

Topics of the Times

Airships are almost as brittle as gingerbread.

There is one thing that has not advanced in price. Talk is as cheap as ever.

Some married man must have originated the idea of sending kisses by wire.

Boston is losing many of her traditions, but she is still thankful for her baked beans.

Somebody wants to change the name of Oshkosh. Kalamazoo, Keokuk and Kankakee are pooh-poohing the idea.

Young Philander Chase Knox swears that he will go to work, if there is no other way. We don't know of any.

If in 1,000 years from now it will be possible to live 120 years it is to be hoped that it will be worth while.

The minister who has resigned his pastorate to become an umpire must expect his future audiences to talk back to him.

Cardinal Gibbons says that the rich cannot corner joy. And the poor do not have to suffer all the pain. Life is still worth living.

It will be almost impossible to counterfeited the new French bank notes, but we get this information from the designer, not from the counterfeiters.

The ways of women are past finding out. The divorced husband of an Ohio woman broke his leg and his wife came back and remarried him out of sympathy.

The Supreme Court of Georgia has decided that a woman possesses the inherent right to change her mind. Human nature continues to play a strong hand in Georgia.

A New York cartoonist has been ordered to pay his former wife \$400 a month alimony. This will be likely to add to the number of young men who are learning to be cartoonists.

Philander Knox, Jr., has begun his career as a married man by selling two automobiles. He has evidently discovered that it will keep him busy supporting a wife on \$100 a month.

Animated by a burning ambition to do good and make his countrymen happy, a distinguished investigator hastens to assure everybody that the prices of things were just as high in 1837 as they are now, if not a little higher.

Public charity is not always kind, but the order recently issued by the Boston police commissioner indicates that he understands human nature. Hereafter the names of families found in destitution are to be kept from the public and reported only to such authorities as have a right to know and a desire to give relief.

The inducements to temperance are many. A small town recently voted to remain "dry" for fifty years in order to accept the conditional gift of a millionaire, who offered it an electric light plant, a sewerage system and, to cap the climax, a water works plant. Other improvements of less importance were included in the proviso. All in all, everybody, even the millionaire, is benefited.

Four hundred and fifty-nine dollars is the amount which a young man working as a day laborer saved in two years. He had insisted in an argument that a laborer can save money, and to prove his point announced that he would save four hundred dollars in twenty-four months. He worked for eleven different men in that time, and the highest wage he received was forty dollars a month. But he demonstrated that a man can save money if he is willing to make an effort.

Mrs. Martin W. Littleton's Bible study class has evoked many imitators in New York, and society women, who are told by voracious correspondents, are enthusiastic over the new departure. Quite apart from its religious significance, the Bible is a comprehensive compendium of literary excellence in which the most capricious mind can find satisfaction. Romance, war, government, intrigue, law and civilization are all written into its wonderful pages. And, to judge from the stories that fill the newspapers, society will be none the worse for a daily chapter from the Bible. The absence of moral training from the average American school is blamed by many students of history for the present unsettled condition of public and private conscience. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that Bible reading will notably improve the present adult generation, but, if it serves only to awaken the public mind to the necessity of teaching children at least the ordinary virtues of good citizenship, great good will result.

One Dr. Steiner, Professor of Applied Christianity at Iowa College, in a recent address to the Young Men's Christian Association at Columbia University, asserted that "the nine hundred thousand immigrants who came to our shores last year served a far better purpose than an equal number of university graduates unwilling to begin work at the bottom of the ladder." This is one of those

broad, sweeping assertions that learned lecturers like to make, perhaps to arouse the flagging interest of their audience and the public. The immigration question can stand upon its own bottom. This country still welcomes aliens with few limitations, and a large percentage of the influx from foreign lands become valuable citizens. But the national commissioner of immigration says that at least two hundred thousand, and probably more, of the aliens who came here last year are not wanted; that they will be of no benefit to the country, but on the contrary a detriment. In 1905 President Roosevelt, speaking of immigration, said: "Distribution of these aliens is of little value unless there is adequate restriction. These immigrants are wheedled and cajoled often against their best interests, to come here." So it seems that our immigration laws might still be beneficially amended with a view to securing a better class of incoming population and to protecting the immigrants themselves against cajolery and fraud. As for the university graduates and the immigrants, there is no just basis of comparison between them. If the demand is for the most unskilled class of manual labor, perhaps the humble immigrant is more valuable; but a young man, native to the soil, upon whom his family have expended loving pains, as well as money, to train in the right way, and who has had the advantage of one of our great institutions of learning, ought to be more valuable in an all-round way. The complaint that scholastic graduates are not willing to begin at the bottom of the ladder is hardly tenable as applied to the whole graduating body. Most of the educated young men nowadays seem to be willing to begin at the foot, in any line they may choose, and work up. This is one of the facts which affords the most hopeful indication of the future of the country.

