

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

John D. Rockefeller is learning to play golf. Some of these days there will be a golf trust.

When a Texas farmer hasn't anything else to do, he goes into his backyard and digs an oil well.

Sing Sing has become Osting, but the men confined there are disposed to wonder "What's in a name?"

If it keeps Paderewski from appearing in public for a year, the death of his son will be very generally mourned.

Since they can't give the Czar a good talking to other ways, his enemies seem to think a blowing up by means of a mine may be effective.

The King of Portugal has got his crown out of pawn. It is believed that he redeemed it in order to establish his credit for a larger loan.

A burglar arrested at 1 o'clock and sentenced at 2 left him little time for consideration, so the judge in giving him three years furnished plenty.

Sorosis, queen of woman's clubs, owns up to being thirty-three years old. Women do sometimes unblushingly tell their age when under classic incentives.

It is charged that brooms and dusters are terrible instruments for stirring up and spreading microbes. We dare not even have clean houses. A bas the microbe!

Mrs. Nation says that the vote is the best hatchet. This is eminently true, and if it were cast more intelligently and more righteously, there would be less lawlessness of every description.

Until science shall discover a remedy for its ravages allegation that cancer is caused by an animal parasite hardly more developed than protoplasm will not bring comfort to a generation grown sadly familiar with this dread malady. Nor does the alleged discovery account for the conviction in the medical profession that cancer may be developed by confusion even when the tissues are perfectly healthy.

For eight crops—corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, potatoes and hay—covered by the reports to the Department of Agriculture, the farmers of the United States received almost two hundred million dollars more in 1900 than they obtained for the same products in 1899. Buckwheat and barley were the only crops in the list which showed a decrease in value, and the advances, in corn and hay especially, made this deficit seem slight. We quote the statistics as a matter of record.

Twenty years' imprisonment for the student who killed the Russian minister of public instruction is relatively a light sentence when compared with Russian penal policy of the past. The czar's judicial system has undergone thorough reform within twenty-five years. Siberia was found to contain wealth so vast that it ceased to be available for a mere convict colony. Large areas of what was deemed desert are now blossoming with noble farms developed by children of convicts, while other areas are yielding incalculable mineral wealth.

Only Germany to-day stands between the Sultan and his final expulsion from Europe. England has been estranged, and, moreover, is powerless to extend a helping hand. Russia on the east and Austria on the west stand ready to rush in and carve Turkey in pieces at the first possible opportunity. If between them they could satisfy the Kaiser with some acceptable territorial or other advantage he might be willing to keep hands off and allow the sick man to be finished. He has been a long time—too long, perhaps—in dying. At last his end seems in sight.

While capital in this part of the world continues to be timid about investing in electrical railways whose utility has been completely demonstrated, Germany is undertaking an electric road between Berlin and Hamburg, the trains to run at a speed far exceeding any hitherto attempted. German experts declare a rate of 125 miles an hour feasible and safe on the proper equipment. They use less water in their capitalizations in Germany and therefore dare try to do more on land. Surface crossings are disappearing in Europe wherever electricity is used for traction.

The Boston Advertiser notes a gradual change going on as regards the occupants of Massachusetts farms. All over the State farms are passing more and more into the hands of new owners, and these owners are largely of foreign birth. In Bristol County, for instance, Portuguese farmers are in the majority, while in Norfolk County most of the farmers are Swedes and Greeks. The Advertiser says: "These immigrants seem to be fairly prosperous, and they may be able to make a success of farming where the old owners apparently found it hard even to make a bare living." The typical Yankee farmer of the David Harum and Josh Whitcomb variety is rapidly disappearing from New England, and even the typical Yankee himself. There are a few survivors in Marblehead and Portsmouth, N. H., but they are mostly seafaring people. It is doubtful whether

er there is a Sam Slick or Sam Lawson now to be found from Cape Cod to Eastport. The New England type of a century ago is now hardly more than a reminiscence.

