

Topics of the Times

A great deal of advice about married life comes from people who have never tried it.

Judge Gray says he is out of politics. Several other men who are out of politics have not discovered it yet.

If the ice trust is at all sensitive it must be deeply pained to hear the unkind things they are saying about it in New York.

The fly, says Dr. Adolph Gehrmann, is as dangerous as the wolf. And we cannot make mink muffs out of its hide, either.

It is estimated that in every \$100,000 in circulation only \$1.50 is counterfeit. Of course Mr. Easy Mark is bound to get more than his share.

The next time the government takes a census we suggest that an effort be made to find out what the pessimist population of the country is.

When we finally establish communication with Mars we probably shall find that the newspapers there are devoted exclusively to the chronicle of high life.

There is in New York a man who has gone insane because he made money rapidly. Usually this kind of insanity develops in the sons of the men who do the money-making.

Somehow it does us good to read of that man who traveled more than one hundred thousand miles looking for a wife. It goes to show that a wife is still worth having.

The French republic is going to spend \$5,000 for the purpose of transferring the remains of Zola to the Pantheon. There is nothing like death to cause a man to be appreciated by the French republic.

As to the devotion of a wife to a husband who beats her, one philosopher has observed that the average woman would rather take a sound thrashing than be knocked speechless by unanswerable logic.

A barbed-wire fence is soon to mark the boundary line between the United States and Canada. Gentlemen who start for Canada, taking their families with them, may in future years find it necessary to provide themselves with wire clippers.

Some one has discovered that our quarter is a "loosey" coin. It has thirteen stars, thirteen bars, thirteen arrowheads, and so on. Yet no one seems to object to hoarding thirteen of them when they come in bunches nor adding the thirteenth to the pile.

In an attempt to fast forty days, a man succeeded in starving himself to death in thirty-one days. His purpose was to prove that the mind controls the body. All great religious teachers and philosophers have already proved this, and a sound knowledge of their noble demonstrations should forbid such ignoble experiments.

Death duties on great estates are extremely heavy in Great Britain. The beneficiaries under the will of an Englishman who died recently had to pay to the government two million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars in taxes on an estate worth about eighteen million dollars. Such a tax is urged in America by influential public men.

We are not informed as to the amount of Sunday work required of government employes in the departments at Washington, but there can be no question of the desirability of reducing it as far as possible, in accordance with the petition of the citizens of the capital who recently waited upon the President.

Mr. McKinley of Ohio and Mr. Hobart of New Jersey ran together against Mr. Bryan of Nebraska and Mr. Sewall of Maine. In 1900 Mr. McKinley of Ohio and Mr. Roosevelt of New York were named by the Republicans against Mr. Bryan of Nebraska and Mr. Stevenson of Illinois. In 1904 Judge Parker of New York and Mr. Davis of West Virginia as Democrats were defeated by Messrs. Roosevelt of New York and Fairbanks of Indiana.

The bravest man. James Creelman, the well-known war correspondent, who is on record over his own signature as having provoked the war between the United States and Spain, gives this description of the bravest man he ever saw:

"It was during the siege of Port Arthur," says Mr. Creelman, "On the edge of one of the parapets, his feet hanging over the edge, sat a man making a sketch of the scene. From the Japanese ships in the offing there came a continuous stream of screaming, death-delivering shells. But the man sketched on unmoved. Mauder bullets, with their peculiar snake-like hiss, flew over and beside him. In all this noise and imminent death the man continued his work, completely absorbed in it. "Finally there came from within the fortification a Russian officer of gigantic size. He stood long beside the man who was drawing and watched the pencil carefully filling in the graphic lines. The shells from the ships when they struck the masonry stirred up a cloud of mortar dust, and as they exploded threw chunks of broken stone in every direction. The officer's uniform was covered with mortar dust, and his fatigue cap had been knocked awry by a Mauser bullet. I have never seen a braver man. At last he said, in excellent English—for all Russians are excellent linguists—and speaking with an aristocratic drawl, 'I say, Creelman, aren't you ever going to finish that sketch?'—James S. Metcalfe, in Success Magazine.

