

## Topics of the Times

The country can stand many kinds of isms, but it draws the line at Gorky-ism.

Andrew Carnegie is getting the speechmaking habit. Well, he has a fund of eloquence amounting to millions.

The muck rakers all the same have done a useful work in uncovering the "deferred dividend" rottenness in the big New York life insurance companies.

Russia is reported to be playing a deep game in the far East. But this is not likely to cause any astonishment. People have ceased to expect Russia to be sensible.

President Castro of Venezuela has withdrawn from the active performance of his duties, and left the vice president in charge. He has announced that he wishes to go into the country for his health. The condition of affairs in Venezuela suggests a hidden significance in those last three words.

The successful man is not the idler, the good fellow or the miser. He has accomplished something. He has an aim in life and he is helping others to reach their goal. The truly successful man is better when he leaves the world than when he came into it, and the world is a little better for his having been here.

During a discussion in Congress a railway clerk was named as having suggested in 1892 that mail be assorted and distributed in the mail cars. This idea, however, did not originate in this country. Fifty years ago a picture was published in Harper's Magazine, showing a French "railway postoffice" with the clerks at work sorting mail.

The colored races of Asia are beginning to realize that they are not so inferior to the whites when they adopt the customs and methods of the latter. It will take a long time, however, to get all the Chinese and all the Hindoos to break away from their oriental prejudices and take up civilized and occidental methods. There are no people anywhere so wedded to the past as these orientals and there is none so intolerant of change. The dawn may be breaking in Asia, but it will be a long time before the noonday is reached.

Whether or not pictures should be exempt from duty on the ground that they are different from other hand-made goods, it is certainly true that making pictures for the American market is a considerable industry in some European cities. Munich, which is known to the more scornful of other European cities as the center of commercial art, sends the largest supply of oil-paintings and water-colors to this country, but Berlin is not much behind Munich. It is not the "made-in-Germany" kind that we are chiefly anxious to get, but the kind made a few centuries ago in Spain and Italy.

Scientists are capable of making people feel very dissatisfied with the future. It is a part of their duty to stir mortals up, if only to smooth them down again with "discoveries," therefore it behooves the imaginative to reflect before giving way to their emotions. One of the latest prodia is this announcement of the wise men, that the planet earth is drying up and that man will eventually die of thirst. Didn't so many men die of it now we should be more nervous at the picture the scientist draws of the coming time when human life by overcrowding, starvation, cold and heat will be destroyed. "Not in our time" is the only comfort to be extracted from these researches and comparisons.

A mother can never be certain what word spoken to her child may make a lasting impression on career and character. When Frederick Temple, the late Archbishop of Canterbury, was a poor boy, wearing patched clothes and patched shoes, his mother stimulated his courage and guided his zeal. The boy one day waxed critical over the inconsistencies of English spelling, "Fred, don't argue," said his mother; "do your work." He never forgot the advice. When, as Primate of All England, the boy had risen to the position scarcely second in dignity and influence to any in the British empire, he acted on his mother's injunction: "Don't argue; do your work." The archbishop lived perhaps too much the life of action and too little that of thought; but for better or for worse, the mother's words had been potent and determining. "My mother was a good woman, and she used to say the world owed us a living," said a wretched girl arrested for shiplifting. So the deluding phrase of the good but foolish mother had been cherished as justification for a life of petty crime. While preachers and teachers try to find occasion for im-

printing some counsel on the memory of children, mothers preach and teach, consciously or unconsciously, from morning till night, week in and week out. It is a part of their lot that they cannot choose which of the many seeds they sow shall strike root, spring up, and bear fruit.

For the average man success frequently depends more upon his manner and appearance than upon his knowledge of his trade or business, or, one might also say, of his profession. A Chicago newspaper has lately been noting some failures and their causes. It cites the case of one man who was a successful salesman in a business house in Chicago, but was unable to get any custom when sent on the road. The general manager of the business went to lunch with him one day, to talk over the matter. The man crumbed crackers into his soup until it was thick, and then ate the mixture from the end of his spoon in great mouthfuls. When the meat was served, he shoveled it in with his knife, and had finished eating and was noisily picking his teeth almost before the manager had begun his meal. In reply to a question, he told the manager that he always took his customers out to lunch, and "used every method to win their confidence and friendship." The manager then said, "You couldn't sell me a stick of gum. No man whose personal habits are so obtrusively vulgar as yours could have the slightest influence with me. Had I lunched with you before sending you out on the road, I would never have disgraced our house by giving it such a representative." These words hurt, but the man profited by them, and to-day is one of the most gentlemanly as well as one of the most successful salesmen on the road. Another case cited is that of a minister whose unrefined manners annoyed his women relatives. They tried to help him, but he resented their suggestions, and men less able intellectually, but with more of the graces of refinement in their manners, were called to the opportunities for service in the pulpits of the large and influential churches. They used to teach manners in the old days. Now there is little formal instruction. If a youth does not learn good manners at home, he has to pick them up when he gets out into the world, or else be handicapped. Great geniuses have commanded respect in spite of boorishness, but it is never safe for a young man to assume that he is a genius.

