains unless it is possible to subject them to the action of steam. With the room stripped of all draperies, etc., wash all the furniture with bichloride of mercury in solution. To make the solution pour a gallon of boiling rainwater upon four ounces of the salt, stir it till dissolved, let cool and dilute it one-half. After washing with it thoroughly, rinse in tepid water and rub dry. When the things are outside wash the paint and walls with the same solution; also put plenty of it in the water for washing windows. If there is a closet wash it all over inside and afterward fill any cracks with soft putty. Wash the floor, slopping it freely with the bichloride first, as danger lurks in every grain of dust, says the Delineator.

After the washing—not sooner—open windows from the top and let stand a few minutes. Shut them tight, and paste paper over the cracks about them; also over any cracks in the wall and a double sheet over the fireplace. Tack a strip of tin around the inner edge of the door, so that when the door shuts the tin will close the crack. Next put a big iron pan in the middle of the floor, set an iron skillet in the middle of it, and put into the skillet a pound of flowers of sulphur. Pour an ounce of alcohol on the sulphur, stick in a short fuse, light it and go outside, shutting the door. In five minutes look inside to make sure the sulphur is well alight. It will fill the room with thick, stifling smoke. It will also bleach out and destroy any colors on walls or ceilings.

Leave the room shut for twenty-four hours, then open and air well. Remember that bichloride of mercury is deadly poison.

How to Save Trousers.

To save men's trousers cut a broom-stick so it will fit under the lowest shelf in the clothes closet, cover with cotton batting about three or four thicknesses, then with black cambric, and sew this down tight. Make a loop on either end. Tack two tacks on the shelf in the closet so the stick will hang about three or four inches down. Fold men's and boys' trousers by creases, and they will look like new every time by hanging them across the covered stick.

How It Was.

Jinks (in surprise)—Moving again? Just when you were settled?

Binks—Yes; our Willie whipped the jantor's boy.—Puck.

What has become of the married woman who looked in a superior way at the old maids?

MANAGING A NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTION

Slight Variation in the Procedure Between Republicans and Democrats.

Great Power Wielded Vigorously by the National Committee Preliminary to the Gathering—Handful of Leaders Control Machinery, Nominations and Platform.

National conventions are very expensive affairs. Their cost to the party holding them is estimated at not less than \$150,000, and perhaps more. In each great party is a body of wise men known as the "National Committee." This body is the acme of political ascension. A man may be a proud member of a division committee, which is the first step in the ladder. But when he reaches the dizzy heights of national committee man from his State and appears at the convention with a badge as big as an ancient breast-plate, so that there can be no mistake in his standing, the height of ambition is reached. There is one national committee man from each State. This august body meets in December preceding a national convention, examines the claims of the different cities that desire the gathering, and critically looks into the size of the "guarantee," as it is called. This latter form means that the city paying the most money usually gets the convention. The guarantee is accepted by the committee men, and they then proceed to spend it lavishly. Apartments at the most expensive hotels are secured, a host of employes is retained and business begins in real form. The hotel bills of the National Committees are something enormous.

Machinery of a Convention.
While the preliminaries are being arranged the delegates are arriving. The delegate to the National Convention is generally a person of importance at his home. The Democrats require a two-thirds vote of all the delegates present and voting to make a nomination. The Republicans require a majority of those present and voting.

At a national convention each State has its own headquarters, where the delegates gather. They do a lot of "conferring" with each other and with delegates from other States. They hold meetings and elect chairmen and honorary vice presidents. The honorary vice president has a seat on the platform and an extra ticket, but little else. The chairman does the dickerling in some cases; in some cases the position is a sinecure. Usually the "conferring" and the dickerling begin days before the convention is to be called to order.

Prior to the calling of the convention to order the National Committee is virtually in command of the situation. With it lies the arranging of the details, the "framing up" of the procedure of the first session, the selection of the temporary chairman, and, in a great many cases, though not always, the program making of the whole convention, temporary and permanent organizations, nominating and platform building.

Convention Is in Order.
Now for the convention, the great meeting that the country has looked forward to for so many weeks. The chairman of the National Committee calls the convention to order, usually about noon upon the day set.