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of them have been brought up on farms in Europe and would be useful on American farms. Moreover, the lesson of the crowded city should be driven home to the boy who thinks there is no chance on the farm or in the small town. The large city is the worst place in the world to be poor in, to fall in; and even to succeed in it, as one man in a thousand does succeed, is by no means the highest aim of wholesome American ambition.

The imagination is strongly affected by the recent Governors' conference at the White House, which suggested the power and greatness of the country and has a spectacular and dramatic interest. But it was hard logic that brought the conference about. The condition of the natural resources of the United States is such that some general movement for their protection may be regarded as absolutely necessary, and under no circumstances could it be postponed many years. The logic appears in the facts that we have lost more timber in the last few years than we have planted in the last century. The condition of the natural resources of the United States is such that some general movement for their protection may be regarded as absolutely necessary, and under no circumstances could it be postponed many years. The logic appears in the facts that we have lost more timber in the last few years than we have planted in the last century.

What are the subjects which call forth such shouts of laughter and such exclamations of delight from the children? The father who does not know would well find out by personal investigation. He will discover a man on the railroad track, and see an express train rush by and toss and mangle him. Men and women leap from the windows of burning buildings. Policemen arrest "toughs" after a severe fight. Russian peasants are stripped to the waist and beaten senseless by cruel Cossacks, while the Tsar's officers applaud, and a domestic tragedy involves a double murder and ends in suicide.

THE MAP IN POLITICS.

Candidates for President and Vice President on a party ticket nearly always come from widely separated States, says the Brooklyn Eagle. John C. Fremont of California was united with William L. Dayton of New Jersey, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was first conjoined with Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, and then unhappily with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

When Grant of Illinois was first nominated his mate was Schuyler Colfax of Indiana. Those States were adjoining, but that was the only modern instance in which adjoining States have been drawn on for such a purpose.

Democratic nominations in the same period followed the rule of widely separated States. In 1864 McClellan of New Jersey ran with Pendleton of Ohio. In 1868 Seymour of New York ran with Blair of Missouri; in 1872 Greeley of New York ran with Grant of Ohio; in 1876 Tilden of New York and Hendricks of Indiana, and Republican ticket Hayes of Ohio and Wheeler of New York.

The recapitulation could be further pursued to show that Garfield and Arthur, Hancock and English, Cleveland and Hendricks, Blaine and Logan, Cleveland and Thurman, Harrison and Morton, Cleveland and Stevenson, and Harrison and Reid represented widely different States in the national elections.

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Editorials Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF SLANG.

A matter of fact, a little slang is an excellent thing, but in the present era of slang more than the smallest quantity is a great deal too much. The English language may fairly be said to be the most picturesque and most expressive in the world, and it does not need the verbiage of the slang, or even the catch words and catch phrases of the street, to add to its vigor and variety. As a rule, the use of slang is indicative more of paucity of thought and idea than of a susceptibility to the humorous and the graphic. If we tell our friend to "get onto his job," "to get onto himself," "to get busy," "to get a move on," or any one of a hundred other things, we certainly reveal our tendency to move with the tide of the hour, but at the same time we clearly show that we are more imitative than original. We speak slang frequently through sheer laziness. It was the last word in the mouth of a companion, and it becomes the next word in ours. It is echoed by the speaker, by the teacher, by the lecturer, by the writer, but with rare exceptions it never becomes anything but slang. After all, it is only the best of slang that survives, but even then we need not excuse ourselves for becoming proficient in its use. We should think of the present as well as of the future. Why use slang when we can speak the speech of our heritage equally well? Why become the blind leaders of the blind?—Boston Transcript.

MOVING-PICTURE EXHIBITIONS.

