

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

It seems they prefer the canvasback to the stork on Fifth avenue.

A monument to Pocahontas is to be erected. Won't somebody please erect one to Indian summer?

One begins to suspect that J. P. Morgan could learn a whole lot from young George W. Perkins.

The Rev. Dr. Gladden has been heard from. He finds that even football is tainted—with thuggery.

Mutualization would be a good thing, but something more than that is coming to the policy-holders.

Physicians assert that tea taken in excess will produce insanity and palsy. Why omit delirium tremens?

A New York millionaire was sent to jail in France for killing a child. No wonder France isn't a country of millionaires.

Hefty Green insists that Dr. Osler's theory is like the Bible's references to angels in heaven. Ladies are not included.

It is reasonably sure that Mr. Dougherty never again will have such magnificent opportunities for being careless with money.

The New York dentist who charged Prince Louis \$1,000 for filling four teeth incidentally left an aching void in the noble's pockets.

Andrew Carnegie says that if the people want municipal ownership they should have it. Andy is beginning to talk like a man who is broke.

Cigarette smokers need not be alarmed over the threat of an embargo on Turkish products. The real Turkish cigarette is made in Pittsburgh.

The dentist who charged Prince Louis \$1,000 for treatment to his teeth evidently is training to become official dentist to an insurance company.

The Emperor of Germany now owns eight big touring cars, but in spite of his versatility and his divine rights he can't search in more than one of them at a time.

In his search for rare works of art and bric-a-brac, J. Pierpont Morgan seems to have secured a fine specimen of railroad gold brick from Colonel Zimmerman, of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Chadwick has had ample time to think it over, and she is unrepentant. She would do it over again if she had the chance, but she would improve on her methods next time.

When a high financier gets hunked by his associates, the public does not demand that the offenders be haled at once before the bar of legal justice. There is a general suspicion that justice has already been done.

Bugles that "sounded the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava" are as common in England as the original cherry trees that George Washington did not cut down are in America. Now Lord Tredgar, who was one of the six hundred, says the charge was not sounded; that the troopers were among the gums before any one thought of a bugle order.

Italian laborers in this country have coined a word which may take the place for variety's sake of the much overworked word "graft." Many of these laborers are under hire to a padrone, or "boss," who exacts from them many kinds of tribute. Their word for all "boss money" is a compound of English with an Italian termination, "bossatura." This word might relieve the strain on the vocabulary of newspaper writers and politicians.

President Roosevelt says in his new book that he is long past the stage when the part of the hunt that consists in killing is the interesting part. Enough game to keep the camp supplied with food furnishes all the sport necessary to give zest and point to a trip in the woods. Mr. Cleveland has about the same idea of the true fisherman's pleasure. It is not the slaughter of fish, but the fun of sitting on the bank waiting for a bite that makes the new "complete angler" happy.

Secretary Wilson knows as well as another that the average man mere statistics are unattractive and largely meaningless. When he says that "every sunset during the last five years has registered an increase of \$3,400,000 in the value of American farms" the fact sticks. When he states and proves that "the man with the hoe has become the man with the harvester and the depositor and shareholder of the bank" he tells a monumental truth that will bear some decorative detail. Let the good work go on. If the purpose of a department report is to tell the people what it is doing for them it should be set forth in terms that can be understood by the people and remembered by them. Figures alone will not serve.

The magic lantern has been used ingeniously in the campaign against the yellow fever mosquito carried on during the epidemic in New Orleans. In order to convince the skeptical that pouring oil on standing water would kill the larvae in it, Doctor Kohne, head of the board of health, prepared an illustrated lecture, which he delivered to crowded houses all over the city. A vessel of water filled with the "wiggletails" was projected upon the screen after the larvae had been studied in detail. The wiggletails were seen rising to the top to breathe. A film of oil was then poured over the water, and the wiggletails could be seen struggling vainly to thrust their

breathing apparatus through it. Baked there, they darted frantically about in all directions, to sink at last to the bottom and die of suffocation. It was a convincing illustration.

