

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Naturally a man would rather part his hair than part with it.

After hearing some men talk you are surprised at the small hats they wear.

Russia has had an earthquake, but it failed to shake any of the grand dukes loose.

Always be polite to everybody. But don't let that interfere with your getting your fair share.

Reports from Cuba say the treasury is full to bursting. It will be well to keep a sharp eye the revolutionists.

The blood-is-thicker-than-water sentiment doesn't seem to appeal very strongly to Englishmen of the Swettenham-Sir Alfred Jones type.

Dr. Wiley says cold meat isn't good after three months. Some of the cold meat served at boarding-houses doesn't taste good after three days.

The man who says blondes will disappear in 600 years has perhaps overlooked the fact that the drug stores expect to be working right along.

A bank is now issuing \$25 bills, but as they will be just as scarce as all other kinds, the change does not appeal to the average bread-winner.

A western political club is said to have adopted the strawberry as its emblem. Then the members ought to know each other by their strawberry marks.

It may be true, as scientists allege, that the man of the future will be taller. But the man of the present who dabbles in futures usually finds himself shorter.

Germany is becoming aroused to the necessity of putting a stop to robberies on railway trains. Is the train boy equally piratical and unconscionable over there?

Some of the people of Porto Rico are talking of "winning liberty with sword and gun from the servitude imposed by the United States." It may be necessary for Taft to pack his grip again.

The secret of Senator Beveridge's great interest in children has been discovered. Somebody who has been digging into his record has found that Mr. Beveridge was once a child himself.

The Chicago university is said to have received from Mr. Rockefeller, in round numbers, about \$19,000,000. The least it can do to show its gratitude is to discover an efficient hair restorer.

The circus freaks are reported to be forming a union. The word "circus" will, of course, bar from membership a good many people who are going up and down this country posing as reformers.

British merchants propose to demand indemnities for the losses they expect to sustain through the suppression of the opium traffic in China. The British merchant continues to regard it as an outrage when an uplift of any kind interferes with his profits.

A committee of English and American admirers of the poets Keats and Shelley have purchased the house in Rome in which Keats died, in 1821. Shelley, who occupied a house opposite, was drowned in 1822. It is planned to make the Keats house a memorial of the two poets, and to gather in it a collection of books, manuscripts and portraits relating to them and their works. The memorial association also purposes assuming the care of the graves of the poets at the Protestant cemetery in Rome.

The proposition of President McCrear to increase the age at which men may enter the employment of the Pennsylvania railroad to 45 years is recognized as the result of the scarcity of labor. It would be correct to recognize that the scarcity is in its ratio to the demand. There are more laborers, skilled and unskilled, in the country than ever before, but the demand for their services has increased in greater proportion than the supply. We need not claim that there is not much improvement yet to be sought. But it is certainly the historical fact that the competitive era has, as one of its chief results, wrought an immense improvement in the compensation of labor and its industrial liberty.

Someone, discussing the ways of women in business recently, says a partial explanation of their success in many callings is due to their thinking they are still on trial, which leads them to take a great deal more pains to please their patrons than do men engaged in the same kind of work.

To a certain extent this may be true; that is, women do feel that they are still serving an apprenticeship in undertaking work that has been the exclusive field of men for generations. But as women have been housekeepers since the world began and as they are as faithful and steadfast in this profession in the present time as they were centuries ago it seems safe to argue that a similar thing may be said of them years hence in commenting on their success in business.

Alfred Mosely, the English philanthropist, is a warm friend of America. He has shown his appreciation of this country in a number of convincing ways. He has sent several special commissions across the water in order that England might be improved by reason of the advances made in America. He has given added impetus to the schools of England by sending many teachers to the United States to observe and learn. He himself has studied this country from many points of view, and studied it not from the standpoint of a hostile critic but from that of one who seeks to know in order to improve himself. For these reasons the opinions of Mr. Mosely are entitled to great respect, and when he expresses his belief that the high standard of living is a real peril to America it is worth while to consider the subject. This high living often approaches ruthless extravagance, he says, the luxuries of yesterday being counted the necessities of to-day. A reaction is bound to come, and when it does it will be attended by disaster. No one can doubt that Americans, as a rule, live well. But they can afford to. Some of them are spending all they make, some more than they make, but others have accounts in the savings banks to show that they are not unmindful of the possible "rainy day" ahead of them. There are some features of present American social conditions which are distinctly gratifying and which are working directly against the dangers which appear on the surface when a foreigner looks at some particular phase of life. The danger from the high living does not seem so important as the other suggestion that American prosperity is leading to inefficiency and corruption. "In bygone years," Mr. Mosely notes, "one was impressed with the thorough way in which everything was done and every detail thought out, but the same is not true to-day. On the contrary, there are signs that everything is becoming slipshod. Work is inefficiently done and badly finished." That is a common charge brought by foreigners against American methods. It is said that we do not build for all time but for a few years only. It is said that our products are not comparable for nicety and precision with the output of the manufacturing establishments of the old world. We have been fairly content with the results when American made goods have come into competition with those of other nations, and yet even this good record should not blind us if there is such a marked deterioration in workmanship that it is noticed by a careful observer. Mr. Mosely thinks everything overdone and overcrowded. Everybody appears to be in too great a hurry, so that in the race for success and wealth many of the former good characteristics of the country are disappearing. But the same things have been noted by travelers for a hundred years. Americans have always been in a hurry.