IT is a comparatively short time "an entirely new form of public amusement has arisen and grown to astonishing magnitude. The vicescope is doing for the common people, and especially for the children, what only the theater has done heretofore, and is doing it for a tenth of the cost, and in towns too small for the theater to invade. What are the subjects which call forth such shouts of laughter and such exclamations of delight from the children? The father who does not know would well find out by personal investigation. He will discover a man on the railroad track, and see an express train rush by and toss and mangle him. Men and women leap from the windows of burning buildings. Policemen arrest "toughs" after a severe fight. Russian peasants are stripped to the waist and beaten senseless by cruel Cossacks, while the Tsar's officers applaud, and a domestic tragedy involves a double murder and ends in suicide. Of course the scenes from which these pictures are made are "fakes"—compositions carefully prepared for the purpose—for when such scenes are enacted in real life the photographer is not there to record them. The result, at least upon the mind of receptive childhood, is the same as if the scenes were real. Indeed, they are real in the effect of excitement created and sympathies

A VALLEY OF DEATH.

Its horrors more terrible than those of Dante's imagination. Only thirty-five miles long and about eight miles wide, yet nobody can pass through it and retain both life and reason. Such is Death Valley, on the borders of California and Nevada, says a writer. It is undoubtedly the deadliest place in the whole wide world. I have looked down upon this valley several times from the mountain heights which inclose it—the Telescope range on the west, and the Fu-



EMIGRANTS IN DEATH VALLEY DOOMED TO PERISH.

ploring trip with two soldiers, forced his guide at the point of the rifle to take him into the valley on foot. With in two hours one of the soldiers staggered back into the camp of the main body, demented, and hardly able to walk. The others had become insane and wandered away to die.

If a man is not quickly killed by heat and thirst or by falling into the quicksands, he goes mad and raves of green fields and bubbling streams. In parts of the valley there are innumerable pinnacles of salt earth, as sharp as a needle, and as dangerous

as bayonet points. Many a man has been lamed by them, and fallen down to die of delirium. Even the gloomy imagination of Dante could not have conjured up one-half of the horrors of this real valley of death.

AN ANCHOR TO WESTWARD.

THE Hawaiian Islands constitute the strategic situation commanding the eastern half of the Pacific. Pearl Harbor, which the government is about to fortify as a naval station, has a depth when the entrance is passed of sixty feet upon the average and an area of ten square miles. There is no warrant for viewing the fortification of this outpost as conveying a menace to any Asiatic power. It is a precautionary measure, justified upon the same reasons that have inspired our coastal defenses, fronting along both oceans. Pearl Harbor, from the geographic position which it occupies, is an outlying challenge post, along the great ocean highway leading to our shores. Thought turns to Japan in connection with Hawaii as a defense outpost only because Japan is, besides the United States, the only power maintaining a powerful naval outfit in the Pacific.

But this may not be the situation thirty years from now. China has entered upon the same modernizing transformation which has been in progress in the Japanese empire for more than a quarter of a century. The Mongolian empire has a population which is believed to be three times as large as that of the nationality next greatest in that respect, and, moreover, an undeveloped wealth of mine and field generally estimated as being of an aggregate importance exceeding the latent resources of any other equal area on the globe. Ultimately, there is abundant reason for believing China, and not Japan, to be the predominant Asiatic power.—Baltimore American.

KILL THE HOUSE FLY.

HE fly transmits typhoid through its feet. It can carry thousands of bacilli on each foot, and if it lights on food and the food is eaten disease is apt to follow. The fly does not wipe his feet, and there is no use in trying to train him to do so. The only resource is to get rid of him entirely. All careful housekeepers have their windows and doors screened, but this is valuable largely as a matter of comfort; it does not go to the root of the trouble. The flies infest butcher shops and grocery stores, and we shall never be immune until we attack the fly as an enemy of society.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

five years ago. His color at once attracted attention, and the director, believing that he would add to the attractions, turned him out in a large tank with others of his species. He did not thrive, and, apparently disgusted with his surroundings, refused to eat.

