

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Many a man curses his luck who never had any.

It takes a clever oculist to cure an egotist of his I trouble.

It has come at least. There is a new disease called aeroplanitis.

Nat Goodwin found Wall street almost as precarious as matrimony.

Collector Loeb has certainly made himself unpopular with the people who can afford to pay.

The only people who really seem to enjoy living close to nature are those who don't have to.

When a young couple are married they are made one, but it takes some time to find out which one.

The discovery that chemistry can convert sage brush into valuable products is in line with the progress of the age.

History teaches us that the main object of mobs in monarchical revolutions is to dethrone the king and raise the deuce.

"De world," says your Uncle Eben, "is sumpin' like a lookin' glass. You's g'inter get better results if you smiles than if you makes faces."

Quick marriages have been tabooed in Rhode Island, but it is never any trouble to step into another State from any part of Rhode Island.

Mr. Roosevelt is being mentioned for a third term. But since he has made the acquaintance of the singing topi such talk may not sound like music to him.

A Boston surgeon thinks man can be made a thing of beauty by the use of the knife. But hasn't the barber, with his razor, been doing that for many generations?

There are 64,000 more people in the service of the United States than there were a year ago. This is another of the reasons why a good many people think the world is growing better.

The King of Sweden has recently been working as a stevedore for the purpose of finding out how the laborers of his country feel. He has taken a wise course. The quickest and surest way to find out how a laborer feels is to labor for a while.

Tom L. Johnson, Mayor of Cleveland, recently married a man and woman and purposely left out the word "obey" when he read the service. He explained that he did not wish to help make liars of people. Mr. Johnson is evidently an observer and a philosopher.

Agricultural schools for women are proving their usefulness in France and Belgium. The course is as a rule brief, and the schools are "ambulant" ones, that is, they move from one part of the country to another. There are lectures on agriculture and household economy, but special attention is paid to dairy work, the making of cheese, and putting up foodstuffs and preserves. In France the schools are under the Department of Agriculture.

Are not men in the mass more in-fertile gossips than women? Shakespeare's citizens do the real gossiping in his plays, even though he followed tradition in personifying rumor as a dame—"If my gossip Report be an honest woman of her word." You will find as much lively and inane chit-chat in any man's clubhouse as in any woman's. The hotel and theater lobbies seethe with the gossiping of men. No village sewing society or mite society can equal the incessant buzz at the grocery store, and when it comes to downright, earnest, unflagging dissection of reputation and pernicious little-tattle there is no body of women in the land that can hold a candle to the foolish adult chatterboxes at any political headquarters.

Not long ago it was the fashion to decry the woman's club as a place frequented by careless mothers and uneasy spinsters, who preferred discussing Browning and Ibsen and Meredith to keeping their houses clean and their men-folk happy. The ground has been cut from under that reproach by the practical work done by various clubs for the public good. Playgrounds for children, vacation schools, the promotion of health by improved water supply, by more thorough street cleaning, by more scientific systems of drainage, by better disposition of garbage, by protection against flies and mosquitoes, a vigorous campaign against hideous billboards, high build-

ings and the smoke nuisance, and the gain for beauty by the preservation of trees and the improvement of parks and lawns—these are but a few of the activities in which the eight hundred thousand club women have been engaged during the last year. Women are wonderfully fitted to take up the task of ameliorating modern conditions—that is, of contriving schemes by which the evils of modern life shall be reduced to a minimum and its blessings multiplied. The woman's club is a most convenient and powerful agency for such work. The club women of the country have the force of an army and the adaptability of an individual. Their good service for town and state is well begun, and promises to extend yet further in the solution of social, civic, sanitary and educational questions.

Among the interesting papers read at the convention of the American Civic Association at Cincinnati was one by a woman landscape gardener, Mrs. McCrea, who has devoted herself to the beautifying of railroad stations and their immediate surroundings. "Art and the Railroad" was her topic—a strange one at first sight, but full of significance to those who happen to be conversant with the facts back of it. In a great city the railroad station as a "gateway" presents one set of problems, from which dignity and beauty of design and form are by no means excluded. In the small country town or village the station is apt to be looked upon as something useful rather than ornamental, and in thousands of places any shanty "does" as the railroad "depot." Yet nothing is so pleasing and so sure to command admiration as a pretty, appropriate country station with clean, well-kept grounds, grass and flowers. They seem to form part of the landscape, to proclaim the loveliness, peace and charm of the country. Such stations and grounds are a good investment for the railroads and the communities. And it is gratifying to know that in the Northwest hundreds of little stations have been transformed and beautified by trained landscape gardeners who are regularly employed for the work by the railroads. Undoubtedly the railroads, in spite of their smoke and dust, can do something for art in the regions far removed from picture galleries and monumental structures. They are undertaking more and more to teach scientific farming, and they can do something for landscape gardening and the cultivation of love of harmony and simple beauty.

