

Topics of the Times

The case of Carnegie and Weston vs. Water seems to be going against the defendant.

It costs \$15,000 to paint the Eiffel tower. It is cheaper to have a white elephant on hand.

When the bandits near Ves stole these barrels we suppose they murdered the floor the merrier.

The judge who says that marriage is a cure for drunkenness should produce a few statistics as an evidence of good faith.

"Father of twelve loses his liberty," announces a morning paper. Evidently the poor man was sentenced to support his family.

The reappearance of the Congressional Record has also relieved the wrapping paper stringency in the country newspaper offices.

An Australian physician is booming over milk as the elixir of life. We'll have to admit that our milk is all right for people with whom it agrees.

It certainly wears one, after Edison has gone down to \$1,000,000 an acre, to help people declare that the cost of living is as high as it ever was.

What is to become of our boasted liberties if the lordly sophomores cannot leave the plebeian freshman without being dragged before an uneducated court and made to pay a vulgar fine?

These new dogs for the New York police "are trained to regard with suspicion everyone who does not wear a uniform." The average American citizen is trained just the other way around.

James O'Neill announces that he has played the title role in "The Count of Monte Cristo" 2,000 times. People who have had to see the play three or four times will extend to him their heartfelt sympathy.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, the English suffragette, says American women are interested in nothing but themselves. Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson has evidently never heard two or more American women discussing clothes.

"Richmond Pearson Hobson's fame is secure," says an exchange, "but who are these pert paragraphers who are continually jabbing him?" Why, they are the hard-working gentlemen who have helped to make his name secure.

A tea-kettle containing \$3,000 in gold was dug up recently on a Connecticut farm where it had evidently been buried many years ago. The man who buried it was probably one of the fools who insist on hoarding, and it is only proper, therefore, that somebody else is to have fun with his money.

Queen Victoria's letters, which have recently been published, are an important contribution to the intimate history of an age of English thought and literature which bears her name. Her letters to Tennyson, published some years ago, and other first-hand records of her which have trickled into print, have long since dispelled the idea that she was only a symbol and a name. The new volumes show more abundantly that she was a keen, vigorous thinker about men and events. If she had a genius for statesmanship, she had also a genius for an art quite as rare, the art of letter-writing.

An unusual method of construction has been adopted for the Michigan Central Railroad tunnel under the Detroit river. Instead of boring a hole under the river and lining it with masonry or iron, the tunnel is built in sections at a shipyard in St. Clair and floated down the St. Clair river and across St. Clair Lake to the place in the Detroit river where it is desired to run trains across. A trench has already been dug in the bottom of the river, and the tunnel section is sunk into the trench and encased with enough cement to hold it down. Each end of the section is, of course, plugged to keep the water out, and as a new section is sunk the ends are bolted to the ends of the section already in place. Each section is a steel tube two-hundred and sixty feet long and twenty-three feet and four inches in diameter. Ten of these will be laid in the trench in the river bottom, making a total subaqueous length for the tunnel of more than twenty-six hundred feet. The total length of the excavation, including the land approaches will be nearly two and one-half miles. The tunnel is to be completed in June, 1909, at a cost of \$10,000,000. The St. Clair river, under which the trails of the Grand Trunk Railway are carried, was tunneled by the more common method of boring a hole through the ground under the river bed.

Path of conscription to fill the United States army and navy, naturally brings the inquiry why conditions are such that there are not plenty of young men willing and eager to enter the service of Uncle Sam. Although various theories have been advanced, few of them are satisfactory. One generally accepted theory is that young men have been offered better inducements in business life and that the social

