

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Every man has a right to work, but the other fellow too often forgets it.

Secretary Shaw released a little over \$20,000,000 the other day. How much of it did you get?

The world has little use for a man who does his best only when engaged in doing others.

A lady of 40 has asked \$75,000 for damaged affections. What would she have demanded at 20?

When the girl says they are engaged and the young man says they are not it takes a jury to decide.

Fools may rush in where angels fear to tread, but the theatrical angel sometimes backs the fools who are inclined to rush in.

President Roosevelt has ordered department chiefs to make the government reports shorter. He must want to have some of them read.

The latest is a storage battery trust. Let us hope it may succeed before the end of another century in finding a storage battery that will store.

A Chicago woman is seeking a divorce from her husband who is described as an enthusiastic amateur pugilist. She says he was too enthusiastic.

How quickly celebrities are forgotten in these strenuous days. Who was the young lady who had the Crown Prince of Germany going around in a circle a few weeks ago?

It is still pretty hard to get grouchy old men who don't like the boys their daughters have selected as future husbands to agree that arbitration is a good thing in all cases.

When a person has "left off" smoking, nothing helps his resolution like a caller who lovingly fondles a cigar with the bouquet of a Chinese restaurant and a draft like a soft coal fire in a hard coal furnace.

Most statements nowadays are taken cum grano salis—with an allowance for the discount. In apology for the sweepstakes of the title of his book, "Property is Robbery," Proudhon said that he put his price high because he knew that he should be beaten down.

The billionaire may come, but will not his heirs fire the troubles and worry of handling the money and scatter it? Flesh and blood cannot stand the strain this class of financiers invite. These mammoth fortunes eventually will return to the people in ways never dreamed of by their creators.

The greatest evil connected with the problem of power in the present life is the maleducation of men as to the sources from which it is to be drawn and the methods by which it is to be used. The many and the prosperous are prone to believe that power is a deposit of divine election. Finding one's self possessed of it, the owner at once concludes that he has been chosen of God to order a part of the universe, dominate his fellows, dictate events and deal punishments to those who offend against his self-assumed prerogatives.

One of the noblest charities in any city is the system of Pasteurized milk depots established and maintained in New York by Nathan Straus. From these stations nearly one million bottles of milk and milk foods for infants are distributed during the past summer. Those who were not willing to accept the milk free were allowed to lay one cent a bottle—certainly a low price for self-respect. Through the cooperation of the physicians of the health department, knowledge of the milk depots has been spread among tenement house mothers, and free coupons for the bottles of milk have been distributed. There could not possibly be a more terse, more eloquent or more impressive summing up of the work than is contained in the brief statistics of the annual report: Since August, when the milk depots were established, the death rate among children under 5 years of age has been reduced almost exactly one-half.

Professor Welch, of Johns Hopkins University, announced at the recent medical congress in London his discovery of a universal virus, which is prevent and cure all diseases the man flesh is heir to. Professor Welch confidently declares that the person who is inoculated with this new virus "will never catch anything." It is to be regretted that the professor is not a little more explicit on this point. His broad assertion that one who has been inoculated with the new virus will never catch anything is highly encouraging, yet it would be more reassuring if he had specified that it would keep people from catching old diseases as well as to make them immune from mumps, small pox and appendicitis. It may be possible that the virus looked for elixir of life has at last been discovered, and the world will anxiously await further statements from Professor Welch. Also a little doubt in support of the claims made for his virus will be very welcome. We do hope that all this will be speedily forthcoming and that the splendid work which the professor expects to do on the market will in addition to

thwarting age and disease be capable of deflecting automobiles and money cars. If it covers these matters satisfactorily and Professor Welch can secure capital enough to start a factory we may prepare for everlasting life, provided the coal holds out.

