

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The man who can discover the discoverer is wanted now.

The next man who brings in the pole will find a congested market.

The course from the pole to the lecture platform is well charted, anyhow.

His wife being away on a visit, King Alfonso has grown a set of whiskers.

Many a baseball game is lost on account of the superior playing of the other side.

Some newspapers spell it "Eskimo," and others "Esquimo." Try to get together, brethren.

You may observe that whether or not you accept the excuse for an increase in the price of a necessity the increase sticks.

Everything looks favorable for a good crop next year. Would that we could say as much for early Christmas shopping!

In New Guinea, as the London Chronicle reminds us, the women propose. And to anybody who has seen them the reason is clear.

There is comfort and joy in the thought that we are to have a good apple yield this year. Otherwise we might have to eat Ben Davises.

By this time next year, people will frequent the house-tops and take their evening recreation by watching aeroplanes trying to hog the aerial lanes.

Fortunately for their records, neither explorer fished through a hole in the ice at the Pole and caught a good string, while the biggest one got away.

Funny to hear those aviators kicking about the condition of the aviation grounds, isn't it? You'd think that all they'd want would be a large bunch of nice smooth air.

When Peary and his party reached the Pole the Eskimos cried out: "Ting neigh, umah ketsisher." This must have been disappointing to those who expected them to yell, "Excelsior."

Eskimo wives and mothers, it is said, never suffer from the ailments that afflict the matrons of a higher civilization. But it is no more than fair that there should be some compensation for being an Eskimo wife.

San Francisco is getting ready to celebrate the discovery of San Francisco Bay. For the benefit of those who have forgotten, it may be mentioned that San Francisco Bay was discovered by Gaspar de Portola, who doesn't seem to have had a single Eskimo in his party.

A test case is to be made in the New York courts as to what criminal statute is violated by the offense technically known as "talking back" to the police, and whether arrest and punishment in the matter are justified by the law. The question of illegal arrest is really a serious one, as the whole matter of personal liberty, upon which the principles of this government are founded, is involved.

The word "lobbyist" has generally been used, with good reason, as a term of reproach, yet it is well to remember that one may have commendable reasons for approaching legislators and trying to influence their deeds. In Washington, during the last session of Congress, a woman was spoken of as "one of the most aggressive lobbyists ever seen at the Capital." She was acting, however, merely as the representative of California club-women, and her mission, happily successful, was to help insure the preservation of the giant redwoods, which are one of the glories of the state.

Meat has been officially introduced as a part of the Japanese army diet, and, as a result, the Japanese board of agriculture has sent a commission abroad to investigate and take steps for introducing the breeding of cattle in Japan. One reason for the change of diet is to avert a repetition of the scourge of beri-beri which sapped the strength of the army during the Russian war, and was said to have been due to the rice diet, and another purpose is to add to the stature of the race by a general introduction of meat eating. Here in the Occident there is an increasing conviction that the meat diet has its penalties as well as its benefits.

A recent visitor to one of the largest of American cities stated that it was not the subways nor the tall buildings that impressed him so much,

as the great number of prosperous, well-kept, good-looking old men. "They are," he said, "seen on the streets by the thousand, carefully dressed, leisurely in movement, yet apparently actively concerned with affairs. It is a stronger indication to me of the accumulated wealth, of the established success of the city, than anything else I have seen." These old men are splendid specimens. The game of life interests them and they have the good sense to keep actively employed in it rather than to confine themselves to their homes or to eat their hearts out in their own inactivity. Lowell said of Emerson that he "has that privilege of soul which abolishes the calendar and presents him to us always the unwanted contemporary of his own prime." Whitman foresaw for America a race "of splendid and savage old men." We are accustomed to hear "the hurry of business life" decried and American ideals of life unfavorably contrasted with European. But the results in many cities are not so bad, after all. Look at our splendid and effective old men.

Thus goes the old familiar song: "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood." On second thought, however, one may interpose an exception or two. Let the memory go back to the "parlor." In the recollections of childhood it does not figure as one of the popular home institutions. There was something sacrosanct about it that did not appeal to boys at least, and the girls didn't seem to give it much appreciation until Horace and Arthur accumulated sufficient courage to inaugurate the custom of calling around on Sunday afternoons, sitting on those frail and artistic Louis XIV. chairs and assuming the joyful expression of slaves on the block while passing stereotyped compliments upon photographs in the family album, many of which pictured numerous freaks of the genealogical tree. Ed Howe, in his Atchison Globe, quoting an architectural authority, says that the American parlor, as an institution of the home, or adjacent thereto, is passing, adding: "That word 'adjacent' is used advisedly, and with a distinct recollection of some parlors all have seen. In the house they were, of course, but they were far enough from the home; perhaps adjacent is a little too close, since they remained a dungeon except on grand occasions like funerals, or weddings, or entertaining the presiding elder. So the parlor's doom will leave no aching void. It was something in the void itself, when most of an institution; devoid at least of comfort or cheer, of sunshine or fresh air. And the chairs ranged about in such excellent order, added to the somber light that filtered through shades and shutter which strove to shut it out, made of it a nice, grim death chamber, which purpose it served frequently, and better than the others, being better suited to the purpose."

