

Topics of the Times

Even the man who isn't square may be cornered.

"The glory that was Greece" seems to have passed to the United States.

The Czar of Russia is only 38, but he has had almost reverses enough to make him 88.

If a man boasts that he has no enemies he seldom has occasion to boast of his friends.

In view of recent disclosures Mr. Rockefeller's income probably has been underestimated.

Notwithstanding his advancing years the Sultan of Turkey seems to be about the same old Sultan.

Now that Cuba has had a \$500,000 fire there is no more doubt that she is becoming Americanized.

The man who never made a success of anything in his life always wonders why other men do not heed his advice.

Mr. Rockefeller's taste in art is said to be crude. That may be because he has used his refinery for other purposes.

Of course, when the psalmist fixed man's limit of time at three score and ten he had never heard of Uncle Joe Cannon.

Now that a hospital for the very rich is projected, the doctors will have to think up some more exclusive disease than appendicitis for them to have.

"I admire the spirit that never gives up," said John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to his Bible class. Must be a great admirer of dad, who doesn't give up much.

Millinery may be taught in some of the Chicago schools next year. This is encouraging. The time may come when every girl will be able to make her own hats.

If we have the right idea of the speed of Mr. Harriman's train across the country, when doing its best, it passes eight or ten given points at the same time.

Congress has voted to have the United States build the largest battleship in the world. By the time the keel is laid down England will have made arrangements to construct a 21,000-tonner.

A prophet who predicted the Mont Pelée disaster, the eruption of Vesuvius and the San Francisco earthquake says New York will be destroyed within two years. This isn't likely, however, to worry Wall street half as much as the scarcity of lambs, which, according to recent reports, is becoming more evident day by day.

The average man is not accustomed to regard his health as his very best asset, yet that is precisely what it is. The man who will accord due regard to his health, from a strictly business standpoint, will go further, last longer and accomplish more in the end than one who makes health an after-consideration. Success which is attained at the expense of health is worth absolutely nothing to the man who attains it. There is no pleasure either in the process or in the final result.

The aim of the reformers in school and college athletics should be clearly and directly the betterment of conditions, not the extirpation of the love of combat which is inherent in the nature of mankind. The notion that hard general work, resulting in full muscular development, saps vitality, weakens the organs and is a wearying incubus to the individual is so illogical as hardly to deserve an answer. But some persons believe this. Such should pity the wild animals that, guided only by an instinctively physiological need, run, jump, pursue and wrestle with one another, thereby using and developing fully their whole bodies.

The growing importance of the gulf ports for the shipment of western produce is gathered from a statement recently issued by the Department of Commerce. For the ten months ending with April Galveston, New Orleans and Mobile exported \$30,000,000 worth of breadstuffs, against \$33,000,000 worth for all the Chesapeake ports, including Baltimore, and \$37,000,000 worth for New York. New York's lead is readily accounted for by the advantage it has in the cheap water route through the lakes and the Erie canal, which also give her not a little wheat from the Canadian fields. With a deep waterway from Chicago to the mouth of the Mississippi, New Orleans, which contributes \$10,500,000 to the above total of \$30,000,000 for the three gulf

ports, would in all likelihood excel New York in the shipments of breadstuffs and other western produce.

A year ago the trolley car began to displace the horse car. It soon became manifest that the displacement would become general. Many were led to anticipate the downfall of the horse, or, at least, a great decline in the value of horses, owing to their banishment from one field of usefulness. A little later came the automobile. It has commenced taking the place in the city of the draft horse as well as of the carriage horse. That led to predictions that the day of the horse was over and that the raising of them would become a decaying industry. The horse refuses to go, and his value has advanced. On Jan. 1, 1897, there were 14,364,000 horses in this country. On the first day of 1906 there were 18,718,000. In nine years there has been an increase of 30 per cent. The gain in the number of mules has been great, but not so large. In 1897 there were 2,215,000. This year, notwithstanding the heavy purchases made by the British Government during the Boer war, there are 3,400,000. The increase in the valuation of these animals is more surprising than in their numbers. The total value of horses has advanced from \$452,000,000 to \$1,510,000,000, and of mules from \$92,500,000 to \$334,000,000. It is hard to explain such an advance in values, except on the theory that the valuation in 1897 was too low or that for 1906 a little inflated. Even after making all allowances it is manifest that the value of the horse and mule has not been affected by the introduction of improved modes of locomotion. One may rest assured that the 18,700,000 American horses are not eating their heads off. Those that are old enough are employed on the farms and in the city. The supposition that horse power might be supplanted by electric power was not well founded. There is so much work to be done in the United States that both kinds of power are needed, and probably always will be.