BASEBALL IN CANAL ZONE.

Game Has as Great a Hold There as It Has in the United States.

Baseball has become as popular here as in the United States, a New York Herald Cristobal (Panama) correspondent says. The American national game is now in its third year of prosperity.

As a matter of fact so strongly has the game taken a hold in this tropical country that little cards reading something like this are found in the offices of heads of departments: "Notice—All requests for leave of absence owing to grandmother's funeral, lame back, house cleaning, moving, sore throat, turning the wringer, headache, brain storm, cousin's wedding, birth of twins, general indisposition, etc., must be handed to the manager not later than 10 o'clock on the morning of the game."

The Americans brought the game here and it has come to stay. The natives and foreigners have begun to take an interest in the sport, and quite a few not only take part in the "rooting" for the home team, but have learned to play.

Two well organized leagues hold the chief attention, although a number of independent teams have been formed. The two leagues are the Isthmian and the Atlantic. The former is made up of teams representing Gargona, Ancon, Empire and the Marines, while the Atlantic is composed of the Commissary-Subsistence, Civil Administration, Panama Railroad and Colon. Practically all of these nine are drafted from the men working for the government, but the class of ball put up is exceptionally fast and the rivalry is intense.

The season opens with the dry season, in January, and the fight for the pennant will last until June, when the rains put in an appearance. The competition for places on the regular nine is as spirited and interesting as those which take place in the States where college men are trying for the varsity.

Many previous college ball players are here on the isthmus, and most of the teams are fully equal to the best of the college and university nines in the United States. Baseball is so American that even those who did not care much for the sport in the States take in the games here and there is no lack of support. The prices for admission in silver run from bleachers at 50 cents to the box seats at \$2.00.

Easy Case for Sleuth.

A New York poet, at the Authors Club in 7th avenue, told a Coman Doyle story.

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," he said, "sat at a dinner on his last visit here beside a lady, who asked leave to consult him about some thefts.

"My detective powers," he replied, "are at your service, madam."

"Well," said the lady, "frequent and mysterious thefts have been occurring at my house for a long time. Thus, there disappeared last week a motor horn, a broom, a box of golf balls, a left riding boot, a dictionary and a half-dozen pieplates."

"Aha," said the creator of Sherlock Holmes, "the case, madam, is quite clear. You keep a goat."

Just a Reminder.

John Mitchell, at the Civic Federation's recent convention in Washington, said, apropos of manual labor:

"The man who boasts that he works with his head instead of his hands might be reminded that the woodpecker does the same, and is the biggest bore in the business."

Of Course.

"George, what is this 'Rockefeller foundation' made of?"

"Rocks, of course."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Every man who owns a show is too prominent in it himself.

GREATEST WOMAN SCIENTIST.

Mme. Curie Shares with Most Savants Faculty of Abstraction.

In a quiet little house in Paris, screened from the outer world by a high wall, lives Mme. Curie, co-discoverer with her late husband of radium. Other women who might be inclined to envy this most wonderful of feminine scientists are disarmed by her extreme modesty. When an admirer belabors her with compliments upon her achievements she smiles almost in astonishment and shrugs her shoulders as if she had done little to make a fuss about.

When, upon the death of her husband, she was appointed to a chair at the Sorbonne, the great seat of learning in Paris, it was decided by several women to present her with a testimonial. The occasion demanded it (so it was thought), for was not Mme. Curie the first woman who had ever achieved such an honor?

The scientist's reply, however, spoiled everything. She said quietly: "It would be contrary to my husband's ideas and certainly to my own." So her feminine admirers departed without leaving their testimonial behind them.

