

Topics of the Times

It had to come. Togo Jensen was born in South Dakota the other day.

It frequently happens that a man who pays as he goes doesn't go very far.

Consider also the grass—how every acre of it that grows has to hustle for a living.

Now that rubber ribs have proved successful awful possibilities threaten in the literal adaptation of rubber necks.

In Korea widows are not permitted to remarry. Homely widows needn't fret that they ought to offer excuses.

By the time a man thoroughly understands the ways of a woman he is so old that he doesn't care anything about them.

London has a hospital where women are trained as nurses for dogs. This is throwing physic to the dogs literally as well as figuratively.

In fighting desperately in a snowstorm the British and Tibetans showed how it is possible to have a hot time under adverse conditions.

The mumps germ has been definitely "isolated." Won't somebody please guard the microbe which causes that swelling a little higher up?

A Texas man has been sentenced to the penitentiary for an accumulative term of 396 years. He hopes to get the ninety-six years off for good behavior.

The winnings of the bank of Monte Carlo are said to average \$25 a minute. This may account for the fact that there are so many poor fools in the world.

In the sweet sisterhood of states Utah excels in plural marriages, South Dakota in plural divorces, New Jersey in plural corporations, and New York in plural politics.

Is it possible that in giving a brilliant description of how he escaped and what he did when the Petropavlovsk went down Grand Duke Cyril hopes to butt into the Carnegie hero fund?

The lady who is suing a gentleman for breach of promise because he did not make good on the ten million-million-million kisses he promised her ought to have suspected that he was overestimating his capacity.

The Princess of Wales is one of the most expert typewriters in England. She can rattle off 100 words a minute. If anything ever happens to make the British people quit supporting their royal family the Princess needn't worry.

During the progress of a breach of promise suit at Wichita, Kan., it was brought out that the defendant sent to the plaintiff ten million-million-million kisses, and all that it cost him for their shipment was a 2-cent postage stamp. Still we have to pay about the same old rates on coal and furniture.

Boys who, when they are "speaking their pieces," suddenly discover that they have forgotten what they were going to say, may comfort themselves with the knowledge that they are in distinguished company. So experienced a debater as Winston Churchill was lately obliged to sit down in the midst of a speech in the House of Commons because his memory failed him. The boy may be sure that his audience will treat him as the House treated Mr. Churchill—with sympathy and consideration.

The Pacific slope has flowers of its own, but Eastern people there sometimes long for even the weeds of their old home. A Pennsylvania-bred woman, visiting in New England in the spring, said she wished that she had some goldenrod at her home in Washington. Amid all the luxuriance of that Western State, where they raise roses by the bushel and cherries by the ton, she missed the yellow plume of the wayside weed of the other side of the Rocky Mountains. So when the frost was out of the ground her host dug up a clump of goldenrod roots and sent them to her, and now they are sprouting near the shore of Puget Sound, the first plant of the kind in that part of the world. It was in just this way that many of the common garden flowers were introduced into America—the seeds were sent by friends in the Old World.

A prince across the water was recently tried and found guilty of murder. The account which tells of his crime tells also of his childhood. What would you expect to find was the story of that prince's life? Would you expect to be told that when a child he was playing in the forest where he found a bird with a broken wing, and tended it until it could fly away? Would you expect that when a child this murderer washed the blood from a dog's crushed foot and nursed the little fellow back to health? Would you expect that one who could drive a knife through a man's heart spent his early days caring for his dumb pets and doctoring their bruises? The child that is tender and thoughtful and humane does not coolly commit murder

when he grows to be a man. The child that mends a broken wing does not grow to torture prisoners and mutilate their living bodies. What the unhappy prince did when he was a boy was to burn cats alive, tear the toe nails from dogs, cut off their tails and inflict other exquisite tortures. Small wonder that he grew to be a murderer. It was but the natural outcome of those sports of his childhood in which he took delight. Look to the little boy that finds pleasure in abusing dumb animals! Watch the child that watches pain and suffering with eager eyes. Those children are learning to be murderers. Break up the habit of cruelty before it is too late.

