

Topics of the Times

It's easy to tell others to let well enough alone.

It's pretty mean to hint that Peary's story was cooked up.

Woman suffrage is gaining ground. Emma Goldman is out against it.

Professor William Henry Pickering thinks he saw a little vegetation on the moon. Sad, indeed!

Andrew Carnegie is tightening the purse strings, having indefinitely postponed the job of dying poor.

The University students have asked for a wrestling director. It takes skill to get one of those Greek roots three points down.

A Chicago clergyman advocates compulsory marriages. This space (—) is reserved for what the bachelors think of the idea.

"When would you call a man a victim of fate?" asks a correspondent. Well, for instance, when he has his skull fractured with a life preserver.

A Texas man has just given away several million dollars' worth of property; but don't get excited. He merely gave it to members of his family.

King Leopold left a private fortune which is estimated at \$53,000,000, notwithstanding the fact that he never went around complaining that wealth was a burden.

A Northwestern University professor thinks men should be proud to have descended from an ape. Some men should be proud, undoubtedly; but what about the ape?

Judicial authorities are wrestling with the question whether a safety razor is a deadly weapon. It may not be deadly, but amateurs in its use assert that it can hurt a lot.

Some persons are reviving the old controversy about Abraham Lincoln's religion. Viewing the career of the great American from this distance it seems hardly worth while to worry about what particular brand of religion he affected.

The holiday season brings a realization of the importance of toys in the commercial world. In 1908 more than seven million dollars' worth of toys were imported by this country, mainly from Germany, which excels the rest of the world in producing wonderful things dear to the childish heart.

In a recent speech at Yale University, Governor Hughes, of New York, put his finger upon an ugly spot in American life—the ready habit of believing and spreading evil stories about men in public office. He pleaded with the students that those who go into journalism be fair with public men whom they criticize, although they comment freely upon the acts of such men. "A man who seeks profit in the sale of calumnies is the most despicable of human creatures," said the governor.

The movement for uniform laws governing the operation of motor vehicles throughout the United States is gaining strength through the activities of the various automobile associations in the country, and the problem will be one of the chief matters for consideration at the meeting here in January of the American Automobile Association. It is not believed that exactly similar laws will be adopted by all of the States, but it is hoped that uniformity relative to examination of drivers, registration of cars, signals, road signs, etc., can be obtained.

The spelling of some of the entering class of a great Western university has lately been published for the amusement, and perhaps warning, of students elsewhere. Words were misspelled that any pupil of an ungraded country school should know by heart. The head of the English department, in commenting on the matter, expresses the opinion that possibly one in a hundred who thus offend is constitutionally deficient in the mental traits which make an accurate speller; but with others who have studied the matter, he lays the trouble among the ninety-nine to lack of sufficiently thorough early training and drill. No real substitute for the old spelling-book has ever been found, and ignorant and illiterate spelling is not "reformed" orthography.

General Bell proposes a military censorship of the American press in war times suggested by the Japanese censorship in the recent war. It is

held by military men that the strict censorship which the government was enabled to exercise contributed largely to Japanese success in the struggle with Russia, as by it the enemy and the world at large were shrewdly deceived as to Japanese plans, losses in battle, and resources. The vital feature of the Japanese system was to compel the press to tell deliberate falsehoods whenever it seemed necessary to conceal the real facts. We are told by the purist and strict constructionists that such a system would not do at all for the United States. In the first place, such a censorship wouldn't be constitutional; that whatever censorship might be attempted outside of the military areas would be subject to the civil law, and that it would be wicked to make the newspapers tell lies, even to deceive the enemy. This may be admitted as a general proposition, yet if the country were engaged in a life and death struggle the strict constructionists might have another thought coming. Deceptions, stratagems, are considered fair in war. A man of integrity in civil life, drafted into the army, might be compelled by the exigencies of his situation to draw the enemy into an ambush; to lure him by false appearances and signals; to pretend that he had a thousand men when he had perhaps actually not more than a hundred. If a citizen can thus be made to lie in act or word, to risk his life as well as his reputation for veracity, why should not a newspaper be compelled to suppress or color the truth if our success in arms were to depend upon it? It is to be hoped that no situation will ever arise requiring an addition to the list of newspaper liars—but if it does, we may even have to grin and bear it, as we do war taxes.

