

Topics of the Times

This is the era of the aeroplane, not of the cobblestone.

Almost as dangerous working in a mine as playing football.

Wireless telegraphy wins more races with death than it loses.

An optimist is a man who laughs at misfortune, never having had any himself.

Poets are getting practical. One of them reports having traded a love song for a ham.

The New York stock exchange has expelled a member for "obvious fraud." What if the fraud isn't obvious?

The hen is a meek and lowly bird, but she has done more for this continent than the eagle ever will do.

People who have grown used to oleomargarine are now patiently awaiting the announcement of a substitute for meat.

An industrious man must often wish he were an Indian, a heathen, or an outlaw, so that people would take an interest in him.

"Rockefeller will aid all Americans," is the way a headline reads. But don't write to him for money. He isn't going to do it that way.

A contemporary says that butter will keep for years in the arctic regions. That is easily explained—the trust has no chance to corner the ice supply.

A prominent neurological expert says Boston women are "nothing but a coterie of misguided, frivolous, airy Lillians." What! Not a Dorothy nor a Helen among them?

A "black hand" leader in New York has been sent to prison for twenty-five years. That ought to convince those Italian desperadoes that the American law is effective once in a while.

A father's experience makes him the best adviser of his daughter, says the president of a girl's school. Perhaps "should make him" would come a little nearer the truth. There is a great difference in fathers.

Every little while somebody arises and claims to be an heir to property worth hundreds of millions of dollars in the heart of some big city. Have you ever heard of an heir of this kind who got the money?

William E. Watt, the Chicago school principal who is campaigning for the ventilation and against the overheating of schools, says that the average winter temperature in the average city school promotes the sale of short coats.

Nikola Tesla promises that people will be one day able to talk through wireless telephones from any given points in the world and at small cost. And nobody will now be found to say this wonder is impossible. It is a sign of the amazing progress of the age that we take as matters of course what only a generation ago would have been looked on as a miracle.

Pork-raising ought to be a profitable industry for those engaged in it, as the demand for pork increases every year, and the supply is decreasing. On Jan. 1 the number of swine in the great pork-raising and exporting States of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri and Nebraska was only a little more than four-fifths as great as on the same date a year earlier. The actual decrease was nearly five million swine. As these States produce one-half of all the swine in the country and probably a large part of the pork consumed in the non-swine-producing commonwealths, the fact that the decrease in them is about three-quarters of the decrease in the United States throws an interesting light on the cause of the increase in the price of pork within the past year or so.

As it is contrary to the policy of the United States to secure "spheres of influence" and to make commercial settlements in the territory of other powers, the preservation of the treaty rights of Americans in China depends on the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the empire, and the prevention of a disregard of the open-door provisions of those agreements. Suspicion is felt in some official quarters that Japan is planning to secure exclusive control of Manchuria to the disadvantage of all other powers. Japan already controls Korea, and has succeeded to the Russian rights in Manchuria. It has lately entered into an agreement with China that the mines along certain Manchurian rail-

ways shall be exploited by the Chinese and Japanese, allowing it to be inferred that no one else may exploit them. The policy of Japan is well known to be backed by a desire to extend its influence as far inland on the Asiatic continent as possible. It needs space for the expansion of its population. Its policy is also based on the desire to secure for the Japanese exclusive privileges. The danger to the commerce of the western powers, including the United States, lies in the possibility that Japan may be able to obtain from the Chinese concessions which are inconsistent with the maintenance of the open door for those powers. If China chooses to resist Japan in this matter it will find its treaties useful, for it has agreed with the other nations that they shall have equal commercial privileges. But even if China should be indifferent, the other powers will not allow Japan to obtain a foothold which will prejudice their interests. But before action is taken there must be more than a suspicion that the treaty rights are threatened.

