

Topics of the Times

The bill collector's work may not be very pleasant, but it has to be done.

Even in the case of a wheat crop it is better to wear out than to rust out.

Naturally, the Chicago counterfeiters who needed "dough" did their work in the kitchen.

When a man gets too lazy to enjoy his vacation he obtains his salary under false pretense.

The czar's baby has inspected the Baltic fleet, but declines to give his opinion of it for publication.

Every young man who cleans his clothes with gasoline does not get credit for owning an automobile.

It is now proposed to establish training schools for chauffeurs. It would be more sensible to start training schools for pedestrians.

Pointed shoes are coming back into style. This will enable the corn doctors to quit viewing with alarm and again point with pride.

The son of Tolstoy, the novelist, says that Russia is destined to conquer the world. Of course it will be necessary to conquer Japan first.

Miss Tarbell is now devoting her attention to John D. Rockefeller personally. It is unlikely that she will be able to get any of his hair.

A Wisconsin court has decided that a parent may hurt his boy's physique with a paddle, but must not injure his dignity. Most boys would like to have that decision turned around. The recovery would be sooner.

The reason most of us don't resign our jobs like Mr. Loree is because through inexcusable carelessness in making the contracts we could not continue to draw \$75,000 a year and retain a \$500,000 cash bonus.

Ninety-five rich men are going to have a town of their own near Cleveland and permit only millionaires to live in it. They will need some vigorous watchmen to keep people from throwing stones across the line.

In Lhasa the Lama posted a proclamation on the walls commanding the inhabitants "not to hurt the British as long as they behave themselves." The Lama can now claim that he has established a protectorate over the British.

The United States bought Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000. What would Alaska be worth to Russia now, in her fight with Japan, at which her fleets could rendezvous and coal? As it is, Alaska has produced us \$100,000,000 and has furnished a market for millions of our products.

The German bands may disappear from the streets, but a successor to them is in training. Cries of "Hear! hear!" recently attracted the attention of the dwellers in a New York apartment house. A man with a megaphone at his mouth and a covered table at his side was soon discovered by tenants who crowded the windows and fire-escapes. When the audience seemed large enough, the man uncovered the table, on which there was a phonograph. A succession of songs soon edified the crowd, and the thrifty inventor of a new amusement gathered the coin tossed down to him, and departed for fresh fields.

Lynchings should be stamped out, North and South, East and West. The newspapers, the churches and all educational forces should unite. Laws can't be enforced with effect if popular sentiment is against their enforcement. Anti-lynching sentiment must be created by education. The pulpit, the press, the forum and the school are the institutions that can bring into existence a stable, earnest, law-respecting condition of public mind. The process may be slow, but it will be effective. The anti-lynching crusade should become a national rather than a sectional crusade. For, though it may be more prevalent in some sections than in others, there is evidence that defiance of law can become a national disorder.

Men who separate themselves from their families pay a very high price for success. Some of the very greatest failures in life in America in recent years have been failures of men whose lives and careers are blazoned abroad as those of great, successful men. Their sons are noted for their worthlessness, degenerate sons of worthy sires. These young men are unfit to make a living for themselves and they are unfit to spend the money which their fathers piled up with infinite pains and labors. In these cases it is extremely doubtful if the worth-

less sons are to be blamed; the fathers, the great, successful men, are primarily at fault because, though they made the money and a name, they did not give any time or pains or thought at all to the most important work in the world, which is the rearing of honorable and useful men.

Every autumn thousands play football; hundreds of thousands watch it; and almost all the participants and spectators enjoy it. The only cloud over the game is the belief which some hold that football is more dangerous than other vigorous sports. Anything is "dangerous" to which a greater number of accidents than occur in the normal course of life can be directly traced. The sailor pretended that bed was a dangerous place, because many people die there. A year ago a professor in Illinois University investigated the statistics of football in sixty American colleges, to discover whether the common impression about the game was well grounded. He found that in ten years, among two hundred and ten thousand students enrolled in these colleges, twenty-three thousand, or eleven per cent, played football. Of these only two hundred and sixty were injured badly enough to lose any time from classroom duties. Three were killed. In view of the large number of students engaged in the game, the professor considers the number permanently injured "so small as to be a practically negligible quantity." He finds that in all good institutions football is adequately supervised by the authorities, and that college officers approve the game in the ratio of twenty-seven to one. Finally, accident insurance statistics show that many other sports are more dangerous than football. The case for football rests on the broad reason for all vigorous, manly sport; young men take to such sport naturally, and they need it not only for their physical well-being, but for their moral steadiness. As President Eliot of Harvard has said, athletics are a moral safeguard in discharging the high energies of youth.

Have you a hobby of some kind? If not, get you one. What sort of a hobby? It matters not so it is clean and diverting. Golf, gardening, tennis, croquet, cooking, photography, wheel work or work bench, love or literature—one of these or of a hundred others may save your health. One who takes his business home with him and sleeps with it courts a break-down. He is putting crows feet about his eyes, gray hair in his head, stress on his nerves. He is carrying about a load, one end of which rests upon his brain and the other upon his heart. This sort of a man needs relaxation from his task and a change in the course of his thoughts. Without such a short mental vacation he cannot go to his work with that freshness that is demanded by our competitive living. Get a hobby and ride it some. It is not necessary to ride the hobby all the time. One need not become a crank. Put it through its paces when you are tired. The change will rest you. Ride it when you are blue. The color of life will change. Relax the bent bow so that it may go back with a snap. Note the optimists. Nine out of ten of them either have a hobby or were born to see the bright side. A hobby well ridden will clarify your vision and correct moral or mental strabismus. You can't ride your hobby cross-eyed. The trouble with most of us is that we do not see the need of a hobby until it is rather late to choose one. We are going to be happy—some time. We need a touch of Bill Nye's philosophy: "Enjoy life while you can, for you will be dead a long time." It is a pathetic fact that many of us are dead a long time before comes the holiday we had promised ourselves. Get a hobby.

