

Topics of the Times

Anyhow, talk of removing the motor from our coins didn't cause the late panic.

If we can be sure of one thing than another it is that the Ben Davis apple is not a peach.

With elderly people, having the grip bears no resemblance whatever to anything like a good joke.

While this is a big country, the anarchists should be given to understand that there is no elbow room here for them.

A California judge has just decided that a man doesn't have to get out of the way of an automobile, but the man knows better.

A British statesman says that the Balkan troubles menace the peace of Europe. Of course they do. That is their specialty.

The more the public reads about that young man Alfonso of Spain, the more convinced is it that he is too good a man for the job.

Some day we hope to see a Smith or a Johnson nominated for President, just to find out whether the family would vote for him solidly.

A young Brooklyn man committed suicide because he had stolen \$2.25. Possibly he had a horror of being called a piker by his acquaintances.

One of the finest things George Washington ever did was to give the ladies a chance once a year to dress in colonial style and dance the minuet.

A St. Louis pastor tells the girls of his flock that they must let young men hold their hands. If some good men had their way it wouldn't be any fun to be young and foolish.

The man who slips a revolver into his pocket before he starts away from home in the morning should always take the precaution to kiss the children good-by as if he were doing it for the last time.

John F. Stevens, former chief engineer of the Panama canal, is so dependent on the future of the canal that he feels almost like returning the salary he received while there—but not quite.

A journalist who has been investigating the matter reports that almost any girl can quickly find a good husband down at Panama. It is to be hoped that he has not made this statement merely for the purpose of booming the business of some steamship company.

The London Chronicle reports a list of articles left on the hands of the London and Northwestern Railway Company by absent-minded passengers and forgetful consignees. On this list is one item which will wind the heart of the American newspaper man. It is six tons of wood pulp. But 3,800 cigars probably deserved their fate.

"Mostly of Chicago," is the way a man recently described his residence. His characterization seems reasonable. When he was six years old he cut off one of his toes with a scythe. When he was eight he shot off two joints of one of his fingers. He ran away from home when he was 14, and the frost of a winter night took off three more toes and the tip of his nose. At 25 he lost his entire right foot. A drunken half-breed bit off an ear in the Klondike. A Yukon cannibal took his left forearm, and since then he has lost three fingers, a joint from another finger and one eye.

Hundreds of young women are being trained all over the country for charity workers. Philanthropy is now recognized as a profession, for which one needs a special education as truly as for teaching. One of the first lessons a warm-hearted woman needs in dealing with poverty is to distinguish dirt from misery. To one accustomed to clean surroundings, the filth in which many poor people live seems intolerable. It would entail absolute wretchedness on the visitor. But in point of fact, the families who live embedded in dirt usually do so because it does not offend them. The poor woman whose senses are tortured by bad odors and foul sights manages that her rooms shall be clean, no matter how bare they may be, or how empty her cupboard and coal bin. The friendly visitor who thinks that tidiness is a sure sign of comfort and dirty disorder an equally sure sign of extreme want will make serious mistakes in her dispensing of gifts. Said a poor woman to sympathetic and experienced visitor: "Thank you, miss, for prating my clean room and giving me the coal order in the same breath. You aren't like most of the rich folks, who think if you're too dirty to touch with a ten-foot pole you must be poor, and there's no end to what they'll give you; but if you're clean and decent,—no matter what it costs you—you're lucky people, who want nothing from anybody." Intelligent philanthropy looks below the surface, and discerns that real suffering may have a clean face and real comfort a dirty one. To wash the modern whim.

If I cannot spell the new way, I cannot spell the new way. As once I used to spell: For when I try to simplify I fail to do it well. If indigestion seizes me, Brought on by pie or cake, I cannot explain the sudden pain Is just a common ache. And when a man is owing me "Twould fill me with regret To wonder you ask him when He'll pay that little debt. I cannot spell the new way— Like Brander Matthews big; I do not choose—I must refuse— To drop a "g" from egg. Perhaps I'm sadly out of date. If so I can but sigh; I cannot spell the new way. I will not simplify, —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Singing that will put a baby to sleep is apt to make him sit up and howl in after years.

Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

MUCH WORK, MANY IDLERS.