That was a wise man who said that he could do a year's work in eleven months, but he could not do it in twelve; and although few persons could put it so pithily, it is pretty generally recognized that the poorest economy is that which would curtail or forego the annual holiday. Even those daily toilers who leave the city each night for a suburban or a country home need their annual outing. If they do not wish to travel for it, let them stay at home and take their rest where they belong. In this way the great value of the vacation is obtained—they get out of the rut. It is the rut, the monotonous regularity of toil that cries for relief. The holiday may mean many things—change of air and scene, abatement from every form of work, or ardent occupation with sports. Any and all may be good, but the great thing is to change the point of wear and tear, to have the wheels go round some other way. The "pace that kills" is the same thing, at the same hour, in the same way, until one could echo the poor Irishwoman who thought it would be such a rest to iron Monday and wash Tuesday. This is why each individual should be (but is not always) the best judge of the kind of rest needed. Each knows best where the grind comes, where the shoe pinches, and the choice of change should be guided by that knowledge. The worn-out teacher, who has all the year been overdrawing her reserve force, should spend her time of rest with those who have something to give her, some store of vitality and nervous energy on which she can draw in her turn. The woman who has spent a long winter so troubled with domestic problems that that life has become one long-drawn-out irritation should shut up her house, and let some other woman lodge and feed her. Some measure of outdoor sport should be within reach of all, although the good of a vacation is often destroyed by too much ambition in this respect on the part of those unaccustomed to long or hard exercise. Those who wish to climb mountains or take long tramps or indulge in vigorous exercise of any kind should begin very gradually, and keep well within their strength. It is safe to say that people exercise too much rather than not enough in their holidays. It is so customary to join fresh air with exercise in the same phrase that it is easy to forget that one can have all the fresh air one needs with only just as much exercise as one chooses.

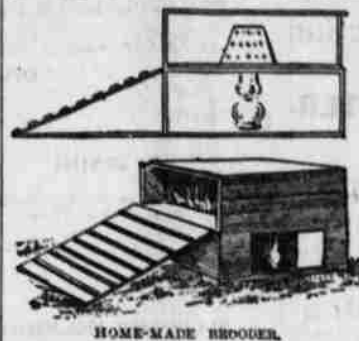
### A Doubting Thomas.

She—Did you let father know you owned a lot of house property?  
He—I hinted at it.  
She—What did he say?  
He—He said, "Deeds speak louder than words."



### A Home-Made Brooder.

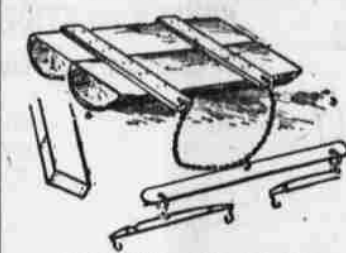
The brooders sold by manufacturers are usually all that are claimed for them, but when one desires to economize, a home-made affair can be constructed by anyone with a little ingenuity which will work nicely. Take two boxes of convenient size, three feet square by fifteen or eighteen inches high is a good size, and set one on top of the other, cutting a hole through each directly in the middle. The hole in the bottom or floor of the upper box is covered



with an inverted tin pail, or can, which is perforated at intervals of two inches, using a wire nail for the work and punching in. Fit this can snugly over the hole and place the regular brooder lamp underneath it, resting on floor of the lower box. A little door is made in the side of the lower box so that the lamp may be properly attended to. The roof of the upper box is lined with cotton flannel, as are also the sides, except the front, which is left open and across it, three inches from the edge, is nailed a strip (double) of cotton flannel, which is cut in strips an inch wide. A walkway is built from the ground to this opening through which the chicks pass. Essential ventilation may be had by boring a few tiny holes in the upper box at a point furthest away from the lamp.—Exchange.