Yet, despite her modesty, it is known that she was more than a mere assistant to her husband. It is, indeed, claimed that she herself was the origi-

government has agreed with the opposition so far as to restrict the principle of compulsory contribution to town and rural wage earners, otherwise workmen in the ordinary sense of this term, and to make contribution optional to the large class of small farmers, petty land owners and part-profit cultivators (metayers), all of whom are laborers in reality. If they do not contribute they cannot benefit by the pensions scheme. These rural classes are computed at 6,000,000 in number.

Forty years hence, when the scheme is in full operation, the pensioners will have \$83 a year. They will start the year after the bill is passed with \$20.40 a year, the pension to rise gradually during the interval, a correspondent of the New York Sun says.

The chief newspapers on the government side predict that early in April the bill will become law, and will be regarded as the greatest achievement of the third republic, but a great many prominent politicians are not so optimistic. Many Senators have voted for the second reading of the bill for no other reason than getting a better opportunity of making a more systematic and concentrated attack on the compulsory clauses.

Has Pins Worth \$25,000.

Led on by a love for rare and unique scarf pins, A. M. Brinckle, known throughout the country as the "scarf-



MADAME CURIE AND HER DISCOVERIES.

nator of the radium discoveries. The best testimonial to her abilities came from Prof. Curie himself when he was offered the decoration of the Cross of the Legion of Honor and refused it because the same decoration was not offered to his wife.

She shares with most savants that faculty of abstraction that is so valuable to those engaged in scientific work. When she is employed upon a difficult piece of research she hears nothing, sees nothing and is unmoved by anything that is not directly concerned with her investigations. It is said that once when in the middle of an absorbing experiment a servant ran into the laboratory, screaming loudly: "Madame, madame, I have swallowed a pin!" "There, there, don't cry," said Mme. Curie, soothingly, "there is another that you may have."

Mme. Curie has a sister who is a notable doctor of medicine in Austria, and as an instance of heredity it may be said that the famous scientist believes that her little daughter shows promise of even more brilliant scientific powers than herself. She is training the child with the intention of developing these talents to the utmost.

FRANCE'S OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Act Which Properly Will Pass Follows German Lines.

The French old-age pensions scheme, the bill for which has just passed its first reading in the Senate, follows the Prussian rather than the English measure. As in Prussia, it is contributory and compulsory, workmen and employers contributing an equal amount annually.

Men are to pay \$1.80, women \$1.20 and persons under 18 90 cents yearly until their 65th year, when they will become entitled to a pension, which will be paid from the total contributions plus the employers' quota and a sum of \$12 paid by the State. The conditions for receiving the full pension are that the worker shall have contributed to the fund for thirty years, including in the case of men the two years of military service. Those who have contributed for more than ten years and less than thirty will be entitled to a reduced pension.

Existing friendly societies which may be taken into the scheme will be authorized to collect old-age contributions from their members. They will receive from the State a contribution of 30 cents a head for sickness and insurance, plus an additional sum to cover expenses.

The working classes in France are estimated to number 11,000,000. The

pin man," arrived in Des Moines to continue his search for new designs to add to his collection, the Evening Tribune of that city says.

During the years of travel in his capacity as salesman for a Connecticut cut-glass concern Mr. Brinckle has gathered together the largest assortment of rare and beautiful scarf pins in the world. The collection contains 1,016 pins and is valued at \$25,000.

Jewelers in all large cities know of Mr. Brinckle because of his fad. He is referred to in most localities as the "scarf-pin man" because of the fact that he wears so many unique pins. He declares that only once during the last fifteen years have any of his customers seen him wearing the same scarf pin. He also has a collection of 300 scarfs.

Gathering scarf pins is a hobby with Mr. Brinckle. Although unusual and costly, it has proved to be intensely interesting. A large number of the settings have a history, which the owner, with enthusiastic pride, loves to relate. The collection was recently placed on exhibition at Tiffany's in New York, where many admiring collectors offered immense sums for the rarest specimens.

Kipling in the Herring Line.

Senator Beveridge, apropos of fame, said at a Washington luncheon:

"What is fame, after all? Kipling, when he lived in Brattleboro, Vt., took a trip to Montpellier. The first evening he came down to the hotel dining room he overheard this dialogue between two waiters:

"First Waiter—Do you know who that is, George?"

"Second Waiter—No. Who is it?"

"First Waiter—That is the celebrated Kipperin."

"Second Waiter—What's he done?"

"First Waiter—Hanged if I know. Fish line, ain't it?"

A Relief.

"Johnny," said the boy's mother, "I hope you have been a nice, quiet boy at school this afternoon."

