

# TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

## A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

Sometimes it is easier to dodge an obligation than to meet it.

Fortune is the only knocker that a man likes to see at his door.

Nine-tenths of life's pleasures are denied the woman who is dumb.

Offer the self-made man boxes of a job that other men would be ashamed of.

Clothes makes the man. That's why cheap clothes makes a man feel that way.

The young man in politics is not coming to the front. He is at the front.

It seems that the Filipinos had been carrying the operawork fad to an extreme.

It's a bum magazine these days that hasn't an article on buccaneering finance.

Fewer marriages would be failures if the contracting parties would act after marriage as they did before.

The young man who marries an heiress has a soft snap—unless she's a Boston girl, then it's a cold snap.

It is easy to acquire a fortune. All you have to do is to quit spending your money in trying to get something for nothing.

The olive crop is a failure, but the cucumber pickle crop is fully up to the average. The American girl will be happy yet, you bet.

We are informed that the Japs are natural-born politicians. The information is confirmed by the fact that they are taking passes on all the Russian roads.

Pity the poor war correspondents. It is much less wearing on the constitution not to know what is going on than to know all about it and not be able to tell.

A clublady has discovered that woman has a keener sense of humor than man—and goes on to establish the great fundamental truth that nearly all man's failings are due to his natural conceit.

Bishop Potter's wife has been robbed of \$50,000 worth of jewels. It is only fair to say for the benefit of young men who are thinking of entering the ministry that the jewels were not purchased with money saved out of the good bishop's salary.

Probably one reason why Mr. Rockefeller is glad that he is a loyal American instead of a subject of King Edward is because if he lived in England his income tax assessment annually, under the new law, would be five times as much as it is now. His Majesty's first-class battleships in commission. It costs a sorry lot to be a multimillionaire in some countries.

Belgium is probably the most democratic of all the monarchial states. The King of the Belgians not only does not wear a crown, but has not even a crown to wear! No coronation ceremony is known to the constitution, the sovereign inaugurating his reign simply by taking an oath to govern according to the laws. Moreover, the births of his children, if he has any, must be registered in exactly the same phraseology and in the same set of books as the births of the humblest of his subjects.

Organized governments are rapidly deciding that it is unwise to harbor enemies of organized government. A little more than a year ago the American Congress passed a law excluding anarchists, and it has been declared constitutional. The British House of Commons has recently passed an alien immigration bill, which, if the House of Lords approves it, will make it possible to exclude not only alien anarchists, but undesirable aliens of any other kind. One branch of the Swiss legislature has approved a bill making the advocacy of anarchy a penal offense. Laws already in existence in France, Germany, Russia, Italy and other European countries forbid the teaching of anarchistic doctrines.

It is charged that while only trained, high-grade men can operate trains that are not fully equipped with all the latest improvements, the installation of these improvements is often used as an excuse for employing inferior men, thus offsetting any measure of safety that might have been added by the improved equipment. The public, after all, is to blame. Every man, of course, regrets the loss of life in railway accidents and is ready to censure the managers for running trains at too high a rate of speed, but when he starts on a trip he wants the speed limit removed. The nation is in a hurry and the railroad company that proposed to lessen the speed of trains for the express purpose of reducing the chances of accidents would promptly be ridiculed as an old fogy outfit and its business would go to its rival.

Hetty Green, the richest woman in America, ate lunch the other day in a Boston restaurant which the gaping crowds say she apparently enjoyed. When she presented her check to the cashier it called for eight cents. The stingy old thing! Had she checked for \$5, Mrs. Green could have paid it as easily, though such extravagance would doubtless have made her quite ill. If she were to eat lunches that cost \$5 every half hour of the twenty-four and every day in the year she would be unable to spend a twentieth part of her income. One naturally asks why this rich old woman should practice stinting. She has more money than she knows what to do with. One would think she would desire at least the comforts of life. The fact is the woman has economized so long it is a

part of her life. She finds a certain sort of pleasure in it. To save a few cents is to her a triumph of management. But there is a lesson in Hetty Green's eight-cent lunch—a lesson the American people need. We are likely to spend 80 cents rather than eight. We are extravagant. We have our thirty people, but they are the exception. We are inclined to blow ourselves. The proverbial "rainy day" has been expunged from the average American calendar. As a nation of spenders we may well point a moral with Hetty Green's eight-cent lunch, as well as adorn a tale.