AN ARBOR-DAY IDYL

Every human activity may be considered from the aesthetic as well as the practical point of view. No special powers of discrimination are needed to enable the reader of this extract from the Chicago Ledger to determine where to place each of the two men whose conversation is reported.

The man with the benignant countenance framed in side-whiskers came to a stop and spoke genially to the sturdy fellow who was planting the tree on the lawn.

"Ah," he said, "yours, my friend, is a noble task."

"How is it?" inquired the husky individual.

"Yours is a noble task. Now, when all nature is sear and desolate, you are looking forward to the coming season of sunshine and flowers, and are doing what you may to beautify and gladden the earth."

"It takes a wagon-load of rich earth for de hole vare dis dree go."

"Yes, yes. Just so. I was speaking metaphorically, so to speak. I was referring to the time when this umbrageous verdure should—"

"Dis isn't dot kind of a dree. Dis is a mound-in-ash."

"Very true. And a beautiful species it is, I have no doubt. How splendid it is to realize that one may be a humble instrument in the furtherance of the plans for making glad the waste places! In years to come you will journey, perchance, to this spot and gaze upon the towering monarch of the forest which shall arise from the shrub you are planting, and to your soul will come the cheering knowledge that it was your hands that made it possible. Even next year you will come here, no doubt, and—"

"Yes, I come next year unt pull der dree oud again if der feller don't saddle his pill. He is slow pay."

The Zuyder Zee. The Zuyder Zee was formed by a broad of the sea, which broke down the protecting sand dunes.

Sam Houston TEXAN



When the Texas Legislature appropriated \$10,000 for a monument to General Sam Houston, to be erected over his grave at Huntsville, it stipulated that the monument should be of Texas granite and that the appropriation should become void Sept. 1, 1909. Diddly enough, writes H. B. Chamberlain in the Chicago Record-Herald, sculptors eager to secure the honor of making the monument neglected to inform themselves of essential conditions and submitted plans for monuments to be developed in bronze. Until Aug. 1, just one short month before the expiration of the allotted time, but one plan in accordance with ideas expressed in the measure making the appropriation had been presented. This plan, by Frank Telch of Llano, proposed the erection of a plain shaft. Another sculptor, Pompeo Coppini of San Antonio, who had designed a bronze monument, was given a second opportunity by Governor Campbell to prepare new plans for one of granite.

Sam Houston was born in Virginia of Irish-Scotch stock. His father, who died when he was a lad of 13, served in the Revolutionary War, and at its close was appointed Major and Assistant Inspector General of frontier troops. He has been described as a man of large frame, commanding presence, indomitable courage, and a passion for military life. The mother was also remarkable for her magnificent physique and forceful character. After her husband's death she removed with her family of six sons and three daughters to Tennessee, then the frontier, where white pioneers came into close contact with savage life. The education gained in a few months at an old field school was necessary rudimentary. This, with a session or two at the Academy of Maryville, was all the schooling that the man destined to be Governor of two States, President of a republic, Congressman and United States Senator ever had. The command of strong, dignified and stirring English, which was his, must have been due to the quality of his reading, for he was a man of few books. As a boy he devoured Pope's translation of the Iliad. When in command of the Texas army he studied Caesar's Commentaries, as did Miles Standish, an Indian fighter of an earlier day. Later he read and appreciated Shakespeare and perused the Bible so constantly that its phraseology tinged his oratory. Even the former president of Harvard College would admit that his choice of books was good.