When he was too weak to walk he was turned over to Mr. Spencer and christened Pinky. Mr. Spencer began feeding him by prying his mouth open with a stick and shoving little fish down his throat. After several

days of this Pinky's interest in life revived. Then he began to show a fondness for Mr. Spencer, and persisted in following him about the room. He began to know when it was dinner time. Now Mr. Spencer will stand half-way across the room and call to him. Out of his den will come Pinky, and with many a thump of his hard shell on the floor crawl to Mr. Spencer's feet. But his greatest stunt is walking the chalk line.

"Pinky, you have been drinking," says Mr. Spencer. "Show me," he says, and Pinky starts off down the line.

"That's not so much," said one visitor after such an exhibition. "The beast just kept on going after you put him down."

From the marks about the edge of his shell Mr. Spencer believes that Pinky is reaching the old-age limit. He is perhaps 70 years old, and rheumatism is getting into his left leg, which is already stiff at the joint.

When you go to the aquarium again ask to see Mr. Spencer's real albino terrapin. His acquaintance is worth making, even if it is only to see him scratch his head and brighten up when Mr. Spencer speaks to him.

We are somewhat fussy, but we do not object to a man yelling when he has a tooth pulled.

When the wheels get so dry that they rattle, have the tires properly set; do not try to chink up the spokes. With all classes of stock the value of the feed is the same, whether it is supplied to the scrawlers or the best of thoroughbreds. Teams that have been partially idle for some time should come into work again gradually and their shoulders bathed with salt water. The cutworm is the larvae of a moth; the worm is of a brown color, fat and sluggish, about an inch long, and feeds only during the night. For bumble-foot in poultry joint the corn liberally with tincture of iodine daily for a week. If this is done in the early stages the corn can be spread. To easily remove the handle from an axe, place the blade on top of a heated stove and leave it there till the iron around what is known as the "eye" becomes quite hot. Heat expands the iron, making it an easy matter to drive the handle from the blade. A horse will never run into any other burning building besides his own, or even pass a bonfire if he can help it, but when once he scents danger he tries to get to his stall—his home—and when once he reaches there can only be driven away by fright or shock superior to his drive.



Quality of Seeds. As the result of tests of alfalfa, red clover and grass seeds secured in the open market Chief Galloway of the bureau of plants industry makes a report that is certainly of interest to farmers.

Red Clover.—Of the 1,217 samples of red clover seed secured 406, or one-third, contained seed of dodder, 424 contained traces of yellow trefoil seed, and 135 bore evidence of having originated in Chile.

Alfalfa.—Of the 366 samples of alfalfa seed secured 191, or about one-half, contained seed of dodder, 135 contained a trace of yellow trefoil seed, 120 contained a trace of sweet clover seed, and 16 contained a trace of bur clover seed.

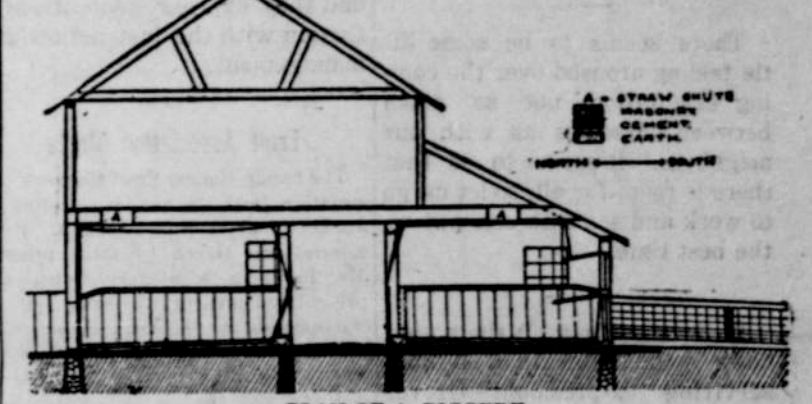
Bromus Inermis.—Of the 55 samples of Bromus inermis seed obtained 15 contained seed of cheat, or chess, 28 contained from 2 to 3 per cent of seed of the wheat grasses, several contained seed of meadow fescue and one contained more than 24 per cent of meadow fescue and rye grass seed together.

