

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

It is a wise child that knows which parent will kidnap him before the day is over.

Col. Younghusband has lifted the lid in Tibet and found that there wasn't very much under it.

We have come to the conclusion that Aunt Carrie Nation is the only bug that can exterminate the boll weevil.

If Uncle Sam wants Smyrna rugs the Sultan can't see why he doesn't go to Philadelphia, where they come from.

Of course, that \$10-bill factory in Atlanta failed. The government seriously objects to bargain sales of money.

The cable says the czar didn't confer any honors on his navy at the christening of his son. How could he? The czar isn't a professional diver.

Auto smashing may yet become as thrilling and popular a pastime in the East as is broncho-busting in the wild West, and somewhat more expensive.

When you pronounce "what rust" rapidly it sounds very much like "what trust," and then you begin to get a clue to some of the operations on the market.

Fifty per cent of the woman graduates of the University of Wisconsin are unmarried. The publication of this fact undoubtedly will prove to be the hardest blow yet struck at coeducation.

Women are now trying to become mail carriers. Turn about is fair play. Perhaps they think the males have carried the females so long that it is time for the females to carry the mails.

The higher education is all right, of course, but it sure is true that a lot of time and money is lost trying to make lawyers and doctors out of material nature intended for shoemakers and carpenters.

"Whoso findeth a wife," says Solomon, "findeth a good thing." And Solomon was one of the most experienced husbands that ever lived. The records of modern divorce courts would indicate that either wives or husbands must have changed more or less since his day.

The department of agriculture at Washington, in addition to widespread and carefully considered experiments in the line of reforestation, is about to inaugurate a system of wireless telegraphy to aid in the preservation of timber now standing. In the great west forest fires destroy every year far more valuable timber than is cut for the uses of mankind. By the establishment of the wireless telegraph station at the danger points of the northwest it is believed that early advice of fire can be given in time to adopt successful means of prevention.

Magic circles did not go out with the days of superstition. The holders of a railway concession in China have drawn a circle about Canton across which no foreign railway may pass without their consent. It is simply a belt line of railway on the outskirts of the city, with branches running to the suburbs. The French and English holders of railway concessions must make terms with the Americans before they can lay their tracks across the belt line. In the United States the courts usually make short work of such obstructions, but the magic is likely to work in China for several years yet. Meantime the French and English railway men are admiring the alertness of their competitors from this country.

May it not be asked without offense, when we hear of one owner of jewelry mislaying only a small part of her stock and store of the value of \$250,000, if she could not find greater satisfaction, more pleasure, less worry in investing so much money in other ways? There are still orphans in the world, we understand, the hospitals, too, we are told, are overcrowded, and old folk, it is stated, continue to knock in vain for admittance at the doors of homes and asylums; the churches are still crying for money and the world presents many golden opportunities to the rich to make investments in noble charity which are likely to pay better in the end than the vulgar, tawdry display of jewelry which, though they make the clowns stare, cause the judicious to grieve.

"Believe me," said a Philadelphia physician who makes a specialty of treating nervous disorders, "it isn't overwork that superinduces nervous prostration. The men who succumb to nervous strain are not the men who work continually under high pressure. The man who has no relaxation has no time to brood over his health, and brooding is fatal to a man whose nerves are highly strung. If a man is constantly busy in mind from morning until night he isn't in any danger of nervous trouble. Its only when he relaxes and gives himself a certain amount of leisure that he is in danger. A man is a good bit like a piece of machinery. Its relaxation that tells. Take Russell Sage, for instance. He celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday to-day, and he is in the harness all the time. Should he give up even a part of his daily routine the probabilities are that he would be a dead man in six months. The man whose nerves trouble him is the man of comparative leisure."

