

Topics of the Times

Stockholders in a fire insurance company have money to burn.

No man reaches the stage of triumph but by the steps of trial.

Those Spanish anarchists shoot like a woman operates a garden hose.

When misfortune reaches a man's door she walks right in without knocking.

Even if a man did accept a leap year proposal he would refuse to admit it.

Hobson's plea for a "greater navy" ought to make a profound impression over in Russia.

When a man gets a letter from his wife during his absence from home he simply reads the postscript and sends her a check.

Of course Mr. Carnegie wouldn't consider for a moment any application from those Mormon heroes with numerous wives.

The United States Minister to Santo Domingo will have a salary of \$5,000 a year, but will have to pay his own board and accident insurance.

"The world is all wrong," said one of the Chicago bandits. But the Chicago bandits were hanged, which shows that the world is trying to right itself.

Probably a shortening of our political campaigns is one of the earthly impossibilities, but it would be a good thing if they were materially condensed.

The mayor of an Ohio town has resigned because he found that he couldn't hold the job and live up to his religious belief. Some mayors will wonder if his religious belief pays him a salary.

The careful, conservative plodder who makes fifteen or twenty millions in stock during five or six years always has the utmost contempt for the simpleton who loses his money fooling with a get-rich-quick scheme.

A man who had \$2,000,000 and who was heir to a lot more committed suicide in Chicago the other day. No doubt he could, if he had dared to do so, have given the world some important particulars tending to prove that "money is not all."

King George III. was born in 1738 and died in 1820. His grandson, the late Duke of Cambridge, was born in 1819 and died in 1904. These two lives spanned a period of one hundred and sixty-six years, lacking a few months. Two other lives covering an equal period before 1738 would carry us back to the early days of Queen Elizabeth.

One of the largest imports from Russia into America is willow clothes-baskets. The huge hampers so commonly in use in this country are nearly all made in central Russia by peasants, although some come from the Danube Valley, and there is a considerable domestic manufacture. The importation this year will be about one million dollars' worth. Osier willow, from which they are made, has been worked by the Russian peasants for centuries, and was formerly the material from which they wove their houses. The method of cutting, peeling, twisting and manipulating the withes is handed down from father to son.

Speaker Cannon told Representative Littlefield, in one of the closing weeks of the session, that he would be recognized on a certain small bill which he hoped to get through, but not before Saturday. Events so shaped themselves, however, that the Speaker got round to this bill earlier than he expected, and on Friday announced in conventional phrase: "The gentleman from Maine is recognized," finally adding Mr. Littlefield's name. But he was not there. When hurried into the chamber from an adjoining room, Mr. Littlefield was met by the customary question, "For what purpose does the gentleman rise?" Somewhat surprised by the suddenness of it all, Mr. Littlefield waggishly asked, "For what purpose is the gentleman recognized?" an expression new in the Congressional procedure, but well suited to the occasion. The bill was passed the next day.

President Roosevelt makes a natural and reasonable comment when he notes that the men killed on the Missouri, while they were fitting themselves to fight effectively in case of need, "died for their country as much as if their ship had been in action against the enemy." The criticism of all such observations is that they seem to imply that a man who dies in any other way than as a member of the army or navy does not die for his country. Take, for instance, the case of the diver who risked his life and lost it the other day in a work of great public utility. Didn't he die for his country? He died in the performance of duty, at any rate, and why is not that for the country as much as dying in a gun turret? Or those other divers who came near death in trying to rescue the comrades. Why was not theirs a deed with the element of patriotism, in that it was for a noble end? Or is there a distinction between dying for

one's country and dying for humanity, and, if so, which is the superior?

The world has moved rapidly in a hundred years in the matter of physical training for girls. Thackeray tells us that when the nineteenth century was in its teens, the excellent Miss Pinkerton, of the Academy for Young Ladies, on Chiswick Mall, gave as parting advice to her favorite pupil the injunction that she should make a careful and unremitting use of the backboard for four hours daily for the succeeding three years. If she would acquire that dignified deportment and carriage so requisite for every young lady of fashion. The backboard has gone out, and perhaps the dignified deportment and carriage have gone with it. One hardly dares think how the majestic Miss Pinkerton would have regarded the present regime in school for girls. The painful repose of the backboard has been succeeded by a complicated system of exercise. There is a long daily walk. There are gymnastics for fifteen minutes once a day. Swimming in summer and skating in winter harden the muscles and teach endurance. Golf or basket-ball or tennis adds the charms of competition and the value of self-control to the development of muscle and nerve. The girl who tiptoes about in high-heeled shoes, and whose corset prevents her from running or jumping or breathing deep and full is to-day out of fashion. It remains to be proved that athletics may go hand in hand with gracious and gentle manners—as the backboard undoubtedly did. But there seems to be no inherent conflict between vigor and grace, and the twentieth century may contrive ways to unite them in its strong, healthy young girlhood.