THE recent great increase in the number of unemployed able-bodied men and the simultaneous cry from the farm districts for more help draw sharp attention to an incongruous condition. The problem of including able-bodied men to remain open or return to the farms is one that becomes more difficult, and yet more insistent, every day. It must be solved, somehow, if the prosperity of the country is to continue. It is little wonder that the President and his cabinet are forced to consider the subject, with a view to leading federal assistance in disposing of it. It would be poor business policy, and worse charity, to feed the "army of unemployed" in the large cities while the farms are lacking laborers. If any among the unemployed are sick, or unable to stand the strain of hard work, let other provision be made for them; but there is no excuse for the encouragement of idleness and vice by feeding able-bodied fellows who will not go into the country. Any unemployed, able-bodied man who refuses an opportunity to go into the country to work, preferring to bask in the bright light of the city, should be convicted as a vagrant and made to build roads.—Washington Post.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

SINCE the terrible Collinwood catastrophe testimony is piling up to show that the deplorable conditions existing in that ill-fated school building prevail in many communities and that little or no effort has been made to improve them. But the frightful sacrifice of young lives has stirred the authorities to action, and, goaded by public sentiment, they are now strenuously seeking to remove the defects and minimize the dangers from fires.

Richard L. Humphrey, engineer in charge of the structural materials laboratories of the government, declares it is providential that more of these schoolhouses did not occur. He says the conditions existing in the Collinwood school building are common to many public buildings throughout the country, and the first essential is to pass laws prohibiting the erection of structures except of the highest fire-resisting type. Drills in public schools are all right in their way, to teach self-control, but are quite useless in a great emergency. And the mere enactment of preventive laws is of no avail unless the people demand their enforcement.

In the matter of schools, theaters and other public institutions, it would seem to be important that the structures be limited in height, and Superintendent Van Cleave of the Toledo schools has seriously advanced the proposition that no building for school purposes should have more than two stories. Such a school, built of fire-resisting material, with numerous broad exits and ample stairways, would afford the protection that every community should give its children. Nor should the expense which so radical a change in school construction entails be considered for a moment.

Better to spend millions on our school buildings and make them safe, than to save money by the construction of chancel houses. It is poor consolation to the taxpayer that he has been economized at the sacrifice of his own flesh and blood.—Toledo Blade.

FARMS AND THE UNEMPLOYED.

HERE is no reason why any man in the United States should starve, or even why any man should be out of employment, no matter what the conditions of business.

In Louisiana, for example, there are 27,000,000 acres of land, of which only 6,000,000 are cultivated. Planters with large tracts stand ready to aid every man who is willing to help himself. They will sell him all the land he needs on ten years' credit, or will allow him to farm on shares, providing him with a house, a horse and a mule, sufficient seed to plant crops, and provide farming implements.

Yet with the whole country full of such opportunities, large cities swarm with men who complain that they cannot get work, and municipalities are at their wits' end to find some way to help the unemployed. The farms of the nation contain the only solution of this problem.—Des Moines News.

PEARL HARBOR A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY.

THE annexation of Hawaii, our development of vast political as well as commercial interests in the Pacific and the obvious desirability of developing our coast defenses and naval auxiliaries according to a consistent and adequate plan, all bespeak the need of making that finest natural harbor in the Pacific a place of service in peace and of security in war. Its value to commerce would be great. Its value in war would be incalculable, and it would, as has well been suggested in Congress, be one of the strongest possible factors for the prevention of war in the Pacific Ocean. After all these years of neglect and in view of existing conditions at the present day, it seems not extravagant for the naval affairs committee to say, as it does, that every consideration of national honor and policy calls for the prompt equipment of Pearl harbor as an impregnable naval base.—New York Tribune.

SIBBELL LUDINGTON'S RIDE.

An incident of the Revolutionary War, as deserving of its place in popular memory as Paul Revere's ride, is recorded in the Journal of American History. Col. Henry Ludington, while a mere boy, during the French and Indian War, was detailed to escort a company of invalid soldiers from Canada to Boston. This perilous duty and journey through the wilderness, undertaken in the dead of winter, was one of almost incredible hardship, but the gallant youth successfully accomplished the task assigned to him. His daughter afterward showed that he was equally daring and courageous.

