

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

There may be fights against shorter hours, but it's only a question of time.

Forest fires from locomotives are serious, but it is claimed another dangerous smokstack is the cigarette package.

The most prominent fact established as a result of Admiral Sampson's recent letter seems to be that his father was a ditch-digger.

The report is that the Kaiser's wound will leave a disfiguring scar on his cheek. But this can be retouched out, in the photographs.

People in Texas are complaining of being killed by lightning. You have to know how to dodge quick if you play around where lightning has decided to strike.

An Eastern college professor recently lost the prize in a spelling bee because he failed on the word "unctuous." It was evidently too slippery for his tongue.

It is probable that Tolstol can stand it if the church can. Ecclesiastical authorities can hardly do anything to detract from the popular belief in the sincere charity of the great Russian writer.

First, a young man thinks he can captivate all the good-looking young women he meets. Those are his salad days. Later on he succeeds in becoming "best man" to one of them. Those are his solid days.

That Englishman who says the college unites a man for the struggle of life has probably been drawing his conclusions from aspects presented by the football, tobacco sauce and spread-eagle reports alone.

"Mr. Carnegie," says Russell Sage, "is a very generous man, and I commend him for it." One of Mr. Sage's most noble traits of character is never to permit himself to show the slightest jealousy in the matter of generous giving.

The London critics are finding all sorts of faults in Mr. William Waldorf Astor's new book of stories. It appears that his refusal to permit the sale of his book in the United States is not any more of a deprivation for us than we had supposed.

Nowadays the burglar, sneak-thief or footpad gets along all right as long as his operations do not bring him in contact with those of the opposite sex. If there is a woman in the case the ruffian is inevitably held till assistance comes, and he is landed in jail. The American woman of the twentieth century is a great institution. What do we not owe to that muscle-creator, the bargain rush?

Military statistics indicate the constant decrease of illiteracy in Germany. Out of 147,917 men who went into the army in the military year of 1899-1900, only 187 men—less than an eighth of 1 per cent—were illiterate; and of the 5,614 who entered the navy, every one could read and write. This a remarkable showing of the extent to which education prevails among the people, and also shows an improvement over former conditions.

There is a justice of the peace in Pennsylvania who deserves a banquet and a monument. The other day a wife-beater, accompanied by his bruised and disfigured helpmate, was hauled before the "squire." The brute laughed in the face of justice and called the magistrate upon the honored bench a vile name. The later had his coat off in a second, vaulted to the floor, and in less time than it takes to tell the story had the wife-beater's nose distributed all over his speaking countenance, both of his eyes closed, several teeth rattling around the courtroom and the culprit begging for mercy. That is exactly the sort of justice to preside over the trials of wife-beaters. May his tribe ever increase!

Some one recently declared that lynching, like murder, is growing to be a national habit. There is certainly some ground for the assertion. When the first burning of a negro at the stake in Paris, Texas, was announced, two or three years ago, a wave of indignation swept over the whole country. Several burnings have occurred since then, and the latest ones have hardly attracted public notice. Ballie Crutchfield, a colored woman, was lynched near Rome, Tenn., because it was suspected she had stolen \$125 from a pocketbook. She and her friends declared she found the pocketbook and kept the money. The mob did not know whether she had stolen it or found it. As she had the money, that was sufficient cause for lynching, and the cowardly savages selged her, carried her to a bridge, shot her, and threw her into the river. When a mob kills a woman in this inhuman manner upon mere suspicion of a crime for which in every civilized community imprisonment is considered ample punishment, it is time to ask the question, "Is lynching becoming a national habit?"

