

Topics of the Times

It is astonishing how Rockefeller became so rich when he knows so little.

A New York financier is to live in a glass house. Isn't this display of innocence a bit ostentatious?

If Russia hates us because American sympathies were with the Japanese in the late war, why should not Japan love us for the same reason?

A Miss Czastaniakow and a Mr. Frincknowickay were married in Connecticut a few days ago. Well, that will help to simplify matters a little.

The Washington preacher who thinks hell is located in the sun may merely have tried to go through a hot spell without taking off his winter flannels.

Even though he has been shot at twice, it is not believed that the president of France will consider it necessary to carry a six-shooter under his coat-tails hereafter.

From the latest utterances of Japanese diplomats it may fairly be inferred that the mikado is willing to rub noses with Uncle Sam and be his great and good friend.

Tramps compelled to work in the Kansas harvest fields! It will be useless for us to try after this to convince some people that inhuman cruelty is not practiced in some parts of our fair land.

Rural free delivery has been established on the Island of Guam. Ten years ago there were not many people on the island who even took the trouble to go to the village postoffice for their mail.

Admiral Dewey says the country that has the least trouble in getting its coal is the one which wins in war. This being the case, it may be well for us to keep on good terms with Deacon Baer.

The new census of Canada shows that the great Dominion has a population of about equal to that of the grand old State of Illinois. We congratulate the people of Canada on the progress they are making.

The New York Evening Post prints a letter from a subscriber who wants to know the meaning of "pie-faced mutt." Evidently he has never attended a ball game where the bleacherites took a dislike to the umpire.

"Never be contentious. Concern yourselves with your duties, and your rights will take care of themselves." A bit of parting advice from a general to the graduates of West Point, but applicable to all men, young or old, college graduates or not.

Recently published reminiscences of Carl Schurz put severe blame on Gen. O. O. Howard for the Union defeat at Chancellorsville. General Howard makes a gallant and clever reply. The whole blame, he says, for that defeat rests upon General "Stonewall" Jackson, the Confederate commander.

Short skirts are likely to be the popular costume in Nordhausen, Germany. The board of health has recommended the imposition of a fine of thirty marks, or imprisonment for one week, for wearing dresses with trains on the street. The dragging of the bottom of the skirt through the dust and dirt of the street is characterized as "a menace to the well-being of the community."

Some definite and well-organized movement ought manifestly to be made toward the wider scattering throughout the country of the horde of aliens that is continually trooping into our country. It is not good either for themselves or for the public that they plant themselves, as they have long been doing, in great colonies in the large cities. That practice makes for continued poverty, ill health, general conditions that are not desirable. It would be surprising to know how many of those who flock to these shores annually are and should be tillers of the soil. There is demand for such. They should be induced, if not compelled, to distribute themselves over our large area of agricultural districts.

Until within a few years the whole of the surplus earnings of the United States was invested at home. There were thousands of enterprises for the development of agriculture, manufactures and transportation that were more attractive than foreign undertakings. There are such opportunities still; but the wealth of the country has increased so greatly that the industries are seeking foreign markets, and capitalists are searching the world over for the most profitable places to invest their surplus.

The other day a company in which Americans are largely interested secured a concession for developing two and a half million acres of the Congo region. The company secures the rights to the india-rubber trade of the district, and mining and railroad rights as well. That there are other fields the development of which will benefit the whole country as well as the immediate investors, the Secretary of State indicated in his recent address at Kansas City on South American opportunities. The trade of the United States with South America is insignificant in comparison with South American trade with Europe. The easiest way to get from New York to Buenos Ayres is by way of Liverpool, which involves two crossings of the ocean. Secretary Root said, what is evident to every one, that there ought to be more steamship lines between North and South America, and that they should be owned by citizens of the United States. Some new lines have lately been opened, or are about to be opened, between Brazil and New York; between Peru and Panama, with the intention of extending to New York; and between Argentina and Europe. But they are enterprises of foreign and not American capital. Let the American flag fly at the masthead of ships carrying the products of American farms and factories to the people who need them, and the American surplus will find use at home in developing industries for a foreign market.