Washington selected Col. Ludington as an aide-de-camp at the battle of White Plains, and afterward complimented him for his gallant conduct and soldierly bearing.

The British expedition, consisting of 2,000 men, set out to destroy the stores and munitions of war collected at Danbury, Conn., reached that place Saturday, April 26, 1777.

The general, too small for protection and too weak for active resistance, withdrew. Preparations were immediately made to harass the enemy. A messenger was dispatched to Col. Ludington to summon him to aid in the defense.

The members of Col. Ludington's regiment were at their homes, which were miles apart and scattered over a wide territory. To summon them was no easy task. There was no one ready to do it.

Sibbell, the young daughter of Col. Ludington, a girl of 16, volunteered to undertake the service. She mounted her horse, equipped with a man's saddle, and galloped off on the road in the dead of night. The next morning by breakfast time the regiment had taken up the line of march and was in rapid motion toward Danbury, twenty miles distant.

I often think with envy of the days of long ago, When men wore ruffled shirts and walked so stately and so slow, Their legs encased in breeches, garments typical of ease, And not like modern trousers, often baggy at the knees; Their long hair, nicely powdered, deftly done up in a queue— A shining silver buckle on each glossy low-cut shoe; And soft, smooth, silken stockings on their shapely swelling calves— Oh, our grandfathers weren't accustomed to do anything by halves!

Learned by Hard Knocks. So long as the horse market is not fully supplied there is no gain in shipping away. As a rule the offspring of immature and pampered animals are predisposed to disease. A proper rotation and wise tillage will do much to keep the soil supplied with available fertility. Better methods, better stock and better tools have done the production of more than one farm. Oats contain largely the mineral properties requisite to form and grow bone and the protein that makes muscle and other tissues. More hay and less grain makes the farm easier to handle and in the end gives it quite as much profit. There is often more profit in growing little things and in fine products, in proportion, than in the great staples. Without stock there can be no complete utilization of the farm products. With stock there can be no waste products. Clover and grasses retain moisture in the soil, render it porous and favor introduction while drying with vegetable matter.



Electric Farming.

Although agricultural machinery originated in the United States and the American farmer used patent mowers, reapers and threshing machines long before their European contemporaries in the same field of labor had put aside scythe, rake and flail, the possibility of introducing electric power in farm work was first recognized in the Old World.

This has probably been due to the fact that the farmers of America, thrifty and far-seeing, recognizing the economy and reliability of the small oil engine, failed to perceive how any saving could be effected by generating electric current and distributing to its motors in outlying positions.

When, however, the mains from some large electric power company pass within reach of a farm or estate the conditions are much more favorable, and this state of things must already exist in a measure which will be largely extended in the future. Current German newspapers contain an interesting account of the application of electricity to a group of farms in Saxony. The electric current is brought from an adjacent town by overhead wires carried on wooden poles. Two receiving stations are arranged, from which the electricity is distributed to the farm buildings and to convenient positions in the fields for the purpose of driving threshing and other machinery.

Sixteen fixed electric motors are installed for chaff and root cutting, oat crushing, pumping and for operating machinery used in the manufacture of potato spirit. In addition to this power equipment, six portable motors are provided, which may be used for driving pumps, circular saws, threshing machines, and so forth, at any point where their services are required. The houses and buildings on the farms are all lit by electricity, 9 arc lamps and about 1,000 glow lamps being used for the purpose.

It must be pointed out, however, that this example could only be followed in the United States on a very large estate or a group of adjacent farms, and it is doubtful whether such a scheme could be made a commercial success for the operation of farming machinery pure and simple. It would appear that wood sawing, pumping and other operations requiring power must be included if the results are to compare favorably with those at present obtained by the use of oil or steam engines. But the Saxon experiment is full of interest, and displays a curiously progressive spirit in a country where farm fences are almost unknown, and shepherds and cowherds are still living amid picturesque realities.

Comparative Food Values.

An English journal, The Lancet, in discussing the comparative food value of roast beef and turkey, says that it may be said that, weight for weight, the flesh of the turkey is more nourishing than that of beef; but the latter is, generally speaking, cheaper than the former. The moisture in beef, however, exceeds the amount present in the flesh of the turkey, and the latter contains a better percentage of proteid or flesh-forming substance. In either case the percentage of moisture is seldom less than 70 per cent.