returns in other callings and vocations are so much better that young men will not enlist. While the salary may have something to do with the small number entering the service of Uncle Sam and while the wages should be increased so as to provide at least the amount paid a farm hand for labor, there is reason to believe that reforms in the army and navy are needed in order that recruits may be attracted. The glamour of army life would hold young men if the privates were treated as they should be, instead of being made to serve petty officers who wish to show their authority. There is too much funkyness in both the army and navy, and if something more of a democratic spirit existed between the men and the officers, there would not be the great number of deserters as now reported. Any young man who has red blood in him objects to being made a mental and compelled to blacken the officers' shoes or perform other humiliating tasks that are often assigned him. A conspicuous example of the insolence of some of the petty officers was shown a few years ago in Connecticut, when a private resented the insult of a sergeant at a theater by shooting him, and the story is well known of Gunner Morgan in the navy, who was denied promotion because he was not up in ball room etiquette. The tendency of some of the officers to be on dress parade was shown recently, when objection was made to the assignment of the Philippine squadron to Subig bay, which Admiral Dewey urged was the most effective point for service, the ridiculous argument being advanced that this assignment would deprive the officers of the social privileges of Manila. In the civil and Spanish wars, men did not desert their colors. Despite the carping critics of the regular army, the volunteer soldier in the militia who was treated somewhat on an equality by his officers was on hand when wanted. Discipline in the ranks is essential to effective service, but when off duty a feeling of fellowship between officers and men should be encouraged as tending to improve the morale of the army. America is a democratic nation and must depend on the patriotism of its citizens for defense in time of peril. But the tendency to make a lot of strutting peacocks out of army and naval officers and allow them to wipe their feet on the private soldier is rapidly bringing the military into disfavor. To invoke conscription would be fatal. The American people would never consent to it in time of peace, and they would eliminate the present standing army rather than force young men into the army now. Improve conditions surrounding the life of the regular soldier, stop the monarchical funkyness, give the private a chance to advance, provide a system of training where he can reach even the positions now held exclusively by West Point graduates, and, above all, inject a little democratic spirit into the army and navy, and the young men of the country will do the rest.

"Americanitis." The manner in which Americans "do" Europe is a constant source of bewilderment and amusement to the foreign mind. The Rev. John Watson, —an Maclaren—whose death occurred in this country, gives in "Our Neighbors" an account of a "snap-shot" visit he once received.

It is now several years ago that a tall, thin man followed his card into my study with such rapidity I had barely time to read it before the visitor was in the room. "My name is Elijah K. Higgins. I am a busy man. You are also busy, and have no time to fool away. Four days is all I can give to the United Kingdom and I wish to shake hands with you. Good-bye, I am off to Drumtochty."

I calculate that Mr. Higgins spent thirty seconds in my study. He left so swiftly I only overtook him at the front door. I asked him if he knew where Drumtochty was. "Guess I do. Got route in pocket. Northwest from Perth." In two seconds he was whirling away in a fast hansom. As I returned and imagined my visitor compassing Great Britain in four days, I was for a moment roused from that state of comparative lethargy which we in England call work, and added six more engagements to the afternoon's program. For days after, as often as I was tempted to rest in my chair, the remembrance of that whirlwind gave me renewed vigor.

The Modern Way. "Will you have this here woman to be your lawful wedded wife?" "That's what I loved I would." "Will you love, honor and obey her?" "Ain't you got that switched around, parson?" asked the bridegroom. "John," said the bride-elect, "don't you reckon the parson knows his business? Answer the question!" "Yek, sir," said the bridegroom meekly. "I reckon I'll have to,"—Atlanta Constitution.

All Bluff. "Yek," boasted the fortune hunting count, "all of our old family castles were on high mountains. My ancestors all lived on big bluffs." "Indeed," replied the wise helress, "and I see that you take after them, count."

A Tempting Chance. Jones—That young man who plays the cornet is ill. Green—Do you think he will recover? Jones—I am afraid not. The doctor who is attending him lives next door.—London T.M.Bits.

We never knew any one who did not talk "shop" too much.



BUT IT WAS SCARY FOR AWHILE.

MINERS ENTOMBED FOR WEEKS.

Three Men Buried a Thousand Feet Underground in Nevada.