HOUSES IN FEZ.

The Roofs in the Early Evening Are Exclusively for Women.

In Fez, the capital of Morocco, most of the houses consist of several stories, each being provided with a light veranda running round it and connecting the rooms. All the windows and doors open out into the patio, or courtyard, the window openings in the upper stories being covered with close trellis-work. All the houses have flat roofs, with a wall some four to six feet high running around, and from 4 p. m. until sunset the roofs are given over to the ladies exclusively, who can then walk about and take the fresh air without being seen by any of the opposite sex. This reservation is a law which is never broken, and no man would be guilty of being seen on his or on any other roof during the forbidden hours. Owing to the fact that the women of the house are not allowed to be seen by any other man than their lord and master all domestic offices are situated away from the house proper. In many of the larger houses, besides the water fountains, others playing scent or scented water are to be found. Sections of the courtyard also are slightly sunk, and these portions are filled with scented oil, which is used to perfume the rooms. The Moors are exceptionally particular in discarding their foot gear before entering a room or crossing a rug or carpet. They even change slippers before entering the courtyard from the street. Thus the houses are kept beautifully clean and sweet and are not, as many people would suppose, musty or close.

"Dis-a-Range."

At a city night school where an exceedingly mixed class, composed of Russian Jews, Italians, Slavs and Frenchmen, was trying to attain some facility with the English language, one bright young man from Naples distinguished himself above all the others. The problem set before the class was to write a paragraph containing the word "disarrange," and he wrote:

"My wife she get up in the morning and she cook the breakfast for me; and when she try to light the stove, he would not burn and she say, 'I don't like disarrange.'"

After the Mass Play.

"How's yer boy doin' at college, Cy?" "Fust rate. He hopes to be out of the hospital some time afore Christmas."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A girl likes an extravagant young man—if she isn't going to marry him.

ANTS DESTROYERS OF FLIES

Why It Is That Inhabitants of the Philippines Are Free of One Insect Pest.

Capt. Percy L. Jones of the army medical corps, reports that flies are comparatively rare in the Philippines because of a species of ant which consumes the larvae of the fly with avidity.

"Upon watching these ants attack fly larvae," he says, "it is interesting to note that they do so in a way which proves that they are no novices at the procedure. One will attack an extremity and apparently bite it, and as soon as the larvae begins to coil and make efforts to escape numbers of others will immediately jump upon it, and in the course of a few moments the larvae will be apparently dead."

"I believe that the ant introduces some venom in the act of biting, formic acid in character, which preserves the larvae as food until such time as the ant needs it—eats it, in other words. As soon as the struggles of the larvae have ceased they haul it off to their nests and return for others. In many instances I have seen them carry away pupae. It will be interesting for the reader to procure a few maggots and place them over an ant bed."

So far as is known this species of ant is not found in the United States and indeed is not yet classified. Captain Jones has considered the practicability of introducing it into countries where the extermination of the fly is destined to become an important feature of sanitation. This ant is said to be an energetic destroyer of bed bugs as well as of flies.—From the Military Surgeon.

Nothing to Be Proud of.

Francis Shunk Brown, attorney for the legislative committee to consider and report on a revision of the corporation and revenue laws of the state, has been inviting the written views of everyone who may have an idea to suggest toward the settlement of the difficult task.

He has received them by the thousand. All have been given prompt attention. Some have appealed to the lawyer's sense of humor.

One man in the western part of the state desired provisions made for spending millions of dollars for new roads. In acknowledging the man's letter Mr. Brown advised him that it was impossible at present, because to get the money the state would have to go into debt. He reminded the man that many Pennsylvanians take pride in the fact that the state does not "owe a dollar."

"Neither does a tramp," was the brief answer received from the disgruntled correspondent.—Philadelphia Times.

Never Notices Birthdays.

"I never have any birthdays," says Gen. Ferdinand C. Latrobe, smiling, the other night, when asked how he had spent the day, the seventy-seventh anniversary of his birth.

