

Topics of the Times

King Alfonso's bride is eighty-six pounds heavier than he. Wooh! Think of her at 40.

Mr. Rockefeller is now able to eat a square meal, and he is almost as happy as a tramp.

Rev. Dr. Crapsey doubtless recognizes by this time the danger of preaching what he thinks.

In the case of automobiles denatured alcohol should be able to effect a pleasing change of odors.

Among other things the Czar must hate about it is losing that high-sounding title of "autocrat of all the Russias."

King Alfonso says he expects to be assassinated, but he will resolutely stick to his job. What a fine baseball umpire he would have made!

Scientists say that players of musical instruments live longer than any other people. That simply goes to show how compassionate the public really is.

Other railways may be guilty of doing unseemly things, but Mr. Baer's is a good little railway, with a certificate to that effect from its Sunday School teacher.

King Alfonso predicts that the bomb throwers will get him some day, but takes it philosophically. Alfonso has grown several years older in the last few days.

To those who have insisted upon the opposite it must come as a distinct shock to be told that Mr. Rockefeller weighs nearly 200 pounds and is hale and hearty.

Fifty or more kinds of headache have been discovered and catalogued by experts. Some of the varieties are worse than others, but none can be recommended for steady use.

The income of the average American, according to United States census reports, is \$650 a year, but the meat, ice, milk, grocery and other bills indicate that his outlay is much more.

This problem of saving Niagara Falls is simple. All that is necessary is to make the corporations who are taking the water carry it back and put it in the river again above the falls.

"Every man should stick to his job," said John D. Rockefeller just before he sailed for Europe. A good many people claim that they would have been glad to stick to theirs if John D. hadn't pushed them out.

A Texas paper proudly declares that "Andrew Jackson never called a man a liar by telephone." We might add that John Quincy Adams never used a planola and that Aaron Burr never ran over anybody with an automobile.

In the extremely elevating personal column of a New York contemporary a certain woman described as "magnetic" declares her ability to foretell the present and future. With such powers she ought to be able to foretell the past, too.

The Leavenworth Post makes a practical and luminous suggestion in regard to the isthmian canal. Instead of digging through the strip of land at the cost of great labor and much time, why not pump enough water into the two oceans to submerge the isthmus? And this simple solution of the great problem never once occurred to the high-priced engineers who have been working at it for so many months.

Some of the London newspapers are urging King Edward to "take a run" overseas, tour Canada and take in a little of the United States. He has developed into one of the most astute, far-seeing, liberal-minded and influential of the world's rulers, entirely abreast with his age. He would be immensely interested in comparing both these American countries now with what they were when he saw them forty-six years ago, and few foreign potentates would be quite so warmly and impressively welcomed in the United States as he who as a slim youth was feted and feasted and danced with and genuinely liked away back in 1860.

We do not have all the humors of automobiling to ourselves in this country. There was a race recently in Italy from Milan to the "toe of the boot," in which forty-eight machines straggled down the long road. As each neared Brescia its occupants saw at the roadside a stalwart peasant woman surrounded by full pails of water and men to keep them full. They fancied she was there to offer refreshment, but they did not anticipate just how, for as each came near she dashed

the contents of a pail full into the chests and goggles of the occupants, while lugal consequences no graphophone or other phone could put on record. This is a refreshing illustration of the esteem in which "the masses" hold the machine which in this country alone since June 1 last is said to have killed more people than were killed in our war with Spain.

It was inevitable that the prolonged and exaggerated revelations concerning life insurance should be followed by "exposures" and abuse of other commendable interests. The Salvation Army has now been attacked, probably unjustly, as corrupt and we may soon expect to hear that orphan asylums are honeycombed with graft, savings banks no good and old people's homes mere hotbeds of rascality. There has never been a day since the outbreak against life insurance when it was not perfectly well known that there were plenty of States and companies in which the policy holders' rights were thoroughly protected, nor a day in which even the worst berated of the New York organizations were not known to be meeting every obligation and paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to policy holders or their beneficiaries. But the stream of printed abuse has been so steady that thousands of other wise discerning men have been led to half believe that life insurance is all wrong in theory and management, while great numbers of policy holders have been wantonly scared into letting their contracts needlessly default. Life insurance is peculiarly sound and safe and the sum due on each matured policy is certain to be paid. Slamming it will doubtless continue, but the parties who are fond of that sort of thing will in due time find other interests to maltreat and people may be allowed to protect their families through the beneficence of life insurance with only a modicum of terrorizing.

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LEGEND OF THE GARTER.

Contradictory Versions of the Foundation of the Order.