One morning early in December a sudden crash of timbers, a muffled clatter of rock and cloud of dust told the engineer of the Alpha mine, near Ely, Nev., that the five men he had just sent down in the cage were buried. He gave the alarm and a thousand men, eager to be of service, gathered about the shaft. Supt. Gallagher carefully picked the men he wanted, notified others that he might call upon them later and at once began efforts to communicate with the entombed men, hoping some might have escaped death.

Before nightfall he learned that two Greeks were caught in the cave-in and buried alive, but that the three Americans, Bradley, Brown and McDonald, were in no immediate danger. A six-inch pipe runs from the mouth of the shaft to the bottom and by removing the cap from its base the imprisoned men managed to talk with Gallagher. They told him they had a little food and water enough for two or three days.

With rubber devices Gallagher passed food and liquids down the pipe and was soon able to supply the men. He started a drift toward them and at first it seemed probable that he would reach them in a week. Before that time the unforeseen happened and the rescuers were compelled to make new plans. It was then announced that ten days would be sufficient to get to the miners, but fresh accidents beyond the pale of prevention delayed the workers. Now Gallagher declines to make predictions and simply says that he will continue his effort as long as he has strength to direct it. The men can be saved, he declares, and he will save them.

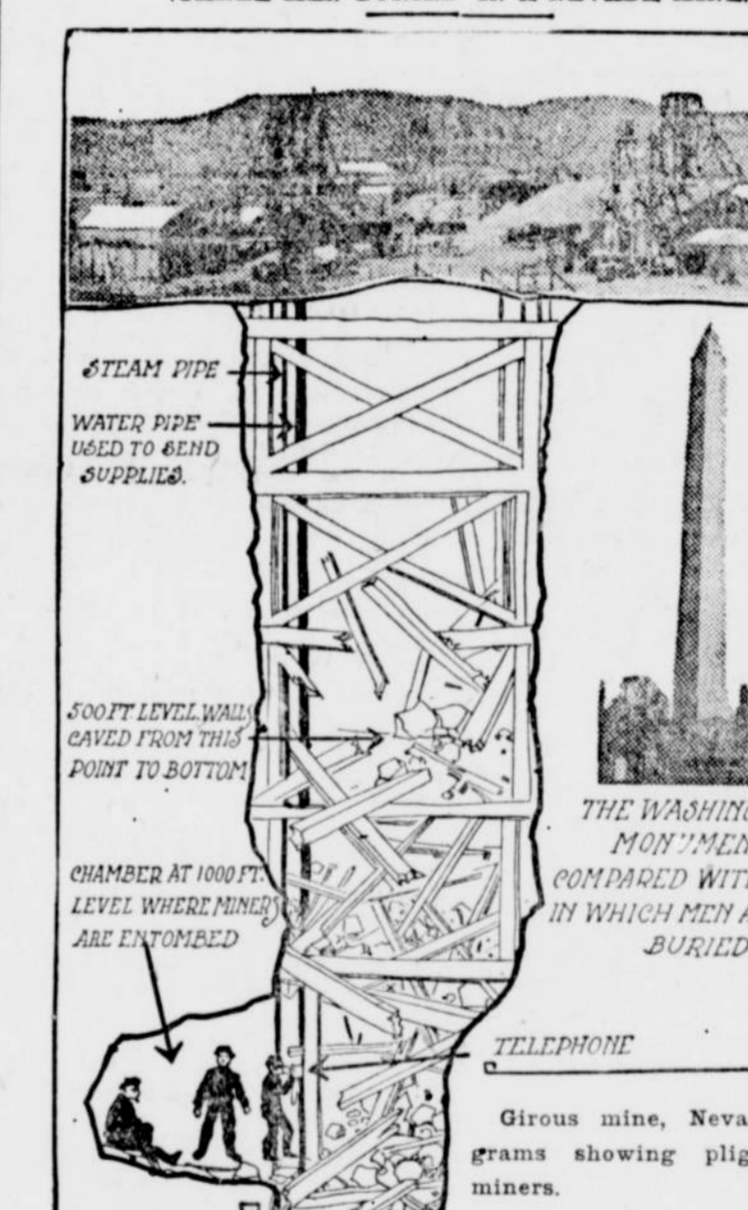
The entombed miners spend their long days far more cheerfully than might be expected in such circumstances. To safeguard them in case the rescue party is delayed, Supt. Gallagher has supplied them with enough provisions to last three weeks. They receive cooked food, eggs, milk, and tobacco by means of a six-inch pipe running down the shaft. They have connected the mine telephone with an electric cable, and are able to talk daily with their families and friends. They are well supplied with news, and have shown much interest in the Goldfield crisis. They have plenty of light and room to move about, so that if they can endure the long delay they can wait for rescue with confidence and comparative comfort.