Of all English writers on current political topics Henry Norman has the broadest and best-informed mind in so far as at least as travel and a cosmopolitan spirit are concerned. In view, therefore, of Russia's present position as to China and the East, and her ap-

parently determined stand for dominance in Manchuria, this extract from an article by Henry Norman in Scribner's is suggestive: "It has been pointed out that the sea alone stopped the Cossacks in the seventeenth century, and when they got to work again in the nineteenth the Russians crossed the Pacific and pushed on to within a few miles of San Francisco long before the first 'prairie schooner' sailed over the plains. The map of Asia is a Russian stepladder; the Urals, Western Siberia, Eastern Siberia, Baikalia, Kamchatka, the Amur, Manchuria; the steppes; Khlva, Turkestan, the Merv oasis, Bokhara, Samarkand; these are the rungs she has climbed. Persia, Kashgar, Afghanistan, India itself—unless a mightier force than herself bar the way, her feet will be there, too, in the fullness of time. The 'half south' in her course is shown by the gradual descent of her naval base in the far East; Petropavlovsk, Nikolaevsk, Vladivostok, Port Arthur. If you would understand Russia, and interpret the forecast aright, the march of great events, never forget that, for her, eastward the course of empire takes its way; that as the sap rises, as the sparks fly upward, as the tides follow the moon, so Russia goes to the sunrise and the warm water. This is what the history of Siberia strikingly illustrates, and it is from this point of view that the great Siberian railway derives its chief significance."

The rod as an educational and corrective agency in the public schools has been sustained by two Chicago Judges. A few days ago Prof. G. Stanley Hall, in addressing a mothers' club, declared that Dr. Spank is still as indispensable in a well-ordered home where children are being reared as he was in the days of Ben Franklin. The "new education," it is true, is relegating the rod to the limbo of obsolete things. The idea of restraint or correction has no place in the real up-to-date theory of child-training. From the schools this "new education" is spreading to the homes. It is based on the notion that the nature of a child must not be curbed. He must be permitted to follow the tendencies of the child nature, unhampered by rules or chastisement. A generation of young hoodlums and rowdies is the inevitable result of this theory when carried to an extreme in the home and in the school. Its baneful consequences are already perceptible in towns where it has been systematically followed out in the public schools. It breeds disrespect for authority, contempt for law, and general disregard for the peace and good order of a community and for the rights and feelings of others. Its fruits are seen in wanton destruction of property in the suburban towns, where the police are few and far between, and where boys are not supposed to need police surveillance. In these towns they enjoy all the advantages of the "new education." Recognition of authority lies at the basis of all rational training, whether in the home or the school. It is elemental in any proper scheme of preparation for citizenship. Behind this recognition of authority is the fear of punishment. Without punitive law there would be no civilization. This does not mean that children should be punished with unreasonableness or brutality. The rod is not always the best form of punishment. Neither should the natural expressions of the child nature be ruthlessly crushed. But the punitive factor in child training must not be abolished. If all disciplinary measures are to be abandoned in the rearing and education of children, government will soon become a farce—behind all government is respect for authority.

**HIDDEN TREASURE.**  
Better than Captain Kidd's—It Was Found.  
One of New York City's most famous hoists in the early days of this century was John Hunter, of Hunter's Island, which is now a part of Pelham Bay Park. In the fine old mansion still standing on it, which he built, in 1807, for a country home, and in his town house at 7 State street, he entertained in a lavish and splendid manner, gathering often as many as forty guests at a time around his table. The silver that helped to make these banquets princely was as famous in its day as its owner's good cheer, and there was a story connected with it, too. When John Hunter's father, Robert Hunter, who was a nephew of the Colonial Governor of that name, and a man of wealth, came to this country, he brought with him among his baggage an old iron strong box, which he kept in the State street home. At his death, his son, John Hunter, knowing nothing about it, and considering it too clumsy an article to be given house room any longer, packed it off to a storage warehouse with a lot of other stuff. It lay there for years forgotten, till finally the storage-keeper, taking a fancy to it, asked Mr. Hunter if he might have it. Mr. Hunter consented, but decided to have a look inside of it first. The key to it was not forthcoming, and a locksmith was sent for to force it open. Within were rows of canvas bags. Mr. Hunter picked up one of them; it fell to pieces, and Spanish silver dollars rolled over the floor. The chest was full of silver pieces. Mr. Hunter sent them to a silversmith and had them made into the service that is still to-day one of the finest in the country. There was a plateau for the middle of the table seven feet long, and every guest seated about it was served exclusively from silver dishes.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

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