

Topics of the Times

"Millions for libraries," says Mr. Carnegie, "but not one cent for Mrs. Cassie Chadwick."

Vests, according to an English physician, are unwholesome. They should be pulled down oftener.

The consumers are patiently awaiting a decision against the beef packers that will affect the price.

Two or three of the principal cities of this country have not yet been promised \$30,000,000 union depots.

The subjects of the Czar are beginning to regard him as their little father, several generations removed.

While there may be some doubt as to the kind of apple Eve ate, everybody knows what the Adam's apple is.

Brooklyn bridge is to be reconstructed at an expense of \$5,000,000. The ties that bind Greater New York together are costly.

Americans eat more sugar than any other people on earth. It is no wonder, therefore, that they do the most scolding at the sugar trust.

Dr. Coburn says that there are women in Kansas who eat candles. Hurry up now with your pert remarks about the value of a light diet.

Andrew Carnegie expended \$22,000,000 in good work last year, but is not yet poor enough to feel that he is fully prepared to die under the rules.

Many of the stories that come from Russia are declared to be untrue. Still, they may only partially offset hundreds of true stories that do not get out.

Russia has a larger percentage of blind people than any other country in Europe. It also has the largest percentage of people who might see, but refuse to look.

"The New Testament never mentions lawmaking as remedial for the sins of man," says Bishop Potter. But there were no railroad sinners in the New Testament time.

Just think! When you become the oldest inhabitant you can lord it over younger people because you will remember all about the beginning of the Russian revolution.

Any scheme that provides for the drowning of infantile idiots without providing similar discipline for the college hazers will be condemned as discriminative and inadequate.

Argentina has so many horses that the animals injure the camps, and the cattle raisers are beginning to get rid of them to make place for more cattle. Even beggars are mounted in that republic.

The Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis says a great religious revival is about to sweep over the country. A great many sinners high in official and social position certainly are on the anxious seat just now.

Senator Depew expects that in ten years the steam locomotive will be relegated to the museum as a curiosity of the past, and the Senator, although somewhat over 70, intends to live long enough to say "I told you so."

Rodman Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, is said to have his life insured for \$3,200,000. If he should start to play football or volunteer to serve in some war the insurance officials would sit up nights waiting for the returns.

Commander Robert E. Parry is arranging to keep in communication with civilization by wireless telegraphy during his next attempt to reach the north pole. If he should be successful it might not be necessary for him to wait till he returns before announcing the glorious news.

For the erection of the bridge over the Zambezi River, just below the Victoria Falls, on the Cape-to-Cairo Railway, a cable operated by an electric motor is being used to haul material from one side of the river to the other, so that the bridge can be built from both ends simultaneously. The span of the cable is over 900 feet, and it is said by engineers to be the longest of the kind ever used for that purpose.

A school of humanitarian philosophers contends that criminals are the result of conditions not of their own making, and that therefore government should be lenient in punishment and share in the responsibility of all wrongs that are done. This might possibly be a plausible theory if it were practicable. But the times are not yet ripe for such benevolent and altruistic

practices. The first duty of society is to give itself present protection, and the best and quickest way to do this is by weeding out and getting rid of its objectionable and vicious members.

No authentic likeness can now be found of three members of the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States. Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, the portraits are at last complete. It was long supposed that John Morton of Pennsylvania, and Caesar Rodney of Delaware, who had a disfigurement on one side of his face, had left no likeness behind. But patient search was at last rewarded. Of each retiring cabinet officer a painting is now left in his department in Washington, and portraits of all the Presidents may be found on the walls of the White House. It is becoming customary to assemble the historic line of other important officers. But as this had not always been done, the government instituted a search to complete its sets of portraits of prominent officers for the St. Louis fair. That involved long correspondence with relatives and descendants, and a study of the old libraries and local histories. John Gaillard of South Carolina, who was president pro tempore of the Senate nearly a century ago, gave the searchers a long chase, in spite of the number and prominence of his descendants. Four hundred newspapers called attention to the need, but without result. Finally a miniature, painted when he was 18 years old, was discovered. In reproducing it in the regular form, no attempt was made to represent Mr. Gaillard otherwise than as a youth. Another of the most earnestly sought pictures was at last found in an obscure corner of the department over which the man had presided, where it had been wholly forgotten. No authentic likeness is known to exist of Major L'Enfant, who laid out the city of Washington. With the wonders of modern photography, it is hard to realize how serious a matter the making of a picture once was.

