

Topics of the Times

Never tell a man that his boy looks like his mother if he owes you money.

Women have a lot to say about model husbands, but they all want a different model.

All an Englishman has to do to become famous is to suggest some foolish thing for Americans to do.

Despite the report of our special naval board the Japanese are going right along buying submarines.

An English journal discourses of the "great American question." The great American question is "How are you?"

Henceforth it will be Marie Corelli's endeavor to see that Andrew Carnegie does not lack the disgrace, whether he dies rich or not.

H. H. Rogers is in a position to prove that it is a mistake to suppose that a man who has \$75,000,000 can do as he pleases.

A New York paper has just moved into its own thirty-one-story office building. This ought to insure fifteen editions daily, at least.

However, recommending a revival of the whipping post does not mean that the ban should be removed from sending abusive postal cards.

If that society woman in New York had been poor and unknown would she have been sent to an insane asylum or a police cell for shoplifting?

General Stoessel promised the Czar that he would never surrender Port Arthur. But there are times when the deliberate violation of a promise is a virtue.

As an abstract proposition, is the whipping post for a wife-beater any more demoralizing in its effect upon the public mind than the gallows for a wife murderer?

Objection to the marriage of King Alfonso of Spain and Princess Victoria of England has been raised in some high places. This being the case, he is pretty sure to marry her if she will have him.

The sum of 6 cents has been awarded by a jury to a New York woman who sued for damages done to her heart by a man who said he would and then decided that he wouldn't. Oh, but she must be homely.

Uncle Sam's experiments in the matter of world's fair postage stamps have convinced him that a busy people does not take kindly to the idea of licking an unnecessary area of mucilage when about to mail a letter.

Commodore Dyer, who runs the Island of Guam, says the people there need a lower tariff; but for a long time they will have to do the best they can with what they have. To be an "out-lying possession" is good enough for them.

Judging from her published photographs, Mrs. Chadwick is a handsome, young brunette with an ugly face and flaxen hair. She seems to be about 19 years of age and has the appearance of a woman of 60. Her face is fresh and youthful, crow's feet giving her a look of old age. She is tall and graceful with a dumpy, shapeless figure. Her smile is winsome and reminds one of a grinning death's head.

An English weekly paper reports the case of an army officer who, while stationed for two years at Cairo, did not take the trouble to go out and look at the Pyramids, because, as he explained, "What with polo and parties and bridge and cricket, I never had a minute to myself." Foolish? Surely. Yet the thoughtful reader will not receive it with scorn and laughter. He knows that nothing he did during 1904 will be likely to cause him so much annoyance in the future as the things he left undone—for equally frivolous reasons.

It seems to us that, in spite of the wide dominion of Russia and Great Britain, the day of world empires has gone by. Despotisms are ill fitted to bear universal sway, because by their very nature they provoke rebellion, and rebellion against despotism is the necessary result of the growth of liberty. Nor are democracies adapted to this work, for they are the products of the free spirit, and they can not, without fatal consequences to themselves, go into the business of enslaving people. In the old days despotisms could do this work, but that was before there was such a thing as the people. We are more likely to see some disintegration rather than further consolidation. The British empire exists at the pres-

ent time only by the tolerance of the people inhabiting its various parts—because they believe they are better off within it. The Russian empire rests almost wholly on force. People are likely to insist more and more on their right to govern themselves.

It is said there is nothing distinctive about the American face as there is about all the rest of the groups of Caucasian faces. It has no individuality. Nevertheless the American physiognomy is decidedly marked. It is said that an American is recognized at a glance in any part of the world. The thing indelibly written on the American face is "hustle." Every American looks as if his eyes were glaring into the far west and the far future. He has a serious look that portends business. French imagination sparkles in wit as brilliant as the diamond; the American imagination flashes its sheet lightning over half a world. This terrible intensity of purpose and activity is very fine in many respects, but it is at the bottom of the ill-health which is so serious a curse to the life of this country. The American works himself to death. We have too little recreation, too little regard for the refreshing and invigorating influences of social intercourse. Our devotion to business of every kind is too long continued and too absorbing. We rise early and sit up late and eat the bread of carefulness, and eat it hastily, that we may lose no time from work. Constant care and anxious thought write their deep traces on the brow and their corroding influences consume not only the elasticity of mind and body, but the better feelings of the heart.