In lean beef the amount of fat is much the same as in a not too well-fatted turkey, but it must be pointed out that the flesh of poultry differs from that of beef and mutton in not having its muscular fibers permeated by fat, and, moreover, the fibers in the flesh of the fowl are short and rarely yield to the disintegrating action of the digestive processes. A large amount of fat in either case is apt to interfere with the digestibility of the meat. The fat of beef is more digestible than the fat of the turkey. The fat of birds, in fact, is harder, and owing to its tendency to become rancid, is unsuitable for the dyspeptic patient.

The Lancet believes that the most important difference from a dietetic point of view between beef and turkey is that, whereas beef contains a high percentage of extractive matters, turkey contains hardly any at all. The extractive matters in beef account largely for its peculiar and marked flavor, and owing to their absence in poultry generally, and in the pheasant and partridge, the flavor of these meats is delicate. But there is no doubt that the extractives of beef, as well as mutton, are valuable, for not only are they flavoring agents, but they also act as perhaps the most powerful stimulant to gastric digestion.

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Quality of Grass Seed.

The Maine law regulating the sale of agricultural seeds requires that grass seed shall be sold under a guarantee as to purity. Bulletin 138 of the Maine agricultural experiment station, which, doubtless, many of your readers have received, gives analysis of the seeds which were collected by the inspector and those sent to the experiment station by correspondence in 1906. The dealers are very generally conforming to the law and the purity of most seeds is now guaranteed. The question naturally arises in the mind of a farmer, should a seed be strictly pure, and, if not, how nearly pure should it be?

The purity of seeds varies greatly with their kind. It is possible to grow timothy seed so clean that it shall carry practically no foreign weed seeds. It is not as easy to grow any of the other grasses or clovers so clean. There is no need for the sower to ever buy timothy seed that is much less than 99.5 per cent pure. Samples have been examined by the station the present year which contained not a single foreign harmful seed.

The best red clover seed will frequently carry as much as 1 per cent of foreign matter, although these impurities are usually comparatively harmless. It is, however, a good idea for the sower to buy a red-clover seed that is less than 98 per cent pure. The best grades of alsike clover will run about 98.5 per cent pure on the average. It is doubtful if the purchaser should buy an alsike whose purity is less than 97.5 per cent.

Redtop is the most difficult seed of all. It will, of course, contain more or less chaff. It is difficult to grow redtop free from timothy, and the seed cleaners find it difficult to separate timothy seed from redtop after it has once been introduced. Samples of redtop carrying as high as 12 or even 15 per cent of timothy are not unusual. If one could be sure that the impurities were harmless like chaff and timothy it might be safe to buy a redtop even as low as 85 per cent pure. Unless one is assured of the character of the impurities, it is unwise to buy a redtop less than 95 per cent pure.

Double-Edged Saw.

To make one saw take the place of two, and at the same time preserve its durability, is the recent invention of an Indiana man. Every carpenter includes two saws in his kit—one for cross-cut and one for cutting with the grain. He can now dispense with one saw, as it is possible to put the two blades having different teeth on the same saw.

Has Two Edges.

The smooth top edge always seen on saws is changed to a cutting edge, similar to the regular cutting edge, the saw thus having teeth on the two longitudinal opposite edges. The handle is hinged to the blade instead of being rigid and can be reversed as it becomes necessary to use either blade. This saw is also an economical saw, as it saves the expense of purchasing two saws.

Grass Better than Drugs.

A famous veterinary surgeon declares that grass beats all drugs in creation as a cure for sick horses and mules. Horses should have a few quarts of cut grass daily, from spring until fall. The prevalent notion that it is harmful is without foundation. Grass is to horses what fresh vegetables and fruit are to the human family.

News and Farm Notes.

The profitable line of production is to maintain good health with early maturity. More than half a million emigrants from Russia have passed into Siberia the past year to engage in wheat raising. A farmer near McMinn, Tenn., is displaying an ear of corn twelve inches long, weighing three pounds and containing 1,386 grains. A grain farm at Murray, Iowa, shipped twenty-seven carloads of timothy seed last fall, for which the farmers received from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a bushel. A Kansas man claims to have invented a fence-weaving machine, run by a two-horse power gasoline engine, which will weave and set a mile of fence a day.