Katherine Pope writes an interesting essay on the advantages of deceit, or the use of tact, in the Reader Magazine that is mostly several stories to illustrate her point. The introduction is: "Men, whether deservedly or not, are accounted more truthful, less given to deceiving ways, than women. I sometimes wonder if their women intimates never tell them that not infrequently this lauded honesty of theirs looks to the less blunt sex most undesirable, not to say grossly stupid, grossly brutal." The common confusion of lying with tact may easily be carried too far. There may be some tact in some lying, but there is no lying in true tact. The highest tact is absolute truthfulness. There are little lies that seem justifiable. You see an ill friend who looks worse and tell him he looks better. It makes him feel better. Maybe he actually feels better as a result. It is a lie that does nobody harm and does some good. But there are few lies that have so good a motive. If we told no lies except to help other people this would be a strangely truthful world. We pay compliments to please others, but the ulterior motive is to ingratiate ourselves into their affections. We make ourselves agreeable by reigning feelings and opinions that we do not really possess. We try to make ourselves liked not for what we really are but for what we only pretend to be. Now, it would be far better tact, and far easier, to be than it is to pretend to be. By pretense we go a long way around to reach a point that by sincerity we might reach by a direct route. And while by mere pretense we may win the respect of others for a while, by sincerity we win the far more valuable respect of ourselves for all time. Besides, it is not at all necessary to lie in order to pay compliments. Even the worst of people have good qualities that may be truthfully commended. True tact consists in being generous with the truth. It is commonly said that men are more truthful than women are. It is perhaps due to their business training, as well as to the fact that they are not so subject to petty impulses and spite.

When a man lies he generally does it straight from the shoulder. The woman generally "fibs" without knowing exactly why she does it, follows the first fib with another and another to cover it, and ends in believing at least half of them.

Jacob Riis' New Camera.

Jacob A. Riis, the author of "How the Other Half Lives," and the arch enemy of the slums, has the snapshot habit highly developed. The other day he got a new camera—a wonderful camera, fitted with an extraordinary lens. It cost him much, and he spent the first day circulating from friend to friend, exhibiting his acquisition and extolling its merits.

The next morning with his precious camera tucked under his arm he boarded a trolley car for New York. He placed the camera in the seat beside him while he looked over the morning paper. Suddenly he realized that he ought to change cars, and got up hastily and started back.

Just as he reached the door the conductor yelled, "Hi there, Mister, you're forgettin' your lunch-box!"

A Father's Ambition.

"Yes," said the new acquaintance, "I'm a member of the bar."

"Well, well," exclaimed Popley, "I'm glad I met you. I've been thinking some of making a lawyer of my boy."

"I'll be glad to help the young man if I can. Er—what's his name?"

"Oh, we haven't named him yet. He only arrived last week."—Philadelphia Press.

Consolation.

Grace—Cheer up, George, money won't buy everything.

George—But if we had lots of money we could buy things that would console us for the things money won't buy.—Detroit Free Press.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Unfitted for Citizenship.

TWO men appeared in the Circuit Court in Chicago as applicants for naturalization papers. Neither of them could speak English except very brokenly, though one claimed a residence of fifteen years in this country. Neither of them knew how the State and Federal Governments are organized or how they are conducted. They could not tell how Presidents are chosen nor what the duties of Congress are. They could not even give the name of the President now in office.

Judge M. W. Thompson, of Danville, who is sitting in the Circuit Court of Cook County, properly denied their application for naturalization papers. His decision and his reasons upon which it was based merit the consideration of all judges who may be called upon to grant the privileges of citizenship to aliens unfitted for it. "This nation of ours," declared Judge Thompson, "has got past the point where we can safely admit all comers to citizenship. Do you think we can allow you to come over here and without any preparation give you all the powers and privileges we have as citizens? I have lived here always and have studied our national needs. You know nothing of them. Yet you ask me to let you have all the powers and rights I and others have."

