

Topics of the Times

Spencer Cannon says congress will be slow. And he knows, if anybody does.

Generally it is the man who does not own but hires an automobile who leads the fastest life.

Some men are weighed in the balance and found wanting, while others are wanting something all the time.

A steer from Canada has taken first honors at the Chicago livestock show. We may have to annex that presumptuous country yet.

A book is always an acceptable Christmas gift, but a single leaf from a check book generally brings more happiness in its train.

Some of the men who this season were mistaken for deer and shot, probably left families who are now trying to keep the wolf from the door.

A California man named Pitcher has been awarded a divorce because his wife drank to excess. Pitcher must have grown tired of seeing her rush the can.

Two Pittsburg men have been sentenced to the penitentiary for stealing cents. Let people who are addicted to the habit of robbing their babies' banks beware.

A faint idea of the destitution prevailing in certain portions of India may be gathered from the fact that some of the nabobs have only thirty automobiles apiece.

A Brooklyn magistrate has decided that no woman has the right to compel her husband to scrub the floor. How can there be equality of the sexes while such decisions are handed down?

It is alleged that the eagle on the new \$20 gold piece looks like a goose. We have been so busy keeping our \$20 gold pieces in circulation that we have had no time to notice the contour of the bird.

It seems like the most natural thing in the world to hear a Russian praising our navy. Indeed, it is one of the distinctive characteristics of the Russians that they have always kind words for the United States.

Please emit a sigh for the woman who sued a New Yorker to recover \$15,000 as damages for two kisses he had taken without permission. She got nothing. The jury at least might have been sympathetic enough to render a verdict that he return the kisses.

As usual after a financial crisis, bankers urge the need of establishing in this country something like the Bank of England to manage the national currency. The present system is antiquated and bad, and any suggestion for improvement deserves respectful examination.

Surgeon-General Rixey has recommended in his annual report that an order be issued forbidding the use of cigarettes to all persons in the navy under 21 years old. If the order were made and enforced, Dr. Rixey says, the sick records would be smaller and the general efficiency of the service would be improved.

That was a wise word which Ambassador Bryce uttered at the opening of the International Young Men's Christian Association convention in Washington the other day, when he said that every upright life counts for good government. The source of reform in government has always been in the purposes of an awakened voter.

In the very American state of Oklahoma is a little group of fifteen individuals of as pure American blood as can be found in the country. They own property to the extent of twelve square miles, and are reported to be in a flourishing condition. They are fifteen buffaloes which were formerly part of the herd in the New York Zoological Park. Their new home is like that to which their ancestors were accustomed, and it is hoped they will thrive better than they could in a city, and that they will have thousands of descendants.

"A man," says a newspaper story, "made millions in his ninety years of life by never doing the usual thing." These are some of the things he never did: He never traveled; he never joined anything; he never paid for a ticket of admission; he never ate in a hotel or restaurant; his total expenditure for car fare was less than one dollar; for forty years he had not voted; he wouldn't smoke, not because it was harmful, but because it cost him twelve cents a week. And when he died he had amassed \$1,500,000. Poor, lonesome old man! The world was no better off for this man. He took all that would give, but he gave nothing in return, either of money or sympathy or life. So, when he died, they told about him in the newspapers, and now others will spend the money that he gave up everything to gather. There can't be many who care whether he is gone or not. Probably he had a few who loved him, because the most unlovable of us are nearly always loved by somebody. But there isn't any street full of friends

who feel that something has gone out of their lives. He hasn't left an empty place, for he never cared about other people or other things, or to see and know and understand and feel, and to put out his hand and get hold of the hand of the throbbing, living world around him. People say "That's a queer story!" It's more than a queer story. It is a real tragedy, because it is the story of a man who died before he had begun to live.