The professor of philosophy in the agricultural college of Kansas proposes a scientific course of matrimony, to be made a part of the instruction in the public schools of the State. He has outlined his plan in a pamphlet, entitled "A Better Crop of Boys and Girls." In this pamphlet he repudiates the old adage, that "love is blind"—at least he thinks it ought not to be blind. He says we have scientifically worked out cards for the scoring of cows, pigs and chickens, "but how about scoring young men and women who are candidates for marriage? What are the marks whereby a young woman whose hand is sought in marriage may know a good man when she sees him, and those whereby a young man may know a good woman?" He goes on to argue that because advanced courses of instruction are provided for those who would improve the breeding of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, we should set up a standard of requirement for those who are engaged in the complex and difficult task of rearing children and improving the race. All of this sounds very plausible from a scientific standpoint, nevertheless the idea can hardly fail to be shocking to refined tastes. It takes all the romance out of love and marriage. No doubt it would be well if there could be some legislation or regulation to prevent the marriage of the mentally and physically unfit; but the idea of comparing the mating of human beings to the breeding of cattle is repulsive. The old way of falling in love has produced good results on the whole. The race has steadily improved. Scientific theories of raising children may be attractive to old bachelors and old maids, but with the father and mother the human element founded on love is predominant. If all romance is to be done away with and matrimony to be based entirely upon good judgment and scientific calculation, then we would do well to adopt the system prevailing in some French society, and let the marriages be arranged entirely by the parents or guardians, the young people acquiescing quietly in whatever arrangements may be made. Then the mating could be as devoid of emotion and sentiment as the most scientific Gradgrind could wish.

Three Sorts of Churches.

It was Sunday morning at a certain small Southwestern hotel. The one guest, a commercial traveler who had been unexpectedly detained over the week end, had finished his breakfast, and had walked over to the proprietor's desk to make some inquiries.

"And another thing I want to know," he said, in conclusion, "please tell me what denominations have churches here."

"We ain't very well fixed here," said the other, reflectively. "We've got three churches, countin' 'em all, an' ye can take yer own choice. They's a Reformed Presbyterian, an' a United Presbyterian, an' one that ain't either Reformed or United."

A Powerful Weapon.

They were examining an old-fashioned shotgun of murderous build. It looked as if it would be an effective weapon against anything short of an elephant, and its owner was boasting, with that scorn of fact which is allowed the successful hunter, of its power.

"Doesn't it kick like anything?" asked one.

"Oh, yes, it kicks some," said the proprietor, "but that's the beauty of it. Why, once I shot at a grizzly that was charging me. I missed him, and on he came. If it had not been that the gun kicked me so far back that I had time to reload, I shouldn't have been here to tell the story."

Would Fool the Public.

"Egg shampoo?" inquired the barber.

"Nope."

"Egg on the mustache? Gives you the appearance of having had eggs for breakfast. Only 50 cents."

"Go ahead." — Louisville Courier-Journal.

Nine men out of ten overestimate their importance in the world.

Women who tell everything they hear manage to hear a lot.

MISSION DOCTORS IN CHINA.

Surgical Operations in Foochow at Ridiculously Low Prices.

Some of the best surgical work in the world is done by medical missionaries, who often have the poorest kind of equipment in the way of building and apparatus, says the Boston Transcript. Dr. H. N. Kinnear, at the head of a hospital in Foochow, has been obliged to use the spitting room of his own house for an operating room, but last year he performed over 800 operations with only his wife and untrained natives for assistants. A new hospital is in process of erection, on high ground, which will bring the buildings into prominence from a large part of the city. Of the nearly 18,000 patients treated last year several came from high-class families, and they were most appreciative of what was done for them. A distinctive feature of this and all mission hospitals is the person, usually, a native Christian, who acts as a kind of chaplain. Many of the patients have never heard the gospel story, and while they are being helped physically they listen willingly to what is told them. Religious services are also held every day in the room where people await their turn and receive the bamboo talismans that decide the order in which they are to be seen. Fees are ridiculously small, according to our American standard, 5 cents being the maximum, except in special cases, when the munificent sum of 25 cents is charged! This allows precedence to men who wear the long gown of the literati and object to waiting while laborers and women receive attention. Dr. Kinnear is a resourceful man and often uses the Chinese queue to hold in place the dressings of wounds about the head or as a sling for the support of injured or diseased hands and arms. He writes that he considers medical missionaries the most favored of all workers. Yet his salary is far below what he could earn as a surgeon in the United States.

How Money Gets Into Circulation.