When the war between England and the United States broke out, young Houston marched away with the Tennessee Volunteers as ensign. To punish the Creeks for the massacre at Fort Hims, Ala., volunteer troops under Jackson and Coffee were sent to Alabama. Houston's regiment was with them, and at To-ho-pe-ka, the most hotly contested battle ever fought by Indians against disciplined white soldiers, he displayed such conspicuous courage as to win General Jackson's lifelong friendship. He was promoted to a lieutenantcy for his bravery, and when his wounds, which never entirely healed, permitted him to report for duty, he was sent as agent to the Cherokee Indians. While in Washington on business connected with the sale of Cherokee lands he was rebuffed for appearing before Calhoun, Secretary of War, in Indian costume instead of in his uniform. A little later he successfully defended himself against charges affecting his official conduct, but the spirit of the inquiry instituted by Calhoun offended him, and he resigned, having served in the army five years. He determined to become a lawyer, a profession which in those days meant politics even more than now. After six months of study in the law office of James Trimble at Nashville he was admitted to the Tennessee bar, and went to Lebanon to practice. Within a year he was appointed adjutant general of the State, with the rank of colonel, and was elected prosecuting attorney for the Davidson district, which necessitated his removal to Nashville. In 1823, when 30 years of age, he was elected representative to Congress from Tennessee, and served two terms, leaving the House to become Governor of Tennessee.

Houston was elected first President of the Republic of Texas. The constitution of the new republic made him ineligible for re-election for two succeeding terms. At the end of the period he was re-elected and found the finances in bad shape. His first step



was to inaugurate an economical administration, which rescued the State from collapse. From the first there had been a strong desire for annexation to the United States. When this was finally accomplished, Houston and Thomas J. Rusk were elected Senators. He served two terms in the Senate, but was defeated for re-election because of his attitude toward the various compromise measures. He returned to his home in Texas, and in 1859 was nominated for Governor by acclamation at a public meeting. The campaign that followed demonstrated his tremendous hold upon the common people. He made a thorough canvass of the State, arousing wild enthusiasm by his eloquent appeals for preservation of the Union. He was elected, and was inaugurated as Governor Dec. 21, 1859. A special session of the Legislature met Jan. 21, 1860, to act on South Carolina's invitation to join the Confederacy. A general election had previously expressed secession sentiment. Houston opposed every step of the secessionists, but was defeated. When Texas seceded, Houston refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and was deposed as Governor. Strong in personality, one of the great individualists of American history, the name of Sam Houston is as indelibly inscribed upon the scroll of the nation as that of the Lone Star State itself. He was to Texas its son and its father, and no hero of the Southland is stronger in the affections of its people than the man of San Jacinto.

WHAT IS TREASURE TROVE?

Shows It Meant Article Concealed for Depositor's Benefit.

The recent discovery near Yerville of an ancient British gold torque and the consequent inquiry by the coroner and his jury as to the manner and nature of the find are of some interest to land owners as well as to antiquarians, says Country Life. Treasure trove, according to an old definition, is any gold or silver in coin, plate or bullion found concealed in a house or in the earth or other place, the owner thereof being unknown. The essence of the thing is concealment; the article may have been deliberately hidden or buried by the owner; if it has only been abandoned, thrown away or lost, it is not treasure trove, and belongs to the finder as against every one but the true owner when he turns up and claims it. If the article is treasure trove, on the other hand, it belongs either to the crown or to the person, generally to the lord of the manor, to whom the franchise of treasure trove may have been granted by the crown.

It is the duty of any person who finds an article that may come under the designation of treasure trove to inform the coroner of the district, who thereupon calls together a jury to inquire what the find consists of, who was the finder and who was the original owner, so far as any information on the last point is available. Such inquiry has, however, no jurisdiction to determine any question of title to the find, nor to decide whether the article is treasure trove or not; these points must be settled, if there is any dispute, by the decision of the king's bench division; but where gold or silver articles whose owner is unknown are found concealed or buried in one place, all lying together, there is a presumption that they were intentionally hidden for the benefit of the depositor and that they are therefore treasure trove.

No town will ever be so good the gossip will not find something to talk about; the gossip would move from such a town.

PRESIDENT ELIOT ADVOCATES PUBLICITY BEFORE STRIKES



PRESIDENT ELIOT.

The Canadian government, by legislation, has obviated to a great extent strikes that would interfere with public utilities, including mines, is described in McClure's Magazine by Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University. The act for the maintenance of industrial peace in Canada went into effect March 22, 1907. By the operation of the act 96 per cent of strikes were avoided or ended. These pertained to disputes concerning mines, railroads, street railways, longshoremen, teamsters and sailors.

Fifty-five applications have arisen under the act and have resulted in the creation of forty-nine boards. Dr. Eliot shows that, on the fifty-five applications, strikes were avoided or ended in twenty-five coal mines, four metalliferous mines, fifteen railroads, three street railways, two bodies of longshoremen, one body of teamsters, one body of sailors and in two industries that were not public utilities. In only two cases were strikes not averted or ended. The six cases in which boards were not created were settled promptly through the influence of the act.