Kentucky Blue Grass.—Of the 429 samples of Kentucky blue grass seed obtained only 8 were found to be free from any trace of Canada blue grass. In most of these samples the trace of Canada blue grass found was immature seed, showing that it was harvested with the Kentucky blue grass seed. The seeds of the two plants not ripening at the same time, it is improbable that mature seed of Canada blue grass would be harvested with Kentucky blue grass seed. In 110 samples, however, Canada blue grass seed was found in quantities exceeding 5 per cent, 32 of these being Canada blue grass seed misbranded as Kentucky blue grass seed.

The Potato Bug, or Colorado potato beetle, passes the winter in the ma-

ture form. As soon as the potatoes are up these bugs begin feeding and laying eggs on the young leaves. The young that hatch from these eggs, as well as the next brood, are the ones that do the damage. Therefore, it is necessary that treatment should be begun as soon as the young beetles appear on the vines. Dust the plants while the dew is on, with a mixture made of 1 pound Paris green to 10 pounds of slaked lime or cheap flour. Another good method is to spray the plants with a composition of 2 ounces of Paris green in 50 gallons of Bordeaux mixture, spraying the vines two or three times. For this purpose the Bordeaux mixture should be made out of 2 pounds of bluestone and 5 pounds of lime to 50 gallons of water. This mixture will not only kill the beetle, but also prevent the early blight from destroying the leaves and stems of the vines.

FARM-BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.



The above diagram shows a cross section of a piggy building thirty-four feet wide, which may be of any desired length. The foundation is of stone, but may be built of concrete to be in keeping with the floor and the piers, which are concrete. The floor is in two layers, the lower three inches being comprised of coarse gravel seven parts and cement one part, the upper inch being mixed three parts sharp sand to one of cement. The alley running throughout the center of the building is six feet wide, with a crowned floor one-half inch higher in the center, to insure its being kept perfectly dry. The floors of the pens are given a fall of two inches from the alley to the outer doors.

The partitions are constructed of one and a quarter-inch boards cut into three-foot lengths. These are placed in an upright position, the bottom ends resting on a two-by-four and the tops capped with similar material. The loft above is about eight feet high at top posts and furnishes an abundance of room for storage of straw, crates, crate materials, etc. No meal feed should be stored here, as it is likely to become contaminated. The illustration shows the ropes and pulleys by which the doors and ventilators are opened and closed from the feeding alleys. On the right side the door and ventilator are open; on the left side closed.

chemists that the ashes of young twigs are of more value than the ash of the trunk of the tree, while the ash of the leaves is still more valuable.

Rhubarb requires a deep and very fertile soil. The great secret of success in raising it is high manuring. It is a gross feeder, and requires a liberal application of manure every year. A grower whose small patch produces rhubarb of enormous size explains his success from his practice of throwing sponges over the ground on washing days. He had sold \$30 worth from a patch of two and one-half rods in a single season.

Creameries and Factories. There are now in Minnesota 825 creameries and seventy-six cheese factories in actual operation, nearly all of them being operated and owned by the farmers, using the same system of bookkeeping that is given in the short course in the dairy school, and every creamery in the state is using the Babcock milk test and is making first class butter.—President Northrup of Minnesota University.

Garden Cleanings. To make the garden soil warm drain off all the surface water possible. Use underdrains and overdrains. The best way to secure very early plants is to start them in the seed box or potted, then transplant to two-inch flower pots as soon as the seedlings are large enough.

Don't work the garden and truck patch while the ground is wet in the haste of starting an early crop. Noting is gained, but much is lost, in working wet soils.

Are the garden and truck patches well drained? The garden should have two gates—one small one and one large one. The small gate should be convenient to the house and the large one convenient to the barn for hauling manure and entering with team and tools.

If the garden fence is defective either mend the old or build a new one. Fix it so poultry and other animals cannot disturb it. It is a waste of time and vexation of spirit to have the chickens and ducks forever destroying the garden.