The rescue party itself has dangers to face. A cave-in below the temporary platform of timbers upon which it is working might precipitate it hundreds of feet. Each man works with a rope about his waist, so that if all suddenly find themselves without any footing they can be hauled to safety.

Neglect Making of Alcohol.

The report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that since the passage of the free denatured alcohol bill only ten mills have been set up for turning out this product, notwithstanding the fact that the Treasury Department has sent out pamphlets instructing the farmers how to manufacture the spirits. While the distilleries are permitted to use any material whatever in producing this spirit, the product so far has been mainly from corn. It is said that in Germany there are about 70,000 farm distilleries producing industrial alcohol, which is sold to consumers for about 27 cents a gallon, while in this country the average price in barrel lots is 36 cents a gallon.

THREE MEN BURIED IN A NEVADA MINE.



Girous mine, Nevada, and diagrams showing plight of three miners.

TO LIMIT IMMIGRATION.

Japanese and American Officials Outline Plan at Tokio.

There is reason to believe that the entire question of immigration of the Japanese to America has been satisfactorily settled, at least for the present, after a series of conferences between United States Ambassador O'Brien and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi in Tokio. It is understood that at their last meeting, the representatives of the Japanese government outlined a plan by which it is agreed to limit immigration to students and commercial men having means of support, and entirely to prevent Japanese laborers from going to America. This arrangement will entail the closest supervision on the part of the Japanese authorities. As the agreement is verbal, Ambassador O'Brien accepted it provisionally, but maintained that any violation of its terms would seriously embarrass a friendly government. It is said that Foreign Minister Hayashi will exercise absolute control.

Surgery for Insanity.

Dr. N. M. Owensby of Baltimore has created something of a stir in medical circles by asserting that dementia praecox, or precocious insanity, had been cured in relieve the thyroid gland of an excess of certain chemicals in the blood or the secretions. Out of five cases so treated, all but one are said to have recovered, whereas the disease has generally been regarded as incurable. Dr. Spitzka of the Jefferson Medical College, however, says that the theory on which Owensby operated has not been proved. More than 200 men in New York City are working to improve automobiles.

TOLD IN A FEW LINES.

A Greek, bound to fatherland, took wrong train out of Chicago and went to San Francisco.

The Russian war department has ordered the formation of a military automobile corps, to be based on the German model.

Pierre Jules Cesar Janssen, the celebrated French scientist and director of the Meudon observatory, is dead in Paris. He was born in 1824.

William Crosby, a publisher of Boston, who died the other day at the age of 80 years, once refused poems that were offered by Longfellow.

Gov. Harris of Ohio pardoned William Houck, serving a life sentence on conviction of the murder of Mrs. Sarah Hogg, at Bladensburg, Knox county.

W. H. Williams, member of the board of review of Columbus, Ohio, died of a stroke of paralysis. He was one of the best known Democratic politicians in Ohio.

Thomas W. Lawson of Boston announces that he is going to start a new political party and run Roosevelt for President and Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota for Vice President.

The National Red Cross Society has begun an active campaign for new members. Circulars and application blanks are being sent out in large numbers. The national body possesses more than 10,000 members, but it is hoped to greatly enlarge this membership.

Elinor Glyn, the English writer, whose book, "Three Weeks," was the cause of her being snubbed by the Pilgrim Mothers in New York, calls the mothers, in an interview, "an aggregation of dowds, frumps and tabby cats—a lot of breastless, slab-hipped, pancake-footed frights of things."