UNCOMMON WANTS.

Curiously worded advertisements, which are funny without the author's intent, are to be found in almost any number of any newspaper. The following announcements were printed in all good faith in the advertising columns of various English newspapers, and, as a whole, they won a prize offered by a London periodical for the best collection of such specimens of unconscious humor:

Annual sale now on. Don't go elsewhere to be cheated—come in here.

A lady wants to sell her piano, as she is going away, in a strong iron frame.

Wanted—Experienced nurse for bottled baby.

Furnished apartments suitable for gentlemen with folding doors.

Two sisters want washing.

Wanted—A room by two gentlemen, about thirty feet long and twenty feet broad.

Lost—A collie dog by a man on Saturday answering to Jim with a brass collar round his neck and a muzzle.

Wanted, by a respectable girl, her passage to New York; willing to take care of children and a good sailor.

Respectable widow wants washing on Tuesdays.

For Sale—A pianoforte, the property of a musician with carved legs.

Mr. Brown, furrier, begs to announce that he will make up gowns, capes, etc., for ladies out of their own skins.

A boy who can open oysters with reference.

Bulldog for sale; will eat anything; very fond of children.

Wanted—An organist and a boy to blow the same.

Wanted—A boy to partly outside and partly behind the counter.

The World Went Round.

When Bloggins senior on the occasion of his annual party was obliging his guests with "Tis Love That Makes the World Go Round," Master William Bloggins seized the opportunity to retire for a few minutes behind the Japanese screen with his sire's half smoked cigar.

The applause subsiding, Master Bloggins was observed by one of the company to be looking far from well. His face had taken on the hue of putty, and his eyes stood out like small hat pegs.

"Good gracious, Willie! What's the matter?" cried Mrs. Bloggins in alarm. "I believe you've been smoking."

Willie shook his head.

"Tain't that," he declared untruthfully. "If it's true what father's been singing about, I—I reckon I'm in love!"—London Express.

Crushed.

Colonial Dame (Impressively)—My ancestors came over in the Mayflower. Daughter of the Revolution—Humph! If my ancestors were immigrants I wouldn't brag of it.—Pathfinder.

Put a man's hat on his head, and the chances are about a hundred to one that it will be uncomfortable until he adjusts it in his own peculiar way.

The hole in the doughnut doesn't amount to much, but it is better for you than its surroundings.

FARM AND GARDEN

Back to the Farm.

There are three all-important things to be weighed by the city man who wishes to return to the farm. The first is his wife. If she is in every sense of the word a helpmate, loves the country and can give up what she has been used to in the city for the sake of the children and the building of a real home, then the prospects are fairly favorable to begin with. The second thing to be considered is your years and capacity for work; the third, what is your capital? If all these are favorable, don't lose a day in trying to get suitably located. If any one of these points is doubtful, deliberate well and move slowly. If you have a fat bank account and a wife tied to the fleshpots of the city you can do nothing in the country; but, on the other hand, if your wife be one with you heart and soul, then capital might at a pinch be forgotten. As to the second point—that of years and capacity for work—this is very important, because so many of those who are earnestly desirous of forsaking the city to-day are well advanced in years, who think that the country would afford them an easy means of earning a living. There is nothing easy on the farm.

Loss on Farm Crops Due to Fungi.

Prof. W. A. Orton, in an article on the importance of the development of farm crops resistant to disease, justifies his statements by pointing out that the present losses from plant diseases are a heavy tax upon the farmer. He states that in the United States alone the average annual loss from oat smut is more than \$6,500,000; from loose-smut of wheat, \$3,000,000, and from bunt, or stinking smut of wheat, more than \$11,000,000. Loose-smut annually diminishes the value of barley \$2,000,000, a careful estimate of the loss in one State last year placing it at 7 per cent. The combined effect of the various diseases of fungal origin attacking the potato diminish the

Animal Food for Poultry.