By a happy coincidence, the unveiling of a memorial statue to Queen Victoria at Leith, Scotland, fell on the day of the publication of the first volume of her letters. Lord Rosebery made the address at the unveiling, and although he did not allude to the letters, his oration was precisely in the spirit of them. They reveal a simple, earnest, womanly nature, with no hint of the intrigue and jealousy and self-seeking which so commonly hedge a throne. The queen's devotion to the duties of every day, as her letters reveal it, her rigid impartiality when she was called upon to deal with men some of whom she disliked as much as she liked others, her gentle firmness when her ministers tried to ignore her, and her insistence that she would not delegate her actual responsibility to any other hand—these are the traits of a good mother quite as much as those of a great queen. Lord Rosebery dwelt upon her womanliness and its unreckoned powers for good. Speaking of the day when, as a mere girl, she came to the throne, he said, "Queen Victoria was then, as it were, the child, the darling of the people, and she lived to become their venerated mother." "Mothering" her subjects was a noble work for a lifetime. To this Lord Rosebery had the courage to add one other ground for national obligation to her. "Not the least of the services that she rendered to us," he boldly declared, "is the effect of her training and example upon the present King." It was a fitting time and place for a grave tribute to the royal mother's royal son. As adviser, wise diplomatist, peacemaker, he is doing honor to her training, and showing the world how the mother—be she high or lowly—wields a power beyond the queen's.

Nothing in the development of American taste is more hopeful than the waning of the spread-eagle oratory and of turgid rhetoric in writing. The passing of the pompous and artificial in public discourse may be witnessed throughout the English-speaking world, for the faults of the old style, like many American failings, were not peculiar to this country. In a recent address at Edinburgh University Mr. Balfour said that good public speaking is merely heightened conversation. That is, it is natural, sincere, and polished and correct; just as in fiction the conversation sounds like people talking, but is easier and more firmly constructed than the spoken sentences of real life. In the old days the flowery manner, employed by a master, could convey great matter and achieve poetic beauty. Webster could talk in periods and not "sound like play-acting." But much which passed with our forefathers for eloquence would seem to us prolix and false. The masters of the old style were splendid, but their imitators were dull and hysterical. The beginning of the change came when men like Lincoln and Beecher and the cool-headed politicians of modern England and America turned their thoughts, not to the sounding-board nor to a select audience, but to millions of people. Their words had to stand the test of print, and be read by a growing multitude, which wished above all things to understand what was meant. The speaker of the British House of Commons, in a recent address, gave a hint which explains the change. He said that the most effective orator at the present time is he who best understands and has mastered his subject. In former times the purpose of the orator was to stir up his hearers—to lead them to act, although they might not know why they were to act. To-day the object is to convince, and thorough preparation and simple, direct discourse are more effective for that than ornate sentences and the abundant gesticulation of the earlier method.

East Indian English.
Here is part of an actual speech delivered in an East Indian court of law by a pleader: "What they say is very, if not most, ridiculously absurd to believe. Indeed, it is incredulous. They say that the blood flew, and they did nothing to put the wounded into ease. This, sir, is a lie, an unmitigated lie, or, rather, a falsehood or fable or story or, as Byron sarcastically observes, a terminal exactitude. These buffaloes never used to graze on the field, which is not actually even proper grazing meadow. The destination which they started was half a mile from the enclosure to which they went. Unless they did not ride on lightning horses, how could they reach to that premises in five minutes? Can any man—idiot even—will not believe such a stupid concoctation."

Always at It.
Mrs. Pease—My husband and I never dispute before the children. We always send them out when a quarrel seems imminent. Miss Sharp—Ah, I've often wondered why they're so much in the street!

Do you know a man who does his work with greater ease than you do yours? Why not learn from him?

Some men are able to do nothing well except eat, sleep and find fault.

KENTUCKY'S TOBACCO WAR.

Night Riders Inflict an Aggregate Loss of Nearly \$1,000,000.

The last exploit of the Kentucky tobacco night riders in seizing the city of Hopkinsville, destroying \$200,000 worth of property and seriously wounding two men, has aroused an intensity of interest throughout the State and far beyond its borders. These riders are the most conspicuous feature of the war that is being waged by the tobacco growers of Kentucky against the American Tobacco Company. By reducing the competition in the buying of tobacco to, practically nothing the company forced down the price of leaf tobacco until the growers say they can not realize enough to pay for raising it. The tobacco crop is a mainstay in many parts of Kentucky, and thousands depend on it for their daily bread. The growers determined to force the price up.