THE ANTI-SALOON FIGHT.

A New Contest for Control in the National Capital.

Washington correspondence: Vested rights, as represented by breweries, distilleries and liquor dealers, have begun to petition Congress in anticipation of a strong move in favor of prohibitory legislation at the hands of the national lawmakers. Primarily the petitions are aimed against a "dry" capital city, which is the object fixed upon by temperance associations which have been encouraged by the prohibition wave that recently swept various sections of the country.

For some time a well organized lobby has been doing quiet preliminary work in the interest of the anti-prohibition interests, which have been made more anxious over the possibility of legislation in the near future than surface indications would lead one to believe. The belief is entertained that the prohibition elements are bent on driving liquor out of the country's capital for the moral effect such an accomplishment would have in still further nationalizing the general prohibition movement.

The question before students of the situation who are able to look at both sides without having their view warped by prejudice is this: Has the prohibition tide reached its flood, and will a reaction presently set in; or will the wave sweep on without serious interruption until it has converted the entire country into a land of no license?

With this question in mind the workers on one side will put forth efforts to make the capital of the United States a temperance capital, while those on the other hope that by downing the movement here the way will be paved for reaction from the results recently brought about in several of the States, especially those of the south.

The chances seem to be against any drastic legislation on the subject by Congress this winter. Possibly more attention might be given to the subject if the Republicans and Democrats didn't have so much to think about in the nature of politics pertaining to Presidential candidates next year. And if action is staved off the "anti's" figure on a reversal of sentiment that will not require them to worry so much in the future.

But there is another side to the anti-prohibition propaganda now in progress here which deals with the subject wholly apart from the local issue involved. The attempt is being made to impress upon Congress the magnitude of the whole prohibition question with the argument that if prohibition prohibited the government system of taxation would have to be revised, inasmuch as two-thirds of the government's income is now derived from internal revenue taxes.



Portland Typographical Union contemplates the organization of a mutual aid society.

The entire membership of Minneapolis Cigarmakers' Union No. 77, is said to be employed.

Last year the membership of the British Amalgamated Society of Engineers increased 11,782.

Twenty-one new unions of horseshoers have been organized in Massachusetts during the last year.

A new union of mattress makers, carpet layers, shade hangers and drapery makers has been organized in Boston, Mass.

Seattle Central Labor Union is warning union workmen to give the coast territory a wide berth for the present.

There is no such thing as organized labor in Porto Rico to amount to an influence for the betterment of the masses.

Common laborers in France are paid 40 to 50 cents a day. High-grade mechanics are paid from \$1 to \$1.20 a day.

All the stockholders of the Union Lumber Company, recently organized at Minneapolis, Tenn., are members of the Carpenters' Union.

Granite cutters of the Twin Cities have formed a union embracing practically every member of the craft in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.

There are only three engravers of shorthand in England. One lives at Bath. He has suggested to his two London fellow-workers the propriety of a trade union.

Efforts are being made in Brooklyn, N. Y., to bring about a consolidation of the Shoe Workers' Council and the members of the Foot and Shoe Workers of America.

Census reports show that wages among shoemakers of the country have been steadily increasing. Brockton (Mass.) shoemakers are the highest paid in the world. It is alleged.

There are two unions of brick and building material handlers in Brooklyn, N. Y., and they have been at war with each other. Efforts to bring about consolidation will be made.

The United States Bureau of Immigration is preparing to enforce the alien contract law more rigorously than before with a view of keeping out of the country many undesirable persons.

The societies not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have a membership of about 500,000, making the membership of all the labor societies of the United States, in the aggregate, about 2,500,000.

The Georgia Federation of Labor caused considerable surprise recently when it went on record, at a meeting of the executive committee, deprecating the reduction in railroad rates and fares through legislation, and opposing further legislation of this kind. It is contended that labor conditions in the South have been disturbed by legislation which caused the shortening of hours, and thereby a reduction in the wages, as well as causing a number of workmen to be laid off.