A Cleveland judge, commenting upon the "appalling" increase in the number of divorces, says two-thirds of the cases are due to early marriages. His theory is that the divorce courts are kept busy because so many young people marry before they are old enough to form sensible views of matrimony, and so he advises youths and maidens to "go slow." While the advice may be good, the judge's theory will not stand investigation. Brides and grooms are now a good deal older, on the average, than they were a few generations ago. The increase of divorce cases has been accompanied by a decrease in early marriages. A century ago, when divorces were rare, it was customary for girls to be married at the age of 16, and those who reached 18 without finding a husband were looked upon as already beyond the danger line of spinsterhood. A young man was expected to marry about the age of 21, and it was almost a necessity for him to do so. When he undertook to cultivate a farm he had to have the help of a woman to keep house for him. There were no fine bachelor apartments where he could live and board in comfort until he accumulated a competence and got ready to marry. That was the time of early marriages, but only in rare cases did women seek divorces. The increase of divorce suits by women is due chiefly to the fact that wives will no longer submit to treatment which they endured in silence a century ago. A recent list of divorces granted to women on the ground of "cruelty" throws more light on the subject than the Cleveland judge's remarks. One wife got a decree on the ground that her husband would not take baths, "thereby inflicting on plaintiff great mental anguish." Another wished to leave her husband because he had accused her sister of stealing, while still another complained that her feelings had been hurt by her spouse's remark that he did not care whether she left him or not. One woman said her life was made a burden because her husband would not speak to her for months at a time, another objected to the man's practice of smashing dishes and crockery to relieve his feelings, a third complained that her husband forbade her to walk in public with her relatives, and a fourth said her husband sharpened an ax and said he was going to cut her head off and did knock out two of her teeth. A case of a different kind is that in which the plaintiff alleged that the defendant, for the sole purpose of harassing her, said he meant to suicide, and did then and there drink a bottle of paregoric, which said action of defendant sorely grieved plaintiff in body and mind." Fifty or a hundred years ago women did not sue for divorce on grounds of this kind and if they had done so their suits would have been thrown out of court. They endured what could not be cured and took as a matter of course things which now send wives hurrying to the divorce courts. Women's standards have become more exacting and their legal liberties greater. This will largely account for the increase in the number of divorces.

Cost of Launching a Battleship.
An official of Cramp's shipyard says that it costs from \$4,000 to \$8,000 to launch a battleship. "The building of the ways for the ship to slide down over is the main item, and then comes the greasing," he said. "Every inch of timber over which the vessel slides must be covered with a lubricant. Different firms use different substances, but soap and tallow form the main ingredients of them all. At the Cramps' we use a layer of beef tallow and a layer of soft soap, and taken altogether between one and one and a half tons of the stuff is required to put a move on the average battleship. The tallow is spread on first, to the depth of about three fingers, and the workmen use big flat trowels to make the surface as smooth as possible. Then they pour over the soft soap, which is just thick enough to run, or about the consistency of tar. As a general thing, the double coating answers the purpose admirably, and the ship glides into the water as if it was sailing on air. If it sticks, as has happened in a few cases, it is likely to spring some of the vessel's plates, and accidents of that kind are so costly that nothing is spared to avert them."

The Heating Surface of Kettles.
So completely has the idea of the advantage to be gained by a greater heating surface taken possession of the minds of a few inventors, that they are determined to run the corrugated idea into everything. One invention is a kettle with a corrugated bottom which will, it is claimed, heat water much more quickly because it has more surface. In view of the fact that at least half of the time the kettles may stand upon the top of the stove, this idea does not seem feasible, as in this case there would be arches all through under the bottom, and the kettle would scarcely heat at all.

Time to Be Contented.
She—I know we have everything we raly nade, but there's manny a wan that's better off.
He—Ye shud be satisfied. Iverybody that has their health an' strin'th an' that's able to kick about what doesn't suit thim shud be satisfied.—Puck.
Must Learn Household Arts.
Norwegian legislators propose that girls who do not know how to knit, sew, wash and cook shall be refused permission to marry. Daughters of wealthy men are not to be excepted.

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7:00 a. m. Tues., Thurs. and Sat.	Willamette and Yamhill Rivers. Oregon City, Dayton & Way Landings.	3:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
6:00 a. m. Tues. and Sat.	Willamette River. Portland to Corvallis & Way Landings.	4:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
Lv. Riparia 8:30 a. m. Daily	Snake River. Riparia to Lewiston	Lv. Lewiston Daily 9 a. m.

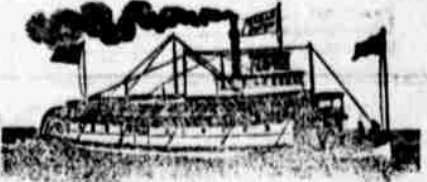
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Ferry leaves Vancouver to connect with cars as follows:
A. M.—7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30
P. M.—12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:00, 6:45, 11:15.
Cars leave corner First and Washington streets for Woodlawn as follows:
A. M.—7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:15, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30
P. M.—12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 7:55, 8:05, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 11:15, 11:30.
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P. M.—12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 7:55, 8:05, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 11:15, 11:30.
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