NEW STAR ON THE FLAG.



The War Department has ordered the alteration of the flag made necessary by the admission of Oklahoma into the Union, now an aggregation of forty-six States. The department has also fixed on the spot for the new star, and now flagmakers are hard at work preparing new banners with an additional star in the lower right-hand corner. It is now in order for every patriotic American either to provide himself with a new flag or to add a star to the old one.

An Anti-Third Term.

Judge—You've got a bad record. You've already served two terms in the penitentiary. What have you got to say why sentence should not be passed upon you?

Prisoner—My constitutional rights, judge. It's the unwritten law that no man should have a third term.—Kansas City Times.

When a woman raises her sons in what she considers the right way, it is never with a view to making good husbands of them.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

JUSTICE THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

By Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis.



REV. DR. HILLIS.

Among the dark problems of life we must make a place for the injustice that noble men sometimes suffer. Long ago Jerusalem crucified its Saviour, Athens poisoned its master, Florence burned its hero, but to-day every town and village holds at least one martyr to cruel and unjust judgments.

Ours is a world in which the clerk suffers in the financial failure of his employer; where the officeholder is ruined by the political mistakes of the party leader; where the child is destroyed by the sins of the father. Employers sometimes suffer grievously by reason of economic events over which they have no control; sometimes the citizen suffers through the sensational press; sometimes the author or editor suffers through cruel criticism over events for whose evil consequences he is in no wise responsible. This problem of unjust judgment and this bearing of injustice in silence is one of the hardest problems that man experiences. Injustice public men have to endure in silence.

The need of the hour is for justice and truth in judgment. The full facts are perhaps never before any of us. But in general men are far better than they are believed to be. The good in the world outweighs the ill. The prophet saw man as part gold and part clay, but the proportion of gold is more and more and the clay is less and less. The world has had too many teachers poisoned unjustly. Too many reformers martyred without cause. Too many heroes who are victims of malignity, jealousy and hate. There is too much good in the worst men and too much bad in the best men to leave any place for injustice, harshness or cruelty.

THE MATTER OF FIRE INSURANCE.

By F. W. Fitzpatrick.



Since 1860 we have paid in insurance premiums \$3,622,000,000, or just in the last ten years, \$1,610,885,000. In 1905 we carried into the insurance companies, over \$196,000,000 in premiums and got back paid losses the sum of \$95,000,000, which was supposed to console us for the loss of about \$180,000,000 in smoke and fully that much more for fire departments and other alleged "protection." San Francisco offers the latest illustration of how much insurance really does protect. Property to the value of fully \$350,000,000 was destroyed; the city and country suffered a business loss by the fire in that city of nearly a billion dollars; it will take at least \$12,000,000 to clean up the city, and undoubtedly \$400,000,000 and twenty years' time to rebuild it. For all of that terrific loss and cost the citizens will receive from the insurance

GOLD MINING IN SIBERIA.



SIBERIAN PEASANTS WORKING THEIR OWN MINE.

Siberia is phenomenally rich in the precious metals and has developed a system of mining peculiarly its own. A curious feature is the way the ground is prospected and opened up by the peasant "tributors," as they are called. Permission is readily granted to sink shafts wherever they like, subject to the conditions that they can only go down as far as water-level, usually about sixty feet, and that all the quartz extracted must be treated at the mill of the ground landlord, and all gold extracted sold to him at a rate previously decided upon, leaving a fair profit for the peasant and an extra good one for the landlord. There is no philanthropy about the transaction, and the peasant is in no way bound to accept the terms. No charge whatever is made for the use of mill. The field is thus practically developed for nothing—rich reefs which would probably remain undiscovered are opened up by "tributors," who frequently make fortunes out of rich strikes. The mine owner is thus continually in touch with all that is going on, and duly records the results of the operations for his own benefit. In the mining operations women as well as men do their share of the work.

NOVEL CURES FOR SNORING.

Case of Offending Policeman Suggests Remedies for Disease.

Very many of our readers will be interested in the ultimate fate of the unfortunate snoring policeman who has been banished from his fellow sleepers and caged at night in sound-proof quarters. Perhaps the dreadful infirmity, now that it has the official recognition of his superiors, may call for some suitable scientific treatment. If so the great army of snorers can covertly watch the outcome with all the cunning and complacency of undiscovered transgressors.