The danger of admitting to full citizenship men who have no knowledge of American institutions and no conception of the responsibilities which citizenship imposes is patent. The fact that applications for naturalization are now frequently made by aliens wholly destitute of these qualifications indicates the dangerous lengths to which the practice already has been carried. The time has come to adopt the principle that, no matter how freely aliens may be welcomed to this country, they shall not be permitted to exercise the suffrage until a long residence and a full understanding of American institutions have made them fit for citizenship. The sooner the naturalization laws are changed to conform to this principle the better it will be for the nation.—Chicago Daily News.

Young Men and the Church.

EDITOR BOK is after the preachers again. Nine years ago, says Mr. Bok, in the Outlook, he wrote an article declaring that the lack of vital preaching was the cause for the absence of young men from the city churches. To use a ball phrase, he was "batted all over the lot" by the preachers for saying so.

In returning to the lists, the editor who has been gathering statistics all the time, says the percentage of attendance of young men is 8 per cent less than it was nine years ago. It was only 30 per cent at that time. What's the trouble? he asks. Five years ago the ministers said it was the bicycle. For the past three years they have said "golf." A few say Sunday papers. The bicycle has disappeared from Sunday amusements. The Sunday newspapers are more numerous and larger. That leaves only golf, says Bok. But he takes up thirty-one churches in different cities where Sunday golf is prohibited and shows that out of a possible 1,040 young men only 427 attend church.

So he returns to the old attack. He has interviewed hundreds of young men and the majority say: "Nothing to go for." "Don't get enough out of the sermons." "It's all words, words, words—no vital message." Then he tells how the churches of Gansauls of Chicago and Rainsford and Lorimer of New York—where the big note of spirituality is sounded—are crowded with young men. True, he quotes many young men who say they are too tired when Sunday comes and allows for hard conditions and the money madness of the times, but he sticks pretty close to his text: Lack of vital sermons.—Des Moines News.

British and Japanese Interests.

IT has been lightly assumed that British interests and Japanese interests are convertible terms. We have our doubts whether this theory has received adequate proof. For several generations dread of Russia has been a deep-seated element in the formation of British opinion. It has determined our policy both in the Near East and upon the Northwest frontier of India. But Lord Salisbury was one of those who considered that this prejudice led us to put our money on the wrong horse, and the effects of that error in the Near East have been appalling. Let us suppose, however, that Russia receives

BRITISH SPEAKER'S POSITION.

A Personage of High Official Dignity and Social Consideration.

It is doubtless because the position of Speaker is so onerous that the rewards attached to it are great. He is originally a member of parliament, like the rest, and is selected by the leader of the house, who is not necessarily the prime minister, from among his own followers for his personal character and dignity and his knowledge of parliamentary procedure. He is usually elected unanimously by vote of the house, and from that moment he ceases to be a party man, and his constituency is divided in its feelings between the honor of returning the Speaker and the disadvantage of being, for all practical purposes, unrepresented in parliament.

The Speaker of the House of Commons is a personage enjoying the greatest official dignity and social consideration. He is the first commoner in the realm; his invitations to dinner are almost equivalent to a royal command; court dress is worn by members who dine with him officially. In the house he is treated with extreme deference, and he receives a salary of £5,000 and the use of a magnificent house, which forms part of the palace of Westminster. He retains office though the politics of the ministry may change, through successive administrations until his health fails or he deems himself to have earned retirement. Then the sovereign bestows a peerage upon him, and the country a munificent pension.

The House of Commons has been singularly fortunate in securing for Speakers men of great dignity, unfailing judgment, and unquestioned impartiality, and never more so than at present in the person of the Right Hon. William Court Gully, member for

her drubbing. What then? Are we serious in imagining that Japan is fighting the battle of the Anglo-Saxon? If so, there awaits us a rude surprise. The goal of Japanese statesmanship is the liberation of Asia from European control, and Asia includes India. When we back Japan we virtually endorse the cry, "Asia for the Asiatics," which is quite the reverse of the watchword, "An Open Door for Great Britain." Russian statesmen realize what an awakening of the yellow races means for humanity as a whole. We approve that awakening, but must also realize its consequences. The resurrection of the Middle East led to the invasion of Spain by the Moors and to battles between Cross and Crescent at the gates of Vienna itself. Christendom was there confronted by Oriental invaders, who possessed arms equal to her own. The same phenomenon is developing at the Far East. Neither China nor Japan has bowed before the ideals upon which our religion is based. But Japan has adopted, and China is in process of adopting, the weapons of modern warfare, and when the yellow races have acquired our methods of destruction, it is possible that we may learn too late how wise it would have been to allow Russia to remain as a counterpoise.—London Daily News.