Bones and meat secured from the butcher and cut into fine pieces by means of a bone cutter are perhaps the best substitute for the insects a hen finds when on free range. Horse meat, being free from tuberculosis, is probably slightly preferable to that from the butchers' stalls. Skim milk is a good substitute for meat, but being so bulky the fowls rarely eat enough of it to supply the required nutriment unless it is soured to a clabber and whey drawn off. Dried beef scrap is a product of the packing-houses and if of assured quality makes a fair substitute for fresh meat. It should be fed in hoppers and should constitute about 8 or 10 per cent of the grain ration.

Landing Blocks of Ice.

An easy way to take the blocks of ice from a pond after they are cut is shown in the accompanying sketch, from Popular Mechanics. A plank ten to twelve feet long, with a handle at-



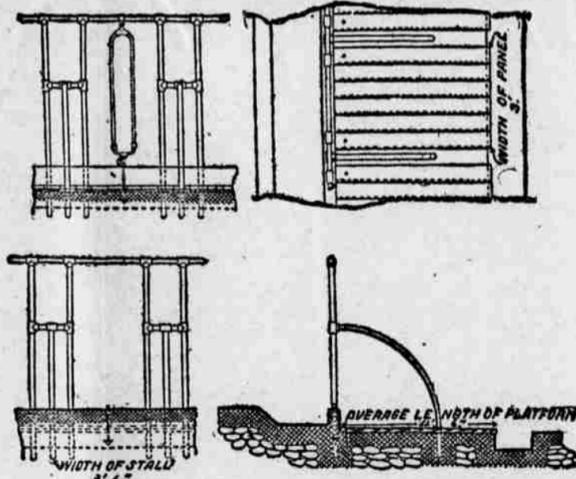
HOW TO REMOVE THE BLOCKS.

tached to one end and a block of wood nailed to the other, takes the place of ice tongs. One person can take out a heavy block of ice as easily as three men could with ice tongs. In removing ice blocks with this board, the operator will not get wet.

Owls for Orchards.

The fruit growers of New Zealand, after long racking their brains in vain to find some way of getting rid of the small bird pest, recently thought of trying owls, says the Sydney Mail. A hundred small German owls were ordered from Europe, and a part of the order was delivered last September. The owls were liberated in the fruit-growing districts and immediately proved a wonderful success. They kill-

COW STALL FOR WINTER.



A stall with movable wooden floor and fastening for the same. The advantage of this design will be appreciated in winter when the concrete is too cold for the comfort of cows. Two iron pins set in the concrete floor near the front corners of the stall keep it in place. The floor panel is easily removed for cleaning.

yield of this crop over \$36,000,000 each year. The above account shows that an annual loss amounting to over \$55,000,000 is sustained, due to the injury caused by fungi to cereals and potatoes alone.

The Farm-Wife.

Where ends the road 'cross the hill?
I do not know—I do not know;
But all day long and all the night
I long to go—I long to go!

It runs so straight beneath the sun,
So white beneath the moon;
It calls me from my work and dreams,
And I must answer—soon.

I volt my door, I do my tasks,
I kiss my Goodman's cheek—
Yet I cannot hear my baby's laugh
For what the road would speak.

Where ends the road? I only know
Here, from the pasture-bars,
It is familiar to the sun
And mistress to the stars.
—Reginald W. Kauffman, in Lippincott's.

Wisdom in Buying Feed.

When much food is to be bought the aim should be to grow so much coarse fodder that whatever is bought will be bought in the shape of fertilizer. The wisdom of doing this arises from the less cost of transporting concentrates because of the less bulk which they contain in proportion to their nutriment. The fertilizer may be very profitably used in growing the coarse fodders needed.

ed waxeyes, finches, green linnets, thrushes, blackbirds and sparrows; also mice, rats and young rabbits. They fed their young on caterpillars, grubs and beetles, and their only fault seemed to be an occasional fondness for a barnyard chicken.

Profitable Hog Has Strength.

The profitable market hog must possess a good, strong constitution, for without this no hog can make a good market hog. The hog that possesses a good, strong and vigorous constitution is invariably extremely good through the heart and chest, and here is where he lives, and he cannot be strong and vigorous if he lacks in this essential of development. He should have a good strong back, be broad and strong through the loins, for it is a mere chance if we ever find a profitable market hog that is weak and poorly developed through the loins.