The convention called to order, the proceedings are opened with prayer. The chairman requests the secretary to read the call for the convention, which is done. Then the roll call is gone through, and this takes a lot of time. The next step is the announcement by the chairman that the committee offers to the convention as its temporary chairman the name of So-and-So. There are loud and prolonged cheers, and by a viva voce vote Mr. So-and-So is unanimously elected. There is usually little trouble over the election of a temporary chairman. The chairman then appoints a committee to escort the temporary chairman to the platform; the band plays, the delegation from Mr. So-and-So's State makes a lot of noise, and all is merry.

It is incumbent on the temporary chairman to make a speech. He invariably takes advantage of the opportunity. He "sounds a keynote." It is a sustained note. It is invariably a tribute to the "party of Abraham Lincoln" at the Republican convention, and a glorification of the "party of Thomas Jefferson" at the Democratic. It lasts a very long time.

After the speech various resolutions are offered. Usually these have been arranged for in advance, and the temporary chairman works according to a printed schedule, calling on John Doe and Richard Roe at the right time, so that there may be no hitch. Committees are appointed; one on resolutions, which will have the drafting of the platform; one on credentials or contested seats; one on permanent organization. These are the important ones. When they are all chosen, and there has been a lot of hand-clapping and cheering, as well-known men are appointed to this or that committee, the temporary chairman announces an

adjournment, usually until the next day.

Pulling Wires in Committee.
At last the machinery is in motion and the district delegate begins to wonder what he is on hand for. A big man at home, he is lost in the hurly burly and roar of the convention. He may be assigned to a committee, but he had nothing to do with that. The State boss decided that so-and-so should be a member of the Permanent Organization Committee; that Mr. Brown, who is a political economist, should be honored by a seat in the Resolutions Committee, and that the Boss himself or one of his most trusted lieutenants should be a member of the Credentials Committee. These bodies all meet separately. All the contests that were handled by the National Committee the week previous go to the Committee on Credentials unless pressure has been brought to have the contestants withdraw their fight. The Credentials Committee wires are pulled the same as was the National Committee, and the result is usually nearly the same.

Framing the Platform.
It is when the district delegate sits in the Committee on Resolutions to draft the platform that he begins to realize that he is only a small "c" compared with the bosses. The genial Mr. Doe, who has been coming to the national conventions since 1858, is elected chairman with a hurrah. He assumes his position and draws from his pocket a carefully prepared document, which the secretary proceeds to read. The district delegate might have had an idea some time previously that he would be consulted as to the platform. But the party leaders saved him all the trouble and worryment. They had skilled men at work on the platform weeks before, and it is built according to their ideas. The committee usually adopts the platform with a rush. Sometimes there is a fight on particular topics. But party expediency usually rules.

Real Work Now Begins.
The Credentials Committee frequently sits for three days and the convention must wait until its labors are finished. The Committee on Permanent Organization is usually a cut and dried affair. Finally the Credentials Committee reports and the new roll is made up. Then the Committee on Permanent Organization makes its report. It recommends that the "Honorable Senator or Mr. So-and-So" be called upon to preside. Cheers greet the name, and the gentleman is escorted to the platform. After he has been elected he makes a profound speech, the other officers are chosen and, like race horses, the meet is on.

If the Committee on Platform is ready to report it reports after the permanent chairman has made his speech. On the report there must be a roll call. There is always, too, the possibility of a fight. Certain "planks" that please Maine may be abhorrent to Texas. When the matter of the platform is disposed of, either by the committee reporting or by the announcement that it is not ready to report, the permanent chairman announces another recess; maybe until the next day, possibly until later in the same day.

Nomination of a Candidate.
Frequently the time is taken up with speeches plying the candidates for President in nomination. These addresses are usually good in their way. Men noted for their eloquence, who can portray the virtues of the aspirant in language that will thrill their hearers, are selected for this work. The platform is usually accorded the speaker and his oration is hailed with deafening applause and cheers. Each candidate is brought to the front and his works painted in glowing colors. Then comes the critical period. The district delegate believes now is the moment when he counts for something.