Some of these disputes involved large numbers of workmen, notably two cases of the Dominion Coal Company, with 3,000 men affected in one case and 7,000 men in another; and several railroad cases in some of which 7,000 to 8,000 men were directly affected. That Canadian workmen have acquired confidence in the operation of the act Dr. Eliot concludes from the fact that they have been the applicants for the creation of boards in forty-six cases.

Not the least beneficial result of the act, Dr. Eliot considers, is that "although perfect liberty to strike or lock out ultimately is reserved under the Canadian act, several weeks must elapse from the time the dispute began before work can be stopped." Thus, "there is time for passion to cool, and for the costs of war to be counted by both parties. The interests of the public may also get some sort of effective expression during this interval; and when the report of the board is thoroughly published, in accordance with the provisions of the act, public opinion, being well informed, usually expresses itself with clearness and force."

BARON MAKING HIS WAY AROUND WORLD TO TEST HEARTS OF MEN

On a journey by which he aims to show that civilization has not made mankind heartless, Baron Von Der Osten-Saken, St. Petersburg, Russia, who says he is a nephew of the Russian minister of war, is making his way around the world. He started penniless. Sitting in a cafe in St. Peters-



BARON VON DER OSTEN-SAKEN

burg he argued with another Russian named Poltovsev, a merchant, regarding the effects of civilization on hospitable instincts. The result of the debate was that the baron started from St. Petersburg without a cent to make his way around the world, testing the kindness of persons he met by applying for employment. The time limit given him is seven years. He is to travel by any means available, but is not to receive aid. He must perform some service for every-thing he receives.

Since starting he has been through Russia, Siberia, Japan, and China. After crossing the United States and reaching New York he will continue to Mexico, Panama, Central America, South America and Australia. The baron has met many of the titled persons of Japan and China. He was arrested ten times as an impostor while traveling through Russia, but proof that his credentials are genuine brought his release. He was also arrested in Forsythe, Mont., as a tramp. The traveler is 23 years old. He can speak seven languages. He was a

soldier under Micheneff during the Japanese-Russian war. He is a graduate of a military school at St. Petersburg. It is his intention to write a book of travel after he has completed his trip. A prize of \$25,000, which he says he will give to charity, is to be awarded him if he ends his journey in the allotted time.

USEFUL TREES OF FLORIDA.

Great Variety Growing in the State—Durable Woods.

Florida has perhaps more useful trees growing within her borders than any other State in the Union—a greater variety. But there is a general desire to introduce more, as the soap berry, the tallow tree and the eucalyptus.

An addition to the discussion of the latter, a tree which is very valuable because it has the unusual quality of growing with great rapidity, yet furnishing a hard and durable wood, is furnished by a letter to the editor of the Florida Fruit and Produce News by E. E. Thompson of Avon Park. Mr. Thompson says in part: "Eucalyptus trees were first planted here about 1894, and were injured by the great freeze, but sprouted and grew like orange trees. A few eucalyptus trees planted later have made such wonderful growth as to cause people to look up, take notice and rubberneck to see the lofty tops. The growth in ten years is six feet around the body.

"The seasoned wood is hard as hickory and posts show no decay in the ground. The limbs, twigs, leaves and seed cases make the very best fuel. Our people are convinced of the great value of eucalyptus and are planting them up and down the avenues and in the cemetery and will soon plant them in forest form."

In California some species of eucalyptus show greatest development in low places where rain water stands and in swamps, river bottoms, etc., though they will endure drought, according to a bulletin of the University of California. The durability of the wood, according to other authorities, is due to an oil with which it is impregnated and which is extracted for commercial purposes.—Florida Times Union.

A Pathetic Comment.

Unemployment is the ghost that haunts England just now, and it brings hunger as the chief in its train of miseries.

On the occasion of the opening of Parliament, as the procession—headed by the King in his royal robes, and the Queen in a black gown embroidered with gold and silver, a robe of ruby velvet bordered with gold and lined with miniver, a Honiton veil fastened to her hair by a diamond ornament, and the famous Cullinan diamond blazing on her breast—as the procession filed out into the street, a certain workman, mounted on the shoulders of another, caught a glimpse of the King's round, smiling face.

"E do look well fed, 'e do," said the man.

He spoke without rancor. He was not trying to be humorous. But he spoke from the depths of a complete understanding, and those who overheard him were suddenly alive to the exigency of the problem of the unemployed.