How long should the school hours of children be? There is a discussion of this question in New York which seems to be conducted with a view to the saving of public money as well as to the educational problem that is involved. Reduce the hours from five to three and one-half and you get economy in the use of classrooms and a chance to cut the yearly budget. These are matters of some importance in a city where 80,000 pupils are already on part time because of the lack of sufficient room and where a reduction of expenses is said to be imperative. But educators who are not influenced primarily by the financial argument advocate the shorter hours, and a symposium in the New York Tribune shows that there is a pronounced division of opinion on purely educational grounds. This is partly determined by the attitude of the contributors toward the subject of essentials and non-essentials in the school course. William H. Maxwell, superintendent of schools in New York, holds that all things now taught in the schools are essential. He thinks that nature study, drawing, sewing and music have as good a claim to recognition as reading, spelling and arithmetic. On the other hand, President Northrop, of the University of Minnesota, whose opinion was sought, makes a distinction between essentials and non-essentials, and gives reading and spelling as examples of the former. His idea of the apportionment of time is as follows: "The best number of hours for the first five years in a public school is three hours a day for the first two years and four for the next three years. As far as possible the studies taught, even at this young period, should be essentials, and non-essentials should be put in only when the children cannot be occupied with essentials." The common objection to the longer hours is that they put too great a strain upon the child. It is said that after three hours he is incapable of giving attention, and the rest of the time is wasted. But C. H. Ingalls, a banker, who is a member of the New York school board and who rates the non-essentials above the essentials, declares that "an examination and test of the standing of pupils who have been put on part time, as compared to those on full time, show that the full-time pupil is far ahead of the other, and that part time is a real loss to the pupil." The comment suggested by the discussion is that if there is safety in the multitude of counselors, there is also much perplexity.

Pardonable Ignorance.
A young American woman, an author, while seeing Rome for the first time was anxious to include a visit to the tomb of Caesar. Meeting a citizen on the street she inquired, in her best Italian, the location of the tomb. The man looked greatly embarrassed. "I am desolated, signorina," he apologized, speaking in excellent English. "I do not know. Caesar has been dead so long!"

Serious.
"The trouble with many actors," said the man of ponderous wisdom, "is that they do not take their work seriously." "You do us an injustice," said Mr. Stormington Barnes. "Hundreds of miles away from home, hotel bills and railway fares to pay, salaries due and weather uncertain—who could help taking everything seriously?"—Washington Star.

A widow with an income of \$800 a year, can get along better than a widower can on \$1,600.

Conquest of the Great American Desert

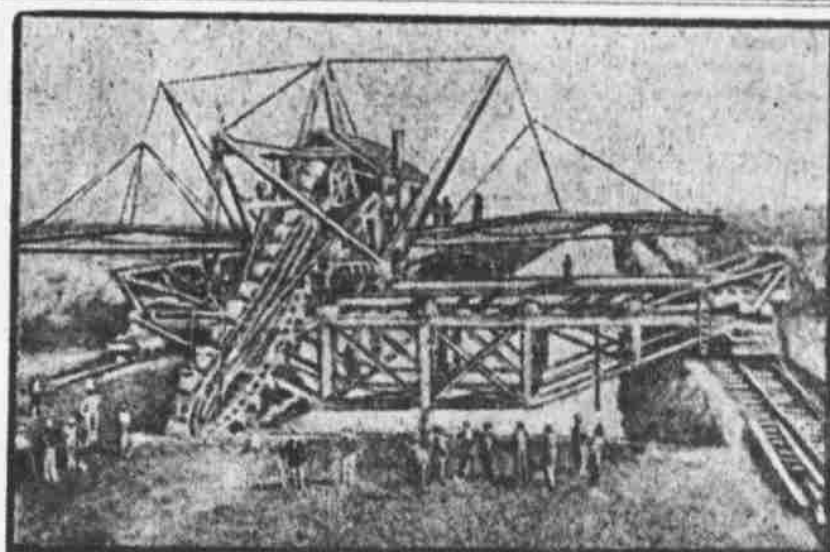
Fat and to the Point.
Mr. Paul Thielen, whoever he may be, says something in a recent issue of a Denver paper which is pat and to the point. We herewith produce the first few paragraphs of his article:

When one beholds the complacent failure to comprehend the nature and condition of Far Western Irrigation, it is maddening. I have seen one man, who is thoroughly posted, almost break into wild tears of rage over the ever-recurring evidences that the people at large, the people right here, the national government, the State governments, do not appreciate national irrigation, and that the public information and the individual knowledge of the subject at this time are strangely dense. The public is fed constantly with lovely articles about the grand national irrigation works under way, while the fact is that all the great values mentioned concerning reclamation of the arid region are the result of private initiative and enterprise and capital.