The roll call begins and proceeds monotonously. The chairmen of the different delegations alone do the talking. That is all there is to it. The first ballot in the convention is usually devoted to complimenting favorite sons. After that the real work begins. The district delegate learns that he is not to vote as he intended, but that he will vote for some one else on the second ballot.

Suddenly there is a roar in the convention. It is a mighty shout, louder than cannon. Somebody has been nominated for President. Amidst great disorder the roll call is pushed to conclusion. The chairman tries to learn how the tellers agree in their count. But the crowd knows all about it. The chairman, powerless as Mrs. Partington with a broom against the waves of the ocean, tries to do his duty. The shouts and cheers keep up for ten or

more minutes. Exalted men parade the aisles, carrying their State banners, cheering and singing. Finally, when order is restored, the chairman announces formally the name of the nominee.

World Knows the News Quickly.
This is greeted by more cheering and everybody is happy except the friends of the defeated. They move to make the nomination unanimous with a formal grace that lacks enthusiasm. This is done and the band plays. In the meantime the click of the telegraph instrument shows that the news has been carried to every town and hamlet in the country. It has been cabled to foreign countries. The rulers of all nations know within a few minutes after the nomination who is the prospective President of the United States.

No matter how long it has taken to choose a nominee for the Presidency, the whole performance has to be gone through again when it comes to nominating a candidate for the second place on the ticket. There are not so many "favorite sons," however, and one ballot frequently suffices. More noise, more enthusiasm. The convention has nominated the ticket.

THE "FIXER" OF GOTHAM.

New York East Side Character Has a Real Mission in Life.

You will not find him mentioned in the city's charter nor on the pay roll of Greater New York, but the east side "fixer" is an established institution and is as important in his way as the policeman who samples the wares of the pushcart peddler, or as the white-robed street cleaner.

When aliens come to this country, says the American Hebrew, and are enmeshed in a mountain of ordinances and regulations it is obvious that their lapses from the straight path marked out for the native must be viewed with an eye of softened by kindness.

"This eye of kindness is the 'fixer.' He is the man who rushes to the rescue of the unfortunate wight who has been caught in the wheels of the law and who needs a sponsor.

"Necessarily the 'fixer' is the intimate friend of the ward heeler, of the district leader and necessarily of the Judges of the minor courts. He is usually bluff, hearty, good-natured and with a genuine love for his fellow citizens.

"When a pushcart peddler is suddenly made to realize that he is violating the law by standing on one spot for more than the regulation number of minutes, and he is arrested by the policeman who has been sampling his beans or his fruit, it is not a pleasant situation in which he would find himself if he had no means of communicating with friends who are friends of the 'fixer.'

"It is the 'fixer' who sees the district leader for him, who appears in court to say a good word for him, who sees the Judge before the case is called, and who, if necessary, puts up the bail to take him out of jail for the night.

"It must not be supposed that the 'fixer' is a philanthropist. He disdains ethics and civic virtue as the fanatic mouthing of the silk-stocking folk.

What he does is done for his own good. "If he does not receive his fee in money he knows he may count upon the renewed individual for his vote, and a vote is easily converted into monetary value. As the friend of those in distress he becomes an influence in the neighborhood, and an army of such friends may lead to political preferment of lasting importance."

The Remittance Man.
Throughout the west from Cape Nome to San Diego, stretch long ranks of pioneers, building great cities, turning arid deserts into fertile plains, harnessing mighty rivers to do man's bidding, clearing away primeval forests, laying the foundation of an empire in lands where solitude has reigned supreme. But one figure stands aloof from the stern-faced, hurrying throng, unmoved by all their clamor and contentious of their feverish strivings, it is the Remittance Man. Here on the skirtnish line of civilization, with the roar of battle ringing in his ears, with men on every side of him rushing eagerly into the fray, some to emerge victorious, some to fall fighting gallantly against odds, he remains an only-slightly-interested onlooker. The remittance men in large numbers come from England and are supported by money regularly sent to them. They have left their native lands on account of some scandal, or infraction of the law, or family disagreement, and form few ties here.

