

# Topics of the Times

The high cost of living seems to be getting used to it.

The most popular book in the home of the workingman is his bank book.

Does housekeeping come under the head of arts and crafts, or is it just work?

The auto is said to promote appendicitis, but this will not deter those who can scrape up the price.

A Boston doctor gives it as his opinion that women can never become really artistic. Another trouble hunter.

Don't condemn John D. until you have heard what his plan for abolishing poverty is. It worked in his own case.

Young Mr. Knox is quoted as saying: "I shall go to work, if necessary, to support my wife." Isn't he a noble young hero?

A man in Detroit gave the census-taker his occupation as "the wood business." He provides family trees for newly-rich automobile manufacturers.

Queen Wilhelmina, it is said, borrows spoons and napkins from the neighbors. Naturally she is regarded by her people as a wonderful woman.

An Ohio woman declares that piano playing makes the hens lay. But even the piano has its limitations in the poultry yard. It cannot be used as an incubator.

It is said the average man eats 1,000 pounds of food a year. Nobody has figured what the average boy eats, but it must be considerably more than 1,000 pounds.

"Now they propose to hatch chickens by electricity." We are slowly approaching the time when man will have nothing to do but touch a button here and there.

Down in Connecticut recently a woman died because a fortune had been left to her. People who are waiting for rich uncles to pass away will agree that her action was wholly unjustifiable.

There is in Kansas City a man who wants \$20,000 damages because the gossip of his neighbors caused his wife to leave him. Some of the neighbors complain that there are men who are totally devoid of appreciation.

The Boston Globe has found that a 15-cent plate of beans contains as much nutritive value as \$1.87 1/2 worth of porterhouse steak. We earnestly hope the report is an unblasted one. If it came from any other place than Boston we should not doubt.

A dispatch from New Orleans says the demand for babies in that city is much greater than the supply. One carload of infants recently arrived from New York, but the babies were adopted so quickly and there were so many calls for more that another carload will be forwarded. Save your babies. New Orleans may want them.

Korea is making some progress in civilization. Twenty-five years ago it had no trade with the United States. The secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions recently traveled in that country in a railroad car made in Delaware, drawn by a locomotive made in Philadelphia, over rails made in Pittsburgh, fastened to ties made of Oregon lumber, with spikes forged in New York. After his journey he had for his dinner Chicago beef, Pittsburg pickles and Minnesota flour.

Along with many other discoveries of greater or less importance, scientific men have proved the law that the rapidity of the heart beat is in inverse ratio to an animal's size. Thus in man it is about seventy-two to the minute, whereas in the elephant it is only thirty, and in the horse forty. The dog's pulse, on the other hand, counts about ninety beats to the minute, and the rabbit's over one hundred and fifty. Most remarkable of all, the heart pulsations of a little mouse have recently been counted and recorded by an ingenious machine, and found to number nearly seven hundred every minute.

In his annual report the Adjutant General of the Army bewails desertions as the greatest peril to the army. Nearly 5,000 American soldiers deserted last year. In Europe desertions are rare. He attributes the wholesale desertions to a defect of public opinion, which practically consents to them and affects to see nothing more in them than the breach of a civil contract for service. Citizens look upon the deserter with complacency and manage to aid him to escape punishment "in the comparatively rare event of his falling into the hands of the military authorities." The quotation probably comes nearer giving the key to the situation than do the complaints against the public. Desertions will multiply in proportion to the immunity obtainable through the failure of the military authorities to exert themselves. Burglary would flourish also if the citizenry did not tax itself roundly for the machinery to make burglary a hazardous business. When the military authorities realize that they have something to do in the matter and do it, they will have less to complain of regarding the public.

