

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A woman does not begin to command until she has promised to obey.

I guess mine will be a real panama. It is to cost about \$40,000,000.—Uncle Sam.

Measure a man by his every-day conduct rather than by his extraordinary exertions.

Hands up. How many of you know what they are fighting about down in Venezuela?

Men are continually going up against schemes that look like more money and less work.

The man who isn't being fooled by anybody else generally puts in a good deal of time deceiving himself.

The new King of Saxony is 70 years old. There seems to be one place left where the boys aren't getting all the good jobs.

From the eagerness with which Boers and British are falling on each other's necks, it is evident that each is grateful for the help given to let the other go.

Rockefeller's recent investment of a large sum of money in a bicycle factory may be taken as an indication that he begs leave to differ and is willing to back it up.

An exchange says that a person's chances of being struck by lightning are very slender. The use of the preposition "after" in place of "of" is suggested as an improvement in that statement.

An eastern physician says that members of his profession can be bribed and that "they will do a lot for money." Here is a man who knows he has his price and does not wish to be selfish about it.

The Sultan says Turkey has books enough, for which reason he will not permit the publication of any more in that country. It will now be necessary for the Turkish poets to become captains of industry.

Emperor William says that when a German can look into the eyes of the empress he ought to have inspiration enough to last him a lifetime. How nice it must be for her if the emperor talks like that when company is not present.

Whenever the courts of this country shall administer justice with the same promptness, certainty, fearlessness and with as little regard for persons as is the case in the courts of England, after which ours were patterned, lynching will cease in the United States, but until then it will be a standing reproach to the people and their machinery of justice.

A Wilmington, Del., belle is "the most talked-about woman of that city," because she rode astride at the horse show. Woman indeed remains in barbaric bondage so long as she cannot do a sensible thing without being rendered conspicuous. Health, safety and good form all demand the abolishment of the awkward and antiquated side saddle. If riding is to increase with the release of the horse from carriage service, women everywhere ought to revolt against the barbaric prejudice which deprives them of the best enjoyment and best benefits of this noblest of exercises.

It is not shade alone that makes it cooler under a tree in summer. The coolness of the tree itself helps, for its temperature is about 45 degrees Fahrenheit, at all times, as that of the human body is a fraction more than 98 degrees. So a clump of trees cools the air as a piece of ice cools the water in a pitcher. That is why the Legislature has authorized the park authorities of New York City to plant trees in the tenement districts. If the air can be made cooler and purer by the trees fewer children will die of heat ailments. As 4,000 more children die in New York during June, July, August and September than in any other similar period in the year, the importance of adopting every known means to save life is undisputed.

Every town occasionally puts on a play for the edification of the public which is not announced on the billboards. A village in New York renders the following performance in which the Baptist preacher and a jealous young man play leading roles: The play opens at the church picnic. The minister, an unmarried man, is the vogue. Moreover, he is susceptible. Captured and cornered by the church organist, he discourses all the day long of love's young dream. And now the villain appears. The organist's steady company shows up. He behaves rudely and his wrath is as the wrath of Achilles. The next act is brief but tragic. It is on the following Sunday. The jealous lover lays for the preacher and wallops the ecclesiastic sorely. Then comes the curtain raiser in the police court with the villain in the dock. The populace, rent into opposing factions according to creed, fill and overflow the right and left wings of the stage. Here the telegraph instrument stopped. But it is easy to guess the sequel. Questioned by the judge, the prisoner glares at the minister and the organist and lowering his voice to the fur, huskily exclaims: "Not guilty!" Pursued by the inex-

orable law he goes to the calaboose rather than pay his fine while the minister and the organist marry and live happily ever after. The only default of the entire entertainment is to be found in the failure of the preacher, to fall the jealous young son of Bellal who attacked him.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier just prior to his recent departure to Europe spoke of the Alaskan boundary question as a serious danger to British and American relations and a "menace of open conflict." It need not become a menace, however, unless the British government seeks to make it such. It is Great Britain, not the United States, which in this instance is seeking to alter boundary lines. Briefly stated, the British contention is that the boundary of southeastern Alaska, instead of following a line ten marine leagues (thirty-four and one-half statute miles) from the coastline proper, leaps from headland to headland at a distance of ten leagues from the outlying capes and promontories. Such a line would bring the British boundary much nearer the Pacific and would give Great Britain control of important estuaries and bays leading to the sea. This claim, which was never advanced until 1898, is not supported either by the original treaties, by the maps and charts of cartographers or by any argument recognizable to reason. The United States possessions in this territory are precisely what the Russian possessions were prior to their purchase and the meaning of the original treaty negotiated between Russia and Great Britain in 1825 is unmistakable. It must be patent to the State Department that there can be no yielding of American rights on this point. The boundary question, it is said, is about to be brought up again for final negotiations. Whatever may be required to secure a common survey of the boundary and a friendly demarcation of the line with scientific accuracy should be done; but from the essential point at issue there can be no recession. The evidence in support of the American claim is overwhelming.

The great value of salt as an antiseptic and the fact that nature appears to have made it an essential ingredient in the food of nearly all animals have made the medical profession very hospitable toward new theories or discoveries regarding its therapeutic qualities. The doctors in fact are never unprepared for the announcement of some extraordinary cure effected by the use of this widely distributed compound. That pneumonia can be cured by pumping an 8 per cent sodium chloride solution at temperatures ranging from 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit into the lungs, however, naturally taxes the credulity of most physicians. This achievement was announced by Dr. W. Byron Coakley, of Chicago, in a paper read by him before the American Medical Association at the recent convention at Saratoga. That such a saline solution would be death to all bacteria and would also have an antiseptic effect upon diseased tissue will be readily conceded. It is a question of getting the solution into the lungs in such a way that the patient could stand the treatment. Dr. Coakley claims to have solved this problem by the use of an instrument invented by himself, which introduces the solution into the lungs through punctures made by a fine gold needle. After the salt solution destroys the bacteria and cools to the temperature of the body it is claimed that it is absorbed in the blood and does not clog up the lungs. In doing this it protects the red corpuscles against destruction by the poisons of pneumonia. Physicians are naturally skeptical regarding the effectiveness of this treatment, for the reason that in the attempts that have been made to wash out the lungs with salt solutions the patients have been unable to stand it. The demonstrations before the association at Saratoga, however, are claimed to have shown the Coakley method to be a success. If future tests should more firmly establish the effectiveness and practicability of his treatment Dr. Coakley will have scored a great advance in medical science and will have conferred a great boon upon humanity.

HOW THE SWORD-SWALLOWER SWALLOWS HIS SWORD.



The sword swallower really does swallow his sword, which rests inside him as shown in the cut. Long practice enables him to do his feat in safety. Sometimes a rubber tip is slipped on the sword's point before swallowing. Accompanying cut is from the Scientific American, and shows the position of a swallowed sword.

New Brand. "Say," called the hardware drummer to the proprietor of the railway restaurant, "there is something wrong with this sandwich." "Oh, I guess yes," said the traveler. "Why, the blamed thing is so soft I can actually bite a piece out of it without breaking my teeth." No man ever realizes how much trash he owns until he moves.

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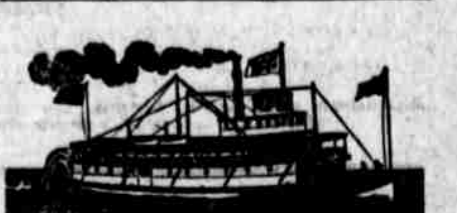
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