There are four different kinds of legal tender in this country. They are gold and silver coins, gold and silver certificates, treasury notes and national bank notes. When gold bullion is brought to the government mint to be coined the person to whom the gold belongs is paid by the government in gold coin, while those bringing silver bullion are paid in silver certificates. Owing to the fact that gold easily wears away and that a gold coin, after being in circulation for some time, would lose some of the gold, the value deteriorates. There would not be the full amount of gold in the coin and the actual value would be less than the face value. The government instead of allowing the gold to circulate puts it into its vaults and issues certificates of deposit which entitle the holder to the face value of the certificate if he presents it at the treasury, and he is given the amount of gold it calls for. The same is done with the silver, but merely because silver is too heavy to carry around in large quantities. The silver certificates are in the form of one and two dollar bills. Treasury notes are merely promissory notes issued by the government. No certain amount has been deposited in the United States treasury for them, but the government's credit is behind them. National bank notes are the same as the treasury notes with the exception that instead of being issued by the government they are issued by the national banks, whose credit is good, for the government backs them.

"Sounded So Pretty."

There is probably as little poetry in the average English workman as in any class of men in the world. But "the omnipotent baby" will evoke poetic sentiment in the prosiest nature.

Some years ago a Nottinghamshire clergyman, in baptizing a baby paused in the midst of the service to inquire the name of the infant, to which the mother, with a profound courtesy, replied:

"Shady, sir, if you please."

"Shady" replied the minister, "Then it's a boy, and you mean Shadrach, eh?"

"No, please your reverence, it's a girl."

"And pray," asked the pastor, "how happened you to call the child by such a strange name?"

"Why, sir," responded the woman, "if you must know, our name is Bower, and my husband said as how he should like her to be called Shady, because Shady Bower sounds so pretty!"

Preparing for Summer Campaign.

"Yes, he's busily preparing for his next summer's line of scientific investigation."

"What line is that?"

"Why, he wants to find out if mosquitoes take kindly to vegetarians." — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Speechlessness Approved.

"Those two statesmen are so angry they won't speak."

"Well," answered Senator Sorghum, "that's better than starting a controversy." — Washington Star.

We often feel sorry for the rich. There is Rockefeller, for instance; he once had as much hair as anybody.

MOVING PICTURE TRICKS

"Now that the novelty of the moving picture has worn off," said a man whose business is to think up new ideas for the film makers, "it requires a good deal of ingenuity to show the public something it hasn't seen before. In the early days of the business, there were one or two simple tricks that never failed to fool the average audience. But nowadays the old tricks won't do."

"For instance, one of the first stunts was to take a roll of pictures and then run it off backwards on the machine. You would see regiments of soldiers marching backwards down the street, and disappearing in the distance, or there was that old stand-by, the water sports film, which, when run the wrong way, showed men rising feet first from the water, turning somersaults and finally landing gracefully on the springboard overhead."

"Another reversible film which kept many people guessing a long time was one which first showed a mass of clay, and then to take form and shape itself into the likeness of George Washington. How was it done? Simply by taking a wax image of the Father of His Country and slowly melting it while the photographs were being ticked off. Now, when we ran the film backwards the melting process was reversed. But as I said, these things don't go down any longer."

"You'd be surprised to know how resourceful some of the photographers are to-day. There is a film which has lately been sent out all over the country that marks the climax in the art of motion picture faking. I don't believe one man in a thousand who sees it will have the least idea how it was done. It represents the flight of the children of Israel, and gives the scene where Moses waved his wand and the Red Sea parted."

"The man who took that picture spent twelve hours on the Red Sea section alone. He singled out a spot on the shore of Long Island, where there was a sandbar which was out of water at low tide, and under water at high. He started at high tide and took, say, a score of pictures of the sea as it looked then. After fifteen minutes he reeled off another twenty, and fifteen minutes later he did the same. Thus at the end of six hours he had a film showing the changes for every quarter of an hour. At the end of that time the tide had receded so that the sandbar could be seen. Then he called in the supers and had them walk across the bar while he took their picture."

