

Topics of the Times

Plans to fortify the canal may be obsolete before there can be use for them.

The study of Jiu Jitsu has been abandoned at Annapolis. No further use for it, probably, since boxing has been cut out.

There is plenty of faith in the future of the Panama canal, but the people are beginning to think it is time for the works.

How can Secretary Wilson possibly arrange things so that there will be "no more crop failures?" Can he guarantee the tea crop?

"Are we debt dodgers?" asks the New York World. In that case, we take advantage of our constitutional guaranty about incriminating answers and stand mute.

Grover Cleveland's experiment as a "model farm" philanthropist has failed. The boys whom he was trying to make over into good citizens refused to be anything but boys.

Esau traded his birthright for a mess of pottage and got scooped. We know some fellows who could trade their birthright for a kettle of bean soup and make a crackled good bargain.

The Chicago man who has made a bet of \$25,000 that he can live for a year without telling a lie evidently doesn't expect to get home late enough at night to make his wife regard it as her duty to question him.

A mining engineer and his wife have been arrested charged with having swindled investors by misrepresenting the value of mining property. Most of the joy of mining promotion will die out if the law interferes for the protection of the tenderfoot.

Now, these be the virtues of the cereals; they are cheap, easily swallowed and of moderate nutritive value. There is an element in the average human mind, half puritanic, half stinging, which is inclined to count as a virtue the ingestion of any food which is not especially attractive but believed to be nutritious. In fact, to eat that which is cheap and filling is one of the petty vices.

A poor man had better keep out of Congress. Campaign expenses are heavy and they come every two years. No man can go to Congress without neglecting his law practice or his business. If he is a poor man he will probably lose his clients or his customers; a small business or practice will not support partners or managers. After a few years in Congress nine men out of ten are beaten for re-nomination and then if they have not a fortune or an established business to fall back on they will try to get some small salaried place under the government and may not be successful.

What is it that makes people anxious to see a bull fight in Spain, where the bulls and some horses are brutally put to death, and the men fighters get all the glory with a minimum of danger; or a blood and thunder play that has neither sense, consistency nor education; or a rhapsodic burlesque, garbed in a manner that is tolerated in a theater, but would shame the audience if it were seen anywhere else; or a prize fight, at an enormous price of admission, in which combatants are struggling for the gate money under a "previous understanding" and not for promotion of the "manly art," or a football game in which the most important personage is the surgeon? Mankind is wonderfully distributed. Possibly the great majority are not for any of these spectacles, but we do not hear of them so much.

That the human race will become blind through the effects of the electrical current so abundantly generated for modern uses is the startling proposition of an alleged scientist of Chicago. We are of the opinion that this statement should be classed among the vagaries of science. There never was a time when real science commanded more respect, or, to demonstrated truths, more unquestioning belief than the present. This is shown by the innumerable instances of applied science in all branches of industry. But scientific demonstrations are one thing and scientific speculations are quite another. In fact, real scientists do not indulge in the latter. They announce conclusions as the result of patient and thorough research, but they do not promulgate long-range speculations or fantastic theories.

One of the impressions which Sir Ian Hamilton of the British army obtained while accompanying the Japanese army in Manchuria and which he describes in his "Scrap Book of a Staff Officer" is the tremendous productive power of the Chinese. He says that he never saw anywhere in the world men work more industriously and in some respects more intelligently, and this upon a basis of compensation infinitesimally small when compared with that demanded in the western world. He entirely supports the contention of the labor leaders of the United States that Chinese labor must be excluded, because he affirms that if it were permitted to enter into competition with the ordinary labor of America it could not fail to acquire an ascendancy over it, not on

account of degraded habits and methods of living, but simply because the Chinese put their shoulder to the wheel of work with a determination and persistency which workmen elsewhere do not exhibit.