President Elliot, of Harvard University, will be regarded by football players in all the colleges of the country as their bitter enemy because of the attack he has made on their game in his annual report. The football players will, however, be wrong. Enemy though he be to some of the modern methods of the game, President Elliot could not have done a more genuine service to college sport than by speaking as he has. The professionalism on many college teams and the exaggerated follies of football hero-worship are well enough known. President Elliot goes deeper in his analysis and attacks the morals of the game. Football is now played, he tells us, as though it were war. The stratagems, deceptions and brutalities of war are imitated as far as may be. The ordinary standards of honor and dishonor are forgotten in the "scientific" game. Whatever argument may be made for the use of deception and treachery in war, where the struggle is for life and death, no argument at all can be made for similar methods in a contest which is only for amusement. The game as it is now played would be condemned by the very statement of the charges against it, even if it had no harmful effect on the after lives of its devotees. But since football training is a training that does not wear off, since the football game sends many young men from the colleges forth into the business world, there to wage ruthless business war and help to lower standards that are already low enough as it is, the evil becomes one of the greatest importance. The universities cannot afford to let their students be influenced for harm in such ways as this. On President Elliot's showing they must either make the game become once more a "gentlemanly game" or they must banish it entirely. Even the more radical treatment, if it becomes necessary, will be beneficial to genuine college sport, as well as to the universities and the public.

The Value of the Classics.
Evangelicalism half a century ago, as reflected in the letters of our ancestors, was peculiarly icy, and of a kind to freeze up the high spirits of young people.

In 1850 a devoted mother wrote to her boy, after he had gone to a preparatory school "to fit for college," and said:

"I am glad you are reading Plato and Herodotus. Communing with the dead, you will learn how to die."

That was the worldliest sentiment in this letter to a boy of fifteen, except an injunction not to squander his monthly allowance of two dollars "in foolish purchases of sweets and trivial knick-knacks."

In the Deep Sea.

Statisticians find that something like 2,000 vessels of all sorts disappear in the sea every year, never to be heard from again, taking with them 12,000 human beings and involving a money loss of \$100,000,000.

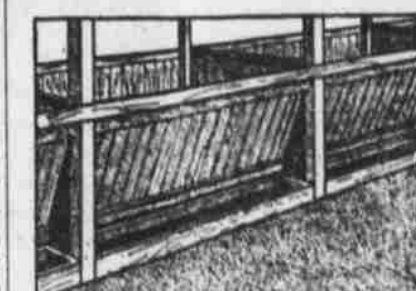
We were told the revolution in Russia was led by Father Gapon, but it seems to have been led by Peter Outsky.



CONVENIENT PIG PEN FRONT.

The illustration herewith shows a convenient pig-pen front. The feed trough is securely fastened at the front side of the pen, and the side or wall of the pen is hinged at the top so it will swing over the trough. An iron rod is passed through the bottom cross-piece and inserted in another hole in either edge of the trough.

When feeding, the rod is lifted, the gate swung back, and the rod is dropped in the hole in the back edge of the trough. To let the pigs eat, the gate is swung toward the feeder, and the rod pushed down into the hole in outside edge of trough. Such an arrangement will save much annoyance and give each pig a chance to get his share of the meal. The illustration



SWINGING FRONT PIG PEN.

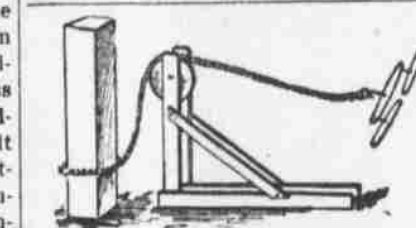
shows the front swung back so that the feed can be put into the troughs.—Exchange.

Paris Green and Weevil.

That the boll weevil is not to be driven out of our Southern cotton fields by the use of paris green is the conclusion of the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture after extensive observations and experiments. This conclusion is based upon the following facts: "1. Persistent use of paris green from the time of chopping until picking (in some cases as many as fifteen applications) has failed to materially reduce the numbers of the weevils or to increase the yield. 2. Careful examination of very many experiments with the poison made by planters in Texas has failed to reveal conclusive instances of its successful use. 3. Reasons for the impossibility of poisoning weevils successfully are to be found in the facts that only a very small percentage emerge from hibernation before the squares are set upon the plants, that they do not drink the dew on the leaves at night, and that as soon as squares are set all feeding is done within the shelter of the bracts (shuck) beyond the reach of any poison that might be applied."