With all the enormous advance of the world in knowing promptly its own condition and its means of intercommunication of the people themselves as well as of knowledge of conditions, we are still a long way from getting the men who need and the means of supplying their need together. Within a few weeks there have been at least two of what they call "poverty parades" in London. These are vast processions of unemployed men and some women, carrying banners proclaiming that they do not desire charity but work. Some of their zealous friends are calling attention to the fact that while these people have no work there are many thousands of acres that produce nothing because kept for game and pleasure grounds. If the owners of all these lands were to proclaim to-morrow that all their acres were open to cultivating tenants, is there reason to believe that many of them would be so taken up? Our own experience in this country does not lead to an affirmative reply. Even in this day of general prosperity our large cities swarm with people who live from hand to mouth, while between the cities, all over the land from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf, are, first, lands that they might have for nothing or next to nothing, and, secondly, hundreds of thousands of land owners who do not keep game preserves or parks, but are eager to cultivate all their acres, who do cultivate them as far as their strength will go and are cut off from using them all in production simply by the fact that they can not hire the labor necessary to that end. Here we have countless armies of English-speaking people in one country begging for work and armies as large in a kindred country owning the land and begging for workers to come and do the work at comfortable wages. Would those clamors for work come to the land where the work is to be had if more directly invited? It is doubtful at best. Is there not room in this condition for a wider beneficence than is involved in the present socialistic schemes of the whole modern world?

How It May Best Be Secured in These Harried Modern Days.

A vegetarian regime is often a bug bear to the majority of readers, who regard it either as an unmitigated nuisance or a harmless fad, says the Queen. As a matter of fact, however, a diet from which flesh meats are excluded may be made so appetizing, so palatable and so satisfying that its adoption is by no means the mortification of the flesh that most people would think who have not tried it. In the first place, science has of late years made so many strides in dietetics that not only are there many new food substances discovered or invented, but there are now so many preparations of vegetable foodstuffs that an infinite variety of dishes and palatable food can be put on the table, and the absence of meat is scarcely noticed or its presence desired.

The science and art of cookery are now so well developed, and so much facility has come with practice, that there need be little or no self-denial in restricting oneself to a vegetarian diet. In fact, may a modern meatless meal be that it is open to the charge brought against the ordinary regime of being a long way off from the simple life, where the populations are densest, the mass of the people subsist mainly on cereals, fruit and legumes, with milk, butter, cheese, fish and condiments, according to locality and rank of life.

The Japanese, for instance, are practically a vegetarian race, and yet they have proved themselves infinitely superior in physique, courage and endurance to the burly Russian soldier. Moreover, the peasantry of many European countries eat very little meat, because they are too poor to purchase it. Up to quite recent times the Scottish and Irish peasantry lived very largely upon oatmeal and potatoes.

Chemically considered, we know, of course, that vegetable food contains every element that is found in meat, since all animals derive their sustenance from the vegetable world, directly or indirectly. As the late Mattie Williams used to say, in eating beef we eat grass at second hand, and what is now done for us by the excretion of the chemist. This is now in a fair way of being done, and what was condensed, predigested and chemically prepared foods. Punch's dream of tabloid meals would seem to be almost capable of realization. One thing in favor of the meatless diet will appeal strongly to women, who are habitually more temperate in eating than men—a vegetarian diet is undoubtedly a great aid to a clear complexion. Another and incidental advantage which will be appreciated in the kitchen is the fact that the plates and dishes for the reformed diet are easier to wash than those used for meats.

Really a Hot Sport.

Young Jay Green—I tell ye, Lester Doolittle is a sport fr your life!

Abner Appledy—I ain't noticed it perfectly.

Young Jay Green—Ye ain't? Why, whenever a drummer or anybody gives him a 10-cent cigar he saves the band off it and wears it as long as it holds together on the f'cent cigars he buys himself.—Puck.

Why Should She?

"She's the most unconscious girl I ever saw."

"Well, why shouldn't she be? She's pretty and knows it; she's clever and knows it, and she's good and knows it. What has she to be conscious of?"—Puck.

In the Early Stages.

"I tell you, Singleton, you don't know the joys and felicities of a contented married life, the happy flight of years, the long, restful calm of—"

"How long have you been married?"

"Just a month."



HOE ATTACHMENT.