Serious charges are those which the president of Brown University brought against college athletics during the conference of university presidents at Louisville. If they are substantiated the authorities of our educational institutions ought to unite in drastic action designed to check the existing abuses, even though, in order to do so, it shall prove necessary to prohibit intercollegiate athletics altogether. It has been matter of common belief for a long time past that the football teams, baseball nines and rowing crews of the colleges are made up largely, if not wholly, from professional students. The Chicago Journal, it has been more or less positively known that the intercollegiate exhibitions of various athletic sports are largely, if not wholly, money-making enterprises. President Fawcett has turned these suspicions into certainties and has disclosed in all college athletics a shocking state of affairs which would justify their total abolition so far as intercollegiate contests are concerned. Athletics is a vitally necessary accompaniment of college training; the sound body is equally essential with the sound mind within it. But it is a matter of health more than of winning victories. The result of it should be health and its preservation rather than the joys of triumph. When it becomes a thing so important that the students are willing to sacrifice their honor as gentlemen by hiring professional athletes to play for them, it is time to do away with it. Too many young men go to college and devote most of their attention and energy to sports and games, and this is due to the prominence allowed athletics in the curricula. But it is the college authorities who are to blame for this. They have learned it is good advertising, and not the least important part of their duties is to build up their colleges. But they really cannot much longer allow a condition of affairs which, as President Fawcett says, will develop their students into "leaders in evading taxes, corrupting politicians and bribing juries."

## PORTABLE SUMMER HOMES.

Cottages May Now Be Carried to the Country at Moderate Cost.

A great advantage of the portable house for summer outings is that it can be used every year in a different place. A family may have a change of scene every season. The cost of a portable house varies from \$50 to \$500 and is about one-third less than that of a house of the same size built by a carpenter.

As summer cottages they meet the needs of those who want to spend the summer in the country, but who cannot afford to own a house and lot nor to rent an expensive country home. It is an easy matter to hire a small plot of ground, either at the seashore or in the mountains, at a low cost and spend the summer in one of these houses.

The cost of transportation by freight is not great, for they can be packed into a very small space, each part being flat. They are not so plain as one might suppose, for many of them have piazzas, or wings, which may be added if desired.

I know of such a house in which a family of four have spent their summers at the seashore for several years. The house is divided into five rooms—one used as a living room, three of the others as bedrooms and one as a kitchen.

In the first place the house cost them about \$200, the transportation about \$20 and they pay the landowner \$50 a year for the privilege of putting up the house for the summer. They find it much cheaper than boarding and much more comfortable than camping in a tent. In the winter the house is either left standing or packed away in a neighboring barn.

Two men can put up this portable house in a few hours with a screw-driver, a monkey wrench and a hammer.—Country Life in America.

## Guess Again.

An old lawyer tells, in the Brooklyn Eagle, this story of one of his experiences, years ago, in cross-examination. The witness seemed to be disposed to dodge his questions.

"Sir," said the lawyer, sternly, "you need not state your impressions. We want the facts. We are competent to form our own impressions. Now, sir, answer me categorically."

"From that time on he could get little more than 'yes' and 'no' out of the witness. Presently the lawyer said:

"You say you live next door to the defendant?"

"Yes."

"To the north of him?"

"No."

"To the south?"

"No."

"Well, to the west, then?"

"Ah," said the lawyer, sarcastically, "we are likely at last to get down to the one real fact. You live to the east of him, do you?"