I know, as every schoolboy knows, the legend that a certain countess of Salisbury dropped her garter at a ball, and that the king, picking it up amid the smiles of courtiers, handed it to her with the happy and now immortal phrase, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." But this legend, I recalled, had to go the way of the story of King Alfred and the cakes, the story of William Tell and the apple, and many another pretty fairy tale of history, says a writer in the Sphere. At last I went to Sir Nicholas Harris Nicholas' "History of the Orders of Knighthood," where I found a delightful mass of contradictory authority produced.

The tale of the ensign and name of the order were first told by Polydore Vergil (1470-1555), who wrote in the time of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and who said that the lady was "the queen or the king's mistress." Segar, whose work, "Honor, Military and Civil," appeared in 1602, 250 years after the order was founded, was the first to say that it was the Countess of Salisbury. Other writers say that it was the Countess of Kent. John Anstis (1600-1744), garter king of arms, who published several heraldic works, ridicules the whole story. He confesses that an author of Henry VI.'s time, who wrote in Latin and whose work is now entirely lost, upheld it.

Raphael Holinshed, a chronicler who died in 1580, tells the story in detail and says the lady was the queen, which surely rather spoils the significance of the legend. Sir Harris Nicholas himself thinks the story is not improbable, although he urges the fact that Jean Froissart, who is the best contemporary authority on the reign of Edward III., while he has much to say about the order in his hundredth chapter, does not refer to it, and Nicholas admits that this tells very much against the supposed origin of the story; but Froissart may have thought the matter too trivial to relate.

It is not, I may add, claimed that the incident caused the foundation of the Order of the Garter, but only that it gave Edward III. the idea for naming the order which he had resolved to found in any case. In the absence of any other solution than that which rests on these shadowy foundations I think we may still go on accepting the pretty legend; but I repeat my expression of dissatisfaction with the popular histories that they should leave such matters as this severely alone.

BOYS' ENCOUNTER WITH TIGER.

Man Enter Overpowers Them, but They Live to Tell the Story.

Jhulan Gaur and Nila Gaur, his brother, were grazing bullocks in light jungle near San Shal Bhabal village, about half a mile from the basti about 9 a. m. The cattle were in front, then came Nila Gaur and then about fifteen paces behind him, Jhulan Gaur. They had just crossed a "nala." Nila was to one side, when from the other side suddenly a tiger rushed at a cow, slapped it aside with a blow on the rump and in the same stride jumped on Jhulan Gaur, bore him to the ground, doubled up in the position of a Mohammedan saying his prayers or a Chinaman "kowtowing"—the hind paws on his back and the forepaws on his head.

Jhulan was quite conscious and knew his doom was sealed. At the time he was borne to the ground he called to his brother to help him. But when the tiger began to shake his head from side to side consciousness left him. Nila heard his brother's shout for help and ran to him at once. The tiger was on his brother's head and Nila struck the tiger two blows on the head with a light drover's stick he had in his hand. The tiger had his mouth open and was growling and lashing his tail. Nila went in front of the tiger's face and when he struck the tiger the brute sprang off his brother onto him. He did not slap, but pushed him backward.

He lost consciousness at once. Jhulan, as soon as the tiger left his back, regained his senses, and saw the tiger on his brother. His brother was on his back with his face on the right side and one forepaw of the tiger was on his face and the other forepaw on his chest. He struggled up and with the light stick in the hand (which he had never relinquished) he struck the tiger three times on the side of the head. The tiger let go his brother and took a circle round, then saw Jhulan and threatened him again by growling, and made as if he meant to attack again, but on Jhulan raising his stick the tiger slunk into the "nala" and disappeared. I saw them ten days after admission into hospital and they were both doing well, but seemed quiet and subdued.—Sambalpur Cor. Indian Field.

The Proper Place.

"Where shall I put these stock phrases?"

"Put them under the head of 'Market Quotations.'"—Baltimore American.

He who fights and runs away may live to fight another day, or draw a pension, so they say.



Granary with Elevator.

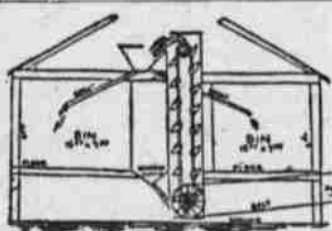
Here's a plan of granary to hold 3,000 bushels of grain; the walls are of stone, and an elevator is arranged to work by horse power. A granary to hold 3,000 bushels will require to be 22 feet by 38 feet inside. This will give six bins, size 15 feet by 7 feet, and 6 feet high. This will also allow for a passage across the middle of the building 8 feet wide, which will give access to all of the bins and can be used for cleaning grain, as well as storing small implements. The floor should be raised four feet from the ground to make it dry and convenient for loading grain, as well as to provide for the elevator, and belting below the floor. The walls being of stone, should be 13 feet high; this will provide for 4 feet below the floor, one foot for floor, then 8 feet to the plates; this will give one foot clear over the bins. There should be a stone center wall lengthwise under the floor to carry the floor joists, which will be 12 feet long and match on middle wall. To give head room over the top joists the roof should be a third pitch.