The plan proposed in the beginning, and which is still being followed, was to form a combination of the growers to oppose the combination of the manufacturers and by withholding the tobacco make the tobacco trust come to terms. Many associations of growers have been formed in the different tobacco raising regions of Kentucky. But some of the growers did not come into the association ranks and others grew weary of waiting and sold their crops. The more violent men in the associations have resorted to the measure that gave rise to the night riders, and by destroying the property of the tobacco company and the growers who are not allied with them have sought to carry through their plan by force and terror.

The Hopkinsville raid was the second time in twelve months that the night riders seized and terrorized a city. On December 1, 1906, they entered Prince-

CARE FOR EX-PRESIDENTS. IS FLEA OF GROVER CLEVELAND

Urges Duty to Make Provision for Men Who Have Filled Highest Post in Nation.

Referring to the poverty of Jefferson when he left the presidency as a blow to national pride, Grover Cleveland, writing in the Youth's Companion under the title "Our People and Their Ex-Presidents," argues that definite and generous provision should be made for the maintenance of chief magistrates at the expiration of their terms. He deals with the subject at length and explains that he feels he can do so without his sincerity being questioned, since he is beyond the need of aid from the public treasury.

"The condition is by no means met," Mr. Cleveland writes, "by the meager and spasmodic relief occasionally furnished under the guise of a military pension or some other pretext, nor would it be best met by making compensation dependent upon the discharge of senatorial or other official duty. Our people ought to make definite and generous provisions for all cases alike, based on motives of justice and fairness, and adequate to the situation."

Mr. Cleveland describes the limitations that his former high office place on a retired President in his choice of occupations and means of livelihood, and how popular conception of him as a repository of national dignity enforces a scale of living that may not be within his private means.

"There is a sort of vague, but none the less imperative, feeling abroad in the land that one who has occupied the great office of President holds in trust for his fellow citizens a certain dignity which, in his conduct and manner of life, he is bound to protect against

ESTATES OF OLD SOLDIERS.

An Ohio County to Fight United States for \$500,000.

Frank W. Howell, a Dayton lawyer is now entitled to the world's record as administrator of estates. He has been appointed by Judge C. W. Dale's administrator of 8,432 estates, and has been compelled to give bond in the sum of \$3,200,000.

The appointment as administrator grew out of the following situation: The central branch of the National Military Homes is located at Dayton, and was established by the United States government, by a special act, March 3, 1865. The jurisdiction of this large tract of ground, more than a mile square in extent, was ceded to the United States government by the State of Ohio April 13, 1867.

Upon this land the Central Branch of the National Military Homes was built for disabled soldiers and sailors who have fought the battles for liberty and union. As far as the United States government is concerned nothing has been neglected, and the central branch is a veritable paradise.

If all the veterans who entered the central branch had lived there would have been no contention and nothing to narrate. When death comes the veteran receives a decent and honorable burial, and his belongings are collected, and if not claimed by relatives, are sold, and the money, together with all of the pension money to which he is entitled, is placed in the "posthumous fund," which is in the keeping of the treasurer of the Central Branch, National Military Homes. Sometimes the deceased veteran leaves considerable property which he has gained by investment or speculation with his pension money. Four test cases are now being fought out to determine whether these estates shall revert to

SKETCH OF COURT ROOM AND CHIEF FIGURES IN THE THAW TRIAL.



ton, Ky., a town of several thousand inhabitants, about thirty miles north of Hopkinsville, took possession of the police and fire departments, the water works, the telephone and telegraph offices and with the town shut off from the rest of the world dynamited and set fire to the Steger & Dollar and the John C. Orr tobacco factories, which were allied with the trust.

The first appearance of the night riders was in November, 1906, when they destroyed some tobacco barns and small factories in Todd County, with a loss of about \$10,000. The first raid came on the night of November 11, 1906, when masked bands entered the towns of Eddyville and Kuttawa, situated close together in Lyon and Caldwell Counties, and destroyed the plants of the American Snuff Company and M. C. Rice, with \$20,000 loss.

Besides these there have been many smaller raids and visits to individual growers. Tobacco barns have been burned, growers who refused to pool their tobacco have been taken from their homes and whipped, houses have been fired into and the occupants wounded. The aggregate losses by these raids amount to nearly \$1,000,000.