"No."

"How is that, sir?" the astonished attorney asked. "You say you live next door to him. Yet he lives neither to the north, south, east nor west of you. What do you mean by that, sir?"

"I thought perhaps you were competent to form the impression that we live in a flat," said the witness, calmly; "but I see I must inform you that he lives next door above me."

Don't ever grieve to death if you can help it. Such a death is very unsatisfactory to the doctors, as it affords them nothing to cut out.

"You go ahead and do it," is one way, but there is a limit to that policy.

# EDITORIALS

## OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

### Waste of Forests Means Ruin.

THE people of the United States can derive an object lesson from Brazil as to the climatic effects produced by the destruction of forests. No more striking illustration could be found of the fact that trees make the weather.

In northern Brazil large states have been brought to the verge of ruin through the devastation of the timber lands. United States Consul General Seeger at Rio de Janeiro calls attention to the chronic droughts and torrefaction in the states of Rio Grande do Norte and Ceara, where the parched country has brought such suffering that relief measures have been put in operation by the government. The consul general points out that the situation there can be definitely traced to the waste of the forests. The timber, once abundant in those regions, now the states are being depopulated, and desolation reigns where once nature offered every inducement to the settler.

The United States in recent years has taken steps toward the protection of its forests, but the laws are still far from stringent. The government was slow to awake to the urgency of the matter. The waste of timber in this country during the past fifty years has been almost beyond belief. The continental railroads alone destroyed millions of acres of forests. They slashed and burned recklessly in building their lines, and their engines set fire to and ruined vast areas. Settlers, with no thought of the future value of the timber, added heavily to the waste. In one way or another, the ruthless hand of the destroyer has done damage that can be repaired only at the expense of many years.

The forestry department of the government is one that should be built up and strengthened by laws designed not only to foster the growing of trees, but to protect the timber now standing.—Chicago Journal.

### We and Our Neighbors.

IMMIGRATION is a subject of infinite possibilities. We had 500,000 immigrants last year; Canada had 125,000. Of ours 355,000 came from the south end of Europe—Italians and Slavians—a class that all authorities on the subject say is little to be desired. Of Canada's comparatively small amount 80 per cent came from Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries and the United States—the best material in the world to build up a country and make it richer materially and morally. Not the kind to people the slums of the cities, live from hand to mouth, increase the drain on pauper care, and, in large part, to get out of the country when they have got all out of it that they can or want.

Canada has millions of acres, and she is setting about their disposal in a way to attract the good citizen. She offers, too, a stable government; peace, order and law, where, alas, we have and offer turbulence and a liberty that, becoming license, infringes on rights like a tyranny. Is the great republic losing its charm? Is the glimmer past? Is the great republic losing its charm? No, it does not look like it. But again comes the question of quality. What boots it that we get the outpourings of Southern Europe and part with some of our best blood to build up our neighbor to the north, where fruits of their industry are absolutely lost to us?—Indianapolis News.

### The Cost and Folly of War.

THE war in the far East, according to the computation of a well-informed newspaper of Paris, is costing the Russian government at least \$1,000,000 a day, and the expense is increasing daily. If the war continues for years, as the experts say it is pretty sure to do, Russia will accumulate a burden of debt that will rest heavily upon many future generations.

Of course \$1,000,000 a day is not a surprisingly great sum for a first-class power to pay for the conduct of a war. Our war with Spain cost us considerably more than that. But it was a short war and our financial condition was very strong. Russia, on the contrary, has been throwing millions after millions since the new policy with regard to the Asiatic portion of the empire was put into operation. Nobody knows how much the Trans-Siberian railway has cost. But it is an enormous amount; and the expenditures on Port Arthur, Dalmi, Harbin, Vladivostok, and the other outposts have run into the hundreds of millions.