We are glad we can make the start with a perfectly fair case, for conviction of the nuisance is always most difficult to obtain. The culprit must be caught with the snore on him and in the presence of reliable ear witnesses. No one has ever been known to acknowledge his fault voluntarily. On

the contrary, one of the surest signs of the confirmed malady is his persistent denial of its existence. He is not satisfied to plead lack of premeditation and absence of accountability, but openly impugns the motives of his clamorous accusers. The worst of it is that on all other matters he is perfectly reasonable. This makes it extremely difficult to obtain his consent for treatment of any sort.

We speak now of snorers as a class. The only easy way is to tackle them when they cannot resist. There are various approved methods not only ingenious but effective for temporarily arresting the sonorous, rasping and vibrating respiratory spasms. The most popular, perhaps, is the elbow thrust in the ribs. Next comes the gentle pinch of the nose, whereby part of the wind current is shut off. Some have advised that the nose be clasped by a clothespin even before retiring, but unfortunately the subject of the experi-

companies \$132,000,000, a goodly portion of which sum they themselves contributed.

It is late in the day, but at last people are beginning to learn that of all "insurance" the best is to build properly in the first place, to construct so that internal fires or conflagrations can inflict but the minimum of damage. And it can be done so easily and at such slight additional cost above that of the most flimsy construction. Why, take for instance, the Board of Underwriters' laboratory in Chicago, the most perfectly fireproof building in the country, with all the "frills" and accessories that we have been clamoring for for years to make buildings more thoroughly proof against fire, and, in spite of all that, it has cost but a trifle over 10 per cent more than if it had been built in the usual shoddy way. Considering its longevity, freedom from repairs, and the elimination of insurance, or, at least, the payment of heavy premiums, and that building within a few years of its erection means an actual and great economy to the individual, and from the day of its completion a godsend to the community.

PURE FOOD IS GREAT TRIUMPH.

By P. M. Hanney.



Well and properly administered, the pure food law cannot fail to work an immense improvement in the condition of the general people, to elevate and dignify the tone of the nation. It is indeed high time for it to come, for serious and pressing is the need of it. If there is one thing in the world that needs looking after and repairing it is the American stomach. It has long been the most abused and outraged of organs, with the result that we have almost become a nation of dyspeptics. It has been the victim of legalized wholesale poisoners before whom the Borgias of Italy and all other infamous toxicologists of history fade into utter insignificance. There is no more ominous and appalling sight in the world than the innumerable red lights that flash from the drug stores of American cities; they are the danger signals that tell every citizen of the continual menace to health and life that lurks in his daily food.

The world keeps moving, and the march of science and civilization goes on over shams, frauds, and humbugs of every kind. Without reviving the days when every man smoked his own bacon and grew his own cabbage, we are getting so that every man may obtain genuine and wholesome diet, be he carnivorous or vegetarian, that every man may know what he is eating, even if he be newly married and his wife does the cooking. The era of the wooden nutmeg is gone, the era of the painted strawberry is going. The clouds of gastronomic doubt and danger drift away behind; the sun of health and digestion glows in front; and soon, according to the signs, we may reach the happy period when the food color artists cease from troubling and the adulterators are at rest.

ment almost invariably demurs. Others have recommended sitting on the chest, but this is rather a hazardous proceeding for both parties, and so also is a temporary twist of the windpipe, unless performed by skilled manipulator. But no matter what is done the disease is well known to recur indefinitely.

In most instances death appears to be the only common relief for the peace disturber and his surviving relatives. But the end should never be hastened. The poor policeman for the present can be safe in his cupola, but how long remains to be seen. Twice last summer the place was struck by lightning. The main hope now is that man and cupola may both alter their habits before it be too late. Meanwhile the neighborhood must plug its ears and wait.—New York Herald.

Odd Habits of Pheasants.

There is some curiosity as to how many English pheasants will be raised in Kansas this year. The average number of birds raised by each pair of parent birds is sixty. With 2,000 in the State this would mean about 7,000,000 birds in two years. The woods and fields would be overrun with them at this rate. However, there are many foes of the birds and they are killed every year in great numbers. The sleet-storms are particularly hard on them, as the water freezes on their long plumage and they are unable either to fly or run fast. When in this condition they are easy prey to dogs and wolves.

One of the queerest habits the birds have is to migrate in the late winter (thirty-five miles). It is claimed that the birds always migrate exactly thirty-five miles and always to the south. The young never stay where they were hatched, but make this move as soon as they are large enough. Naturalists have never been able to explain this. The only theory advanced is that the birds know if they stay where they were hatched the country would soon be overstocked with them.—Kansas City Journal.

Over a Million Arrivals.

The total number of cabin and steerage passengers landed at the port of New York during the year 1906 by all the trans-Atlantic steamship lines was 1,159,551. In 1905 992,065 were landed, which gives the year just ended the record by a margin of 167,486.

You can live way off on a lonely farm, but trouble will come to you out there.

A critic is a man who couldn't have done it himself.