

**TOPICS OF THE TIMES**

Deformed spelling, sure enough.

King Leopold's press agent seems to have a harder job than even Mr. Rockefeller's.

The new British ambassador to this country was born in Ireland. The Irish will not be kept down.

"Why," asks the Baltimore Sun, "should grafters seek office?" Why should ducks enter the water?

Most of the Russian riots occur on some anniversary. It might help some if the Czar were to abolish anniversaries.

"Russia would like to help the United States check Japanese aggressions." How much money does Russia want to borrow?

A London physician says that ministers live too long. This is variety. Most fault-finders only say the ministers preach too long.

Perhaps that man who stole two pounds of Limburger cheese from a Montreal grocer simply found the temptation too strong to resist.

A Frenchman has invented a phonograph that can be heard for a mile. Mothers use it to call for Willie to come home and split an armful of kindling.

It will be several weeks, anyway, before the United States and Japan go to war over a question that could easily be settled by a well-organized country debating society.

Count Boni as a Paris newspaper writer, at a salary of \$100 per, may not save much money, but he will have a glorious chance to get even with the flippant journalists of America.

The country has grown too fast and too great for its transportation facilities.—Boston Globe. How can we reconcile this assertion with the claim that the railroads develop the country?

Judging from the noise he isn't making it is only fair to infer that Winston Churchill is busy on a new book which may be brought out about the time another campaign is started in New Hampshire.

The London Times is endeavoring to establish itself on a twentieth century basis, but it has not as yet begun to offer prizes for the best definition of love or the most lucid solution of the problem of Ann's age.

It is announced that Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller consider themselves too poor to have oysters served at their table. Let us not, however, permit ourselves to be distressed at their poverty. They can probably afford to have a soup bone at least once a day.

Emperor William is reported to have become an enthusiastic golfer. Now for the first time in his life he will have a chance to show that he is really great. If he can play eighteen holes without losing his temper it will have to be admitted that Germany has a wonderful ruler.

Some of the men who are named as probable successors of King Leopold in the administration of affairs in the Congo country may not be very well qualified for the business of ruling people, but any change from the present condition of the inhabitants of the Congo district would necessarily be for the better.

The establishment of parliamentary government in countries accustomed to autocracy is not easy. Russia is having trouble over the problem. In Persia the people are accusing the leaders of the reform movement of seeking selfish ends, and they have no confidence in the proceedings of their house of representatives. In Montenegro, where the first parliament was recently organized, the legislators voted lack of confidence in the government the other day, the cabinet resigned, and parliament adjourned.

The attempts thus far made to disregard and nullify the immutable laws of nature have been laughable in their fantastic failure. Communist and socialistic experiments, whether made by artificial societies or imposed by great nations upon a people, as was the case in Canada in "New France," have gone down in wreck and disaster. In the formal attempts to found societies on the equality plan a curious thing always happens in the end. It may be suggested by those who have not looked into them that the loafers and the workers do the work, according to their bent. Not at all; the loafers and the ambitious, who under our present crude system would be the workers, take to loafing too.

"My most serious problem is how I can give my children the advantage of the poor man's." A popular magazine quotes a rich man as saying this. Most rich men in this country have themselves been sons of poor men. The old European laws of primogeniture and entail being inoperative with us, every man stands on his own feet and depends on his own head and hands for his fortune. Even the heir to wealth

must use his own brains and energies to take care of it, or it soon slips away. And it is a fact, which the rich man quoted seems to have noticed, that not all, nor most, children of the rich have ability even to hold wealth dumped in their laps. A few children of rich men have notably made their inherited wealth a great blessing to themselves and mankind—but they are precious few. Call the roll of the men and women who have achieved the highest fortune or fame in this country, and an overwhelming majority will be found to have come up from the "lower walks" of life and to owe their development of character to struggle and self-denial. It is of these twin blessings in disguise that we gain strength, skill, sympathy, purpose. The child pampered in idleness and luxury knows little of these vital things, and when he meets in contest the uncouth but toughened boy from the farm or the side street, he has poor chance of holding his own. We are accustomed to think of the "advantages" of the children of the rich. But all the history of human life since the world began proves that the real "advantages" are on the other side.

Early in October British soap manufacturers formed a combination like what we know in America as a trust. Six weeks later the members of the combination announced that "the working arrangement entered into by the leading soap makers of the United Kingdom has been received with such disfavor by the trade and the public as to make it unworkable, and it has been decided to terminate the arrangement." Newspapers, tradesmen and consumers had united to defeat the combination. One need not approve the methods of boycott resorted to by the retailers, or the favors shown by newspapers to "independent" soap makers in the matter of advertising, which contributed to make the allied firms dissolve their agreement. But it may be noted with satisfaction that the chief power against the trust was the public, and that the combination was undone not by legal or political measures, or by any ethical principle, but simply by the fact that popular opposition made it "unworkable." The people did not like the combination, and they made the manufacturers feel their strong disapproval of it. Wherever organized and artificial evil shows itself and is recognized in time, spontaneous opposition on the part of public opinion can often, if not always, break it up, although politics, law and mere ethics fail. Even where the consumer has not the weapon of competition, as in the case of railroad companies with unique franchises, the people can force attention to their just demands if they will. Cartoonists are still representing the common people as a sorry, wizened little man. In this country as in England, his arm and voice are mighty if he but use them.

**Foiled the Holdup Men.**

A west end man had an experience recently that made his hair stand on end and had it not been for his quick wit in devising a means of getting out of the difficulty it might have cost him dearly. He is the treasurer of a local lodge and was returning home from a meeting with a considerable amount of money in his possession, fortunately the greater part of which was in currency.

He got off a car quite a distance out in the west end and turned off a side street toward his home, when he noticed that he was being followed by two suspicious looking men. Quick as a flash he pulled an envelope out of his pocket, addressed it to himself, stamped it, put the currency inside it and dropped it in the mail box. Then he started on a brisk walk.

Suddenly there came a command from behind him.

"Hands up!"

Up went his hands and the robbers went through his pockets. He smiled grimly as the holdups secured only a few dollars in silver and he thought with pleasure of the money he had put in the mail box in Uncle Sam's care. The robbers went away complaining of the small amount they secured and the treasurer went home. Next day the letter containing the money was delivered safely to his office.—Duluth News-Tribune.

**Accounting for the Pearl.**

Three principal hypotheses have been offered to account for the origin of pearls. According to one they arise from secretions caused by the presence of some foreign object, such as a grain of sand, within the shell of the oyster. But it has been shown that fine pearls are not thus produced.

Another theory is that pearls are the result of disease in the oyster. The third hypothesis, sustained by M. Seurat of the Oceanographic museum of Monaco, is that the origin of pearls is to be ascribed to the presence of a parasite. The species of parasite differs with the species of oyster, but this mode of origin, M. Seurat believes, is general with all fine pearls.

To restore the luster of a "dead" pearl the outer tarnished envelope may be removed with acids. Thus the effect produced upon a tarnished pearl by causing a fowl to swallow it is accounted for by the dissolvent action of the gastric juices.

**Invented Cream Freezer.**

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