"That was only half the work. Later in the day, when the tide began to rise, he returned and began again to take a few pictures every fifteen minutes. At the end of six hours the water had risen to where it was when he began. We had some doubt as to how the film would come out; we didn't know whether the tide, when photographed that way, would give the desired effect of a sea parting, and then closing up again. But it did. I don't know of any film that looks more lifelike and wonderful. The waves seem to rush apart for a minute, and then rush back again, just as described in the Bible."

Science AND INVENTION

The boiling-points of metals have not hitherto been very accurately ascertained. Recently H. C. Greenwood had undertaken a new investigation of this subject, and he gives the following results for certain well known metals: Aluminum, 1,800 degrees C.; copper, 2,310 degrees C.; iron, 2,450 degrees C.; lead, 1,525 degrees C.; silver, 1,955 degrees C.; tin, 2,270 degrees.

Lord Dudley, the Governor-General of Australia, has headed a movement for persuading the federal government to establish in Australia a solar observatory to act in concert with those now in operation in England, India and America. It is pointed out that there is a great break in the chain of these observatories, extending between California and India, and covering a distance of 150 degrees of longitude. The proposed observatory in Australia would serve to fill this gap. Moreover, it would possess special value from being located in the southern hemisphere. With its aid a continuous series of observations of the sun, extending throughout the 24 hours, could be made.

Among the most interesting of American birds is the great vulture called the California condor, which rivals the famous condor of the Andes in size, averaging 4½ feet in length and 10 feet in spread of wings. It nests in wild and inaccessible places in the mountains. Its eggs measure 4½ by 2½ inches, and are very rare in collections. Prof. Vernon L. Kellogg calls attention to the fact that this bird carries two mallophagan parasites which are common to it and to the two other great vultures of the American cordillera, the Andean condor and the king-vulture, whose combined range extends several thousand miles north and south. But the parasites are wingless, whereas the vultures represent three separate genera, of which the individuals are particularly non-gregarious. How, then, have they come into the possession of identical parasites? Professor Kellogg believes that the explanation must be that the parasites infested an extinct common ancestor of the three related types of birds, and have persisted, practically unchanged, on its now divergent descendants.

Invention during the next two or three centuries, says Prof. John G. McKindrick, will probably be in the direction of imitating the wonderful economy, and the simple, direct methods of nature. Take the electric eel. Its electric organ is in no sense a storage-battery, but a contrivance by which electric energy is liberated at the moment when it is required. At rest, the organ shows so small an electromotive force that a good galvanometer is required to detect it, but a sudden nervous impulse from the eel's spinal cord raises a potential of many

volts, with very little heat, and so small an expenditure of matter as to defy the most expert chemist to weigh it. Fireflies, glowworms and many deep-sea fishes produce light without heat, "at a cost which would make the price of wax vesta an extravagant outlay." The organic chemist requires all the resources of his laboratory, with high temperatures and potent agencies, to produce alkaloidal substances which plants make at a low temperature and by slow processes.

FIGHTS WITH BABOON.



At Portland, Oregon, struggling for his life with an infuriated baboon, Fred Wilson, of Brazil, Ind., a trainer employed by an animal show, fought desperately for half an hour with Komo, a pink-tailed baboon, that attacked him in the cage. The savage beast clutched Wilson's throat, but so long as the trainer could keep on his feet he had the best of the fight. At length he fell, exhausted from the loss of blood and strain, and the animal gnawed at his legs in a frightful manner. A score of monkeys in the cage kept up a shrill screaming during the progress of the fight and this attracted the attention of other employes, who rescued Wilson.

Opinions of Well-Known Men.

"There is no other hope for men," says William Dean Howells, "but in the civic help of women. Everything in the movement to give women the suffrage appeals to my reverence and sense of justice."

"There are only two ways to settle it," says Edwin E. Slosson. "One is 'Back to the harem!' The other is equal opportunities and responsibilities and equal rewards to the individuals who deserve them."

"To-day should be a time of education," says Dr. Percy S. Grant. "Leagues for the political education of women similar to that in New York should be established in every city. Women, I believe, will ultimately share the ballot with men."

Conversation at a Tea.

She (sweetly, as they sip their tea, together)—Isn't this delicious?
He (absent-mindedly)—Yes, I love to take tea with a little lemon.—Columbia Jester