Accomplished cooks, men who know that they practice not the least of the arts, have long been accustomed to name their most savory inventions for eminent persons in other walks of life. They mean to pay a delicate compliment, to offer a generous tribute from gentleness to gentleness. But such compliments are not always welcome. A young opera singer, who is so much admired in Boston that the hotel chefs have begun to name their soups and sauces in her honor, thinks so. She

has consulted lawyers, applied for an injunction, and had herself effaced from the bills of fare. The proceeding has enlivened the courts and animated the news columns of the daily papers because of its novelty. Famous persons, when they have not been flattered by such attentions, have usually suffered them stoically. In some cases, too, the cook has actually given the celebrity a wider immortality than he could have won by himself. Many a man has ordered a flet Chateaubriand who never heard of "Atala" or "The Genius of Christianity." Long and distinguished as was Count Nesselrode's career, his pudding is known where his diplomacy is forgotten. The Father of his Country himself has to stand sponsor for a pie by no means worthy of his solid and substantial virtues. And a prima donna more famous than the Boston singer lends the honey of her name to the delicious "peche Melba," and is not ashamed of it. Men have even permitted cigars to be named for them without inquiring too closely into their quality. Mr. Blaine, although he never used tobacco, did not talk of injunctions when such an honor was thrust upon him, however little he may have liked it. The picture of the poet Bryant was long familiar on the lids of certain flat boxes of red cedar, but he was dead when the honor was thrust upon him, and could not protest. A public career has its penalties as well as its prizes.

## FREAK LEGISLATORS ACTIVE.

Prices of Necessities Have No Effect on Lawmaking Plants. The soaring cost of the necessities of life has had no effect, thus far, in limiting the output of our lawmaking plants, Collier's remarks. They are grinding out new rules and limitations, clever or stupid, predatory or comic, to the full capacity of the mills. The production of statutory jokes has been even larger than usual this season. A delegate to the Maryland Legislature from Frostburg (suggestive name!) has introduced a bill to make it unlawful for a woman to wear a hat more than ten inches in diameter "on the streets or in other public places," or in "any theater or concert hall in the state when a performance is in progress." The penalty for violation of the rule is to be three months' imprisonment of a fine of \$100. He got what he deserved when a lady journalist, writing for one evening's chronicle of crime, replied by interviewing herself on what is likely to happen when women legislators are in office a few years from now and can "come back." The authority quotes herself as saying that they will prohibit any man under 60 from wearing a frock coat, and arrest and try for felony any male who appears on the streets in a silk hat. The wearing of a "green kelly," or of a "moss-colored plush head covering," will be deemed a capital offense, and "the wearing of red by blonde men with ashen complexions be forbidden by statute." Even before this rebuke had been spread another lawmaker was rushing into print with a law to limit the length of hats. Dr. Felix Adler has been contending that lawyers have far too large a representation in our system of government as compared with that given to men of other trades and professions. Another class that has too much representation is the self-advertisers. With a working knowledge of what constitutes a crime, they are making comic statutes as fast as allowed by the speed limit for dictation to a stenographer.

## TOO DELIGHTFUL PARIS.

One of Senator Chauncey Depew's After-Dinner Stories. Senator Depew, lamenting at a dinner in Washington the recent Paris flood, said, according to the Louisville Times: "How delightful Paris is! Almost too delightful for study. 'A friend of mine sent his son to Paris to study architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Then, the following June—in time for the Grand Prix, you know—my friend went over to Paris to see how his boy was getting on. 'The boy said he was getting on famously. Father and son, after a delightful luncheon under a tree at Ardenneville, went sightseeing. They crossed the Seine, looked at the Whistler and the Mac Monnies at the Luxembourg, then turned riverward again to see a little of the Louvre. 'As they drove in their taxicab down a quiet, old-fashioned street near the Seine, the father's interest was excited by a fine, imposing building, with a spacious courtyard full of fragments of statuary, fine old bits of stone carving, casts and so on. 'What place is that, my boy?' he inquired. 'Really, father, I can't tell you,' said the young man. 'I'm so busy at the Beaux Arts, you know, I get very little time for sightseeing.' 'So the father leaned forward and touched the chauffeur's arm. 'What place is that, my man?' he asked. 'The Ecole des Beaux Arts, monsieur!' was the reply."