In spite of the long term of study and great expense incident upon a medical education in Germany, the number of doctors is increasing so rapidly that the profession is becoming alarmed. The German Association of Physicians is co-operating with the foreign office to find remunerative places in other countries for German doctors. In other words, a foreign market is sought for the excessive medical product of the home industry. There are 29,000 doctors in Germany, or about one to every 1,900 people. In larger cities statistics show one doctor for every 800 inhabitants. This, together with the fact that in Berlin 50 per cent of the medical practitioners have a taxable income below \$714, inspires the government with grave alarm. Incidentally it may be remarked that the estimate for the total expense of securing a medical education and getting fairly established in practice is between \$6,000 and \$7,000. If there is any cause for alarm over the plethora of doctors in Germany, what shall be said of this country? Here there is a doctor for every 550 people approximately. With better sanitation and a greater knowledge of hygiene among all classes, with an effectual check upon the ravages of infectious diseases due to the great strides taken by medical science in recent years, why is it that the medical schools turn out 50 per cent more students in 1901 than in 1892? There would seem to be but one answer, and that is not complimentary to the American people. There must be a greater fondness for being doctored, due either to physical degeneracy or a morbid growth of imaginary complaints. It is doubtful if the first supposition will hold in view of the uniformly flattering returns of the health statistics. There would, consequently, appear to be good foundation for the latter hypothesis. As a modifying argument, it may be said with some truth that doctors are, to an extent, a luxury, the demand for which grows with civilization and greater wealth per capita. At the same time too many luxuries tend to enervate the race. There is little doubt the profession is overcrowded, and the example set by Germany may be a valuable suggestion to America. Let this country start an export trade in doctors and get rid of the surplus stock.

NO DUSTY ROADS IN FRANCE. Tar Coating Has Proved Successful in Abating a Crying Evil.

How to obtain dustless highways has long been a problem to which municipal supervisors in all parts of the world have been devoting a great deal of attention. An official report of the department of bridges and roads in France shows the continuance of the good results obtained in rendering roads free from dust by coating the surface with tar.

The engineer for the Seine and Marne departments reports that after an unsuccessful trial of a mixture of oil and petroleum a coating of tar was in the summer of 1902 laid down on seven different lengths of road. After carefully observing these during a period of twelve months, he finds that dust and mud have wholly disappeared and the cost of maintenance of the roads has been considerably reduced. Further comparing the previous output on the roads with that of those with tarred surface, he says:

"It appears that the tarring method requires no greater outlay and at the same time very considerably improves the condition of the roadway. In La Cher two lengths of the Chausee Nationales were coated with tar in June and August of 1902. Both these experiments have been entirely successful, the road now being covered with an elastic skin, while the sound of foot passengers' tread is muffled and horses and draught oxen require only one-half the effort they put forth before. The noise and vibration caused by vehicular traffic is much reduced and neither dust nor mud is formed on the tarred surface.

A Good Dog Story.

From Prague is reported an amusing trial in which a dog played the leading part. The owner of the dog was sued by an engineer, who claimed damages for a bite from the animal. He also denounced the dog as vicious. At the trial a veterinary surgeon who was called in tried the utmost to irritate the dog by teasing him, but the animal kept his temper. The complainant then demanded that in order to test the dog's real disposition his owner should be turned out of court and the dog let loose among the audience. This was done after the dog had been muzzled. The dog, however, continued to display the greatest good humor, holding up one paw after another and wagging his tail. Finally he ran to the Judge, before whom he sat on his hind legs begging in a most pathetic manner. The Judge thereupon pronounced the dog to be a veritable lamb, and gave judgment for his owner.

Some things are pretty bad, but the worst has never happened.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

A Great Work Begun.

NOW that \$21,000,000 of the Federal Government's irrigation fund have been set aside for certain specified projects, it may be said that what is likely to prove to be the greatest internal improvement work ever undertaken by the Government of the United States is well started. It is difficult to appreciate the ultimate meaning of these great works. Many of the greatest civilizations of the past have flourished in arid countries, redeemed from the desert by the artificial application of water. The highest state of civilization reached by the aborigines of America was among those who practiced irrigation. Already in our own time, the richest agricultural regions in this country are those where irrigation is necessary and where the desert comes back to claim what it once held when the water no longer flows.