"I got up at seven o'clock," he said, "and went to McCall Ferry, where I inspected the new electric plant, and came back to the city at three o'clock. I went to the gas company's office and later to the parks for a drive. I never celebrate the occasion except with hard work."

"I never knew when my father's birthday came until after he had been dead some time and I looked it up in the family Bible. It was the same way with my mother. No, the Latrobes grow old, but they do not make merry over the milestones in the journey."—Baltimore Sun.

Agonizing Death.

How men meet death was a subject under discussion among a little party of doctors. Some gruesome tales were told. One man, a surgeon on a hospital staff, said:

"As a rule, however, death comes peacefully enough and rather as a relief, an easing off from pain and trouble. But I had a notable exception the other night. A burly Russian in my ward, who had been terribly crushed in the mills, was dying. It was in the middle of the night watch. The lights were low. The nurse on duty was with me in the other end of the ward, when the silence was broken by a great, fierce cry. We whirled about just in time to see this huge bearded man leap high in the air, turn over and strike the floor with a terrible impact. We ran to him. He was dead."

Irony Lost Case for Lawyer.

In his last days at the bar the late Lord Bowen prosecuted a prisoner who had been caught in a house at night crawling downstairs with his boots off and carrying portable property. The evidence was so overwhelming that Bowen ventured to indulge in a little irony and remarked on the thoughtfulness of the prisoner in removing his shoes, thus disturbing nobody, and in selecting only solid silver articles from the plate basket, so that the family had enough forks and spoons left for breakfast. The jury was so impressed by these extenuating circumstances that it acquitted the prisoner. Bowen never employed irony again when addressing a jury.

PAINT MATERIALS ON FARM

Winter Is Good Time to Go Over Machinery and Woodwork—High Paying Investment.

Any man can easily learn to use the paint brush. No particular skill is required. Every farmer should have two or three good paint brushes of different sizes and keep on hand a supply of white lead, linseed oil and paint coloring matter. These materials are comparatively cheap and when rightly used are a high paying investment.

In winter is a good time to use the farm paint brush, because then there are spare days when painting can be done without interfering with other work. It is a good time to go over all the farm tools and machinery and give all the wood work one or two coats of good paint. This work can be done on the barn floor, in a shed or in any building where there is space. If the weather is very cold when the work is to be done, a box of hot sand, earth or salt may be used to set the paint pail in so that the paint will be warm and flow easily. The warmer the paint the deeper and more quickly will it strike into the wood.

In starting to paint a tool or machine first clean it off thoroughly. If it is only dusty, use a dry rag, but if it is muddy wash it off with warm water, go over the surface with a dry rag and then let it dry in the atmosphere for several hours till all of the moisture is out of the wood. Water and oil will not mix and if any water is in the pores of the wood the oil will be kept out and hence will not have a chance to do its full work.

For the first coat of paint on new wood, or wood in need of repainting use about seven-eighths of linseed oil to one-eighth of pure white lead and only a touch of coloring matter. If too much white lead and coloring matter are used in the first coat the paint will be so thick that it will not strike deeply into the wood. What is desired at first is to deeply fill all pores of the wood with preserving oil and then to coat with lead to seal and protect the pores, so that the oil cannot escape.

The paint mixture must not only be well stirred to break up the lead into minute particles before the paint is used, but stirring at intervals of every few minutes must be given while the paint is being applied to prevent the heavy lead from settling to the bottom of the paint pail. It must always be kept in mind that linseed oil is a very light substance and that white lead is a very heavy substance. They will separate on standing for only a few minutes, the lead sinking to the bottom and pushing the oil to the top.

For the second coat of paint use about one-fourth or one-fifth of white lead in the mixture and enough coloring matter to give it the desired shade of color.

TO CULTIVATE THE ORCHARD

Vegetable Crops Require Both Manure and Cultivation, Which Benefit Pear Trees.

(By R. B. RUSHING.)

The first three or four years after setting it is best to cultivate the pear orchard in vegetables of some sort, but never in wheat or rye. The vegetable crops require both manure and cultivation, which benefit the young pear trees.

When the pear tree makes a fine growth the fifth year the orchard can be put in clover and left two or three years in that crop.

The first crop of clover may be taken off, but the second crop should never be taken off, but should be left to rot on the ground to enrich the soil.

While the pear orchard is in clover it is beneficial to hoe or grub around each tree in the spring and keep the soil loose around it; this destroys many insects and also keeps them from nesting there.