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Diamonds are almost perfectly transparent to X-rays. A Violet Cross League has been formed in Paris with the object of suppressing swearing. The great North Sea fishing ground known as the Dogger Bank, is estimated to yield an annual income of \$3,000 a square mile. There is an inmate in the Colchester workhouse, England, who is 96 years of age, one who is 92, twenty-one between 80 and 90 and fifty-three between 70 and 80. A Jock of Napoleon's hair, cut by his servant on May 31, 1811, at the Hotel de Lorz, Brussels, was sold recently for \$4 at Stevens' auction rooms, Covent Garden, London. The average speed of a homing pigeon in calm weather is 1,210 yards a minute. With a strong wind in the direction of flight, some pigeons have made 1,980 yards, or more than a mile a minute. The University of Cincinnati, through Dean Herman Schneider, has originated a plan of co-operative industrial education, whereby a student studies one week in the university and then works one week in shop or factory. The Rev. T. G. Wyatt, vicar of Haywards Heath, England, has promised to present half a sovereign, the price of a pair of boots, to every member of the local company of the Church Lads' Brigade who joins the territorialists. The Association of Collegiate Alumnae, composed of more than five thousand members in various cities, is about to test the law of heredity by an investigation of its own membership and antecedents for three generations or more. "Certain negro characters are of a highly evolved type," said Professor Arthur Keith in a Hunterian lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. "And I have a suspicion that some of the negroes of the Congo Free State had an old civilization which flourished when Britons were in a primitive state."

## Rich Woman Dies Like Pauper

Elizabeth Hays' Death on New Jersey Farm Reveals \$100,000. Professing abject poverty before the world and living less expensively than her poorest neighbors, Miss Elizabeth Hays, aged 86, died suddenly last night in the midst of a fortune in gold and currency, estimated at more than \$100,000, which for fifty years she had been secreting about her old farmhouse. Miss Hays' financial status was discovered to-day when the heirs and her executor, Counselor Reginald Branch, made a brief search of the house prior to a complete examination promised to-morrow morning, says a Burlington (N. J.) correspondent of the New York World.

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## Wit of the Youngsters

Teacher—Tommy, what does the letter "A" stand for? Tommy—Apple, for one thing. Teacher—That's right. Now, Johnny, what does "B" stand for? Johnny—Baked apple. "What state do we live in?" asked the teacher of the primary geography class. And little Elmer, thinking of his Sunday school catechism, promptly replied: "In a state of sin and misery."

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# FARM NOTES

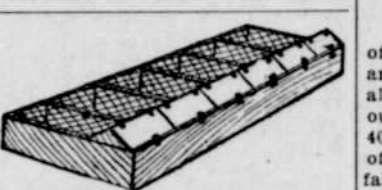
## Spraying for Apples.

Experiments at Trapp Orchard, located at Rockford, Ia., have proven that it pays to spray. In an orchard of 2,900 trees two small plots were sprayed. The average yield for the orchard was less than one-half bushel per tree, while in one of the plots under experiment the yield averaged two bushels per tree. This is proof conclusive that if the whole orchard had been sprayed, and it could have been done at but little more expense, the result would have been 5,000 bushels instead of 500, or even less.

The benefits of the treatment were not confined to increasing the yield. Not only was there more fruit and finer fruit where the trees were sprayed, but the fruit hung to the trees better. The great superiority of the sprayed fruit over corresponding grades of unsprayed fruits was apparent to every one who examined the crop. The treatments may be given in this order: When the leaf buds are opening, just before the blooming, just after blooming, about two weeks after the third treatment, the last of July or first of August. In all this work it is best to use liquid Bordeaux mixed with Paris green or some other effective poison.—S. A. Beach in Agricultural Epitomist.

## Box for Hitting Hens.

I have often been troubled by having hens fighting over their eggs. The hen that wishes to lay always prefers to get on the same nest with the hen that is sitting, and the result is several broken eggs. I have fooled them by making a box like the one shown in the cut. Each door opens into the nest where the hen is sitting, and from this nest there is a little covered runway in which the hen can exercise.



KEEPS HENS FROM FIGHTING.