The United States produced 14,000,000 bushels of rice last year on a half million acres. The culture of rice is gradually creeping north and some very good grain is reported in Arkansas. Holland has set engineers to work to pump the water out of the famous Zuider Zee and turn it into dry land. When this work is accomplished there will rise where 4,000 fishermen now sink their nets farms and homes for 50,000 Hollanders.

A Washington dispatch says a genius has invented a dope which when used as paint for farm machinery will prevent rust and decay. This might be good news for those farmers who use the fence corners as storehouses for their farm machinery, but the probability is they are too lazy to apply the dope. R. W. Crouse, a graduate of Iowa agricultural college, has been appointed State lecturer on animal husbandry for Virginia. Another Iowa boy has gone to the Massachusetts agricultural college as assistant in animal husbandry. The demand for college graduates in the high class agricultural lines at salaries ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year is larger than the supply.

Charles W. Trock of Ridgeway, Ohio, a 7-year-old lad, while wandering in the fields sat down on a little hammock which contained a bumblebee's nest. Within a moment he was so badly stung that his body swelled to twice its size and death soon followed.

Enterprising men will make an experiment of raising thornless cactus on a commercial scale in Riverside county, California. This cactus is the kind that has had its thorns bred off by Luther Burbank and is said to be extremely valuable as stock food.



THE WIFE'S MAD.

"All I can say is that if you don't sit down and behave yourself I'm going to send you home and I won't see you again for a week," said the girl. The young man hesitated for a moment and then seated himself. "But, honest, you don't need to light his pipe for him," he said. "You can let him light his own pipe."—Chicago Daily News.

WOMEN SELLING MEATS.

New York Has a Butcher Shop Which Is Said to Be Unique. In a big uptown market in which there are sold not only meats of all kinds but vegetables and canned goods as well there are employed as saleswomen in the butcher's department a considerable number of young women, says the New York Sun. In this market all the fresh meats are kept in showcases. The cutting, sawing and chopping are done by man butchers, but there are kept on hand large quantities of cut meats all ready for delivery, which are sold by young women. There are long glass counter showcases set parallel and with a sufficient space between them for the saleswomen to stand in. You walk along these showcases and look down into them and make your choice. In one section of these showcases you would find long lines of turkeys and chickens, fowls of all sizes and weights. In another section you would find sirloin steaks, big and little, fat and lean, thick and thin. You can look down into the showcases and pick out exactly the sort of steak you want. Same as to pot roasts; twenty or thirty of them here together, each tied up ready for delivery, and you can see and pick out exactly the one you want; and the same as to rib roasts. And here, cut ready, are pork spare ribs for roasting, fat and lean and all trimly arranged so that you can see them and get just what you want; and in other sections you find soup meat and soup bones and chopped meats; in short, in these counter showcases you will find cut meats of every description, so that you cannot only select the piece that you want, but you know as you look at it its exact cost. And all these cut meats are sold by the young women precisely as they would sell laces or ribbons or gloves. You look along till you find just what you want and the saleswoman takes it out of the showcase and wraps it up to be handed over to you if you desire to carry it home yourself, or to be delivered by the market's wagons. There are regularly employed in this market, in the cut meat department, from thirty to thirty-five saleswomen, with an extra force of twenty-five, making about sixty altogether, on Saturdays. They all wear black dresses with trim white aprons, the aprons being supplied by the market. This market has employed saleswomen in its cut meat department for three years. There are other markets in the city in which cut meats are displayed in and sold from counter showcases, but this is probably the only one in the city, or for that matter in the country, in which saleswomen are employed to sell the meats.

Care of Olive Oil.

Olive oil is injured by being kept in the light. When used at the table it should be removed to a cool dark place after each meal. Daily Thought. The habit of viewing things cheerfully, and of thinking about life hopefully, may be made to grow up in us like any other habit.—Smiles.

"Why, no," replied the girl. "He's married and got two grandchildren." "I don't see why that's any reason for his putting you on the cheek." "I want him to pat me on the cheek." "Very well, then," said the young man, sternly. "If you want to flirt with him it's very certain that you can't care much for me. If you prefer him to me all I can say is—"