Speakers at a meeting of the Woman's Trade Union League in Chicago maintained the other day that the wages of women are far below the American standard of decent living, and that it is high time to disabuse employers of the notion that women workers are willing to receive unequal pay for equal work. Some put the minimum "living wage" at \$15 and some at \$25, but all agreed that a rate of \$4 or \$7 means "charitable assistance" in some form or another. Impartial and intelligent students of the question of woman in industry—like the two University of Chicago women who dealt with it in the Journal of Political Economy only a few months ago—recognize that women hardly ever do "the same work" as men. "The demand for the same wage," say the university investigators, "can be based only on the claim that there is the 'same work.' In the face of the facts just presented, it is fair to ask, Where is the same work to be found under present conditions?" "The facts presented" in the article indicate that there is little direct competition between men and women workers. The last census report says that "if we look at the list of occupations we find women doing the lighter work, the mechanical work, the less skilled" in the industries where they work by the side of men. American and British labor reports contain plenty of evidence that "women and children perform the lighter, while men perform the heavier grades" of work in occupations which employ both sexes. The question of equal pay for equal work is by no means as simple as it looks. With regard to the "living wage" generally, is it true that the women who receive less than \$15 a week in a large city must in the end have recourse to charitable assistance? The girl who lives at home and is in part supported by the head of the family is not dependent on charity. Her wages may not cover all her expenses, but the family does not expect that they should. All can live in comfort where the wages of the father are supplemented by those of two or more children. Under these circumstances—and they are the rule rather than the exception—says the Chicago Record-Herald, women are certainly willing to work for lower wages than they would need were they compelled to support themselves absolutely and to enjoy none of the advantages of family economy and co-operation. In regard to amusements, it is not to be overlooked that girls seldom pay for such things; their boy friends and acquaintances being only too anxious to "take them" to the theater, the summer garden, the skating rink, and so on. An industrial order based on supply and demand, on competition, automatically governs itself by such facts and circumstances.

Asking an Innocent Question.
First Actress—Why, haven't you heard, dear, I'm engaged for one of the principal parts in "Beauty and the Beast."

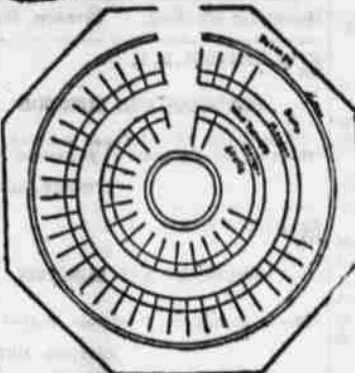
Second Actress—How nice! And who plays beauty?—London Tatler.

FARMS AND FARMERS



An Eight-Sided Barn.

Here is a plan for a barn of the eight-sided or octagon shape. This octagonal barn is 25 feet on each side, providing accommodation for about fifty head of cattle. There is a considerable gain in floor space when the octagon form is used instead of the square form, the same amount of wall enclosing a greater number of square feet. The main objection to an eight-sided barn is that it is difficult to fill with a hay fork or shear carrier. This may be largely overcome by erecting a gable on one of the sides of the roof and running a track in from that height, which may be extended to within 20 feet of the opposite wall. The roof requires to be self-supporting and to secure this the plates should be bolted together at the



corners and held by a band of iron 4 feet long, bent to fit and solidly bolted so that the corners can never spread. In the stable part the larger cattle should be assigned to the outer circle, the smaller ones to the inner row. One feeding alley serves for the two rows, and a circular track can be arranged for carrying silage. In order to get sufficient light there requires to be an almost continuous window about three feet above the ground.—Montreal Star.