### A Profitable Implement.

On soil that is inclined to lump up some implement must be used which will level the soil readily, and at the same time crush the clods. Such an implement can readily be made at home and be quite as effective as those which must be bought for the purpose, if one has a leaning toward manufactured articles. This home-made clod crusher and soil leveler can be made of a log of hard wood by splitting it in half. The log should be about two feet in diameter to work to the best advantage. Lay the two halves of the log side by side with the rounding part down and at either end, about a foot from the end, spike a two-by-four strip, letting them project out sufficiently far at one side so that an iron strip or hoop may be set over the ends, into which to hook the whiffletree chains. This implement can be made at small cost, and unless the logs are too heavy a good team of horses can



CLOD-CRUSHER AND LEVELER.

handle it nicely. The illustration shows the idea clearly and how very simple it is.—Indianapolis News.

### Sheep Are Good Fertilizers.

When a flock of sheep is kept on a field the land will be made fertile in a short time, as the sheep not only distribute the manure, but press it into the ground by trampling, the loss being but little. For that reason it has been said that "the foot of the sheep is gold to the land." A flock of sheep, however, cannot add anything to the land other than to prevent waste of materials, which they naturally consume and are, therefore, more valuable when they are fed at a barn at night, the additional food rendering the manure valuable.

### German Carp.

A few years ago there was considerable enthusiasm regarding German carp. A pond covering one acre will, it is stated, hold 7,000 carp to growing condition, if they are fed. The carp will eat anything that a hog will consume, even corn, and will gain about three pounds annually until it reaches 12 or 15 pounds. Belonging to the "sucker" family of fishes, the carp has not become popular in this country, and probably never will, as it is not very desirable, compared with other varieties of fish.

### Hood Crops in the Orchard.

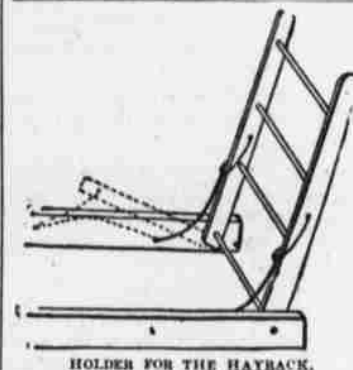
The best orchardists are averse to growing anything in the orchards but the trees even when the latter are young. They argue, and properly, that the growing trees need all the virtue there is in the soil and that if the apple crops in future years are to be of any value they must be provided for during the earlier years of the trees. There are fruit growers, on the other hand, who insist that a hood crop will be of benefit to the trees, and that this may be considered so under certain conditions and up to certain limits. If the soil in the orchard is kept up to the highest state of fertility so that the trees will not suffer the want of the portion of the fertilizer taken by the hood crop, then the latter can do no harm, indeed, it will be of value because the soil will receive a certain amount of cultivation which, perhaps, would not be given it if it were not for the hood crop. Work the hood crop in the orchard cautiously, and watch the effect on the trees.

### Caring for Chicks.

When chicks are removed from the incubator to the brooder great care should be taken that they do not become chilled. The floor of the brooder should be covered with fine, clean chaff. Fine sand and clean water should be in the brooder from the beginning. All the fine, dry bread crumbs they will pick up every two hours should constitute the feed for several days, gradually adding rolled oats, hard-boiled eggs, cracked wheat, Johnny cake, millet seed, etc. Milk and water should always be kept in the fountains. When three weeks old make mashies of bran, meal, middlings, beef scraps, table refuse, all salted to season and mixed together with skim milk. Alfalfa leaves may also be thrown into the brooder in the place of straw or chaff. The mash in the morning, wheat at noon and cracked corn or kafir corn at night constitute the main feed to keep the chicks growing.

### Holder for Hay Rack.

I used a pair of the jointed braces to a commonplace top buggy, writes a correspondent. The illustration explains the position of braces on rack when standard is up and down.



HOLDER FOR THE HAYRACK.

Fasten braces on outside of standard and on inside of bed piece. By taking brace and trying you can soon tell how far back to fasten it.

### Shape of Ideal Dairy Cow.

Whether she be a Holstein, a Jersey or whatever she may be, you will find the typical dairy cow with bony head and strong jaw, long between the eyes and nose, with broad muzzle. She should have a bright, protruding eye, which means strong nerve force and action later on. She should have a thin neck and retreating brisket. The lines above and below must not be straight, or she will steal from you. She should be slightly depressed behind the shoulders with a sharp chine—not too straight a backbone. She must have large organs of reproduction and large heart girth, wide between fore legs and sharp on shoulders, which gives large heart action and strong arterial circulation. And last, but by no means least, she must have a good udder, for one-half the value of a cow is in her udder, which should be long from front to rear.

### Poultry Pointers.

Never refuse a fair price for a bird that you do not want for breeding purposes. At the same time never sell a good bird that you want yourself.