Don't Stop; Keep On.

THE head of a pumping engine company was recently asked whether school trained men or shop trained men are better equipped for work in his factory. He answered:

"The practical man is likely to know more than the technical school man about actual shop work, but he is also likely to stop knowing when he should go on knowing."

Right here is the point where the young man of broad school education excels the young man of equal natural ability but only shop education. He goes on knowing.

The boy apprenticed to a skilled trade will learn to do his particular work more deftly than the boy who puts in the equivalent years in school. But the properly schooled boy, if he has learned less how to do, has learned better how to learn to do.

And what is wanted in every industry and in every profession is not so much men who can do well the particular task of the day as men who can readily pass on to some other and more difficult task—men who can keep on learning while they work.

The mind, like the muscles, ceases to grow if it is not exercised. The ordinary boy, set early at a trade, may learn that, but in learning it he is in danger of closing his mind, for lack of all round exercise, to learning anything else. And the subdivision of labor in modern industry has increased this danger. From that danger the properly schooled boy is delivered. The soil of his mind is so broken up that it cannot become incrustated against new ideas. He keeps on learning while he works.

That is what broad education does, and that is why the protests of certain exceptional and successful men against broad education beat vainly against the daily observation of common sense.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Craze for Money.

AT the bottom of all the too prevalent corruption, commercial and political, is the prevailing idea that success consists in the gaining of money. Joseph R. Burton, of Kansas, the first United States Senator to be convicted of crime while in office, testified that he used his official influence in consideration of a salary of \$500 a month from the Rialto Grain and Securities Companies of St. Louis, because he needed the money. Those convicted of fraud in the Postoffice Department at Washington, perpetrated the frauds in order to make money. Almost every act of corruption in office is done to get money; and the money that is paid to induce official corruption is paid to obtain wrongful opportunities to make more money. All the dishonest bargains between business men and corporations are merely attempts to make money. People who have no need of more money keep on trying to make money, because that is their only ideal of success. Those who have more money than they can count or use in any way, try to add to it because they are lured on by the idea which has been burned into their minds that making money is success and nothing else is success. Corruption thrives on this false ideal, and will cease only when this false ideal is thrown down from the high pedestal on which it stands before the minds of the American people.—Boston Watchman.

JAPANESE ARTILLERYMEN AT PRACTICE.



European and American military experts who have witnessed artillery maneuvers in the Japanese army have been loud in their praises of the rapidity and precision with which the little brown gunners handle themselves. In modern warfare the tendency is to fight at longer range than formerly, so that the artillery is constantly becoming a more important arm of the service. One difficulty with securing good gunners among the Japs is said to be the poor eyesight that is a national characteristic. This obstacle has been overcome in a measure by choosing for artillerymen only those with the keenest vision. The Japanese fieldpiece is the Arisaka twelve pounder, invented by General Arisaka, the master of ordnance.

Learnington, a Liberal before he was raised above all party ties. It is a splendid position, and though its intellectual demands are unceasing and its merely physical demands exhausting, it is splendidly rewarded.

The position is as exhausting as it is distinguished. During a large part of the session the Speaker must be in the chair from 2 p. m. till after midnight, except during the dinner hour, from half-past seven to nine; and even when the house is in committee, and the chairman of committees is presiding, he must be in official dress in his house, which communicates directly with the lobby behind his chair, ready to appear at a moment's notice if summoned. He must, of course, know every member by sight and be able to recall his name instantly. It is astounding sometimes when from a back bench there rises some member who is utterly unknown by sight to his fellow members, who seldom attends and hardly ever speaks, and has nothing whatever distinctive in his manner or appearance, to hear the Speaker say "Mr. Blank," as readily as if he were accustomed to address him every day.—Century.

Ignorance is not a crime. There are men in office to-day who can't tell you the name of the champion prize fighter.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

Injuries to a licensee of a tenant caused by the defective condition of the premises are held, in Brady vs. Klein (Mich.), 62 L. R. A. 808, to give the licensee no right to maintain an action upon the landlord's covenant to repair.

