

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Everything comes to the man who waits, especially rust and cobwebs.

The woman whose husband claims to be henpecked is generally deserving of pity.

Turkey wants to borrow money, but Uncle Sam probably knows of a certain party that needn't be applied to.

Beggars are taxed in China. There, evidently, the financial possibilities of the profession are frankly recognized.

Nearly all available Government land has been homesteaded and even the supply of Indian brides with homestead attachments is running short.

That man who fancied taking his wife's hat would keep her at home must have failed to notice what little use a hat really is to a woman.

Nobody knows who killed Cock Robin or who struck Billy Patterson, but Senator Carter killed the river and harbor bill. He did it with his little tongue.

Mrs. Nation's paper, the Smasher's Mail, has been issued at Topeka. It is said that a great many railroad baggagemen have subscribed for it simply on impulse.

The girl who leaped from the bridge of a runaway horse and stopped him, when a lot of men were thinking only of saving their own lives, deserves to get a gold medal from some society in addition to having her picture printed in the papers.

In the woods in the Pennsylvania mountains a bear tackled Jacob Bradshaw and would have broken him in two had not Jacob expectorated about a gill of tobacco juice into bruin's eye. This attracted the bear's attention and Jacob got away. Moral—

In the electric cars and railway waiting-rooms of many cities, the boards of health have posted notices, forbidding, under heavy penalties, the unwholesome and nauseous practice of spitting on the floors. But have the authorities ever looked into a smoking-car?

The honor of being made an Earl cost Lord Roberts, as it costs every new-made peer of high degree, thousands of dollars in fees. Nevertheless, hosts of Englishmen, and probably not a few plain American citizens who esteem themselves—while not under temptation—good Republicans, would gladly pay the price.

"The Wild and Woolly West" can afford to smile at the phrase. In California there is one college student for every four hundred inhabitants, a larger proportion than in any other State of the Union. President Wheeler, of the State University, attributes this to the fact that "no class in California conscientiously accepts the doom of mediocrity." In advertising a piece of land for sale, Theistocles noted that "it lay by a good neighbor." California, in bidding for immigration, gives scholastic proof that her people are already good neighbors.

Some of the most remarkable of recent scientific discoveries are the S-rays, the discovery of the microbe of distemper in dogs, and the discovery of krypton and xenon, rare gases of the atmosphere. The S-rays are so-called from Professor Sagnac, of Paris, who in experimenting with the X-rays found certain groups of rays of a totally different series and with different manifestations, while to Professor Copeland belongs the credit for the discovery of the microbe of distemper in dogs and to Professors Ramsay and Travers the discovery of krypton and xenon. The latter have now been carefully studied by their discoverers and assigned their proper place in the table of the periodic law.

In all the present agitation about pure food, it is a comfort to the coffee drinker to be told that he is getting a very satisfactory article. At the Department of Agriculture some thorough tests have been recently made to determine the extent and nature of coffee adulterations. The results are entirely reassuring to coffee-lovers. The expert finds that while very little pure Java or Mocha berries find their way into the American market, almost if not quite as good flavored beans are had from other tropical places. Porto Rico and Hawaii being mentioned as furnishing good coffee. The adulterants, when used, are for the most part harmless. The chemist who has been looking into the coffee question, Professor Wiley, gives some advice as to the use of this beverage. He says that the use of coffee in moderation should not do any injury to adults, and then he mentions in detail what moderation means. This is a cupful—only half of it coffee, the rest hot milk—at breakfast, none at noon, and a small cup of black coffee after dinner. On some systems, undoubtedly, coffee may act as a poison, and such persons, of course, should not drink it. The average grown person in normal health may use it moderately without harm.

Foreign News. Sultor—Sir, I have come to ask your daughter in marriage. Father (fearfully)—Would you take my only child away from me? Sultor—Oh, not at all, not at all, my dear sir. I can move right in.—Detroit Free Press. A scientist has discovered that house cleaning is caused by a microbe.

six leading universities there are more than 3,000 students. These six are: Harvard, 4,288; University of Michigan, 3,700; Minnesota, 3,410; Georgia, 3,295; Chicago, 3,183; and California, 3,025. Northwestern University has 2,971 students this year; Cornell, 2,776; Pennsylvania, 2,567; Yale, 2,542; Columbia, 2,521; and Princeton, 1,302. There probably are over 100,000 students in the various universities and colleges of America at present, and the whole number of persons who are being educated in the schools and colleges combined is given as 10,738,363. Aside from all other considerations this general tendency toward education means one thing—labor in this country must be dignified socially. It is going to be impossible for all the boys and young men who are now in the schools and colleges to go into professions. Many of them will have to work with their hands. Manual labor will still have to be done even after everybody is educated. Perhaps the condition forecast by Bellamy—when those who work as laborers shall receive just as much consideration as men who get into the professions and shall be compensated for the sacrifices they make in taking what we now consider inferior places in society—is not so far away.

That landlordism and tenant farming are increasing with surprising rapidity in the United States is one of the most important facts developed out of the census reports issued from Washington. According to a statement of L. G. Powers, chief statistician of the agricultural division of the census, it appears that for at least twenty years the percentage of farms operated by tenants has increased heavily in all parts of the United States except the extreme West. For the whole country this percentage has increased in the last ten years nearly twice as fast as the per cent of population of the nation, four times that of the purely agricultural population and twice that of the farms operated by their owners. Mr. Powers suggests that this unprecedented increase does not show a degradation of the rural population, but an uplifting, from the fact that it must be largely composed of negroes in the Southern States and of farm hands or farmers' sons who have become tenant farmers. It is declared, however, by many who are watching the tendency, that large numbers of those who have indeed risen out of these ranks to become tenants would have become farm owners instead under other conditions, as did the young men of a generation ago. To whatever extent this army of tenant farmers has been recruited from the ranks of those who had been but wage earners, it is a matter for satisfaction. To the extent that it includes those who have sunk from ownership or might have become owners it is not good. It is impossible to separate these classes until the full reports of the census are issued. Out of the well-known conditions in the middle West, however, with these preliminary figures at hand, it is possible to discover some interesting material for speculation. Many farmers are moving into the towns, selling their farms outright or renting to tenants. In the latter instances each farm is forced to become the support of two families, which is apt to prove a heavy burden on any property calculated for one family. Capitalists recognize that farms purchased and rented to tenants are among the best investments, principal and income being peculiarly safe. Other capitalists who wish to invest in farm loans are finding, in many instances, that their money is a drug on the market. The farmers who own land are so prosperous that they do not need loans; those who are tenants have no security upon which to borrow. Merchants in the smaller towns are now complaining that their trade is suffering by the increase of tenant farmers. The latter are not as prompt in paying bills, they cannot afford to buy as much, and they do not improve their places with the same energy and modern agricultural methods and machinery as do the ones who own their farms. Tenant farmers have not the interest in preserving the farm property that the owner has when he is the resident. Nor, indeed, is the tenant so interested to protect the permanent fertility of the soil by the most careful farming methods. It is recognized that either in city or country the best performance of the duties of citizenship comes from those who own their homes. With that fact in mind, no one can fail to regret the immense growth of tenant farming indicated by the census.

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