

## Topics of the Times

No other city disputes Boston's title of "Hub." Too suggestive of wheels.

A negro advocates the burning of roon songs. But what then would become of the vaudeville stage?

The boll weevil's increase of activity leads to a suspicion that the Guatemalan ants went over to the enemy.

"I want a man to take care of himself," says President Roosevelt. But doesn't this conflict with the doctrine of anti-race suicide?

Raisuli is coming up in the social scale. His name is now written Raisuli. All he needs to get right into the swim is a hyphen.

What a tremendous cotton crop it would have been but for the ravages of the boll weevil, and how much more of it would have to be burned!

The discovery of a new fissure on Lung is ridiculed by a savant, who says it is very common in the moon. The fault, no doubt, of the man in it making funny cracks.

Dr. Chadwick announces that he is going to write a book. This will come as a shock to the people who have heretofore been inclined to sympathize with him.

A girl in New Jersey eats coal, waste paper, toothpicks, bits of string, etc. She seems to have what might be called the regular New Jersey octopus appetite.

A New Jersey woman is to be tried in court on the charge of being a common scold. The prosecuting attorney down there is probably sorry now that he was elected.

The mikado says he didn't write the three poems that were recently published as having come from his pen. Suspicion now rests on the Sweet Singer of Michigan.

A professor insists that a girl should not marry until she is able to support a husband. The girl who makes matrimonial plans of that kind will get a husband who is willing to have her support him.

If it ever becomes necessary to put the Monroe doctrine to use for the purpose of keeping the children straight here at home, it is to be hoped that Europe will, in viewing the results, be able to see that the club is not merely stuffed.

Simon Sam, ex-President of Hayti, has been sentenced to penal servitude for life, although he is not in Hayti and hasn't been since he quit being president without waiting for the inauguration of his successor. They seem to have a theory down there that mistakes can be avoided by trying and sentencing their culprits and endeavoring to catch them afterward. This system may be all right for Hayti.

Tuberculosis is a house infection. We don't pick it up on the streets as we may pneumonia or smallpox; we never inherit it; seldom is it contracted from diseased milk or meat. Occasional contact with a consumptive endangers no one; the disease is not contagious in that sense. But every house in which an ignorant or careless consumptive has lived and coughed up the deadly bacilli; every close and foul-aired workroom in which he has labored becomes a peril to those who live or work with him or follow after him.

Professor Wiley of the Bureau of Chemistry at Washington, who is conducting the adulterated food experiments, complains that he is utterly unable to procure for his purpose any uncolored butter. He also denounced the use of the coal tar dyes with which butter is colored, saying that they "overburden the kidneys." This is an instructive comment on the United States laws which prohibit the coloring of artificial butter, even with palm oil, which is perfectly wholesome, but permit the coloring of genuine butter with coal tar dyes or anything else.

Some striking evidences of the regard with which Mexico is held in the United States have been furnished this year. Mexico has just floated a loan for \$40,000,000 in this country, which was the first ever negotiated by that country in which no security through a lien on the customs or otherwise was asked for. Mexico's credit is thus seen to be as high as that of any of the other great countries. Our trade with Mexico, both imports and exports, is steadily gaining. Most of Mexico's dealings with the outside world are with us. We have something like \$500,000,000 invested in Mexico in one shape and another, and this sum is constantly on the increase.

General Diaz has especial reasons for being pleased with the relations existing between his country and its northern neighbor.

Mr. Ferris' advice that a woman should not marry until she is able to support a husband is not to be passed off with a smile. There is sound common sense in it. The time was when it was said a girl ought not to marry until she understood how to care for a household. Times are changed now and it is not necessary for a woman to brew and bake, wash and iron and attend to the hundred and one things that were once done exclusively by women. But she must be competent in other directions. More and more women are coming to have the same pay as men for doing similar work. More and more women are displacing men and securing the places considered most desirable. Emergencies may come that will compel the woman to be the bread winner. It is fortunate for her and her family if she has made and kept herself competent to meet adversity when it appears. It seems like reversing the normal order of things to have the wife the mainstay. The instinctive chivalry of the American husband rebels at it. He would and in the main does bear the burden of providing for the family, but that family is on the safest foundation where in case of need the wife is able to meet the requirements and keep her children and her husband, if necessary, from depending on charity or the grudging assistance of relatives. A woman is none the less womanly for the consciousness of latent strength, for the thought that she can be relied on in times of trouble and disaster. Her peculiar sphere may be the home, but when the home itself is dependent on the success of her efforts outside the home she is to be counted happy that she has the energy and fitness to come to the rescue.