Do not feed the newly hatched chickens too early; wait at least twenty-four hours. There is sufficient amount of feed in the shell for the chick this length of time.

In feeding fowls always keep in view the fact that the excess of food over and above that required for warmth of body and egg production will be converted into fat.—Journal of Agriculture.

A correspondent of a farm paper, who was not well satisfied with his disk harrow while it had the tongue on it, thus tells how he improved it:

I have been using my disk harrow without a tongue, or rather, I cut the tongue off just ahead of the eveners. I find that this is very much more satisfactory than to use with the tongue; in turning all the horses help turn the harrow instead of the two pole horses having to pry it around by the pole. In addition to this, it takes the weight off of the horses' necks when they stop.

### DAHIA FOR THE SUMMER.

Horticulturist Makes a Find in Mexico—New Plant.

Anybody who wants can now have dahlias blooming practically all summer, according to the Washington Star. The Department of Agriculture recently turned the dahlia from a late fall flower to a summer bloomer. It was more or less of an accident, but one of the explorers of the department was down in Mexico recently and found a little, insignificant flower growing half-wild, as most flowers and cattle do in that country. It was a true dahlia, but its flower was insignificant and of a pale yellow color. The only peculiarity about it was that it started blooming in the early spring and kept it up all summer.

The little dahlia was gathered, in along with a lot of other things and sent to Washington. There was a question whether anything could be made out of it, but Mr. Oliver, the plant juggler of the greenhouses, was set to work with it, and by a judicious amount of crossing and twisting of its natural proclivities he finally produced a plant that not only would bloom all summer, but bore a big, crimson flower as fine as any autumn-blooming dahlia in the greenhouse.

To be sure, with the average horticulturist raising dahlias in the spring may seem rather like eating strawberries at Christmas, but it has added another possibility to the varieties that will deck the American garden in the summer, and it shows, too, what good things are laying around in the vegetable world only waiting for some one to come along and make use of them.

Speaking of pick-ups in the agricultural line, orange-raising may not be agriculture in the strictest sense of the term, but the seedless orange, which is one of the most important factors in the orange market to-day, was a pick-up of the same sort. The tree was a find down in Brazil, where there were a few seedless orange trees growing along one of the rivers. Some of them were sent to the United States, and by grafting, budding and enarching on ordinary sweet orange stock a seedless tree was produced that has multiplied and spread, so as to make the fortunes of a large number of growers in Florida and California. It only shows that agricultural explorers are sometimes worth all the money that is spent on them on several trips where they turn up nothing at all. They are more or less like prospectors in the West. When they do strike they strike it rich.

### HOW NICKEL GOT ITS NAME.

Derived from One of the Appellations of His Satanic Majesty.

About 200 years ago, in one of the German copper mines, an ore was discovered which had all the appearance of copper, but every known process failed to get any copper from this ore. The German miners of those times were superstitious—in fact, most miners are to-day. They claimed they could hear the kobolds, the pixies and the gnomes at work in the mine from which the ore was taken, and when the smelter failed to produce copper from the ore they one and all refused to go into the workings again, saying the ore had been cursed by an evil spirit. They called this ore "kupfer-nickel," or Old Nick copper. Cobalt, a name which has become so familiar of late, is nothing more than the German for an evil spirit.

This curious ore aroused the interest of the scientists of the world and for years chemists worked on it. Cransteadt, a famous German chemist, began a series of experiments with this copper and succeeded in isolating a metal unlike anything that was seen before. It was not copper, it was not silver, though it looked more like the latter. Although the ore was proved to be of value, the name of Old Nick stuck to it and it is still known as nickel.

Several years later another mineral was discovered in this ore and on account of its hidden qualities was called kobold, for the reason already given. That an Ontario town should owe its name to a German evil spirit seems strange, but it is a suitable one on account of the millions of dollars' worth of silver cobalt found there.

The name of Sir Hussey Herbert Vivian, of Swansea, Wales, is among the earliest associated with nickel. He was successful in getting nickel from Norwegian and Swedish ores, but only in small quantities. Later Joseph Wharton started a factory at Camden, N. J., to develop the deposits at Lancaster, Pa. Wharton knew nothing of what Vivian had done, but worked on a process of his own. After years of labor he produced a few tons a month of a low grade nickel, which sold at fancy prices. The first samples of nickel seen in America were at the Philadelphia exposition in 1876, when several small articles made of this metal were shown as curiosities.—New York Tribune.

A minister recently "spoke" to a woman because she did not attend church oftener. She told the truth, and said frankly that she didn't care to go; and he thought that was better than to make a lot of sincere and untruthful apologies.