A duty to give a letter of recommendation or clearance card to an employee who is discharged or quits is held, in Cleveland, C. C. & St. L. R. Company vs. Jenkins (Ill.), 62 L. R. A. 922, not to be imposed upon the employer by the common law.

A limitation of the hours of labor of employees of a public service corporation, such as a street-railway company, to not more than ten out of twenty-four, to be performed within twelve consecutive hours, is held, in re ten-hour law for street railway corporations (R. I.), 61 L. R. A. 612, to be a valid exercise of the police power of the Legislature.

Under a bequest to one or more persons living and to the children of another who is dead it is held, in Collins vs. Feather (W. Va.), 61 L. R. A. 690, that the legatees will take per capita unless it appears from the context or some clause in the will, or from the circumstances in view of which it was made, that the testator intended a stipula distribution.

An incorporated social club is held, in State ex rel. Stevenson vs. Law and Order Club (Ill.), 61 L. R. A. 884, to have no right, without a license, to dispense liquors to its members in exchange for checks delivered to them upon their payment of special assessments levied to meet the cost of procuring the liquor, under a statute providing that giving away intoxicating liquors or other shift or device to evade the provisions of the act shall be held to be an unlawful sale.

A statute authorizing the question of the good faith of the prosecuting witness in instituting a prosecution to be tried and determined at the same time that the defendant is tried, and the taxation of costs against him in case it is found that in filing the information he acted maliciously or without probable cause, is held, in Riley vs. State (Neb.), 61 L. R. A. 480, to be unconstitutional and void. The constitutionality of statutes authorizing costs of prosecution to be imposed upon prosecuting witness is considered in a note to this case.

Bargain She Had Missed.

He was reading the newspaper when she came in from an afternoon's shopping and dropped her bundles on the table as a cart dumps a load of bricks. He knew something was coming.

"John," she panted, "Yes, m'dear. Struck a bargain?" "Bargain!" she retorted, stamping her foot; "I've been swindled. Do you remember that last white shirt I bought you—the one that cost a dollar?"

John said he did. He had painful recollections of that shirt.

"Well, John, I bought that shirt in Fourteenth street. Yesterday I saw the same thing at Thirty-fourth street and Broadway marked at 90 cents."

She paused, but he made no remark. "John, this afternoon I saw the same shirts, lots of them, in a window near Forty-second street and Sixth avenue, marked 80 cents. And what do you think? I went up to Harlem to visit Jennie, and I saw them in a window in One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street for 75 cents."

John laid down his paper. "My dear," he replied, "why didn't you go on to the Bronx, and perhaps you would have found them for 60 cents. And then," he added, seeing the gathering storm in her eyes, "if you had come downtown again and crossed over to Brooklyn you might have seen them marked down to 39 cents—which is just what they are worth."—New York Press.

No Immersion for Him.

Former Congressman James Hamilton Lewis, he of the pink whiskers and silver tongue, is equally famous in the West for his memory of faces and his desire to be always in the public eye.

Prior to Mr. Lewis' retirement from politics, one of his enthusiastic supporters, a member of the Baptist Church, started the report that the bewhiskered statesman had joined that denomination and would undergo total immersion at his baptism. The story created so much stir in Washington, then the former Congressman's home State, that a reporter hastened to interview him. Mr. Lewis feigned indignation when he heard of his alleged conversion.

"You might have known," he exclaimed angrily, "that I couldn't keep out of the public gaze long enough to be totally immersed!"

A Nation of Credit.

Credit abounds in Japan, and cash is never demanded. In shops, hotels, everywhere, there are provided paper tablets with perforated leaves and a pencil. Instead of paying over money the customer is asked only for a "chit"—a statement of the amount of his purchase and signature. For the simple chit lodgings, meals, drinks, clothes, et cetera, may be obtained. Only the railways demand cash, and among the Europeans in Yokohama only tourists carry money. Every one else makes his way with chits. Two years are generally allowed for the fulfillment of these promises to pay, and three years are the limit. But some keep on chitting for ten years, though the custom is to pay up monthly or yearly. Despite the manifold temptations thus afforded, the number of chits dishonored is relatively small.

After a man leaves the marriage altar it's a case of boss or be bossed.