In a recent issue of Success, Mr. Frederick U. Adams arraigns the railroads of the country for their criminal guilt in refusing to adopt precautions and safety appliances which would materially reduce the annual slaughter due to train accidents. He accompanies his severe charges with the statement that "the time is at hand when murder and bribery will not be handled with gloves or described with tender and evasive epithets." Commenting on the characteristic delay which railways employ in installing safety gates at grade crossings, Mr. Adams explains why the companies refuse to protect the people who are exposed to danger at these points. It is cheaper to pay damages for the dead and maimed than to pay for the operation of the gates. It was cheaper for the railroads to pay damages for the loss of life and limb which the old style couplers involved. "They opposed the law to compel the adoption of the automatic coupler. It was less expensive to have brakemen lose hands, legs, arms, and occasionally lives than to buy safety coupling devices. The same reason explains the unwillingness of the railroads to install the block signal system. It is cheaper to kill people than to put in the system which would save lives. While this explanation seems to brand railway owners with the most inhuman motives, yet, when analyzed more closely, it will be found to penetrate to the marrow the whole subject. Human life is cheaper than safety appliances. So long as the comparative cheapness of human life and limb enables the railroads doing an interstate business to pay damages resulting from accidents and still save money over the cost of installing and maintaining proper safety devices, is it not the duty of Congress to protect the people from the consequences of such a lamentable condition? To protect human life, if not "good business," is at least good public morals.

**The Heart Muscles.** It is generally supposed that the heart is an organ which never takes a rest. But this is not so. The muscles of the heart are not incessantly working. The heart contains four chambers—two upper, called the auricles, and two lower, the ventricles. In the beating of the heart the auricles first contract and force the blood into the ventricles; they then relax while the ventricles repeat the process. Then follows a pause, during which the heart is perfectly at rest.

The contraction of the auricles takes one-fifth of the time between one beat and the next, the contraction of the ventricles two-fifths and the pause two-fifths, so that the heart is really resting two-fifths of its time. Sleep also aids in relieving the muscles of the heart, as it considerably diminishes the rapidity of its action.

This alternation of rest and activity endows the heart muscles with their capacity for untiring work.

### Increase of Imports.

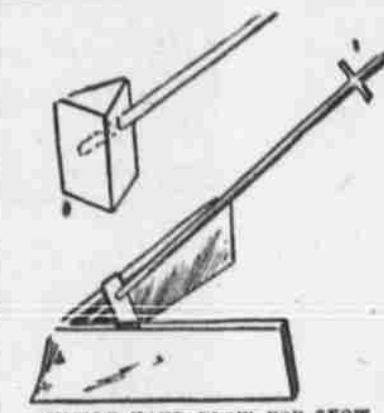
The increase in the imports of Manchuria in ten years has been in the various commodities, 100 to 500 per cent. The customs revenue in 1902 was \$910,000. The great growth in trade has resulted from the free exportation of beans, bean cake and bean oil.



Hand Plow for Snow.

When there is such a quantity of ground to be cleaned of snow as is found around the average farm home, something more than the ordinary snow shovel is needed. If the snow is deep and the space to be cleared considerable, then one should bring into use a large plow with the horse to pull it. For a hand plow nothing is better than the simple one made in the following manner:

Select two pieces of board free from knots, each three feet long and six inches wide. Bevel the end of each board and nail them together in the form of a V. If necessary they may be braced at the wide end by a strip three inches wide and the necessary length. Then put in a pole five feet long with a cross piece at the upper end. To strengthen the end in which the handle is inserted cut a block of wood as large as possible, and fit it



SIMPLE HAND PLOW FOR SNOW.

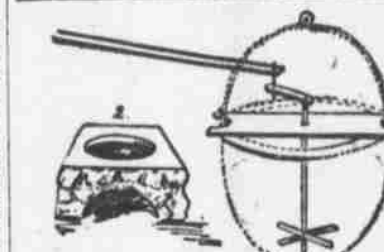
in the end where the two pieces of board join.

This will make it easier to insert the handle firmly and will make the side pieces stronger as well. The small cut in the upper part of the illustration shows clearly how this block of wood should be formed and the handle inserted to get the best results.

