

TOPICS OF THE TIMES. A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Wasn't that carrying female suffrage to an extreme when Msud, the mule, was allowed to vote in Denver?

There is a "smile cure" for dyspepsia, but it is not the same kind of "smile" some people have always used.

Mr Henry's Irving's son is to play in "Hamlet." May he never be troubled by the apparition of his father's ghost!

Dr. Stockham would have colleges teach matrimony and motherhood. These things used to be learned in the home.

Those hunters who were not mistaken for deer last fall are now being killed off as they try to clean their guns.

The Car, according to the dispatches, "is beginning to think." But the salary he draws amply pays him for that.

Rudyard Kipling thus far has successfully resisted the inclination to write another poem on his old friend, Adam Zed, Esq.

Some of the Russian editors are demanding a free press. Never, after this, may they hope to win the esteem of Governor Penningbacker.

If Jiu Jitsu be adopted at West Point and Annapolis it is likely it will be necessary to reinforce the hospital corps at the next Army-Navy football game.

A New Jersey postmistress has resigned because the salary of the office is only \$14.75 a year. She ought to have incorporated it and watered the stock.

The twine trust has gone into the hands of a receiver, who, of course, will be expected to wind up its affairs as well as he can, and without unnecessarily stringing them out.

Objection to the marriage of King Alfonso of Spain and Princess Victoria of England, has been raised in some high places. This being the case, he is pretty sure to marry her if she will have him.

Konopatin reports that many of his soldiers are declining to fight because they can't understand what there is to fight for. Heaven! If that doctrine is permitted to spread, what will become of the world's great armies?

The W. O. T. U. of Carbondale, Pa., has officially decided that "Greengrow" is swearing. It would be interesting to get that Carbondale society's opinion on kicking the door and hopping around on one foot after the pounding of a thump.

John L. Sullivan gets \$600 a night for lecturing. President Hadley of Yale lectures for \$75 a night. Let us not, however, become hastily pessimistic. Edward Everett's autograph brings 75 cents in the open market, which is the same price collectors are asked to pay for the autograph of Jack McAniff, who was once the middle-weight champion of America. In life the pugilist's glory may overshadow that of the scholar or the statesman, but death, the great leveler, can be depended upon to elevate the man of brains so that he will finally be in the middle-weight class, at least.

Graduation from the Naval Academy at Annapolis is not a prerequisite to winning a commission in the navy. Not long ago nine enlisted men were promoted to the rank of ensign, having shown themselves fit for service along with those who had had the formal training of the Naval Academy. The promotions were made under a recent act of Congress, which authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to recommend to the President not more than twelve men each year from among the boatswains, gunners or warrant officers whom he considers capable of performing the duties of ensign. The men so promoted are in line to become rear admirals, or even admirals.

Many church organizations regard divorce as the most serious menace to society. From the attention which they give to the subject it is apparent that they consider it of more importance than any other source of general ill. Yet it is a fact that no trustworthy information as to the extent of the evil seems to be available. Published figures are contradictory. Writers in favor of a reform present statistics which appeal, but which are followed by others showing that the reformers exaggerate. It is full time, therefore, that somebody should collect accurate statistics. A resolution introduced in the United States Senate imposes this duty on the census bureau and includes the record of marriages also. This measure would at least have the merit of securing some figures which could be accepted as having authority.

Rev. Dr. Savage's prescription for tired business or professional men who can not take a vacation is not new, but it is just as valuable as if it were new. He advises such men to "cultivate a new interest." Some people have assumed that this means "ride a hobby," but a "new interest" need not be a hobby or a fad. A new interest may be a new business, a new occupation, a new diversion or a new study. Every man who has more than "one string to his bow" is measurably protected against the utter weariness, the intellectual and nervous exhaustion which overtakes him who follows a rut from year's end to year's end. Most men are narrow in their views of life. They know only a few things, and when they have exhausted those things they are at the end of their resources. The man who knows a certain business or profession thoroughly is likely to know little else. He has had no time to acquire other things of a character calculated to diversify his thoughts. It follows that when he

wearies of the endless routine of his chosen calling he faces intellectual bankruptcy. The possession of an alternative of some kind is insurance against the blues—against weariness of life and brain fog. It makes small difference what it may be. Almost anything will furnish the desired distraction. It will divert the mind from the daily grind, the unending treadmill.

The unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of the United States sustaining Judge Grosscup's injunction in the case of the Chicago packing companies is of importance not only in the application of the anti-trust law to those companies but in its application to industrial companies and combinations generally. Its importance in this respect is due to the fact that in a measure it establishes a definition of interstate commerce. In a decision rendered years ago the court held, in substance, that manufacturing was not interstate commerce; that the operations of manufacture were necessarily local and therefore could not be regarded as commercial. It was generally inferred that concerns engaged in manufacturing were not engaged in interstate commerce and therefore were not subject to the provisions of the anti-trust law. The present decision in effect declares that concerns engaged in manufacturing may also be engaged in interstate commerce and therefore may be subject to the provisions of that law. Speaking of the decision, Judge Grosscup says: "The substance of the case presented to the Circuit Court was whether the purchase of cattle from sellers living in different States to manufacture into dressed meats and the sale of such meats to purchasers in different States constituted interstate commerce." The general doctrine thus established, that all such transactions constitute interstate commerce, is plainly of pretty wide application. As President Roosevelt remarked in his Philadelphia speech, "All great business concerns are engaged in interstate commerce." This is as true, only in somewhat less degree, of great concerns engaged in the manufacturing business as of great concerns in mercantile business. The former, like the latter, are both buying and selling in different States, and this part of their business is by the constitution subject to regulation by Congress. If in conducting this part of their business they violate the provisions of the Sherman law they are subject to its penalties as much as they would be if their business was wholly mercantile. Judge Grosscup is right in saying that the decision "fortifies the Sherman act" and that "it is a long step in the direction of effectual government supervision." He may be mistaken, however, in the opinion that "the organization and supervision by the nation itself of the great corporations of the future" will follow as a natural and logical sequence. If it results in minimizing the hurtful restraint of trade the country will have reason enough to rejoice.

San Francisco's Climate.
In San Francisco they are telling a story that is worth repetition, and will be appreciated by those who have encountered the climate of the Golden Gate City, says the Philadelphia Press Sunday Magazine. An Irishman came to America to visit. He was a true son of Erin, with an Irish appreciation of all things beautiful.
He went to San Francisco for a sight-seeing trip, and while strolling through the city with a friend, exclaimed: "What fine trees! So green! What makes it?"
"Climate," answered the friend, briefly.
A little later he cried out: "Arrah! the complexion of your ladies. So beautiful! What?"
"Climate," interrupted the friend. The Irishman subsided for awhile.
Now, San Francisco isn't exactly a prairie, and not many moments passed until the two encountered one of the small mountains they call knolls out there.
"Begorra," said the visitor, "and how d'ye think O'm going to get up that?"
"Climb it," said the friend.
The Irishman stopped and looked at his companion. "The devil ye say? Seems to me everything is climate out here."

The Change of a Name.
How family names change in the course of many years is illustrated by the conversation of "Boteville" into "Thynne." An English deed bearing date in the closing days of the fifteenth century shows three brothers then flourishing—John Boteville, of Boteville, and Thomas and William Boteville. The trio are distinguished from all other Botevilles by the explanation "of the Inne," or family residence, the title to which had come to their joint possession. John's grandson was known as Ralph Boteville-of-the-Inne, from which the transition to Ralph Thynne is easy. His descendants have been Thynnes ever since.

Deaf as an Adder.
The expression "deaf as an adder" is from the Psalms of David, where it appears in the following form: "Their poison is like the poison of serpents. They are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear, which will notarken to the voice of charmers, charming ever so wisely." East Indian travelers tell us that there is a widely prevailing superstition in the east to the effect that both the viper and the asp stop their ears when the charmer is uttering his incantations or playing his music by turning one ear to the ground and twisting the point of the tail into the other.

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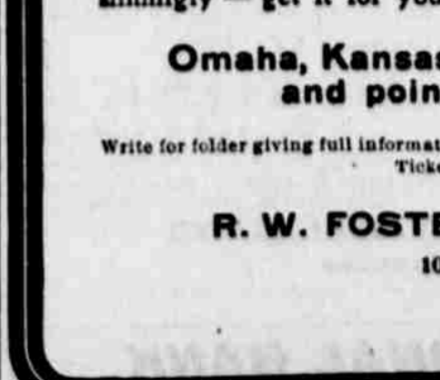
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