In most of the arid and semi-arid portions of the United States nature atones for the lack of rainfall by giving to the soil great fertility. It is well known that in years of extraordinary rainfall the semi-arid regions produce enormous crops. Under irrigation the crops are uniformly large, compared with what can be obtained in humid regions without irrigation. The fact is that the arid country is fertile because it is without much rain. The fertility has not been washed out of the soil by the pounding rains of countless ages. The result is that it is left for men to turn on the water and take from the arid regions, in the shape of vegetation, the fertility that has been lost in the humid regions. This is why the fertility of the irrigated country seems inexhaustible. There nature has stored her treasures for man to use; elsewhere they have been largely depleted by natural processes.

All of this explains why an acre under irrigation is worth so much more than one not irrigated. If the Government shall eventually redeem 100,000,000 acres of land it will be equivalent to the addition of several times as many acres of humid-region land to the national area. Think of how much room for population that means. And already the time has come when room for our increasing population is a problem worthy of national attention.—Minneapolis Journal.

Submarine Warfare.

THE frightful destruction which has lately befallen Russia on the sea resulted from the use of the torpedo or the submarine boat. Only three of her vessels which have been destroyed or put out of action were seriously injured above the water line. This fact has elicited from Senator Hale, one of our best naval experts, the declaration that the battleship is obsolete. He calls a halt on the further construction of these traveling sea forts, saying that the \$150,000,000 which we have already expended therefor is practically so much money thrown away. Hudson Maxim, the renowned inventor of instruments of destruction and defense, shows that there is much reason in the position taken by Senator Hale. He says, in the Review of Reviews:

"A battleship costs \$8,000,000, and may have 1,000 men on board, while the torpedo boat costs not more than one-fifth as much, and may not have one-fiftieth part as many men on board. In other words, fifty torpedo boats may be built and manned at no greater expense than a single battleship; consequently fifty torpedo boats may be destroyed with all on board, in order to sink a single battleship, and the loss be equal on both sides; while if two battleships be sunk by the sacrifice of fifty torpedo boats, the torpedo flotilla has won a decided victory. But it is probable that not more than ten torpedo boats on an average would be destroyed for every battleship sunk. This means that the present torpedo system is five times as efficient as the battleship."

There is no doubt that the Russian and Japanese war

AQUINALDO IN SECLUSION.

His Retirement Said to Be Due to Fear of Assassination.

Aguinaldo, the leader of the revolution in the Philippines, leads a life of practical retirement in Manila, writes William E. Curtis. He seldom leaves his home and is never seen upon the streets. If it is necessary for him to go to any other part of the town he always takes a closed carriage, and strangers who call upon him are very carefully inspected before they are allowed to see him. Occasionally he visits the old town of Cavite, about 18 miles from Manila, where his family have a plantation, and where his mother is living. She is said to be a woman of remarkable traits and strength of character and was his inspiration and chief adviser during the revolution.

Aguinaldo's seclusion is attributed to fear of assassination. During the insurrection he was guilty of acts of atrocious cruelty upon persons whose friends still survive and ordered several assassinations, particularly that of Gen. Luna, one of his rivals, who was a great favorite with the public and had many loyal and devoted admirers. There is also an impression among many of Aguinaldo's former associates that he profited financially during the insurrection, while they lost and forfeited everything they had. The Filipino is a revengeful and vindictive creature, and does not hesitate to take vengeance into his own hands. Hence Aguinaldo is supposed to be continually on his guard, and the police authorities would not be surprised any moment, even at this day, to learn of his assassination. When he was released from prison he was exceedingly nervous and apprehensive, and would have preferred to remain under the protection of the military. Since that time no notice has been taken of him. He has been treated like an ordinary native, and everything that might excite sympathy for or attract attention to him has been avoided. He has been invited to public functions like other prominent Filipinos, and when Gov. Taft gave a reception to the natives Aguinaldo was never overlooked. He seldom availed himself of these courtesies, however, and has avoided crowds and public demonstrations for the reasons I have given.

The police have kept him under semi-surveillance—that is, they have observed his movements and have

disclosed a new problem for the navy to solve, but nevertheless it has not yet proved the worthlessness of battleships. None of the Japanese big and heavy armored vessels have turned turtle or been put out of action. Russia has about fifty-four torpedo boats and at least four submarines, but she has done nothing with them. The Japanese are brave and daring. The Russians are timorous and sluggish. So a test under decisive circumstances has not yet been made. It would be highly rash and indiscreet to reconstruct the navies of the world along the lines demanded by Senator Hale before the effectiveness of torpedo and submarine fighting is given a thorough trial.—Kansas City Journal.