The major came by and saw how he was conducting the place, but he raised no objection. The men of the regiment understood the reason for supplying the lemonade, and although at first there had been some disposition on the part of the rougher ones to make merry over the uncomfortable situation in which the young man had been placed, even these came to admire the spirit in which he obeyed orders, and they rallied to his support.

When his duties at the canteen were over, he was found at the camp young men's Christian association, helping in the religious work of the regiment. But the popularity of his lemonade proved so great as to demand a steady supply of it, and in proportion as the lemonade was consumed, the sale of other drinks diminished.

The young soldier had obeyed his orders, and performed a task which his soul despised, but he did it in a way that helped to give his regiment the reputation of being one of the soberest and most orderly in camp.

### HALLS AND IS DOOMED.

English Village Is Falling Slowly Into the Sea.

Nestling under the cliffs about a mile from Start point, on the east side is a cluster of white cottages, which forms the village of Hallsands, says the London Graphic. Far removed from a railway and separate from the nearest point of tourist traffic by several miles of rough Devonshire lanes, its main connection with modern life is the daily cart which carries crates to the station.

The village, which is built close to the sea, faces east, and is exposed to the fury of easterly gales. Walls and quays have from time to time been built to prevent the waves reaching the houses and nature provided a safeguard from the peril in the shape of fifty yards of pebbly beach which had formed a natural embankment to preserve the walls and foundations.

All would, no doubt, have continued to go well with the primitive spot had not the contractors for government works at Keyham cast their eyes on that bank of shingle. They persuaded the government to let them use this beach for their work, and for three years every spell of fine weather brought the dredger to the spot and strings of lighters would go away laden with the shingle.

In time the beach sank twelve feet for a mile and a half, leaving the quays exposed. When bad weather

came the mischief done was apparent. Ground swells swept the beach bars, leaving little rocks. Soon the walls of the quays began to suffer, and then the sea began slowly but surely to encroach on the shore, until house after house had to be abandoned because of the damage done to them by the force of the waves that beat against them unresistedly.

Every storm does further damage and one of the last houses made by the sea cut through the one street of the village, the two sides of which are now connected by a wooden foot bridge. A fund has been started to purchase land on the top of the cliff at the back of the village, as a site for a new village, for the old Hallsands seems doomed.

The destruction of the fishing village is to be made the subject of a lawsuit. An owner of property there has issued a writ against Sir John Jackson, Limited, the contractors for Keyham dockyard extension works. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants, by dredging, removed thousands of tons of shingle, which formed a natural barrier against the sea.

The admiralty and Sir John Jackson subscribed \$7,500 toward a sea wall to protect the village, but that has been partially washed away.

### He Gets Up Early.

"If you want to get cool in these hot days," said a man who begins his daily work at 5 o'clock in the morning, "try rising early."

"I get up at about a quarter past 3 in the morning and get out into the open air half an hour before 4 o'clock, which is half an hour before sunrise. It is a prettily broad daylight then, and the aspect of things is cheerful, and the transition from indoors to the bright cool outer air is delightful."

"The atmosphere is just then at its coolest, from its longest freedom from the warmth of the sun, and it is clear and bright and tonic. If you want a breath of cool, fresh air in the hottest season get up and get out at 4 o'clock in the morning."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

### Too Much to Expect.

Brookeleigh—I don't know what time it is.

Ascum—Isn't your watch running? Brookeleigh—I don't think so. I could hardly expect the pawnbroker to keep it wound up.—Philadelphia Press.

Now up and up, when you take a good look at yourself in the glass, don't you think, "Well, I'm not such a bad-looking fellow?"

### COW AND COWARD.

#### Why Should the Fleeced Bovine Inspire Terror in the Feminine Breast?

"Coward—one who is afraid of a cow!" shouted a derisive small brother across a stone wall, moved to a sudden fury of definition unauthorized by Webster or Worcester. His sister, a few years older than he, was clambering wildly over the wall, pausing strikingly on the opposition of a mild and mooring procession lumbering backward from round a corner of the lane.