A Synthetic Health Creed.
The "back-to-nature" movement, of which the most prominent leaders are Dr. J. H. Kellogg of Battle Creek, Dr. Dewey, Prof. Fisher and Chittenden of Yale and Prof. Metchnikoff of Russia, has now found a synthesizing exposition at the hands of Dr. Daniel S. Sager in a new book published by Stokes, entitled, "The Art of Living in Good Health." This new apostle of the simpler life, with the added authority of a successful "M. D.," commends much of the work of those pioneers and founds his system on a creed, the vest-pocket edition of which is: "Breathe deep; chew long; drink enough; eat little." Bathing, exercise, early sleep and cheerfulness are other articles.

American Wins Nobel Prize.
The University of Chicago hears that the head of its department of physics, Prof. Albert A. Michelson, is to receive the year's Nobel prize for the best work in his line. Prof. Michelson is now in London, where the Copley medal has been awarded to him by the London Royal Society. Dr. Michelson is the discoverer of a method of measuring the velocity of light. Though born in Germany, he has lived here since childhood and is a graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He is now 50.

loss or deterioration. Obedience to this obligation prescribes for him only such work as in popular judgment is not undignified. This suggests without argument a reciprocal connection between the curtailment of opportunities and a reasonable obligation of indemnification.

One division of the Cleveland article is devoted to the "Occupations of an ex-President," and in it the former President reveals the multiplicity of things which persons endeavor to bring to the attention of the retired statesman and the class of affairs he is asked to engage in.

NEWS OF MINOR NOTE.

The Central Hotel at Colon, Panama, was burned. Loss \$3,000.

Fire in the York building in Boston, caused a loss of \$100,000 to several manufacturing firms and to the owner of the building.

Judge Strimple, in Cleveland appointed Owen L. Wilcox as receiver for the Cleveland and Sharon Electric Railway Company in order to defeat the alleged plot of majority stockholders to freeze out the minority.

Dr. John M. Flint, formerly of Chicago, now of the University of California, was chosen to succeed Dr. William C. Cram as head of the department of surgery in the Yale Medical school at New Haven, Conn.

Sir John Cozer, Governor of the English Gold Coast colony, told a Philadelphia audience the negro was the greatest problem confronting civilization and was becoming as acute in the English colonies as in the United States.

Queen Alexandra of England spent her birthday at Sandringham, where the customary celebrations were held. The King and Queen of Norway were among the visitors. Handsome gifts were received from most of the crowned heads of Europe.

According to advices received from Washington, the government officials are not satisfied with the new double eagle being coined at the Philadelphia mint, and have ordered coinage stopped temporarily to permit a change in the process. The design of the coin will not be changed.

James Douglas, vice president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, has presented to the government four acres of land on the palisades of the Hudson, near Fort Lee, as a site for a monument to commemorate the deeds of the continental soldiers during the Revolutionary war.

the Montgomery County treasurer of the United States government. It is contended by Mr. Howell, the administrator, that the money left by the old veterans who die intestate belongs to Montgomery County and should go toward the school fund. United States District Attorney McPherson of Cincinnati is looking after the interests of the government. He claims that the money belongs to the United States. The amount involved in the cases represented by Mr. Howell, the administrator, is something over \$500,000.

An Apostle of Happiness.
Miss Laurence Alma-Tadema, daughter of the well-known artist and author of several successful novels, has come from her English home to lecture in America on "Happiness." When asked by a New York reporter to tell what she meant by happiness, Miss Alma-Tadema said it would take an hour and twenty minutes to tell that, and it had taken her five months to write down what had required years to learn. As to how it could be attained, she is quoted as saying: "By managing one's self; by working hard and developing one's self to the limit. It never comes except by being sought. It is not a matter of condition or of wealth. It does not depend on marriage." Happiness lies in the curtailment of desire. Do without things.

Our Manufacturing Output.

John M. Carson, chief of the Bureau of Manufactures at Washington, now estimates that the annual production of manufactures in the United States is \$15,000,000,000, this being the total published in his annual report. Of this total, about \$1,080,000,000 worth were exported, including foodstuffs partly manufactured and parts for further use in manufactures. This was over half the entire export trade of the year.