Battlefield Logic.
Among the men who served with Roosevelt's rough riders in Cuba was a little Dutch Jew, who, according to the men in his own troop, was "the very incarnation of cool, impudent bravado in a fight." He was a consistent fatalist.

One day he observed a comrade dodging a spent bullet that had whistled uncomfortably close to him.

"Yat's de use to todge dem bullets?" sang out the little Jew. "Dey'll hit you shunt as vell vere you are as vere you ain't!"—Everybody's Magazine.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1035—Aragon became an independent monarchy.
- 1381—Wat Tyler assembled 100,000 of his followers at Blackheath.
- 1622—Sir William Alexander sent a pioneer vessel to found Scotland's first colony in America.
- 1646—The first patent in America granted to Joseph Jenks, a machinist of Lynn, Mass.
- 1773—The independence of Aracania, a province in South America, recognized by Spain, after a continuous warfare of more than 200 years.
- 1798—Bonaparte seized Malta.
- 1801—Tripoli declared war against the United States.
- 1813—Battle of Stony Creek, Canada.
- 1820—Branch of the United States mint established at St. Louis.
- 1840—Natchez, Miss., nearly destroyed by a tornado.
- 1847—Death of Sir John Franklin in the arctic region.
- 1854—Crystal Palace opened by Queen Victoria.
- 1861—Tennessee seceded from the Union. Neutrality in the American conflict proclaimed by Napoleon III.
- 1862—United States Senate decreed the abolition of slavery in all the territories of the Union. United States Congress recognized the independence of Hayti and Liberia.
- 1864—Gen. Fremont accepted the Republican presidential nomination.
- 1865—Federal troops took possession of Galveston.
- 1868—Chinese embassy received at Washington.
- 1872—Construction on the St. Gothard Tunnel through the Alps begun.
- 1878—Januarus McGahan, famous American newspaper correspondent who has been called the liberator of Bulgaria, died in Constantinople.
- 1884—Noah Haynes Swayne, Lincoln's first appointment to the United States Supreme Court, died in New York City. Samuel J. Tilden declined the nomination for President.
- 1891—Perry sailed from New York on an exploring expedition to Greenland.
- 1899—Dreyfus left Devil's Island.
- 1900—Pretoria surrendered to the British.
- 1902—Centennial of the United States military academy at West Point celebrated.
- 1903—King and Queen of Serbia assassinated at Belgrade.
- 1905—President Roosevelt appealed to Japan and Russia for a meeting of the two powers to consider terms of peace. Marriage of Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany and Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Russia and Japan accepted the offer of President Roosevelt to act as mediator. King Alfonso arrived in England on his first visit.
- 1907—Richard Croker's Orby won the English Derby. A Franco-Japanese convention was signed at Paris. King Oscar and Queen Sophia of Sweden celebrated their golden wedding.

POLITICS and POLITICIANS

New Hampshire Democrats have elected an unpledged delegation to the Denver convention.

Taft and Bryan have agreed to urge the publication of campaign expense accounts, and both asked Congress to enact a law requiring such publication.

The Democratic State convention at Baltimore voted down resolutions instructing delegates for Bryan at Denver, although a strong faction of the convention demanded such a course.

Senator Bailey has been elected to head the Texas delegation to the Democratic national convention, and has been informed for re-election to the Senate. The delegation will favor Bryan for President.

In Oregon the remarkable political outcome of the new initiative and referendum laws is the nomination of a Democrat, Gov. Chamberlain, for the United States Senate, and the election of a Republican Legislature, each member of which is pledged to abide by the primaries in voting for Senator. Chamberlain's majority over his Republican opponent is about 1,000. He has been twice elected Governor.

Secretary Taft declined to be drawn into a discussion of the report that he would resign from President Roosevelt's cabinet on July 1, this date being fixed in some quarters in the contingency of his receiving the Republican nomination for President.

Former Gov. John Lind and other prominent citizens have become identified with the Minneapolis Voters' League. Until the close of the coming municipal and county campaign the league will be active. The purpose of the league is to secure the election of desirable men to local offices.