"That's what I was," answered Johnny. "I went to sleep right after dinner, and the teacher said she'd whip any boy in the room who waked me up."—Boston Post.

When your cow gets out, how the neighbors enjoy running in and telling you about it!

If a man's acquaintance don't know that he is in love it's a sign that he isn't.

What is one man's hobby may be another man's nightmare.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

In Russia cigarettes are used more widely than cigars.

The earth's fertile area is estimated at 28,269,200 square miles.

Oklahoma has the greatest Indian population of any of the states of this country, numbering 117,370.

Though heat will make a solid or a liquid incandescent, it can only increase the pressure of a gas.

During the last year the steamboat inspection service of this country passed on 161,206 life preservers.

The highest inhabited place in the world is the Buddhist monastery of Ilaine, Thibet, which is about 17,000 feet above sea level.

Pure ground coffee will not discolor cold water until it has been soaked for some time, while the addition of chicory as an adulterant will immediately impart a brownish hue.

A new English safety oil lamp for miners is lighted without removing the protecting gauze by a platinum wire through which a current of electricity is passed from a storage battery.

A Californian has taken advantage of the fact that flies always walk up a window by inventing a trap to be fastened to a pane in such a manner that a fly will enter it without being aware that it has left the surface of the glass.

One of the big Brazilian railroads has just completed a plan by which it will send four of its mechanics to the United States every six months and put them at work in some of our big railroad shops, so that they may become familiar with American methods.

A will was contested not long ago in New York because the testatrix had bequeathed a grand piano, several oil paintings and five pieces of Japanese pottery to a police station. The protesting legatee won out and there was a reversion of those art treasures to the regular heirs.

Rumors have been rife that the constitution of young Japan is degenerating year after year, says the Eibun Tsushinsha, but they are firmly denied by the authorities, who are of the opinion that according to the reports of the physicians of conscripts both constitution and weight are showing an upward tendency on the whole, and there is not a bit of cause to justify the rumors.—Japan Advertiser.

King Albert of the Belgians has the distinction of being the only royalty who has served an apprenticeship as newspaper reporter. For four years he was the regularly accredited marine reporter of a Belgian weekly, and in the pursuit of his duties traveled through most of the countries of Europe, visiting the ship yards. The incentive behind it all is a deep interest in the maritime future of Belgium.—London Opinion.

Europe's forest schools—at Charlottenburg, Dresden and Elberfeld, in Germany, also at Bristol Wood, near London—are attracting the interest of physicians and teachers. Charlottenburg school is situated in the midst of the pine woods, and the only protection ever offered is a mere roof in case of rain. No lesson periods are longer than 25 minutes, and much time is given to play. Five simple meals are served the children daily.

At the opening of the Ruskin park extension, Denmark Hill, Mr. George Alexander said that in coming down he asked Mr. Severin what was Ruskin's favorite game, and was told, "Battledore and shuttlecock." Mr. Severin also told him that Ruskin believed in exercises that were useful, and when at Oxford advised some ladies who had given him a catalog of the various exercises they practiced that the better than all would be to carry the coals upstairs.—Westminster Review.

Many amazing sounds have been heard in various parliaments, and it is not so very long ago that the barking of dogs, the mewling of cats and the quacking of ducks were upon occasion heard in our own house of commons. It is rather curious, therefore, that yesterday is said to have been the first time that the shout of "Puff!" was raised in the Prussian chamber. It is a sort of combination of the English "boo" and the French "Gonspeuz!" and is singularly impressive.—London Globe.

Have you ever heard your blood? Have you ever put one of those large sea shells to your ear and heard what the children say is the sound of the sea, the "music of the waves?" Well, that is really the sound of your blood—as it circulates—echoed in the empty shell. You can hear it sometimes when your head is on a pillow, but it does not sound so musical then. Try the shell at any time and you will find that your blood is always flowing. Stick your thumb in your ear and listen. That is nature's way of constantly carrying the nourishment from well digested food to every part of your body.—New York Press.

"Any one with the price can do as Gaylord Wilshire did—go to Inyo county, California, and stand on a mountain of gold and silver ore," said a mining man. "Every one of my age in the business," he continued, "knows about that mountain of gold and silver ore. The late Senator Stewart and ex-Senator Jones, both of Nevada, spent millions trying to get gold and silver out of that ore at a profit. That was the famous Panamint mine operation. Jones and Stewart and others lost every cent they put into that deal. The gold and silver are there, sure enough, but the rock is 'rebellious' to a degree that the science of mill men and furnace men has never been able to overcome."—New York Sun.