Drought Rather Than Moisture.

It is much easier for one to be independent of dry weather than of wet unless the soil is naturally wet, so that it may be pipe drained and thus get rid of the excessive moisture and this is an expensive operation, but, notwithstanding, a most desirable one in the end. Potato growers are perhaps more interested in the problem of how to battle with dry weather than growers of any other crop and, under normal conditions, the secret is simply to see that the soil is properly supplied with humus or vegetable matter.

It is folly, or will be found so after a few years, to attempt to grow potatoes on the same ground year after year or to grow them wholly by the aid of commercial fertilizers. Here is where it pays to make every possible effort to grow clover for getting heavy crops of clover under the soil will add the required humus, which, in connection with first-class seed, care and cultivation, will enable one to grow heavy crops of potatoes in normal seasons and better than your neighbor's in dry seasons.

This question of getting humus into the soil is one that must be met sooner or later by every farmer and especially by those who pin their faith very largely to commercial fertilizers.

Rye for Pasture.

The early rye always shows itself soon after the weather begins to moderate in the spring, and some farmers usually then begin to use it for pasture. It is a mistake to use the rye too early, as it may cause scours. It is very laxative in its effects, being watery, and a change from dry feed to young rye very early in the season may result in loss of milk.

The Pleasing Garden.

If you have a garden it carries with it the satisfaction of going out early in May and gathering radishes, lettuce, young onions and spinach. A few weeks later early peas and beets are there for the taking. By the Fourth of July early potatoes, sweet and nutty, after a fashion never found in any store, can be dug. In succession follow snap beans, crisp cucumbers, tomatoes, corn that is sweet in something more than name and muskmelons, fragrant, melting, delicious.

Profit in Forest Thinning.

A bulletin entitled "Improvement Thinning" has been issued by the State forester of Massachusetts. The author shows that the growth on considerable areas can be improved and made more productive by the application of moderate thinning while the stands are in the process of development. Thin as often as the material to be removed will pay for its removal is the rule laid down as to how often to thin. As to the degree to which it is safe to thin, the cover should never be broken to such an extent that it will not close again in two or three years and cast a dense shade. In answer to the objection that is sometimes urged that such work is impracticable under existing conditions of the labor and wood market, the author refers to the fact that thinning has been done and is going on now in Massachusetts and neighboring States, and that it has not only paid for itself, but has in some instances yielded a net profit of from twenty-five cents to \$2 on each cord of wood removed.

Prepare the Wool Well.

A wool grower sending wool to market in a heavy, dirty condition, leaving anything in the fleece to make more weight, and expecting to get more money is greatly mistaken. Buyers estimate the value of the clip by the net yield of clean wool. When growers do their best they secure for themselves the best results. The soundness of the fiber may be tested by stretching a small staple between the fingers. Staple $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length up, is classed combed below clothing. Labor expended in preparing the clip for sale is well bestowed and brings its own reward. The yolk in wool is the oily substance which gives color and lends softness to the fleece. It also promotes the growth of the fleece and prevents the wearing of the fiber. Good feeding, shelter and care promotes this secretion.

Fumigating the Orchard.

The insect tax upon this country's agricultural interests is something stupendous. Indeed, were it not for the ravages of insects, great and small, the life and profits of the horticulturist would be so attractive as to completely change the present attitude toward their occupation. The government experts are doing an enormous amount of educative work in determining the exact organisms that are responsible for each particular form of damage and the best method of combating same. Fumigation is one of the modern farmer's magic science wands by which, in a trice, he clears his crops of insect life that if not held eradicated would probably destroy his entire crop. In California immense balloonlike arrangements of canvas are used in fumigating fruit trees, and now a Texas inventor



proposes to modify the plan, with the idea of making it available for smaller crops, such as cotton and corn. The appliance consists of a supporting truck for movement over the ground, generally by the use of horses, a combustion chamber for the formation of the fumes, or gases employed as fumigant, and a framework, adjustable as to heights, and a hood covering the whole. At the rear a deflector curtain is provided, with a depending shield extending across the combustion chamber to deflect the fumes and force them into contact with the plants. With an apparatus of this general type it is possible to effectively and rapidly treat large numbers of plants, the deflector or hood extending over two full rows of plants.—Sacramento Bee.