School Music.

FEW persons of adult age who have any real musical knowledge or ability can recall their school music with interest or pleasure. They remember that they sang sappy little songs about moonlight and dreams, but the airs, if they are remembered at all, are recalled only to be laughed at.

Mr. Daniel Gregory Mason, whose grandfather was really the founder of the study of music in the American public schools, and who has himself been closely identified with the teaching of music, has lately suggested, in the Outlook, both the virtues and the defects of the modern school music. His deductions and recommendations deserve careful study and thought.

The time is past when the utility of music in the schools can be questioned. Physically, mentally and spiritually it refreshes and enriches. It is both the most self-sufficient and the most general of the arts. Few persons are wholly lacking in knowledge or appreciation of it, and to those who have no other culture, music speaks intelligibly and sympathetically.

The trouble in the schools—and it is worth noting that it is also the trouble in the church hymnals—is the tendency to pay too much attention to the words, too little to the melody. If a song be about birds, animals, domestic life or patriotism, says Mr. Mason, it is considered good. The result is the adoption of a lot of silly, vapid music, because it happens to be set to edifying words.

The remedy lies in giving the children an opportunity to become familiar with music which is good enough to stand on its own feet. The folk-songs of many different nations, much church music and the simpler productions of the great composers—productions in which the melody is clear and dominating—might all be placed within reach of children in the public schools, to the displacement of much musical pap and the lasting happiness of several millions of young people. But this, in its particular aspects, is a matter for the supervisors of music, before whom it will be brought this summer by a committee of the National Educational Association.—Youth's Companion.

Demand for Farm Laborers.

HERE is no danger of the farmer passing from existence. He knows a good thing as well as his urban brother, and so does his boy. Improved methods of farming may continue to diminish the number of farm hands, but not even that fact will work to a discontinuance of the necessity for the farm laborer nor for the laborer in the harvest fields. The fact that Kansas farmers this early in the season are inviting farm hands to their corn and rye and wheat and alfalfa fields, with promise of good wages and board, is a strong argument against the business which so often attacks the American citizen when he imagines he sees an inpouring of the farmer and the farmer's boy to the cities.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

INDIANS NOT DYING OFF.

Aborigines More Numerous Than Ever Before Since America's Settlement.

Recently Charles M. Harvey prepared from the records of the government some interesting facts with respect to the irrepressible conflict between the white and the red men. He notes the error of early historians who estimated the number of Indians in this country at from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000. It has been the theme of many a sentimentalist—the supposed slaughter and extermination of a great Indian population. Mr. Harvey finds that in the Indian troubles from first to last fifteen white persons perished to each Indian slain. He shows from the best information obtainable by the



government that the Indian population at the time of the discovery by Columbus could not have been more than 800,000.

"The early explorers, missionaries and traders," he says, "journeyed by way of the seacoast, the rivers and the lakes, along which the Indians were most numerous. In traveling through the wilderness the whites attracted Indians from miles around through curiosity. The whites thought the Indians were equally numerous everywhere, but vast stretches of forest and prairie were absolutely untenanted, except for short times each year when visited by hunting parties. War and hunting often took the same bands of Indians to several points in the course of a year, the whites thinking they were different bands. Many tribes were known by different names to the Spaniards, the French and the English, and among some tribes the names varied at different places and times. These causes accounted for the exaggerated notions."

The last census showed an Indian population of 270,000 outside of those in Alaska. In 400 years, then, the white man has reduced the Indian population from 800,000 to 270,000, or in the full number of 530,000 souls. But this was not done directly by the white man. Much of it was due to the sicknesses and vices which came with the white man's civilization. A still larger proportion was due to the wars carried on between the tribes, these being made more frequent and deadly as the white men crowded the red men into a limited area and made them rivals for the same hunting ground. Still, of course, the whites were primarily responsible for the decadence of the Indian population.

The Indians are now increasing in numbers. Between the censuses of 1890 and 1900 they increased by 30,000. But they are no longer Indians in the sense of old, for most of them have come to the white man's mode of life and are merely an element of the common population.—Kansas City Journal.