The growing tendency of business men to challenge the usefulness of the higher education in business gives more than usual interest to the report of the national commissioner of education for 1908, which exhibits in a striking way the growth of the college and university system in this country. Notwithstanding the claims of

those who have devoted themselves to showing how a college education unfits a young man for the practical money-making activities of life, the enrollment at the higher institutions of learning has nearly doubled in the last ten years. In this connection the showing in the classical and "general culture" courses is significant and worthy of especial attention. The youth of America are not rushing pell-mell into the technical or specialized branches, as many would have us believe. A very large majority of the students may still be found in those departments that are designed to give a broad and liberal culture instead of special training for special pursuits. According to the report of the commissioner there were 638 institutions classed as universities, colleges and technological schools. The total number of students resident at these institutions in 1902 was reported at 1,073,391. Of these 663,225 men and 22,507 women were in universities and colleges for men and for both sexes, 5,549 were in colleges for women, 11,908 men and 1,202 women were in schools of technology. Comparing 1902 with 1890, the total number of male students at 44,929 to 78,123, and the number of women had increased from 10,761 to 23,258. Of the entire number 49,982 were in classical courses and 14,287 in other "general culture" courses, while 7,393 were in scientific courses and 3,472 in agriculture.

The ukase of the czar, issued on the christening day of his son and heir, goes to substantiate the story recently referred to that the conversion of Prince Mescheraky to comparative liberalism foreshadowed an announcement of the like conversion of the czar. In the ukase Nicholas, of course, reaffirms the doctrine of divine right and speaks of himself as the source of all rights as well as all privileges, some of which he graciously bestows upon the children of his "great family" "for their greater enjoyment in their daily lives." The ukase grants general amnesty to all political offenders except those charged with murder. It abolishes corporal punishment among rural classes and for first offenses by privates in the sea and land forces. It provides for a general mitigation of penalties for common offenses against law. These are for the most part acts of clemency, but the sweeping amnesty granted to political offenders and the mitigation of penalties for the future in the case of ordinary criminals imply a permanent change of government policy in the direction of greater liberality. Other "gifts" bestowed signify a great change of policy in dealing with Finland, Jews and others, and a disposition to attach subjugated peoples to their imperial master by toleration and kindness and a general relaxation of the rigor and severity with which they have been treated under the regime of the reactionary advisers of the czar. There is, however, no intimation of a purpose to make a departure in the direction of parliamentary government. In this respect the autocrat of Japan is far in advance of the "autocrat of all the Russias." Theoretically, the mikado is as much a representative of the Almighty on earth and as much the source of all rights and all good things, as the absolute repository of supreme and absolute authority and power, as is the czar, but the mikado is far in advance of the czar in according parliamentary power to the whole people and local self-government to the communities. This ukase, nevertheless, furnishes evidence that the czar is getting in line with modern political enlightenment and that in time if the nihilists and other radicals will keep hands off he will overtake the mikado and show that the head of the church of Russia is as enlightened and progressive and humane as the head of paganism in Japan.

TOILERS OF THE UNITED STATES. Farmers Lead All Others in the Statistics of Occupation. The statistics of occupations of the citizens of the United States, as indicated by the twelfth census, have been compiled and published by the general government. They are overwhelming in their dimensions. It has been the aim of those busy interrogation points, the census takers, to ascertain the occupation of every person in the United States of more than 10 years of age. They were warned by the directors of the census to be complete in ascertaining this branch of their results. Persons working in a brewery, for instance, were not necessarily to be classed as brewers. The men who work in the brewery cooperages, to cite a lucid instance, were to be called coopers and not brewers.

Similar distinctions were made in the case of the farming industries. Any person working on a farm for wages alone, even though that person be the farmer's son himself, was to be classed as a farm laborer, and only the person conducting the farm to be classed as the farmer. The book starts boldly by presenting a national table of classified occupations. From it we learn that the United States still is an agricultural nation. The farmer ranks in numbers here, at least. Out of the 29,287,070 persons in the land of the free and the home of the brave who are earning their daily bread by the sweat of their brows, 10,438,219 were in the pleasant month of June, 1900, engaged in agricultural pursuits. These were divided into many classifications, farmers, planters and overseers, dairymen and dairywomen, gardeners, florists and nurserymen, stock raisers, herders, drovers, woodchoppers, and apiarists. Next to the farmer in numerical strength stand the manufacturing and mechanical pursuits. There are 7,112,894 persons actively engaged in these wonderfully varied occupations, so extensive in all their ramifications and classifications that a mere list of them would enumerate more than 150 forms of skilled and ordinary artisanship, ranging through all the different forms of manufactures.

It Pleaseth Her. Miss Oldgirl blushed and giggled, so warm his love words were. 'Twas only the old, old story, But it was new to her. Philadelphia Ledger.

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