Thanks to a new act of the Massachusetts legislature, which goes into effect on the first of November next, an interesting experiment in life insurance is promised to the people of the Bay State and New England generally. The law in question provides for the sale of small life insurance policies and annuities by the savings institutions of Massachusetts. The new feature is entirely voluntary or optional, but when the legislature adopted the measure in the face of very strong opposition it knew that a number of savings banks were willing to go experimentally into the insurance business—not, indeed, for profit or with the notion of seriously competing with the insurance companies, but in a benevolent and altruistic spirit. The law was the outgrowth of the insurance scandals and revelations. Those who framed and pushed it believed that the savings banks of Massachusetts, which are strictly regulated by statute and controlled by a state commission, are particularly fitted to provide the poorer elements of the population with opportunities of getting life insurance at bare cost and under conditions which guarantee honest, conservative and intelligent management. The banks do not expect, and are not expected, to solicit insurance, to employ agents or even carry on active correspondence in order to obtain business. Blank forms of policies will, however, be widely distributed and the would-be beneficiaries of the system will have to take the trouble of applying for and getting the policies and of regularly paying their premiums. Whether many people, even in thrifty and enlightened Massachusetts, realize the need of life insurance sufficiently to incur such trouble is one of the many questions upon which the experiment is to give us light. The governor of Massachusetts has just taken the first step under the act. He has appointed seven state trustees, whose duty it will be to select a state insurance actuary and a medical director and to make all other preparations for the assumption by the savings banks of the new function. The trustees serve without pay and are connected with the banks that are in sympathy with the experiment. There is much preliminary work to be done, including the preparation of actuarial tables on the basis of cost, minus, however, all agency expenses.

Under this title the New York World discusses the recent proposition of a New York preacher for a stenographers' guild which brought to the World many letters from stenographers that declared that the moral pitfalls in the business were fewer than in others. The World says: It is chiefly in 10-cent magazines, Tenderloin comedies and "comic" supplements that the employer trifles with the innocent affections of his pretty stenographer. In actual life he wrings his hands and wishes to heaven that business colleges would teach girls how to spell. The attitude of the stenographer toward her employer is more than likely to be of the I-feel-sorry-for-his-poor-wife kind. Few men are heroes to their typewriters. A stenographer who has just finished transcribing thirty or forty letters is not in danger of flaming into Sapphic passion for a man who growls because she failed to turn his simplified grammar into conventional English.

Edible Emolument.
First Actor—Hello, old man! Got an engagement?
Second Actor—Yes, old chap.
First Actor—Any salary attached?
Second Actor—No; but there's a real pudding in the second act.—The Tattler.



House for Turkeys.
In colder climates, where shelter must be provided, a house may be built with the slanting roof; and an open ventilator should be placed in front, close to the roof, and never be closed except in cold weather. The roost should be placed on a level in the front of the house, with a sliding or rolling door in the rear. Only light enough is needed for the turkeys to see the way to and from the roosts. The door should be left open all day, that they may come and go at pleasure. Within this house they may be fed in cold, snowy weather, writes T. F. McGrew, United States Department of Agriculture. In the cold northern climate of Canada one of the most successful turkey growers has a double-enclosed apartment house for his breeding stock in winter, connected with which is an enclosed run that will protect them from the elements, at the same time furnishing opportunity for open-air exercise during the day. This kind of house is



most useful in cold climates, but it might be used in all localities and prevent midnight marauders of all kinds from carrying away the turkeys.

Eggs Without Shells.
Russian exporters, to avoid an excessive freight on eggs, as well as to avoid loss from breakage and from spoiling by heat, ship them without the shell—i. e., broken and the contents put up in air-tight block tin boxes, with or without salt, according to the taste of the customer.

Each box contains several eggs and is sold by weight, the size running from half a kilogram up to a pud (some 16 kilograms). The price of the latter is 5 rubles. For use in cooking and for a limited time these tinned or preserved eggs seem to answer very well; that is, on the continent, for England doesn't take kindly to them. London, for instance, says the National Druggist, which buys large quantities of Russian eggs, pays 8 rubles a pud for them (against 5 for the preserved eggs), besides the weight of the shells and the extra freight tariff on eggs.

Each block tin box of "conserved" eggs, whether of half kilo (a kilo is a little more than two pounds) or 2-pud size, must bear the date and hour of its closing, thus guarding against getting stale eggs. The amount of eggs put up in boxes and annually exported is enormous and constantly growing.