Each spring and fall wash down the trunks and larger limbs of the trees with a solution of soft soap and water, about half and half. This will destroy insects and keep the bark smooth and healthy.

Keep down all suckers from around the roots and remove all sprouts from the trunks. The pear, however, needs but little pruning if the trees make a strong and vigorous growth for several years, unless there is a tendency to grow too much in height at the expense of the width.

Low heads are more desirable. However, when pruning is necessary it should be done to conform to the habits and natural shape of the tree.

Lime Wash for Trees.

A lime wash which has been found a good protection for trees against rabbits is simply to wet enough unslaked lime to the point of consistency, add a little carbolic acid to the substance and paint the trunks of the orchard trees.

Clean Water for Sheep.

Sheep won't do well without water, and they are dainty about drinking. Clean running water is just as essential as good grass.

SWEETHEART A MAN

TOOK THIS SMITTEN SWAIN 14 YEARS TO FIND IT OUT.

Meanwhile He Has Written a Bale of Letters and Sent "Her" Something Between \$5,000 and \$8,000—Dupe Has Recipient Arrested.

Southington, Conn.—Having during the last fourteen years written many love letters and given between \$5,000 and \$8,000 to a young person he had never seen and from whom he received hundreds of letters, all breathing love and affection, George Osborne now charges that Miss Gladys Wilson of Philadelphia, the ideal of his dreams, is in reality William Barnes, a mechanic in a local factory.

Barnes is charged with having obtained money under false pretenses. He is accused of having invented the young woman, and, with the aid of a friend in Philadelphia, of having carried on a correspondence with Osborne, who, for fourteen years, was under the impression he was winning the heart of a beautiful, accomplished, but singularly glacial young woman.

Osborne says that the only times during the fourteen years when his correspondence struck the same romantic key in which his own letters were written were those times immediately preceding an invitation extended to him to send some of his money to Philadelphia. It irks Osborne to look back over those tinted and perfumed notes, now that he believes they were penned by a man.

Under the influence of the related facts that "they all look good when they're far away," and that "everybody wants something he thinks he may not be able to get," Osborne for fourteen years remained faithful to "Miss Gladys Wilson" and the postal department.

He sent bales of letters and he got plenty back. Whenever he expressed a desire to go to Philadelphia and meet the object of his affections face to face "she" always had a high-grade argument in support of "her" contention that he should stay in Southington and attend to his watch repairing business.

BODY SHIPPED ON LIFE PASS

When the Widow Declines to Pay, Purser Passes Problem to Higher Officials.

Portland, Ore.—Asserting that her deceased husband was just as much entitled to travel on a pass as when he was alive, Mrs. John Chadwick of Black Bay surprised L. K. Purcell of the steamship State of Washington by refusing to pay freight on his body, which she had brought to the vessel for shipment to Seattle.

"My husband had a pass on the State of Washington when he was alive," she said to Purser Purcell, "and no one is going to prevent him traveling on it when he is dead, poor fellow."

Mrs. Chadwick had placed her husband's body in its coffin on the steamship and Purcell hesitated to order it put ashore when she refused to pay charges.

Finally he referred the problem to L. A. Miller, general freight and passenger agent.

Miller replied: "Let the corpse travel free and collect pass." Mrs. Chadwick heaved a sigh of satisfaction and said she knew she would win.

SMITH PATCHES HEN'S BEAK

Lower Jaw Was Short and Chicken Was Likely to Starve, but Can Now Eat Grain.

Anderson, Ind.—Eli Delawater has a hen in his flock that was hatched with a defective lower jaw. It could not pick up grain and as a result was near starving to death after it had passed the soft food stage. Delawater wanted to raise the hen to the laying stage at least and told John Snelson, a blacksmith, his trouble.

Snelson told Delawater to bring the hen to his shop. He measured the lower beak and shaped a piece of tin to fit over the stub, much after the manner of a tooth crown. When the operation was complete Snelson scattered some corn on the floor of the shop and he admits surprise at the ability of the hen to pick up the grain. Now the hen is as good a feeder as any in the flock.

Lightning Ends Lawsuit.

Frankfort, Ky.—Lightning struck and destroyed a large tree in front of the residence of Mrs. Margaret Innis of Steadmontown and settled a lawsuit of long standing that the courts were not able to decide. Contractors building a road wanted to cut the tree down and Miss Innis secured an injunction preventing it. Hundreds had been spent in litigation, but the bolt split the tree, necessitating its destruction.