Value of a Good Garden.

A good home garden is a great institution. It means more on many farms than the crop of wheat, corn or oats. It furnishes food for the family throughout the summer, and, if properly handled, a liberal supply for winter. Some gardens are handled so skillfully that there is a surplus of vegetables for sale almost every week. It means much to the farmer and his family and should be planned with the utmost care and given the very best attention.

ITALIANS AND IRVING.

Memorial Presented by Ambassadors in London to Drury Lane.

"The critics were very severe—and in my judgment justly severe—toward the 'Dante' of Sardou; but the fact remains that Irving, at the decline of his life, felt the attraction of the influence of Dante's great personality. * * * Irving's endeavor to impersonate on the English stage that powerful individuality turned his last thoughts toward Italy, and today it is those among her sons who are united to him by the brotherhood of art who offer this tribute to a man who has so highly contributed to show to mankind all the nobility and loftiness of his art."

Thus spoke the Italian ambassador in London, the Marquis of San Giuliano, at Drury Lane theater recently in unveiling the memorial to the late Sir Henry Irving presented by Signor Tommaso Salvini and the leading members of the dramatic profession in Italy, says the London Chronicle. The memorial shows the effigy of Irving in bronze, enriched by a wreath of laurels, with a background of gray marble.

The memorial has been placed on the wall at the head of the grand staircase. Around it yesterday were gathered many people well known in the dramatic world.

"You English artists," said the ambassador in the course of his speech, "have greatly assisted me in my study of the English language. Frequenting the theaters and seeing your acting I have learned more of the English character, life, feelings and mode of thought than in reading many learned books—which I have tried to forget as much as possible."

"The English artists have given eloquent proofs of their sympathy with Italy by the homage they have paid to Salvini, the magnificent benefit to the memory of Ristori, and the part they have always taken in our charitable works. When Italy was still divided, when its independence and unity were still a goal and an ideal, and to many people even a dream and a Utopia, Salvini and Ristori were among the forces which contributed to our national deliverance.

"Salvini in 1849 acted in Rome, and at the same time fought in defense of the cause of liberty. Once an alarm was raised during an interval. He went to the ramparts and after the repulse of the attack resumed the performance. Of course that evening the curtain, after the interval, did not rise with the scrupulous punctuality of the English stage."

Wanted a Pattern.

A ragged Irishman was charged in a London court a short time ago with tendering a counterfeit shilling in payment for a penny loaf.

Though forlorn in aspect, he was not destitute of that shrewdness which is characteristic of his countrymen. He stated that he was sent for the loaf by a person at a public house close by, who gave him the coin to pay for it, and that on discovering it was not good he bought the coin for three half-pence.

The Magistrate—How came you to buy the shilling after you had discovered it was a bad one?

The prisoner, with much apparent gravity, replied:

"Sure, then, your honor, I bought it so that if I should happen to have a bad one offered to me I might know it by looking at the one I had with me."

There was a burst of laughter, and the rogue was dismissed with a caution.

Notes of Women.

A French book on the evolution of the Englishwoman finds the woman's club—which in England is a real club, not a body which holds monthly meetings—an excellent institution for both married and single. For the married woman it is her "own place, where her husband cannot worry her," while for the unmarried it is a place where she need never be dull and where she can properly entertain friends of both sexes.

Airship Bird Cages.

The canaries are having the benefit of the present craze for all things in the airship line. The latest bird cages are made in the shape of airships, to be hung in the window. And so pretty are they the wonder is the airship fashion in cages didn't become popular among canaries long ago.

Esprit de Corps.

Passenger (to motor bus conductor)—What's all this crowd about. Is it the motor show?

Conductor—Yes, sir; and the most successful show we've had so far.—Punch.

Hydrophobia in Germany.

Though hydrophobia has been stamped out of Britain, it is still rampant in Germany, where every year over 2,500 dogs and cats afflicted with the disease are destroyed.

When a man puts on another suit, the other men will say: "New, or cleaned up?"