Trees Grow at Night.
One of the foreign agents of the Bureau of Forestry, now in Tasmania, reports as the result of a series of measurements of growing apple and pear trees and rose and geranium bushes and other plants that 85 per cent of the growth of trees takes place between midnight and 6 o'clock in the morning. The growth continues at a much diminished rate until 9 o'clock. After that it is very slight until noon, when the tree falls into a condition of complete rest, lasting until 6 o'clock. Then there is a gradual renewal of the growth, which, however, does not become rapid until the middle of the night.

A Good Spray Mixture.
Paris green does not dissolve, but is held in suspension in water, hence the water must be constantly agitated to apply it. The Ohio Experiment Station recommends a much cheaper mixture, which is soluble in water. It is made by dissolving two pounds of commercial white arsenic and four pounds of carbonate of (washing) soda in two gallons of water. Use one and one-half pints of this mixture to each barrel of Bordeaux mixture when spraying for blight and scab.

How to Blanch Celery.
To blanch celery easily and rapidly, go on your knees astride the row; take a plant in one hand, shake it and squeeze it close, to get out the earth from the center, holding it with one hand, and with the other draw the earth up to the plant on that side; then take the plant with the other hand and draw up the earth on the other side; next let go of the plant and draw earth from both sides, pressing it against the plant. Finish with a hoe when the row is gone over, and give a sprinkling along the row.

Weeds of Value.
New Zealand flax is one of a number of wild weeds that yield their gatherers great wealth, says the Scientific American. This flax, the strongest known, grows wild in marshes. When it is cultivated it dwindles and its fibers become brittle and valueless.

Indian hemp grows wild, and out of it hasheesh, or keef, is made. Keef looks like flakes of chopped straw. It is smoked in a pipe; it is eaten on liver; it is drunk in water. It produces an intense, a delirious happiness; and among Orientals it is almost as highly prized as beer and whisky with us.

The best nutmegs are the wild ones. They grow throughout the Malay archipelago.

But the most valuable weed of all these wild growths is the seaweed. The nitrate beds of South America, which yield something like \$85,000,000 a year, are nothing but beds of seaweed decomposed.

Proportion of Sexes in Swine.
The Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture has recently issued an interesting bulletin on the relative proportion of the two sexes of pigs at birth. This is information not heretofore obtainable, for the reason that while the herd books have given the total number of pigs farrowed, the number of each sex was given only for those raised. The report included 1,477 litters. The number of boar pigs was 6,660, the number of cows 6,626. The average per sow was, boars 4.51, sows 4.48. For all practical purposes the sexes may be regarded as equal in number at birth, although the boars are seen to be slightly more numerous than sows. Expressed in the lowest terms of whole figures, the proportion stands 201 boars to 200 sows. The results were gathered from twenty-five States and Territories and represented eight breeds, with several litters of grades or mixed breeds.

The Army Worm.
He's a notable pest.
He ruins the crops.
In 1743 he appeared by millions.
That was in struggling New England.

Dr. Bouton, of Vermont, saw ten bushels in a heap.
The last very serious onslaught was made in 1896.

He feeds on the succulent stalks of wheat, corn, oats and the like.

Fortunately he has a host of natural enemies.

His mamma is a light-brown moth, who lays her eggs in meadow grasses. In his six weeks from egg to mothfly he does his great damage to the precious crops.

He's a juicy morsel for the meadow lark, the bobolink, the blackbird, robin, redbreast and many others. The black beetle also devours him wholesale.

Hay Carrier.
Make of muslin or coarse unbleached muslin six feet wide and a handy



length tacked to a 2x2 piece on each side, all but a middle space, which should be left loose for hand-holds. Straw, vines, or almost any litter which is liable to scatter, can be carried readily.

Horse Facts.
Have his harness fit.
He'll last much longer.
Above all, don't overtax his strength.
Give him a little water very often.
Don't give him a big drink directly after a meal.
Don't allow him to eat too fast.
Even scatter his grain on a clean floor.
Don't beat a stupid horse—that only proves the driver's stupidity.

Stay with him while he is shod—the shoer may hit him over the head, ruining him.
A few days' rest, with earth to stand on, unshod, will do him more good than veterinary treatment in many cases.

Gooseberry Story.
Fifty years ago George W. Wetzel, of Bardolph, Ill., had gooseberry pie for his wedding dinner. The other day he celebrated his golden wedding anniversary and had another gooseberry pie for dinner. And the gooseberries grew on the same bush from which the first pie was gathered. — Louisiana Press-Journal.

