

## Topics of the Times

Some persons seem to go through life on the theory that it is naughty to be found out.

Lord Kelvin seems to have been one of the men who were not ruined by a college education.

The seven masted schooner *Thomas W. Lawson* is a wreck. Probably it was built on a wrong system.

And still some people are unable to understand why men who work in mines should want to be well paid for it.

A man may be just as good a citizen, mark you, if he pays some other man for shoveling the snow off his sidewalk.

A member of the Belgian senate has referred to King Leopold as "a royal siltvander." Evidently the Belgian lose messy laws are very lax.

Mr. Carnegie advocates an asset curtesy. It is scarcely necessary to mention the circumstance that Mr. Carnegie is an expert in all matters pertaining to assets.

There are in New York 27,000 women who are supporting their husbands. But they would probably rather do that in dear old New York than live in luxury anywhere else.

"How to Collect Postage Stamps" is the title of a new book. It would have a big sale among the owners of 10-year-old boys if its title were "How Not to Collect Postage Stamps."

Football, with its revised rules providing for open formation, was less fatal than usual in 1907, and much more interesting. Unfair play is bound to disappear along with brutality, for public sentiment is roused against both.

Mark Twain entertains a high regard for Mr. Carnegie personally, but he wishes to have it clearly understood that he objects to his meddling with the English language, by the careful and persistent use of which Mark has risen to greatness.

Pittsburg, now that the United States Supreme Court has decided the act of consolidation with Allegheny to be constitutional, rises to the rank of sixth city in point of population. Boston is the next larger, with about fifty thousand more than the five hundred and fifty thousand claimed by the enlarged Pennsylvania city.

Mr. Roosevelt, in the fiftieth year of his life, has been President six years. Washington at the beginning of his fiftieth year had not taken Yorktown. At fifty Jefferson was Secretary of State, Jackson was yet to fight the Seminoles, Lincoln was debating with Douglas. Four only of the Presidents before Roosevelt—Pierce, Grant, Garfield and Cleveland—were inaugurated before they had passed fifty.

Of the hunting accidents reported the past season, every one that has yet come under our notice has been due to some cause so familiar that it has been mentioned year after year for generations. They can all be summed up as "Didn't know it was loaded," "Pulled the gun muzzle toward him through a fence," "Out of a wagon," or "In a boat." If hunters would keep these few simple things in mind, many lives would be saved every year.

For criminal carelessness in loading dynamite, cast iron and oil on the same freight train, with disastrous results, Canadian courts recently fined a railroad company twenty-five thousand dollars.

In this country, aside from civil suits brought by damaged parties, railroad companies are being brought to book for such offenses. Yet our laws and courts recognize abstractly the truth of what the Canadian justice said: "It is the clear duty of railroad companies to take all due care of life and property, no matter what it may cost."

Literary Englishmen are mildly excited over the selection of nineteen names made by the trustees of the British Museum to adorn the walls of the remodeled reading room. Those chosen are supposed to be representative of British literature from its origin till the present. They are Chaucer, Bacon, Tyndale, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Locke, Addison, Swift, Pope, Gibbon, Wordsworth, Scott, Byron, Carlyle, Macaulay, Tennyson, and Browning. Complaisant has been brought because no room was found for Bunyan, or Burns, or Fielding, or Goldsmith, yet no list that could be made would please everybody.

At the last annual meeting of the American Humane Society one of the speakers pointed out the commercial justification of kindness to animals. Of course no selfish justification is needed for kindness of any sort. But it adds interest to the work this society is trying to do, to know that from the neglect in cattle and sheep from annual loss, according to the computations of the Department of Agriculture, something like twenty-five dollars. And millions are thrown away every year by the abuse of beasts of burden. The cash value of goodness is an idea pleasing to many moralists, but the world is so ordered that the intelligent and the kindly act is usually the richest in practical benefit.

### SPIDERS AND THEIR HOMES.

Webbs Are Scientifically Made by the Little Weaver.

At the 40th corporate meeting of the Boston Scientific Society recently James H. Emerson spoke on the subject of "Spiders and Their Webs." Not only did he outline the habits of the spiders and show pictures of them and their webs, but he gave an object lesson

In webs by making the essential parts of a geometrical web in the same manner and in the same order as the spider would herself, says the Boston Transcript. Many interesting facts were related. The spinnerets are of the same nature as the little cones with which confectioners produce the sugar designs on frosted cakes; there are many of them, each one connected with a gland in the body of the spider. Sometimes half the body of the creature is used for these glands. The spider can keep the threads apart or can run them together into one and it can produce different kinds of thread. This is a silk and is used for different purposes, for webs, to make nests, to inclose cocoons, etc. The ordinary white thread is for the nests, while that of the cocoons is oftentimes colored. Then the thread may be dry or sticky; it may be fine and regular or coarse and rough, according to the use that the spider wishes to make of it.

Next Mr. Emerson gave consideration to the webs. About half the spiders do not make webs, but catch their prey, which consists of insects, by springing upon them. The webs that are made are of different kinds and for different purposes. The most common and familiar one is that which is seen in the grass on dewy mornings. This is merely a level floor on which the spider may run out and catch his food. The web is not of sticky thread. It may last an entire season, but is repaired and strengthened from time to time. These nests are furnished with a tube of web, in which the spider hides.