Few people understand that the national irrigation fund is nothing but a bulk of capital which may be advanced to build reservoirs and ditches, upon a guarantee that the owners of the lands to be irrigated will repay the cost to the fund. The national fund is not to be depleted, but must be replenished by the payment back of the cost of the work, as assessed by the government engineers, and if signatures to such pledges can't be secured, the works proposed will not be built.

Knowing that all government work costs vastly more than if done by private capital, and the United States failing to guarantee the limit of the cost, lots of landowners won't sign, and there you are. Meantime the government officials knock private enterprises and warn the people against them, when, as the situation stands, it is only private enterprise, in promoting irrigation district bonds, in Colorado, at least, that is really doing anything.

Excavator for Irrigation Canals.
A thousand men toiling with shovels and wheelbarrows from sunrise to sunset could not accomplish as much work



DOES THE WORK OF 1,000 MEN EVERY DAY.

as the great steam excavator shown in the illustration performs in eight hours. The burning sun or rain in torrents has no terrors for this mammoth earth-devouring monster. The scene is from a photograph of the construction work on the irrigation canal in Colusa County, California. The artificial river thus created is six miles long, 100 feet wide, and 35 feet to the top of its banks. The Sacramento river furnishes the water which makes fertile 150,000 acres of fruit ranches.

The excavator travels on its own railway tracks on each side of the canal, and as the work proceeds the track is taken up and relaid ahead of the machine. The steel buckets, which have sharp, cutting edges, move constantly by means of endless chains, and empty their load of earth first on one side, then on the other. Wide endless belts carried on rollers carry the earth to the sides of the ditch.

All these movements of the machine are controlled by one leverman, who may be seen in the cut standing on the platform on the left of the bucket. He has control of five separate levers, one for raising and lowering the bucket chain, one for moving the car to the right, and another for moving the car to the left, and another for moving it forward on the side track, and the fifth controls the engine. The rapidity and facility with which all these movements are made is surprising, especially considering the momentum and immense weight of the car and bridge and the excavator's machinery, which is about 300 tons.

Milk River Irrigation Project.
The Great Falls (Mont.) land office has received instruction to withdraw from all forms of entry 276,480 acres of land, in connection with the Milk River irrigation project. Part of the tract withdrawn lies northwest of

Havre, extending irregularly from the line of the Great Northern to the international boundary, comprising part of the chain of lakes, reservoir sites and lands lying along Milk river and Sage creek.

Another portion of the tract lies west of the Montana Central, between the Big Sandy and Box Elder creeks, and is presumably withdrawn in connection with the Marias Diversion canal portion of the Milk river project.

Discover a Water Supply.
Residents of the Pecos valley in New Mexico are excited by the discovery that underlying more than 600,000 acres of desert land is apparently an inexhaustible supply of water. The fame of the region has spread throughout the country, and even to portions of Europe. The water gushes from the ground wherever borings are made and pours over a thirsty land, transforming it into a garden of almost remarkable fertility.

ENGLISH DOCTORS' FEES.
They Are Regulated by the Royal College of Physicians.

The specialists must be divided into two distinct classes, the surgeon proper and the pure physician. The former unquestionably gets big fees in ratio to his reputation. The famous surgeon has only to name his fee to the millionaire with appendicitis. With the fear of death before his eyes he will write his check gladly. When he has recovered he will often grumble if he does not boast. A younger and less known man will perform the same operation for a tithe of the cost, but the public, with death staring them in the face, will have the man with the big name, regardless of expense.

But the pure physician is an entirely different matter. His fees are standardized not by act of Parliament, but by that autocratic body, the Royal College of Physicians. His fees for consultation at his own house are fixed at 2 guineas the first visit and a guinea for each subsequent one. For consultations away from home he receives a fee at the calculated rate of two-thirds of a guinea a mile. Elstree, twelve miles out of town, is ipso facto 8 guineas, Liverpool (201 miles) is 134 guineas, and so on pro rata. But it must be remembered that nowadays all the big provincial centers have their own specialists, and the town man is very seldom sent for unless he be one of the very biggest names and the case desperate and rich.