### Stirring Cooking Food.

Where more or less food for stock is cooked, some handy way of stirring it ought to be devised. Of course, the old-fashioned ladle, or the great wooden spoon, is always available, but if the quantity is large, to use these instruments means aching arms and shoulders. A stirrer which will save much labor is readily made in the following manner. Make a shaft of a strip of wood two inches thick and long enough so that it will extend three or four inches above the top of the kettle. At the bottom of this shaft make paddles by crossing two thin boards two or three inches wide.

Fasten a crank to the top of the shaft and to this crank fasten a pole, or not, as preferred. Then prepare a strip of board six or eight inches wide, bore a hole through the middle, through which to pass the shaft, match both ends to fit over the handle of the kettle and at one end fix a



TO STIR COOKING FOOD.

slide and a set screw to hold it in place. If the cooking of the food for stock is done away from the house, as it ought to be, one should build a fireplace of bricks and cement in which to set the kettle. The illustration shows both the fireplace, or pot, as suggested, and the plan for making the stirrer and it will be seen that it is comparatively easy to arrange the device as suggested.—Indianapolis News.

### Some Incubator Hints.

Do not turn the eggs for three days from beginning the hatch, nor after the nineteenth day.

Leave chicks in the incubator from twenty-four to thirty-six hours after they are hatched; they do not need feeding for at least thirty-six hours after they come from the shell. Nature has provided for their sustenance during this time.

Keep the temperature as near 103 degrees as possible, but do not worry if it runs up to 105 degrees, or as low as 90 for a short time. Watch the size of the lamp flame, and keep it as nearly the size that will produce the proper temperature as possible.

Do not open the egg chamber after the chickens begin to pip the shell, even if some chick seems to be having a hard time to get out. A chick that cannot get out of the shell without help is not worth saving. If the chicks gasp and struggle, do not bother them—it is good for them.

See that the incubator sets perfectly level, otherwise the egg chamber will be warmer in one place than another. Use only the best oil, and feed and trim the lamp every morning, no matter how long it might burn without doing this.

Open the egg chamber only when turning the eggs. Take the eggs out to turn them, and shut the egg chamber while they are out. Let the eggs cool for from ten to thirty minutes, according to the weather, every day.

### The Mortgage Paid.

We ain't havin' many luxuries, like city folkses do. We ain't wearin' all the latest styles an' all our clothes ain't new. Of our honesty and goodness we ain't makin' no parade. But we're havin' all we want to eat an' got the mortgage paid. We ain't pillin' up a fortune for the boys to fight about. When our last day's work is over an' we're steppin' down an' out. But it's good to have succeeded in the effort that we made. For to keep things runnin' smoothly an' to get the mortgage paid. We have had our share of ups and downs, as other people do. But we've tried to keep our spirits up when things were lookin' blue; We'll be ready for the ending when the game of life is played. For we've raised the children best we knew and got the mortgage paid.—The Gentlewoman.

### Sowing Peas in the Fall.

Market gardeners are familiar with all of the plans which will enable them to get crops on the market early. Near some of the large cities these men grow nothing but the early varieties of all classes, doing nothing with the mid-season and late sorts. Their plan of raising early peas is to prepare the ground in the fall just as thoroughly as they would in the spring, and just before the ground freezes hard they sow the very early hardy varieties, drilling them in not over two inches deep. Mulch is then put over them for the winter and as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring, cultivation begins, as if the seeds were spring sown. The result is generally a very early crop that brings the highest market price. The plan is worth a trial by any one located near a good market.

### Smoking Meat Safely.

Take an old stove and lead the smoke through a long stove pipe, b. into a large box, a. Set the box a little higher than the stove. Drive nails through the top of the box and bend them into hooks, c, to hang your meat. Make a small door in the side to put the meat through. With a stove you can control your fire and it is also much safer.—Henry Nessen, in Farm and Home.

### Kill Off the Cabbage Lice.

Cabbage aphids are one of our worst cabbage pests. The lice multiply very rapidly when conditions favor them and are a source of great loss and annoyance. They may be killed only by insecticides that smother, or kill by contact; ordinary poisons have no effect on plant lice. Kerosene emulsion diluted with 10 parts of water, applied thoroughly to the lower side of the leaves when cabbage plants are small, is effective in a measure. Fumigating seed stocks in spring with carbon bisulphide gets rid of the original brood. The pest is nasty and should be treated wherever found.—Farm and Home.