Carnegie Abolishes Age Limit.

On observing his 70th birthday anniversary recently Andrew Carnegie expressed the opinion that a man's usefulness increases with age. When asked if a man could accomplish as much at 70 as at 40, he replied: "More, bless you, more. All things being equal, a man's efficiency is increased at 70. He is equipped with greater experience." The recipe he gave for happiness was "To obey the judge within and make others happy."

The report of the bureau of manufactures just issued sets the value of the annual production by manufacturers in the United States at \$15,000,000,000.

PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING POSTAL BANKS

How Bills of Carter and Hitchcock Differ from Madden-Snapp Measure.

DISPOSITION OF THE FUNDS.

Democrat Provides for Board of Investment—All Fix Deposit Limit at \$1,000.

Upon the indorsement by Postmaster General Meyer and later by President Roosevelt of the postal savings bank system for the United States, three separate and distinct plans have been proposed to Congress as the proper procedure for establishing and putting into operation such banks. In the House of Representatives Representatives Madden, of Chicago, and Snapp, of Joliet, Ill., have introduced similar measures. Representative Hitchcock, of Omaha, a Democrat, has introduced another House bill, and Senator Thomas Carter, of Montana, is the father of a senate bill. The main differences in these bills lie in the protection afforded depositors and deposits and in the investment features of the funds of the postal savings banks.

All these bills place a limit on the interest-bearing deposits which can be made by any individual within any single calendar year and finally, the Madden-Snapp bill provides that \$300 may be deposited within one year and that no interest shall be paid to any depositor upon a deposit in excess of \$1,000. The Carter bill makes the limit of annual deposit \$500 and the final limit of interest-bearing deposit \$1,000, while the Hitchcock bill has a double-barreled provision which is more complex. It provides a limit of monthly deposit of \$100 and the final limit of any single deposit at \$1,000. In addition it provides that no interest shall be paid on more than \$500 to any depositor and that if any depositor deposit more than \$200 in any one year interest shall not be paid on new deposits in excess of that amount.

Both the Madden-Snapp and Carter bills provide an interest rate of 2 per cent on deposits, while the Hitchcock bill stipulates that the rate on \$200 or less shall be 2½ per cent, and over that amount and up to \$500 the rate shall be fixed by a board of investment, composed of the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency.

In establishing postal savings bank adjuncts to post offices there is also a difference between the Madden-Snapp bill and the others. The Madden-Snapp measure gives the Postmaster General discretion in the selection of offices for postal savings bank purposes; the Hitchcock bill is mandatory in that all money order post offices are made branches of the postal savings bank system, while the Carter bill makes all first, second and third-class post offices branch postal savings banks and gives the Postmaster General some discretion as to further extension into the fourth-class post offices.

In administration the Madden-Snapp bill provides a general superintendent of postal savings banks, with such assistants and clerks as may be necessary, while the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to increase the auditor's force in the Post Office Department. The sum of \$50,000 is set aside to start the banks in operation. Both the Hitchcock and Carter bills stipulate that the head of the postal banks shall be an officer known to the Fifth Assistant Postmaster General, and ask \$100,000 to establish the banks.



The Nobel prizes were awarded, that for literature going to Rudyard Kipling.

The treasurer of a Canadian railroad confessed to stealing \$185,000 in eighteen years.

Advices from London indicated that Ambassador Bryce may quit his post in this country.

Japan and the United States came to a verbal understanding to limit emigration of Japs to this country.

Richard Miller of St. Louis won high praise in France, one of his paintings being bought by the Minister of Fine Arts.

Mrs. Taft, wife of the Secretary of War, whose ship was caught in a storm off Boulogne, had a narrow escape from death.

The financial program of Japan was formally settled at the meeting of the council of the elder statesmen on Monday. It involves a reduction in the expenses of the army and navy for the next six years, whereby the government will save \$200,000,000.

Dispatches from Santiago, Chili, indicate that about 8,000 laborers in the Tarapaca nitrate fields have gone on strike and business is paralyzed. The situation is considered critical and warships and troops have been sent to the troubled districts, but up to the present time there has been no violence.