If the physician should accept more he transgresses that professional fetich, "medical etiquette," and is branded a quack by his less lucky brethren.

Moreover, when he arrives at a sufficient standing in the ranks of his profession the Royal College of Physicians will not elect him to their all important fellowship, the crowning qualification and high water mark of his calling.—London Mail.

A Globe-Trotting Teacher.
Miss Mina Boegli, a Swiss girl, has the distinction of having taught school in nearly every civilized country in the world, although she is barely 27 years of age. She began teaching when she was 18, and a year later decided to take a trip around the world, making her expenses by teaching in the lands through which she passed. With \$150 and a large stock of pluck and courage as her capital, she started out, and it has taken her eight years to accomplish her purpose. During the entire tour of the world she never met with an accident. She was treated with courtesy everywhere, and had plenty of pupils in each country where she chose to stop. She reports that she found Australia the most liberal in paying teachers for their services.

Shark a Commercial Product.
The shark, which is so abundant in the waters of Central America, is to be utilized in commercial products. A company has been formed which converts sharks' fins into jelly and tinned soup, makes fine machinery oil from their livers, handsome leather, equal to alligators', from their skins, walking sticks from their backbones, and numerous articles from their jawbones and teeth.

One isn't necessarily wealthy because he has more money than brains.

Ayer's

Take cold easily? Throat tender? Lungs weak? Any relatives have consumption? Then a cough means a great

Cherry Pectoral

deal to you. Follow your doctor's advice and take Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It heals, strengthens, prevents.

"For 40 years I have depended on Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for coughs and colds. I know it greatly strengthens weak lungs."—Miss F. A. Robinson, Saline, Mich.

See the sign at all drug stores.

Weak Lungs

Ayer's Pills increase the activity of the liver, and thus aid recovery.

Proof Enough.
Victim—You told me that as a "burglarproof" safe.

Dealer—Well? Victim—Well, this morning I found it cracked open and rifled of its contents.

Dealer—What more do you want? Isn't that proof that burglars have been at it?—Philadelphia Ledger.

INVENTION OF PORTLAND MAN.

Creating Great Interest Among Irrigationists and Hydraulic Miners.

What promises to be a priceless boon to the hundreds interested in irrigating and hydraulic mining projects is an invention which has recently been brought to a state of commercial perfection by W. R. Phillips, a practical hydraulic engineer of Portland. It is a hydraulic ram that will utilize any fall of water from three feet up for the purpose of raising a portion of it to any desired level. It is a perfect substitute for the water-wheel and pump combined, with greater efficiency. It requires no attention and involves no cost of operation.

For hydraulic miners it will convert the volume of water into pressure. It enables them to dispense with long and costly pipe lines. It will make available gravel beds heretofore untouched by the hydraulic giant. It is of unquestioned superiority in its application to hydraulic gravel and water elevators. It is thought it will fill the demand of the hydraulic miner for some suitable means of exploiting gravel beds inaccessible to the high heads of water demanded by the hydraulic giant. Recent reports show vast areas of such unexplored gravel beds to exist in the Pacific Northwest.

In an interview with Mr. Phillips, from whom the above information was obtained, we were told that the license to manufacture the ram was sold to the Columbia Engineering Works, of Portland.

Spaniards as Gamblers.
In Europe and the New World the most inveterate gamblers are the Spaniards and their descendants. Among African tribes the Haumas run the Chinese very close; and there are some Kanaka tribes in the South seas who push the hazard of gambling beyond the grave.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

Painfully Frank.
An individual recently went into a drug store and asked for morphine. The druggist objected to dispensing it without a prescription. "Why?" asked the customer. "Do I look like a man who would kill himself?" "I don't know," replied the druggist. "If I looked like you I should be tempted!"

How's This?
We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.
We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.
WELCH & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Asking the Impossible.
Servant—There's no coal, and the fires are going out.
Mistress—Dear me! Why didn't you tell me before?
Servant—I couldn't tell you there was no coal, mum, when there was coal.

Money a Little Scarce.
Hustler—I want to advertise for capital; partner wanted, you know. Here it is. Get it in to-morrow.
Advertising Clerk—Yes, sir. Two dollars and a half, please.
Hustler—Oh, that's all right. I'll pay for the advertisement when I get the capital.