### Road Dust for the Henner.

Collect a few barrels of dry earth, road dust, fine dry dirt in the cornfield or potato patch, or anywhere that is most convenient. This is a handy thing to have in the fall and winter for sprinkling under the roosts and on the floor of the poultry house. It absorbs ammonia, keeps down smells, and keeps things ship-shape. It will pay to attend to this when it can be so easily done. It costs but little and is a real advantage.

### Sheep Shearings.

The way to keep ideal sheep is by trying to improve them.

Sheep are always improving or they are deteriorating.

Stationary troughs and racks are not desirable in the sheep stable.

Ewes will produce larger and better lambs if in plump condition at time of mating.

At weaning, if possible, the ewes should be placed in a field out of hearing of the lambs.

An uneven lot of good sheep are better than an uneven lot of poor ones.

It is well to place the ewes on short pasture for a week or more after the lambs are weaned.

In fattening sheep especially, punctuality in feeding should be strictly observed.

In many cases, after the corn is laid by, the sheep may be turned into the cornfield to good advantage.

Sheep are easily managed, are first-class fertilizing machines, good farm scavengers and yield two harvests annually.

## Ayer's

Doctors first prescribed Ayer's Cherry Pectoral over 60 years ago. They use it today more than ever. They

## Cherry Pectoral

rely upon it for colds, coughs, bronchitis, consumption. They will tell you how it heals inflamed lungs.

"I had a very bad cough for three years. Then I tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. My sore lungs were soon healed and my cough dropped away."

Prepared by J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

## Old Coughs

One Ayer's Pill at bedtime insures a natural action next morning.

### An Incident of History.

Julia Ward Howe had just written "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and was reading it to Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

"Well, Lizzie," she asked when she had finished, "what do you think of it?"

"Great!" was the reply. "But you are boasting man again in defiance of our glorious principles. Sit down now and write another to be called 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic.'"—New York Telegram.

### To Prevent Lockjaw.

"There would be less lockjaw," said a physician, recently, "if people would take just a little simple precaution. The smoke from a woolen cloth is fatal to the tetanus microbe. This bacillus is picked up with such dirt as gets into the wound from a rusty nail, or whatever else infects it, or from other causes, and is one of the easiest to kill. Take a woolen cloth and set fire to it. Hold the wound over the smoke for 20 minutes and in nine cases out of ten the microbe which causes all the trouble will be dead."—New York Sun.

### A Famous Aqueduct.

One of the most imposing architectural relics of western Europe is the aqueduct of Nîmes, in southern France. After the lapse of sixteen centuries this colossal monument still spans the valley, joining hill to hill in nearly perfect state. The highest range of arches carries a small canal just wide enough for a man to creep through and still retaining a thick lining of Roman cement. The height of the structure is 188 feet and the length of the highest arcade 872 feet. Its use was to convey to the city of Nîmes the water of two springs twenty-five miles distant.

### Gorgeous Japanese Robes.

In number the diaphanous robes worn by a Japanese woman of high rank of the eleventh or twelfth century were seldom less than twenty, while on great occasions even more might be necessary. Thus at a great palace fete it is said that "some wore as many as twenty-five suits, showing glimpses of purple, of crimson, of grass green, of wild rose yellow and of sapan-wood brown, their sleeves and skirts decorated with golden designs, while others, by subtle commingling of willow sprays and cherry blossoms and by embroidered patterns picked out with gems, represented the poem of the jewels and the flowers."

### Natural Soap.

It is said that in a mountain near Elko, Nevada, there is an inexhaustible supply of pure soap. One may enter the mine with a butcher's knife and cut as large a piece as he wants. It is beautifully mottled, and on being exposed to the air hardens somewhat. The mountain of clay is of fine texture, and it contains boracic acid, soda, and borate of lime. Its color is given it by the iron and other minerals. In its natural state it is rather strong in alkali, and removes ink and other stains readily. At one time it was used on the Pullman cars, but when its peculiar origin became generally known passengers appropriated it so extensively for souvenirs that the company was forced to go back to the common soap of commerce.

### Excavation of Compliments.

The village sexton, in addition to being grave-digger, acted as a stonemason, house repairer and furniture remover.

The local doctor, having obtained a more lucrative appointment in another county, employed the sexton to assist in his removal.

When it came time to settling up accounts the doctor deducted an old contra account due by the sexton. He wrote at the same time, objecting to the charge made for removing his furniture.

"If this was steady, it would pay much better than grave-digging."

The sexton replied:

"Indade, Oi wud be glad ave a steady job; grave-diggin' is very slack since you left."