Following is the required material:
1,250 feet roofing, one inch.
1,670 feet flooring, inch, to be laid double.

50 joists for floor, 2 inches by 12 inches, 12 feet long, 1,000 feet.
10 joists over head, 2 inches by 2 inches, 24 feet long, 610 feet.
650 feet lumber for bins, one inch.
25 studs, 4 inches by 4 inches, 8 feet long.

13 squares shingles.
150 feet inch lumber for doors.
40 rafters, 2 inches by 6 inches, 16 feet long.

To arrange an elevator for horse power, a hopper that will hold at least 50 bushels should be sunk in the floor close to the door and at one side to empty grain for the wagon. The elevator is an ordinary built elevator with buckets standing upright and in the rear corner of center bin. The box at bottom of elevator must be close on the ground to be connected with the delivery hopper by a spout, with sufficient slope that the grain will run freely. The elevator will discharge well above the upper joists into a hopper in the center of the building, to which a funnel-shaped spout is attached, that can be shifted to deliver into any of the bins. The horse power should be placed at the end of the granary, and driven by a belt or shaft, passing through an opening in the wall left for the purpose.



GRANARY WITH POWER ELEVATOR.

pose. The details can be all worked out by a mechanic, one essential is to have plenty of slope for the delivery hopper to box at foot of elevator, even if it should be sunk into the ground a little.—Montreal Star.

For Calloused Shoulders.

A farmer in North Dakota gives his method of treatment and cure of calloused shoulders of work horses in the Dakota Farmer, which he says he has used with uniform success, as follows: "I cut a slit in the front part of the collar opposite the callous, then cut another slit at right angles across the first one. I then take out enough of the filling to allow for callous. After soaking face of collar in warm water I lay the front part, where cuts have been made, on a plank or something solid, and pound face of collar where it presses on callous, with round-faced hammer, till a sufficient hollow has been made. This plan will work whether collar has been used with or without pad. Then when the horse comes in from work I bathe the callous in water as hot as can be borne and paint with iodine. You will find this plan worth trying, and I will guarantee the collar will not be injured."

Alfalfa Seed.

The constantly increasing acreage of alfalfa and the high price of seed make purity and germinability of the latter of the highest importance. Bulletin No. 183, just issued by the agricultural experiment station, Manhattan, Kan., treats of alfalfa seed and the various impurities and defects to which it is liable. The methods of testing available to farmers and seedsmen and more elaborate ones practiced at the station are described in detail. The bulletin is lavishly illustrated and may be obtained free on application.

Watch for Seed Adulterations.

The work of different experiment stations has shown that a large number of foreign seeds are contained in clover and alfalfa seed, including the dodders, which are so destructive to alfalfa, and a large number of bad weed seeds like the narrow plantain, wild mustard and a host of new weeds.

One impure sample of last year's supply contained thirty-two species of foreign seeds, including both species of dodder, the plantain, many common weeds, three species of Western weeds that are new in Ohio and as many European weeds that have been heretofore unknown in this State. At least a dozen new weeds have been introduced into Ohio in alfalfa seed during half as many years.

While this is unacceptable it is still more so to get only black medick (yellow trefoil) plants as many have done, where supposed alfalfa seed was sown. In these times of high-priced seeds there is temptation to adulterate with cheap seeds like the black medick, etc., which have very slight value as forage plants with us; there is like disposition to offer seeds with many weed seeds, at low prices. Both these dangers are real. Intending purchasers of such seeds will do well to be assured of their quality.

Outlet for Drain.

One of the most common as well as most efficient protections for the outlet of a main drain is a plank box with wire bars placed vertically across the



DRAIN OUTLET.

end about two inches apart. Such a box should be made of 2-inch plank, 12 feet long and large enough to admit of the insertion of the tile into the upper end. A protection of this kind serves a double purpose. It prevents small animals from entering the drain and will not be damaged by frost.

Shipping Hay to Dealers.

During the last two years a number of rogues in different sections of the country have been offering a considerable advance on the market price of hay and thousands of tons have been shipped to those people for which the producer received little or no return. With hay, as with other articles of farm produce, it is usually best to sell it as near home as possible. In every farming center there are reliable dealers who will pay a fair price for such products and pay spot cash for them. True, they sell them at an advance