

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The safe bank is the bank whose president has no vaulting ambitions.

It costs \$212 to save a soul. This, of course, is aside from the rebate for backsliding.

In Russia the officers will have to seek the men so long as the officers have to dodge the bombs.

Some married women are so weak they even allow their husbands to keep part of their salaries.

If President Palma has laid by enough to carry him over to the next chautauqua season he is all right.

Santo Domingo is perfectly willing to discharge her present indebtedness if she can borrow the money to do it with.

Caleb Powers is about to be tried again in Kentucky. Caleb may truthfully say that he finds this life full of trials.

Prophet Smith of Utah has been pinched for having five wives. Here it pinches the average man's exchequer to have one.

So far as we have been able to observe, despite so-called reform, football hair is still worn in the same violent style as formerly.

A woman probably never appreciates her husband more than when he comes home and announces that his salary has been increased.

At the rate they are sending bankers to prison there will only be a few left for Cassie Chadwick to do business with when she gets out.

Physicians generally, we are told, oppose any change in the spelling of "pneumonia." The extra letters are needed to represent its complications.

Mr. Rockefeller warns men not to be slaves to their business. Still, not every man can make his business do his slaving for him as successfully as Mr. Rockefeller does.

The Rockefeller family has held a reunion, during which the memories of a number of Rockefellers, who never knew what a pipe line looked like, were appropriately cherished.

Some of the cement work around Pennsylvania's new capitol is already beginning to crumble. The graft killers of Pennsylvania have made a serious mistake if they have laid away their weapons.

The girls employed in a porcelain factory in New Jersey went out on strike the other day because the manager ordered that they must no longer sing at their work. They had been in the habit of amusing themselves by singing popular songs, hymns and Sunday school music, but they may do that no more. Rather than keep silent they stopped work. It cannot be that the manager was married, else he would have known what result to expect from such an order.

Japanese scholars are urging upon the people the importance of abandoning the old Chinese system of sign-writing, or ideographs, and the adoption of the Roman alphabet for spelling Japanese words. They support a paper devoted to the propaganda, and report that the people are beginning to approve it. Inasmuch as English is taught in the primary schools in Japan, the coming generation will know the alphabet anyway, whether they use it in their own language or not.

A young college graduate has been learning something about "practical" politics. He attempted to wrest the control of a New York assembly district from Tammany. When the campaign was over he found that the men whom he had trusted to co-operate with him had taken his money and hired out to the other side. They took his ballots, but did not vote them. The "detective" whom he hired to watch his rival turned out to be a lieutenant of that rival, and some of his professed followers stole his watch, chain and diamond scarf-pin.

The head of a manufacturing concern keeps his eyes open to prevent waste. There must be no extravagance in labor, in time, in fuel, in machinery. He looks for the minimum of cost and the maximum of profit. It is a matter of business and he manages it along strictly business principles. How many farmers manage their farms along business principles? Too few hereabouts. And yet farming is as much the farmer's business as manufacturing is the business of the other. If the manufacturer trusted to luck, allowed his machinery to lie out of doors and rust, worked only when he felt like it and permitted his employees to work only when they felt like it, failed to keep books and figured everything on a dollars-and-cents basis, he would soon find himself a bankrupt. The farmers should avoid such mistakes, too.

Hereafter the process of making American citizens will proceed in an orderly manner, and a certificate of naturalization will indicate more fully than ever before that its holder is entitled to all the rights and privileges of

citizenship. The new law, which went into effect in the autumn, provides that all immigrants shall be registered at the port of entry, and that a certificate shall be given to each person. Not less than two years prior to his admission to citizenship the applicant for naturalization must appear in a United States District or Circuit Court, or in a Territorial or State court having a seal, a clerk and jurisdiction in actions at law and equity, and in that court he must renounce all foreign allegiance, and must swear that he is at least 18 years old and intends to become a citizen. Not less than two, nor more than seven, years later he may file in court a petition for naturalization, setting forth his qualifications for citizenship, verified by at least two persons who have lived in the United States for five years. At the expiration of ninety days the petitioner must appear in court in person, and submit to an examination with his witnesses. The clerk in the meantime has posted in a public place a notice of the application, with the man's name and the date of his petition. After the hearing, if the man has proved his ability to read, and if he has satisfied the judge of his identity and of his residence in the country for seven years, and of his abhorrence of all anarchistic doctrines, the final papers are issued, and he becomes a citizen. It will be seen that the process takes time, and that the public knows for ninety days of the intention of any alien to apply for citizenship. The gravest scandals under the old law arose from the habit of naturalization without previous notice to the public. Applicants have been taken into court by the score, and turned into citizens as fast as their names could be taken and the oath administered.

Dr. Samuel J. Barrows, the well-known writer on social questions, contributes to *Charities*, the weekly journal of philanthropy and reform, an excellent account of the recent conference of the National Prison Association, which met at Albany and was briefly mentioned in the *New York press*. Vital topics were discussed at the congress, which, by the way, is declared to have been the most profitable and successful in the history of the movement for prison reform in North America. The attendance reached 400, and every delegate was a practical student of the problems under discussion. Wardens, prison chaplains, physicians in charge of convicts, social workers who regularly visit penitentiaries and jails made up the bulk of the delegations from the States, territories and Canadian provinces. It was the consensus of opinion that the jail system was the weak spot in the whole scheme of penal administration. The buildings and the feeding of the prisoners have shown much improvement, but otherwise there has been no advance in fifty years. The conference agreed upon the need of a uniform system of prison discipline and jail administration. At the next meeting of the association a report is to be presented thoroughly covering the subject. One of the most important of the topics was the enforced idleness of convicts and prisoners. One expert declared the prisoner's greatest need to be the habit of industry, and to condemn him to idleness was to injure not only him but society as well. An extremely varied exhibition of goods manufactured by convicts was a feature of the conference, and it served as an object lesson in the utility and good effects of prison labor judiciously regulated. The parole system, tuberculosis in prisons, the attitude of wardens toward reform suggestions and experiments, classification and education of convicts, juvenile criminals and so on were on the program of the conference as subjects of study and debate. In several directions advance was recorded, but there is evidently plenty of room for further improvement, and the association is stimulating thought and doing good work along rational and scientific lines.

The Land of Old Age.
This is one of the bitterest things we mothers have to bear when we get old. We have learned then that we can't help our children to lead their lives one bit better. There is not one single stone we can clear from before their feet or our old fingers ever so willing. With yearning hearts we see them making the mistakes we could teach them to avoid if only they would listen. We see them going through one experience after another, stumbling here, again hurting themselves against the same corner you hurt yourself so long ago, repeating all the world-worn mistakes, while we elders watch anxiously and may not even cry out "Take care." Our sons repeat the follies of their fathers; our daughters make over again all the mistakes of their mothers. It is very hard to sit in silence when you see them doing all the things that you did and then so painfully learned better. We feel that we could so easily point to the fair open road if our children would let us, but we are as useless to them as guide-posts to the blind. We must watch our children lose themselves in the tangle whose miseries we know so well and see them at last after long years of wandering find their way back home heart sore and worn—and all the time we can't help thinking it all needn't have been. That to us older mothers is the heartrending part of it.—*Harper's Bazaar.*

The Hard-Working Member.
"Say, doesn't our Congressman do anything but draw his salary?"
"Oh, yes."
"What?"
"He spends it."—*Cleveland Leader.*

Most children are disgusted because their fathers do not succeed better.

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