"How do you keep your razor sharp?" "Easy enough. I hide it where my wife can't find it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"How Tillie's clothes hang about her! Why, they don't fit at all." "But think how much worse she would look if they did."—Life.

Guest—Gracious! What long legs the new waiter has! Host—Yes, I engaged him specially for the diners who are in a hurry.—Meggendorfer Blatter.

Miss Kidder—S'sh! Carrie has dyed her hair black. Don't tell anybody. Miss Askitt—Is it a secret? Miss Kidder—Yes; she wants to keep it dark.—Boston Globe.

"What part of the railway train do you regard as the most dangerous?" inquired the nervous man. "The dining car," answered the dyspeptic.—Washington Star.

"I'll be ready in a minute," she said to her husband. "You needn't hurry, now," he called up some time later. "I find that I shall have to shave again."—Detroit Free Press.

"I thought you said you told your wife everything you did." "I do." "It's mighty strange. She hasn't said a word to my wife about the \$10 you borrowed from me."—Washington Star.

Patience—They say she got all her furniture on the installment plan? Patrice—She did. She has had four husbands, and she got a little furniture with each one.—Yonkers Statesman.

She—Don't you think woman's suffrage would be a fine thing? He—I know I could always persuade my wife to vote as I wanted by telling her I intended voting the other way.—Boston Globe.

"Why can't that prima donna sing more than twice a week?" "I don't know," answered the impresario, "unless it's because she tired out her vocal cords arguing with me about salary."—Washington Star.

Maud—So he had the cheek to ask my age, did he? Well, what did you tell him? Ethel—I told him I didn't know positively, but I thought you were twenty-four on your thirtieth birthday.—Boston Transcript.

"Now, your conduct during the trial may have considerable effect on the jury." "Ah, quite so," responded the ultra-swell defendant. "And should I appear interested or just mildly bored?"—Kansas City Journal.

"You say you have quit smoking?" "Yes, never going to smoke again." "Then why don't you throw away those cigars?" "Never, I threw away a box of good cigars the last time I quit smoking, and it taught me a lesson."

"The way to run this country," said the egotist, "is to put thoroughly wise, capable, alert, and honest men in control of affairs." "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "but what are we going to do? There's only one of you."—Washington Star.

Cholly—The deuce, old chap; I can't go to the party. I have no coliah button. Reggie—Go across the street and buy some, dear fellow. Cholly—But I caawnt. Nobody has my measurements except my tallah, dontcherknow.—Life.

Mr. Dubbs (with a newspaper)—It tells here, my dear, how a progressive New York woman makes her social calls by telephone. Mrs. Dubbs—Progressive. Huh! She's probably like me—not a decent thing to wear.—Boston Transcript.

In a written examination on astronomy one of the questions was, "What happens when there is an eclipse of the moon?" A student with rather a good knack of getting out of a difficulty wrote: "A great many people come out to look at it."

"What's that party kicking about?" said one New Yorker. "Oh, he's one of those guys who are lucky and don't know it," replied the other. "He came here on a round-trip ticket from Philadelphia and lost the return coupon."—Washington Evening Star.

"I'm sure," said the interviewer, "the public would be interested to know the secret of your success." "Well, young man," replied the captain of industry, "the secret of my success has been my ability to keep it a secret."—Sacred Heart Review.

"I'd hate to be a millionaire." "Gosh! Why?" "Well, millionaires are always getting letters threatening them with all sorts of horrible fates unless they immediately pay the writers large sums of money." "That's nothing. I get just such letters on the first of every month."—Cleveland Leader.

"Why," asked the judge, "do you think your husband is dead? You say you haven't heard from him for more than a year. Do you consider that reasonable proof that he has passed out of existence?" "Yes, your honor. If he was still alive he'd be askin' me to send him money."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Cincinnati Tourist (who, for the first time, has just entered a restaurant in Paris)—Have you ordered? St. Louis Tourist (who has reached the table some minutes before, and who looks up from a French bill of fare)—Yes. Cincinnati Tourist—What did you order? St. Louis Tourist (impatiently)—How do I know?—Chicago Daily News.