Cactus Button of Mexico.
Certain of the Indian tribes of Mexico have a curious belief about the cactus button. This is a small apple of a certain kind of cacti. Before it is ripe it is plucked and pressed flat until it is about the size of an American 50-cent piece, but of about half the thickness. These cactus buttons are sold at quite a high price, because the plant is somewhat rare and is found only in high, rocky places, generally difficult of access. This cactus has the effect of leaving the most wonderful and rose-colored dreams to him who indulges in it.

The story of the Indians is that this cactus was once the food of the gods. The evil spirit stole it from men who had found it and begun to eat it. He hid it in the steep mountains, where it was lost for many hundreds of years. But man, who was born with a taste for it in his mouth, never gave up the search for it until at last he found it. It still has the power to give one visions of heaven, its ancient home.

Sea Water as Antifat.
A new fad for reducing fat is causing a good deal of talk in theatrical circles. It is the deep sea water cure.

Any man who can successfully run an automobile, could do well with a flying machine.



Household Talks

Almond Pudding.
This is made with a heaping quart of grated bread crumbs, rather firmly packed; two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, a scant three-fourths of a quart of milk, a cup of sugar, a cup of sweet almonds, blanched and shredded; a quarter of a pound of citron, also shredded; the whites of four eggs, and from ten to fifteen drops of almond extract. The bread crumbs should be thoroughly mixed with the baking powder, and then the citron, nuts, sugar, extract and milk added. Fold in last the whites of the eggs, stiffly whipped, and bake in a steady oven for over an hour, or until it is a rich brown and thoroughly done in the center. Serve the pudding hot, with hard sauce, flavored with almond extract. This pudding can be baked in individual molds, which should be buttered and sugared, or in an ordinary pudding dish. It will not need to bake so long if in small cups.

French Cup Custard.
One quart sweet milk; place on the fire to boil, with the fresh peel of a lemon; when it boils, remove from the fire and let it cool. When cool, remove lemon peel from milk and stir into it four well beaten eggs, ten tablespoonfuls granulated sugar, and a pinch of salt. Fill cups two-thirds full of custard, place in a steamer over a kettle of boiling water, and steam until custard is firm, turning steamer occasionally. If fresh lemon peel is not at hand, a teaspoonful of lemon extract may be added to the custard before filling the cups. Cup custard, steamed in this manner, is much superior to the old-fashioned mode of baking in the oven, in a pan of water.

Sweet Buns.
Two quarts flour, one teacup sugar, two eggs, half teacup butter, one pint good yeast. Mix to a stiff batter with sweet milk, luke warm. Knead into a smooth dough; let rise over night. In the morning roll out upon the molding board, cut with biscuit cutter into little cakes, place in baking tins, let rise one hour. Just before baking brush the top of each cake over with a little sweet milk. This causes the buns to take a nice brown. Bake carefully, but not until dried. These buns are a delicate accompaniment to a cup of tea or coffee.

Fresh Fish Cakes.
Have ready mashed potato, either hot or cold, and to two cups of this allow two tablespoonfuls of butter and one egg. Put with the potato an equal quantity of flaked fish—baked or boiled—and mix thoroughly. If there is no fish sauce with which to moisten the mixture and it seems too stiff, soften it with a very little milk. Form into cakes, fry slices of bacon in their own fat, and after taking them out fry the cakes in the fat that is left in the pan. Keep the bacon hot while the cakes are cooking, and serve it on the same dish with the fish cakes.

Canned Corn Patties.
Take one can of best sweet corn and chop fine in a chopping tray. Add two beaten eggs, to which has been added two tablespoonfuls of milk, a tablespoonful of salt, a half tablespoonful of pepper and two even tablespoonfuls of flour. Beat well and fry on a griddle in a tablespoonful of mixed lard and butter, dropping one spoonful for each patty. Fry brown on both sides and serve hot.

Brunswick Toast.
For this purpose use small bits of bread—white, graham, or brown bread will answer, or a mixture of all. Butter rather thickly all the little pieces, place in an earthen pan with bits of butter among bread. Salt a little and cover with milk. Let boil, then serve hot. A nice way to use small pieces of bread.

Potato Rolls.
Mash, or grate very fine, cold boiled potatoes; to three teacups of potato, add half teacup of butter, two eggs beaten until stiff, two tablespoonfuls of flour, a teaspoonful of baking powder, one-half teacup sweet milk, a half teaspoonful of pepper, a little salt. Beat well together and bake in roll pans.

Chocolate Frosting.
Beat white of one egg to a stiff froth, add eight tablespoonfuls powdered sugar, one ounce, or a square of Baker's chocolate, finely grated, one teaspoonful vanilla extract. Spread smoothly over the cake, and place in the oven until hardened.

Corn Gems.
Sift together one pint of cornmeal, one pint of flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Add one-third of a pint each of milk and water. Mix into a firm batter, and fill greased gem pans two-thirds full.

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