It is a good thing for the American who is inclined to listen to the doleful lamentations of the pessimist to turn away from the army in the Philippines for a moment and look at the greater army and mightier army described in the annual report of the United States Commissioner of Education, just submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. The report of Commissioner Harris shows that the total of pupils in the schools, elementary, secondary and higher, both public and private, in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1901, was 17,209,230, an increase of 278,520 pupils over the previous year. Of this number 15,710,394 were enrolled in schools supported by local and general taxation. If we add to this enrollment those who attended certain special institutions like evening schools, commercial schools and schools of cookery and of special trades and vocations, we have a grand total of over seventeen and three-quarter millions of the population that received education for a longer or shorter period during the year. An interesting feature of the report is the increased per capita expenditure for education. In 1870 the expenditure for schools per capita of the population was \$1.04; last year it was \$2.93 per capita, the highest in the history of the country. This army of seventeen million youngsters is the hope of the republic. It is the invincible defense of our institutions and of our democracy. No other army on the globe is comparable to it as a force for civilization and as a bulwark for free and popular government.

A report of the Commissioners of Prisons in England which was issued recently pays particular attention to the case of young offenders between the ages of 16 and 21. It is said that under the existing law there is adequate provision for those of a more tender age, excellent results having been attained through the present industrial and reformatory school system. But every person above 16 is an adult for the purpose of the criminal law, and the classification leads to serious mistakes. Discussing the question the report says: "Figures have shown, and the committee of 1894 have testified, that the age between 16 and 21 is essentially the criminal age, and that from criminals of this age the professional criminal of later years is generated. It is known also to students of human nature that this age is a particularly plastic age, and that the habit which may lead to crime or virtue cannot be said to be fully formed before the age of 21." Starting with these premises the report argues that separate treatment is required for the particular class of criminals referred to. Their discipline should be different from that of old offenders, and earnest efforts should be made to reform them. Aside from the special care which should be given them in prison it is necessary that supervision should be had over them after their discharge, and that a sufficiently long period of time should be prescribed during which they would be made amenable to healthy influences. The first of these needs, it is said, has been supplied "by the benevolent and philanthropic action of a body of gentlemen who have lately formed themselves into an association for the distinct purpose of dealing with these cases on discharge." For the other, action by Parliament is requested, "should it become satisfied by the result of the experiment that is being made that the existing system of a succession of short sentences for young criminals is ineffective and mischievous, and that better results can be obtained if power were given to the courts to commit for long periods to the care of the state young criminals who are shown by their antecedents to be graduating for a course of 'professional' crime."

Judged by the Sample. Stories concerning the rivalry between Chicago and St. Louis evidently will never grow old. The latest concerns a visit which Alderman Michael Kenna, "Hinky Dink," recently paid to St. Louis. He wished to talk to a friend who lives in the suburbs of the Missouri city, and as he had a dime in his pocket for change called up over the telephone. He talked but a few minutes, and then asked the central operator how much he must deposit for the call. "Fifty cents, please," was the answer, in a most confident voice. "Fifty cents," gasped the Alderman. "What do you take me for? A man with coin to burn? Why, in Chicago I can call up hades for 50 cents." "Perhaps so," was the answer, still framed in the most unflinching tone, "but that's within the city limits, you know."—Minneapolis Journal.

A Gastronomic Feast. In a little schoolhouse in the north of Scotland the schoolmaster keeps his boys grinding steadily at their desks, but gives them permission, says Tid-Bits, to nibble from their lunch-baskets sometimes as they work. "One day while the master was instructing a class in the rule of three, he noticed that one of his pupils was paying more attention to a small tart than to his lesson. "Tom Bain," said the master, "listen to the lesson, will ye?" "I'm listening, sir," said the boy. "Listening, are ye?" exclaimed the master. "Then ye're listening wi' one ear an' eating pie wi' the other."

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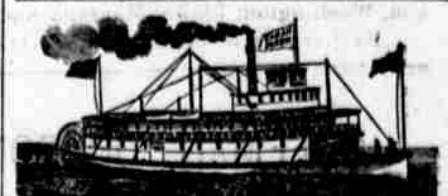
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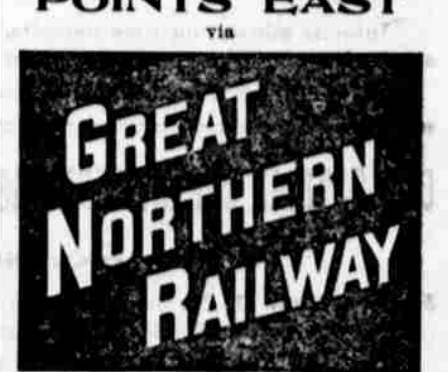
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