Post Puller.

The post puller illustrated is a strong and durable one. It will pull any fence post. The two uprights are 2x6 inches and 3 feet long, mortised in 12x36-inch scantling, and 2 inches thick and braced. Bore a 1-inch hole in upper end of uprights, in which



EFFECTIVE POST PULLER.

insert a small pulley wheel. Take a chain, fasten around lower end of post; put chain over wheel; hitch horse to end of chain. By this device you can pull a more solid post than by hand.

Government Whitewash.

If you ever expect to do any whitewashing you had better cut this out and save it. The recipe is as follows: Slake half a bushel of lime in boiling water, covering to keep in the steam. Strain the liquid, and add a peck of salt previously dissolved in warm water, three pounds ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot, one-half pound Spanish whiting, and one pound glue dissolved by soaking in cold water and then hung over a slow fire in a glue pot. To this mixture add five gallons of hot water, stir well and let stand for several days covered from dust. It is better applied hot.

Productive Island Farms.

In some respects, American farmers might take a lesson from those of the Jersey Islands in the English Channel. On one farm of say forty acres, a man expects to keep thirty cows, a large herd of swine, and employ five or six men. The climate is very favorable for fodder crops, but a part of the success of the Channel Island farming is owing to the excellent stock kept and the care taken in saving manure and tilling the land.

Owens Want More Money.

A farm exchange says:

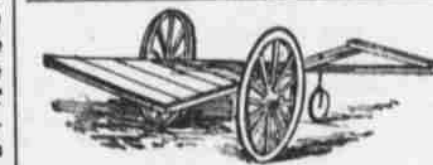
It is reported that in some sections where there are many hogs their owners are positively refusing to take less than 4 cents a pound for them on the farm, and buyers are finding themselves "up against a hard proposition," as they put it, for the packers' price will not allow the farm price demanded. But it looks as if the farmers are standing pat, judging by the receipts of hogs at the big markets. For instance: For the week closing with the writing of this the receipts at Chicago alone were 62,000 head, against 98,000 head the previous week, and 62,000 head the corresponding week last year. It will not be necessary to keep up such light receipts more than a week or two to bring the packers to terms. And at this season that much more feeding can doubtless be done without loss to the feeders. At all events, with feeding stuffs at their present price, hogs cannot and should not be sold at less than 4 cents, if cost of production is considered a factor in the business.

Checking Root Gail.

When new apple trees are received from the nursery they should be carefully inspected to make sure that they are not affected with root gail. This disease is now very prevalent in some nurseries, and great care must be exercised. It is a disease, that spreads through the soil, and a single tree may introduce it into an orchard, where it may undo the work of years. We have several times illustrated root gail in these columns, and it does not seem advisable to repeat the illustration at this time. Suffice it to say that it is a gail appearing on the roots, and any tree affected with a protuberance of this kind should be discarded. This is the first thing to be looked out for in planting trees. The shape of the tree is important, but it is less important than to know whether or not the tree has a disease that will prove deadly to itself and to other trees in the same orchard.

Handy Farm Cart.

I have found that a cart with two wheels made as shown in the illustration by using the rear wheels of an old buggy with the axle clamped to the frame by clamp bolts to be a nice



HANDY FARM CART.

cart for almost any purpose, and especially for garden use. I recently took the milk to the cheese factory when all the horses were in use.—H. F. Jahnke, in Iowa Democrat.

Illinois Farms Sell High.

Why do Illinois farm lands sell for \$125 to \$200 an acre? Because they are productive. This year one Christian County farmer gathered a field of corn which yielded 119 bushels to the acre. The corn was sold for 37 cents a bushel, a gross return of \$43 per acre. Taking out the cost of growing the crop, there still remains a big interest on the investment, even if the land be valued at \$200 per acre. While yields as large as this are exceptional, they are becoming more and more common. With improved seed and improved methods of culture, the average yield on good land is increasing. This is one of the reasons land is going up.

Progress and Cost of Irrigation.

The Census Bureau has issued a report on the condition of irrigation in the United States in 1902, showing that 33,415 systems with 59,311 miles of main canals and ditches were irrigating 9,487,077 acres on 134,036 farms. The amount expended in constructing all these systems was \$93,320,452. The average cost of construction per acre in the arid region was \$9.14, and the average per irrigation system was \$2,710. The report says that the great obstacle to the development of irrigation in Texas and New Mexico is the present treaty between Mexico and this country, which prohibits the impounding of the waters of the Rio Grande.