Awake in Mexico.

Mexican farming interests are waking up under the example of their neighbors of the North, and a new school of agriculture is to be established under the charge of one of Luther Burbank's co-workers. This school is the first of the kind to be established in Mexico, and is located near the boundary line. The conditions there are similar to those in Texas and south California, and a high grade of agriculture may be expected under intelligent methods.

GRACIE IS MARRIED AGAIN.

This Makes Six Times for Millionaire Snell's Daughter.

Gracie Snell is married again. This would be nothing remarkable except for the fact that she has been married five times before this. With such a good start at her age she promises to eclipse all records. She is a daughter of Amos J. Snell, the Chicago millionaire, who was murdered in his home in 1888 and whose murderer was never captured. Here is Gracie's record:

1884—At 16 years of age ran away with and was married to Frank Nixon Coffin, formerly coachman and dancing master. Forgiven by her father, she lived with her husband for ten years. Three children born.

1894—Divorced on grounds of incompatibility.

1898—Reunited to former husband by plea of eldest boy, who was ill. Married at bedside of dying child.

1899—Obtained second divorce from Coffin on ground of intoxication.

1899—Married to James C. Walker, then clerk in Virginia Hotel. Gave



MRS. GRACE SNELL COFFIN, ETC.

him \$50,000 with which he purchased an interest in the Fountain Hotel Waukesha, Wis.

1901—Obtained divorce from husband in September on charges of cruelty. Asserted that he burned manuscripts representing her literary labors.

1901—Married for third time to Frank Nixon Coffin, Oct. 17. Honeymoon in Metropole Hotel lasted four hours. Divorced Coffin Nov. 11 of the same year.

1903—Married to Perkins A. Layman, clerk in Vannoy Hotel, California.

1906—Married to Hugh M. Love, a young California newspaper man who is a graduate of the University of California.

Exonerating Venables.

Once when W. Holman Hunt, the English painter, was dining with Thackeray, he noticed a marble bust of the novelist as a boy. The bust was well modeled, says Hunt in his recently published volume of reminiscences of "Pre-Raphaelism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood," and admirable for its open expression. It registered the form of the nose, the sinking of the bridge which distinguished his handsome, dignified face.

As Hunt gazed he recalled the reported remark of the housekeeper at Charterhouse, after Thackeray's pugilistic encounter with Venables, and on seeing the bust which Thackeray's face had received:

"You have destroyed the looks of the handsomest boy in the school."

When Hunt had silently decided this, Thackeray noticed him, and exclaimed: "I know what you are wondering at. You want to know whether the bust was done 'before or after.' Well, it was done before."

His Winning Way.

"I don't see," began an argumentative citizen, "why, if that member of Congress is as unpopular and generally obnoxious to everybody as the newspapers say he is, he gets so many things from the House." Then, says the New York Tribune, a man who knew explained.

"Suppose," he said, "you were a business man having imperative business to attend to, and a man came in and sat down next to you and began to file a saw—wouldn't you give him what he wanted?"

No Back Action.

Mr. Gladstone knew how to admit that he was in the wrong. On one occasion he did so, candidly and handsomely, as becomes a gentleman.

But he preferred to keep clear of the necessity for apologies, and had scant belief in their efficacy.

"You can't unpull a man's nose," he once said to his private secretary, Sir Algernon West.

Obesity a Nervous Disorder.

Dr. Gabriel Leven, a Paris physician, says obesity is a nervous disorder, caused by a form of dyspepsia.

After all, flowery eloquence never attained a compliment as pleasing as this one of three words: "You suit me."