The distribution of spiders is a curious feature, to which the speaker alluded in passing. There are some, for example, that live in the house. They are never seen out of doors, yet they have been carried to all parts of the earth just as rats and mice have been. Another kind of web is in large meshes, but of no definite shape. These usually have a thinner portion which is the spider's nest. Insects flying about get into the meshes and are entangled, but are not held by any glutinous nature of the thread. In all the cobwebs except the flat kind, which have already been noted, the spider lives down on the under side of the web. Then there are dome webs, in which the spider lives within the dome and runs about within it to catch the insect that is entangled. These webs are kept always clean, even bits of leaves are taken out by the spider. Then there is a kind of web in which great, crinkly, rough threads are placed upon a framework of finer ones. These by their roughness entangle the flies which the spider catches and eats.

Then there are the geometrical webs. This was the kind that Mr. Emerson made with a large tanning shuttle and string. The spider first establishes the radial lines, then, beginning at the center, weaves outward a coarse spiral. These constructions, which are really the scaffolding of the web, are of ordinary thread. Then beginning at the outer edge of the web the spider weaves in the finer meshes of sticky thread, biting out the original coarse spiral as it goes along. This sticky mesh never goes to the center. These webs catch the flies through their maddening quality. Most of the work is done at night, and a single night is sufficient for the construction of a new web. The measurements are by the sense of feeling. Many details and interesting facts about the habits of these industrious creatures enhanced the making of the thread model, which was two or three feet in diameter.

Alexander the Great, when on a campaign, ate the rations of a common soldier.

Pius IX., during most of his pontificate, ate only an egg and bit of bread for breakfast.

The total commerce of the world in 1800 was about one half billion of dollars; in 1900 it was more than twenty billions of dollars.

Fleming H. Revell, the largest publisher of religious books in this country, and probably in the world, says the aggregate sale of Moody's sermons has exceeded 2,500,000 copies, placing them next to the Bible as a seller.

Notable among other embalmed bodies of dead and gone Egyptians in Pierre Loti's study is that of a little 3-year-old girl, who stares down with sightless eyes on her present owner, as he sits writing his romances and plays in the still watches of the night.

With the Persian one cannot discuss his womenfolk. To ask a Persian about his wife is a grave breach of etiquette. The most you can do is to ask about "mother of his son." If he has only daughters he does not mention them; they are unfortunate to be suffered in silence.—London Globe.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Norway during May, June, July and August, 1906, was about 34,542, against 20,827 for June, July and August, 1902, and 10,776 for the same months in 1880. During the winter season 1906-7 about 1,230 foreign tourists are also supposed to have visited Norway.

## SAFE NOW.



BUT IT WAS SCARY FOR A WHILE.

### 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 miners 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 delays beyond the plan 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 it suddenly find themselves without any footing they can be hauled to safety.

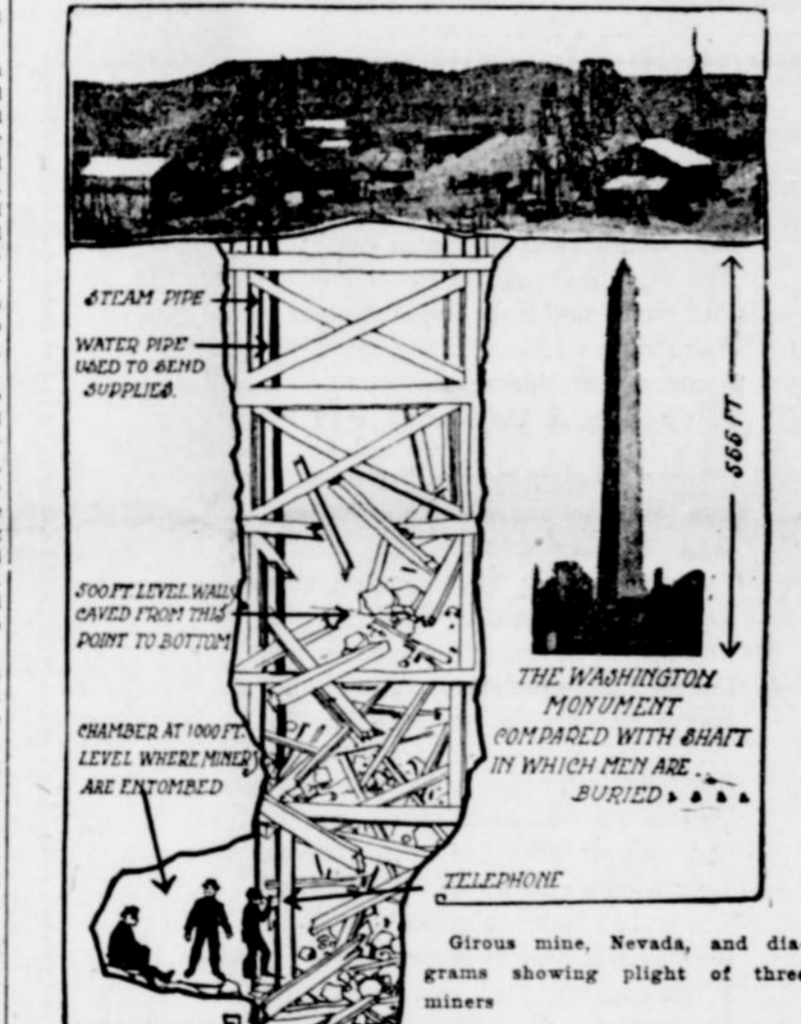
### TOLD IN A FEW LINES.