A woman thinks her husband is better than she wants him to think she thinks he is.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

More failure of a landlord to comply with his agreement to make repairs on the leased premises is held, in Thompson vs. Clemens (M.D.), 90 L. R. A. 580, not to render him liable for personal injuries suffered by a member of the tenant's family because of want of repair.

A statute imposing upon landowners in the city a duty of repairing sidewalks adjacent to their premises is held in Lincoln vs. Janesch (Neb.), 57 L. R. A. 702, not to violate any constitutional provision and to be a legitimate exercise of the police power of the State.

A landlord who leases a building in separate sections is held, in Kuhn vs. Sol Heaverich Co. (Wis.), 90 L. R. A. 583, to be under no implied obligation to keep the portion remaining in his possession in repair, so that damage resulting to property through breach of it can be set up as a counter claim, in an action for rent.

A trust created by a devise to the testator's wife, of all his property in trust for her and his children with full power to continue his business if for the best interest of his estate, is held, in Holmes vs. Walter (Wis.), 92 L. R. A. 980, not to be void for uncertainty merely because the particular manner of executing it is not pointed out.

A combination of individuals for the purpose of inflicting a malicious injury upon another by ruining his business is held, in State ex rel. Durner vs. Huegin (Wis.), 92 L. R. A. 700, to be actionable, both as common law and under the statute. With these cases is an extensive note on the effect of bad motive to make actionable what would otherwise not be.

A statute exempting the proceeds of a certificate of a fraternal beneficiary association from liability for the debts of the holder or beneficiary is held in Williams vs. Donough (Ohio), 56 L. R. A. 706, to be invalid because it confers upon such societies and their members a special privilege not given to other insurance companies and is a denial of equal protection of the laws.

An option to renew a lease in accordance with the terms of the instrument giving the lessee the privilege of renewal is held, in Andrews vs. Marshall Creamery Co. (Iowa), 90 L. R. A. 399, to be exercised, so as to be binding on the lessee, by the statement of his authorized agent, shortly before the expiration of the term, that the lease will be renewed, on the faith of which he is under no obligations to make, followed by the assurance of the agent of intention to remain, and that no written renewal is necessary, when pressed for such writing after the expiration of the term and while the lessee is still in possession.

IS IMMIGRATION A PERIL?

More Children of Foreign Than of Native Born in Schools.

Immigrants came at the average rate of 12,000 a year to 1825, 100,000 a year to 1850, 200,000 a year to 1875, 400,000 a year to 1900, and 605,000 per year since then. In all, 22,000,000 have come.

Yet the percentage of residents of foreign birth was greater in 1870 than it is now.

Of the 22,000,000, 5,000,000 were from Germany, 4,000,000 from Ireland, 2,750,000 from England, 2,000,000 from Canada, 1,500,000 each from Norway-Sweden, Italy, Austria-Hungary and Russia. The three latter elements have predominated in recent years.

Some critics hold that the last-named nationalities furnish less desirable immigrants than the earlier arrivals. The census of 1890, showing the percentage of persons of each nationality in jails, prisons or asylums, or otherwise public charges, put the Poles lowest on the list, followed in order by Austrians, Russians, Germans, Hungarians, English, Scotch, Italians, French and Irish. The average of all foreign-born who were public charges was 7,718 per million; of native-born, over 3,708. The natives have been here long enough to "get ahead."

Contrary to usual impressions, 3,843 out of every million foreign-born are insane, and only 1,329 of each million natives.

More children of foreign-born than of native-born persons are in school. More persons born in the United States of foreign parents can read and write than among those born of native parents.

The twelve States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and California contain half the people of the country, 78 per cent of the foreign-born population, 81 per cent of the Italians, Russians and Austrians, and two-thirds of the property.—North American Review.

Town Without Town Officers.

Spokane, a town in the western part of the Creek nation, is the only town of 1,000 population in the territory that has no town officers. The people say they have no need of officers and do not want any. They pay no taxes, and whenever they want any public improvements they call a meeting of the citizens and raise the money. A deputy United States marshal is located there and is all that is needed to keep the peace. There is not a gambler or a gambling house in the town, and the people will not permit them. They needed a schoolhouse, so the people got together and built a good two-story building for that purpose.

Whenever a boy sees anybody eating something he wants a bite.

There is no hope for a conceited man who boasts of his mistakes.