American agricultural implements are known the world over as the best procurable, especially for saving time. This is true both as to the large appliances used on farms and the smaller garden implements. A Texas farmer is the inventor of a hoe attachment applicable to hand weeding or garden hoes of various forms and sizes. The attachment consists of a cutting blade, which is designed to be used in detaching clinging vines and runners from the growing plants. The improved device comprises a weeding blade of the usual form, and connected to the handle by a shank which curves upward. Extending from the shank is a cutting blade, curved away from the handle and shank.

In using the implement the cutting blade is forced forward or away from the operator by a pushing motion, and by its peculiar form and position is very convenient for severing vines, runners, creepers and similar plant life from the stalks of the growing and valuable plants. The implement will also be found very convenient for chopping corn, or thinning cotton and



STALL AND FEED RACK.

a piece of 2x4 material to keep the bedding in place and the animal from stepping back into the gutter. The idea of the fence-like sides is to insure ventilation, and if any two animals are inclined to quarrel they can be separated by having an empty stall between or by building up higher the dividing fence. The illustration shows the idea perfectly.

Value and Use of Pomace.

Hatch experiment station has been experimenting with apple pomace to determine its value for feeding purposes, and the opinion reached is summarized as follows: Apple pomace is a carbohydrate feed similar to corn silage. It contains about the same amount of water, rather less protein and woody fiber and a larger proportion of non-nitrogenous matter. Experiments with six sheep have shown it to be about as digestible as the best grades of silage. Experiments with dairy animals show that twenty to thirty pounds daily can be fed to dairy animals with satisfactory results. It is not advisable to feed over ten pounds at first per day, gradually increasing until the maximum amount is reached. Thus fed, danger of a sudden milk shrinkage, or of animals getting "off feed" is avoided. It is believed that four pounds of pomace when fed in what has been termed a "balanced ration" is equivalent to one pound of good cow hay, and to 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 pounds of well-cared corn silage.

A Simple Saw Clamp.

This simple saw clamp can be made by anyone, and does not need any bolts or screws. The two clamps are made of 1-inch boards, 5 or 6 inches wide, beveled on top and then dressed down to nearly an edge at the bottom. The saw is placed in the clamps in

your hands, and then inserted in the beveled slot, and the hammer makes it perfectly firm and rigid. The frame can be made to stand on the ground or floor, or can be made low to place on work bench.

Botted Timber.

A new process has been discovered for warping against white ants, the pests of the tropical regions. These termites—as they are called—destroy the woodwork of the finest buildings within six months. Their action is insidious, says the London Mail, inasmuch as the outward appearance of the wood does not betray the rotteness within, and their ravages, if not discovered in time, lead to the total collapse of the buildings. Some time ago it was suggested experiments should be carried out by a London wood-process syndicate. Specimens were prepared and sent out to a number of tropical countries. After a somewhat protracted trial news has been received from the Madras presidency that the specimens sent there have successfully resisted the attacks of the white ants. The process improves, toughens and strengthens the wood. This is accomplished by boiling the timber in saccharine solution, and afterward drying it at a high temperature. A revolution in the export timber trade to tropical countries is probable, as in places where termites abound soft wood will be used instead of the more expensive varieties.

Fighting Weeds.

There is nothing which holds to the soil with such pertinacity as weeds. It is probable that the Egyptians are to-day fighting the same weeds which they were trying to exterminate by the aid of the Israelites when they were in bondage. We must always bear this in mind, that we manure and cultivate all the weeds we do not destroy. Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for the extermination of weeds.

Things to Remember.

Poor roads are the unhappiest type of extravagance.

When a wagon is worn out from use on a good road its owner usually has money enough to buy a new one.

Good roads suggest action, and mud means sloth and laziness.

Some of the winter resorts of the South are advertising good roads as a special attraction.

To polish iron or brass bedsteads go over them with a damp wash leather and then polish with a dry cloth.

When one is financially able to have the stalls which combine all the conveniences they are very desirable, but the average farmer must put up with much less. The ideal stall has a space between feed rack and gutter of eight feet and is five feet wide. A feed rack is arranged so that the animal may get at the hay or roughage easily, yet not waste a great deal of it. At one end of the feed rack is a feed box sufficiently large so that the cow can get her mouth to it without striking her horns. The sides of this stall consist of a fence with three wide boards and runs up four or five feet high, according to the ideas of the owner. At the rear there is stapled to the floor



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