Cold Storage of Fruits.

The cold storage of fruit has grown to large proportions, nearly 3,000,000 barrels of apples having been stored in the United States as a result of investigations during the last year. It is found that the condition in which the fruit is grown and the manner of handling it determine to a large extent its keeping quality and ultimate value.

The success of a few poultry growers has attracted the attention of quite a number of Florida farmers, who think the industry may prove an important one in that State. Very few of the natives understand the modern methods as practiced at the North, particularly with regard to fighting insect pests and diseases. The climate itself is asserted to be remarkably favorable, so that chickens can be successfully hatched and raised every month in the year, although from October to May is considered the most profitable time.



Science AND Invention

Ball-playing seems to be physiologically beyond feminine powers. After careful investigation, the principal of a girls' college finds that a larger and lower-setting collarbone makes the movement of the girl's arm less free than that of the boy's, so that she cannot hope to throw well.

"Pneumatic lubrication" is what Dr. Carlo Del Lungo, of Genoa, calls his new plan for increasing the speed of ships. It consists in reducing the density of the surrounding water by pumping air into it, creating a foamy stratum in which the vessel slips forward against greatly lessened resistance.

A Norwegian engineer has recently invented a new apparatus for sea sounding by which it is not necessary to touch bottom. This is accomplished by an acoustic method. The depths are also registered graphically upon a revolving drum. The operation of the device depends upon the time which sound takes to travel to the bottom and return, and the measurement of the time thus gives the depth to which the exploring apparatus is lowered.

A safety device for the protection of persons from the electric current upon the rupture of a trolley wire has been invented recently. By the employment of this arrangement the current is cut off and the wire rendered harmless. The device is fitted to each section of the wire and consists of an ordinary connecting ear held in its proper position by the strain on the trolley wire. As soon as this tension is released, as by the breaking of the trolley wire, the current is immediately cut off at the broken section without any "shorting" sparks whatever.

Gales and high tides have reminded the Englishman that his little island is being gradually swallowed up by the sea. It has been found that Great Britain lost 148,906 acres between 1867 and 1880, and 29,153 acres between 1880 and 1890. A survey in the reign of Edward I. gave the Duchy of Cornwall 1,500,000 acres, but the Ordnance Survey some years ago showed that this had been reduced to 839,500 acres. Villages have disappeared in the ocean, as in the case of Danwich, of which nothing remains but a ruined church on the edge of a cliff.

Dr. Walther Thorner has invented an apparatus by which photographs may be made of the retina of the human eye. Heretofore, says the Scientific American, it has been possible to study the retina and its diseases only by direct observation with the eye speculum. The fixed image furnished by the photographic apparatus enables the physician to study the condition of a diseased retina at his leisure. Previous attempts to photograph the interior of the eye are said to have failed because of the difficulty of securing a proper illumination without pain and injury to the patient.

Telegraph and telephone lines of the Belgian Congo region in Africa show some interesting peculiarities. Where the lines run through the forests the wires are placed as much as possible upon trees and in other cases upon iron poles. The wire, which is of phosphor-bronze, is painted black, so as not to attract the attention of the natives, who lay hands upon all the copper they can find. A cutting thirty feet wide is made through the forest for the line. The first hours after sunset are the best for telephone. After 10 o'clock in the morning the heat makes it impossible to use the telephone, especially in the rainy season.

Baby Carriages for Hire.

"Baby carriages hired by the week," read a sign appearing over the door of a place of business uptown.

"Who wants to hire baby carriages by the week?" asked a man whose eye had chanced to fall upon this sign, and who was curious concerning it.

"Visitors from out of town," was the answer, "people with small children who come here to spend a week or two with friends or relatives. They want a baby carriage while they are here, but don't want to bring one; they hire one after they get here. From strangers stopping with people we don't know a deposit is required."

"How much is the rent? A dollar a week; for either baby carriage or go-cart."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Overheard by Bassler.

"I've got an awful cold," remarked the Weather.

"Indeed!" exclaimed the Wind.

"What are you doing for it?"

"I'm taking a drop of mercury every hour," answered the Weather, with an icy smile.

Some people in answering the telephone have a tone of voice which says: "Well, who are you, and why do you have the impudence to call me?" Or, "I am sick and tired of answering this telephone. What is wanted this time?"