Those who keep a close watch on women's ways profess to see a decided falling off in enthusiasm among the fair sex concerning the right and opportunity to cook and the increasing fields in which they may find a chance to earn money or gain a livelihood. "Women are beginning to find out," says a close student of this burning question, "that work is work, after all, and that competition grows fiercer all the time. Young women who come from the country districts with high hopes of independence and ideals about living their own life untrammelled by old traditions soon learn that it is a struggle harder than any they might encounter at home. Then their views change and they begin to think much better of matrimony as a vocation than they did before. It will be some time before this new feeling will have much weight in lessening the present rush of women into all avenues of labor, but there will be an effort in time and the rush will subside. The shadow of independence rather than the substance is all that many women gain, and this is being slowly realized."

It was found lately in Philadelphia that bright colored candies which school children were eating in large quantities were colored with coal tar dyes. Those dyes are poisons. They are used by unscrupulous manufacturers in place of vegetable dyes because they are cheaper. Public ownership is the panacea of some people for all ills, and it was suggested that to insure a supply of pure candy the city should begin making it. There would be no occasion for schemes for municipal candy factories if there were strict and strictly enforced national and state pure food laws. Several other adulterants besides coal tar dyes are found in candies. Glucose is one. It is not poisonous, but it is a cheap and inferior commodity, and its use is a fraud. Another common candy adulterant is terra alba, a white clay which is put in to add weight. It is said 25 or 30 per cent of the weight of candy sometimes is given by this worthless and hurtful substance. An adulterant which is widely used is paraffin. It is put in chocolates to give them consistency, enable them to stand hot weather, and give them a gloss. It is extremely indigestible and is said to be the cause of many cases of appendicitis and other diseases. Cocoa butter serves all the purposes paraffin does and produces no bad effects, but many manufacturers do not use it because it costs 70 cents a pound, while paraffin costs only a tenth as much. Adulterants are found not only in cheap candy but in much that is high priced. Nobody can be sure under present conditions that when he buys he is not being defrauded or that when he eats he is not being poisoned. The amount of injury to health and the number of deaths that impure candies cause, especially among women and children, the chief consumers, are much larger than is generally suspected. The speedy, practicable way to stop the evil is to pass and enforce pure food laws carrying heavy penalties. Those who make and sell candies and other foodstuffs containing harmful substances know the probable results of their acts. Dominated solely by greed, they deliberately imperil the public health. They should be punished according to the degree of their guilt.

A RAINY-DAY WELCOME. The rain was pouring in torrents when Mrs. Haddon flew to the door and admitted her friend, Miss Ransom. "There, you are what I call a real friend!" she cried. "I never expect people to keep an engagement to come here in a storm, for they never do. I told Mr. Haddon this morning that I knew you wouldn't, but here you are!" "I won't keep you standing in the vestibule a minute longer. I just thought perhaps you'd just like to let it drip off a little, as I've had the hall all cleaned today. I always have it done when I'm sure of eight or nine hours before it needs to be walked on."

"But— Oh, no, it doesn't matter a bit. Perhaps you'd like to take off your rubbers? Rubber soles? Oh, no; I never wear them, for they make such work on carpets. I mean, of course, one expects to have one's own carpets ruined, because so few people consider it at all, and I know rubber soles are popular. I only meant the role was for myself."

"There, now, let me find you a comfortable chair; perhaps, as your skirt is damp, you'd rather not sit in one of the covered chairs. Here's a wicker one that I've never had a cushion made for, just for such occasions; and that brings your feet on the rug, too."

"Now, if you'll excuse me for one moment, while I speak to Bridget, I'll be ready for a nice long talk. It was so good of you to come, and so unexpected!"—Youth's Companion.

In the Air. Bacon—Did you know they were putting scent on ice now. Egbert—No, but I guess, by the looks of things they expect to get a sweet-scented price for it.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Shamrock" an Arabian Word. "Shamrahk" is the Arabic word for clover. It is pronounced like the Irish word "shamrock."

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