Trees and Grass.
Sometimes we see trees which dry up the grass under them, while in the same neighborhood will be trees under which the grass will grow better than where it is not thus shaded. An orchard that has long been plowed deep has most of its feeding roots below those of the grass. On the other hand, under the trees where grass has long grown the true feeding roots come near the surface, and when a dry time arrives the grass under it lacks moisture, and is very soon killed out.

Popular Science

For removing rust from polished steel, an effective mixture is made by taking 10 parts of tin putty, 8 parts of prepared buckhorn and 250 parts spirits of wine. These ingredients are mixed to a soft paste and rubbed in on the surface until the rust disappears.

Practically all the California and Texas fuel oils contain more or less water, sand, asbestos, fiber and marsh gas, says the Paint, Oil and Drug Review. Some grades of oil flow freely, while others are more viscous, even though they have a lower specific gravity.

The inferior Bohemian graphite, which is too impure or compact for use in pencils, is ground fine and freed from sulphides and other heavy minerals. The refined material does not contain more than 50 or 60 per cent of graphite, and is used in the manufacture of inferior crucibles and for stove polish.

According to the English Mechanic, articles of brass or copper boiled in a solution of stannate of potassium mixed with turnings or scraps of tin in a few moments become covered with a firmly attached layer of fine tin. A similar effect is produced by boiling the articles with tin turnings or scraps and caustic alkali or cream of tartar.

The number of carriages and vehicles of every description crowding the streets of Paris augments continually, and the danger, not only to pedestrians, but to the carriages themselves, has become so great that an engineer, Monsieur Henard, proposes the establishment, at the most dangerous crossings, of a circular "island of refuge" in the center, and the regulation of all traffic in such a manner that every vehicle traversing the crossing-point, no matter what its ultimate direction may be, shall pass round the central plateau in the same direction. Thus the danger of collision and the peril to foot-passengers would be reduced to a minimum. The cut illustrates the operation of this proposed whirlpool of traffic.

The interest of astronomers in the strange red spot, about 30,000 miles in length, which has been visible on the surface of the planet Jupiter since 1878, is intensified by the recent observations of Mr. W. F. Denning, and others, on a remarkable change in its rate of motion. In a period of about three months last year it was displaced some 16 degrees of longitude from the position calculated as the basis of its former motion. This is the greatest change that has ever been observed in its rate of motion. On Jupiter the visible surface of the planet does not revolve, like the surface of the earth, everywhere with the same angular velocity, but, in general, the parts nearest the equator move with the greatest rapidity. Thus the huge planet resembles a rotating ball of constantly changing clouds, and in the midst of these the great red spot seems to float.

Uncle Job's Lesson.
"Yas suh," began Uncle Job, surveying his hearers with an expression of virtuous sadness, "yas, suh, I sholy gib dat trifling Ab'aham a lesson he never fobgot!" Then, seeing an inquiring look in the eyes of some of his hearers, and hearing a question from the lips of one of them, he decided to go more into details about the nature of the lesson he had imparted.

"W'at'd I do tuh him? I's gwine tuh tell you-alls. Ab'aham fair drawed de lightning on hisself w'en he bed de 'dacity tuh 'vite me tuh he house tuh eat eh tuhkey dinner."

"Tuhkey," repeated Uncle Job, after a telling pause, "w'en dat liverashous rascal never raised any tuhkey in he life 'ceptt offen some w'ite man's roost. "Hit sho was er fine tuhkey, but I showed dat Ab'aham dat stolen goods proffeth little. Dat tuhkey was er big gobleh, an' dere was nobody but me an' Ab'aham dere; an' I seasoned dat bird wif admonitions tuh be good an' wahnings 'om de wrath to come.

"Hit sholy would hev tasted good ef hit hed'nt ben stole. De de sauce o'b a deed well did an' a sinneh rebuked almos' made hit relish, an'," concluded Uncle Job, with pious satisfaction, "though hit was er hahd pull, I's bound to say I held out to de end an' finished dat tuhkey, spite ob Ab'ahams hints dat he spectid hit tuh las' him er week."

Some Long Words.
The comic papers frequently poke fun at the long words of the German language, yet the English language can furnish some pretty long words, too. Here are some of the longest English words: Subconstititutionalist, incomprehensibility, honorificabilitudinitas (it will be noticed that this word contains seven 's'), anthropophagarian, disproportionableness, velopedestrianist, transsubstantiationableness, proutitranssubstantiationist. This last word is no doubt the longest in the English language; it contains thirty-three letters.