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.

### THREE MEN BURIED IN A NEVADA MINE.



### TO LIMIT IMMIGRATION.

Japanese and American Officials Outline Plan at Tokio.

There is reason to believe that the entire question of emigration 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.

### 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.

### Surgery for Insanity.

Dr. N. M. Owensby of Baltimore has created something of a stir in medical circles by asserting that dementia precox, or precocious insanity, had been cured in recent cases by the use of the knife to 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.

## THE ANTI-SALOON FIGHT.

A Hot Contest On for Control in the National Capital.

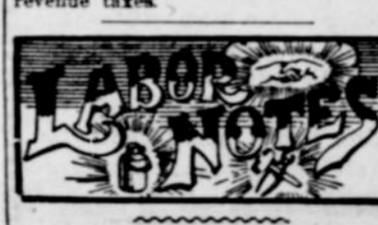
Washington correspondence: Vested rights, as represented by the breweries, distilleries and liquor dealers, have begun to petition Congress in anticipation of a strong move in favor of prohibitory legislation at the hands of the national lawmakers. Primarily the petitions are aimed against a "dry" capital 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 possibilities 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" 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.



More than 200 men in New York City are working to improve automobiles.

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

The entire membership of Minneapolis Clearmakers' 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 horsehoes have been organized in Massachusetts during the last year.

A new union of mattress makers, carpet layers, shade hangers and draperies 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 Memphis, 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 short-hand 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 Boot 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 1,500,000.

Carpenters' Union in Madison, Wis., has registered a splendid increase in the last season. From a membership of 112 last March, the union now has 317. All members have had the eight-hour day the last season for the first time.



After a conference at the White House with Secretary Garfield of the Interior Department, Assistant Secretary Oliver of the War Department, and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Leupp, the President decided to continue the policy of the Indian Bureau of furnishing the Indians an opportunity to work, and, in case of their failure to take advantage of the opportunity, to leave them to their own resources.

This is the result of the recent outbreak of a band of renegade Ute Indians now located on the Cheyenne River Reservation in North Dakota.

The roller skaters of Washington are an interesting sight. There are 50,000 children of skating age in Washington and 30,000 are whizzing around the streets mounted upon two skates, while the balance of them, more or less content with an equipment of one skate a child, are doing a complicated hop walk, undismayed by the frequent complications which ensue. The asphalt streets are really a temptation not easily resisted, and after dark the roller skaters seem to have grown suddenly and mysteriously taller.

In order to make army service more attractive for the enlisted men, the War Department has determined upon certain reforms, some of which may be put into effect by executive authority and others only with the co-operation of Congress and increased appropriations. One of the changes proposed is that the soldier shall receive his first razor, tooth brush, soap and similar articles from the government without charge, but after the first supply he must maintain his toilet kit at his own expense.

In the Senate the committees have been placed so as to fill vacancies and make changes for the new members. Knox goes to the front, as expected, by becoming chairman of the rules committee, where he will have the duty of defending the legality of the measures proposed by the majority. Other important chairmanships are: Appropriation, Allison; finance, Aldrich; foreign relations, Cullom; interstate commerce, Elkins; naval affairs, Hale; postoffice, Fenimore, and Philippines, Lodge.

Postmaster General Meyer believes that his work in efficiency is impaired by following the custom of sitting at a desk. When he was the presiding officer of the lower branch of the Massachusetts Assembly he used a massive desk, made of walnut, highly embellished, and standing more than four feet high. This has been brought to Washington and installed in his office. This he will use hereafter, standing up at his work.

The cash balance in the treasury has been reduced to about \$17,000,000 by the distribution of funds among national banks during the recent crisis, and the officials have decided to cut down the amount of the balances standing to the credit of disbursing officers. Thus, by a simple act of bookkeeping, the available cash is increased for the time being by many millions of dollars.

Before the swearing in of the two new Senators from the new State of Oklahoma they drew lots in the presence of the Senate to determine which should have the long term and which the short. The blind Senator, Gore, drew the two-year term, and smilingly congratulated his colleague, Senator Owen.

The act of President Roosevelt in ordering federal troops to assist the Aero Club of St. Louis at its recent international balloon races was, in the opinion of Gen. George B. Davis, judge advocate general of the army, unconstituted. This opinion is also shared by Acting Secretary of War Oliver.

There are any number of the tollers of Washington who make their homes in Baltimore, 40 miles away. Living in the latter place is some 30 per cent cheaper than in the town laid out by his father of his country.