Why are women, not country bred, instinctively afraid of cows? What is there terrible in a cow, except that it is big? But then, what is there terrible in a mouse, except that it is small? Both forms of fear are puzzling; both are amusing to the onlooker, but real and painful to the sufferer.

Both are a matter of the nerves; and both, fortunately, are disappearing as an athletic outdoor life gives health and nerves and courage to women.

Most women still dislike mice; but a mouse among an assembly of women no longer creates an uproar, and even she who shudders and shies to safety on a safe neither shrieks nor collapses in a faint upon her perch, as our foremothers were not ashamed to do.

There is a like improvement in the relation of women to cows. Most women yet prefer cows at a distance; but they are learning fast to endure, to confront, to defy, to "shoo," yes, even at need to milk the monster before which they were wont to flee in terror with outcries of dismay, or to appeal abjectly for help to the nearest freckle-faced boy or but a fraction their age and inches.

The tramping girl, the camping girl, the camper girl, all find it alike inconvenient and humiliating to pump their fear of cows if fear they have. It has become a thing to conquer. Moreover, one who has conquered it declares there are few prouder moments in the life of woman than that in which she first successfully "shoes" a cow. Parasol, stick, or even stalk of mullein or waving fern held in hand—anything to give the sense of being armed—she braces her soul for martyrdom and keeps the middle of the path, heroically indicating to the approaching cattle that it is for them, nevermore for her, to take to the ditch when space is insufficient.

There is a breathless, an awful instant—then a great hoof splays spattering into the mud, the dun bulk of the leader lumbering clumsily aside with cow-bell clashing, the others, turning large eyes inquiringly upon her as they pass, follow ast, and victory is hers!

Henceforth the twilight hour, loveliest of all in country byways, has lost its terrors. Her cowardice overcome, she can even welcome as an added charm in the tranquil scene of unperpetrating presence of the picturesque, placid, slow, sweet-breathing cow.—Youth's Companion.

### A National Peril.

HERE is more in the toleration of recent automobile performances on the highway than the mere ignoring of the rights and the safety of other people, since the thing would not be possible unless we had forgotten part of the spirit of our institutions.

For instance, it is impossible to avoid the conviction that the only reason some of the men who drive racing machines escape jail is that they are conspicuous in some way, generally the possession of a good deal of money. The average man would serve a term behind the bars if he caused the needless annoyance and danger and damage which these men do.

But if this is true, where is the practical equality before the law of which we have boasted for years? And without that what becomes of the basis of our system of popular government?

It is not merely in the matter of sport that the change has come. It is commonly observed that it is almost impossible to punish individuals or corporations of a certain prominence for some offenses. Between the complaint and the execution of the penalty there is almost always a way of escape for these people, although there would not be for smaller fry. The exceptions are just about enough to prove the rule.

It is a more or less clear perception of the fact which causes much of the discontent which existing in ignorant men, takes queer and unreasonable forms, but is none the less founded in a certain degree of justice, and which among wiser men leads to apprehension of the future, unless we can bring about a more general regard for sound principles of justice and for the authority of law against one exactly as against another.—Hartford Times.

### Curious Card Shows Age.

Let any person under 64 years of age point out all the columns in which his age is found. Add together the numbers at the head of these columns, and the sum will be his age:

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
1	2	4	8	16	32
2	3	5	9	17	33
3	4	6	10	18	34
4	5	7	11	19	35
5	6	8	12	20	36
6	7	9	13	21	37
7	8	10	14	22	38
8	9	11	15	23	39
9	10	12	16	24	40
10	11	13	17	25	41
11	12	14	18	26	42
12	13	15	19	27	43
13	14	16	20	28	44
14	15	17	21	29	45
15	16	18	22	30	46
16	17	19	23	31	47
17	18	20	24	32	48
18	19	21	25	33	49
19	20	22	26	34	50
20	21	23	27	35	51
21	22	24	28	36	52
22	23	25	29	37	53
23	24	26	30	38	54
24	25	27	31	39	55
25	26	28	32	40	56
26	27	29	33	41	57
27	28	30	34	42	58
28	29	31	35	43	59
29	30	32	36	44	60
30	31	33	37	45	61
31	32	34	38	46	62
32	33	35	39	47	63
33	34	36	40	48	64
34	35	37	41	49	65
35	36	38	42	50	66
36	37	39	43	51	67
37	38	40	44	52	68
38	39	41	45	53	69
39	40	42	46	54	70
40	41	43	47	55	71
41	42	44	48	56	72
42	43	45	49	57	73
43	44	46	50	58	74
44	45	47	51	59	75
45	46	48	52	60	76
46	47	49	53	61	77
47	48	50	54	62	78
48	49	51	55	63	79
49	50	52	56	64	80
50	51	53	57	65	81
51	52	54	58	66	82
52	53	55	59	67	83
53	54	56	60	68	84
54	55	57	61	69	85
55	56	58	62	70	86
56	57	59	63	71	87
57	58	60	64	72	88
58	59	61	65	73	89
59	60	62	66	74	90
60	61	63	67	75	91
61	62	64	68	76	92
62	63	65	69	77	93

### First City Born.

Theodore Roosevelt is a native of New York City—the first native of that city, or of any large city of the country, to hold the office of President of the United States.

George Washington was born in a small town in Westmoreland County, Virginia; Jefferson at Shrewsbury, Madison at Port Conway, the first Harrison at Berkeley, Tyler at Charles City, and Monroe at a small settlement in Westmoreland County—all in Virginia.

Jackson's birthplace was at Waxhaw, an isolated settlement on the border line between North and South Carolina. John Adams and John Quincy Adams were born in Quincy, Mass. Grant was a native of Point Pleasant, Ohio; Garfield of Hiram, Harrison of North Bend, Hayes of Delaware, and William McKinley of Niles—all in Ohio. Polk was born at Pineville, a settlement in Mecklenburg County, N. C., a town of less than 600 inhabitants. Abraham Lincoln was born at a small settlement in Larue, then Hardin County, Kentucky; General Taylor at a small settlement in Virginia; Franklin Pierce at Hillsboro, Mass.; James Buchanan at Cope Gap, Pa.; Andrew Johnson at Raleigh, N. C. Of the New York Presidents, Martin Van Buren was born at Kinderhook, N. Y.; Fillmore at Summerhill, N. Y.; Arthur at Fairfield, Vt., and Grover Cleveland at Caldwell, N. J.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

### Waves of Possessionism.

Possessionism waves, but it comes in waves, and a wave of this kind is just now sweeping over the world. Anyone who will take the trouble to look over the magazine and newspaper files will find half a dozen times in the last 20 years when we were treated to the same possessionism and to much the same stories of national, moral and political decay as we are to-day. If all of these were true we would be sunk so low to-day that it would be impossible to go any lower.

If, however, we compare long ranges of time we see unquestioned progress in every line, moral as well as material, as well as industrial and financial. We hear complaints of bad municipal government, of graft in St. Louis, crookedness in Minneapolis and rottenness in Philadelphia, but, as a matter of fact, the conditions for the country as a whole are greatly improved. The apparent decline is due to the fact that we know of all the corruption to-day, thanks to the press, whereas of old it was hidden away in darkness and secrecy. In the same way the apparent increase in crime, which is the basis of the English plaint, the greater number of arrests reported everywhere, the larger number of prisoners in jail, do not really mean more crime, but are due to the fact that we have a better police system and that very few crimes go undetected and unpunished, as they did formerly.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

# OLD FAVORITES

Home from his Journey Farmer John

"Arrived this morning, safe and sound, his black coat off and his old clothes on. 'Now I'm myself,' says Farmer John. 'And he thinks, "I'll look