

Topics of the Times

Food for thought is to be found in empty cupboards.

No woman looks as good to others as she does to herself.

It is easier to touch the average man's heart than it is to touch his pocket book.

When a girl stops trying to make a young man jealous he may as well pull out of the game.

The Russian people are said to be very fond of the czar and rarely ever try to wreck his train when the track is well guarded.

Less than half of the Russian population can read and write. But think of the technical difficulties to be overcome in learning Russian.

The Princess of Wales could earn her living as a stenographer if necessary. All stenogs are princesses, but all princesses are not stenogs.

Why is it that every successful test of a flying machine ends with some dismemberment of the machinery that prevents further experimenting?

It is thought that the title of the Panama route has been transferred in a manner that will give the lawyers of the future very little encouragement.

The savage Filipinos at St. Louis look upon the bright new \$10 bills as ornaments. The savages are not alone in the possession of that kind of artistic taste.

The latest fad among Yale students is going barefooted through the streets of New Haven. It is supposed to have been started by some young gentleman whose father could not be reached by telegraph.

"Some day," an Ohio editor remarks, "Congress will acquire the courage to take a humbug by the neck." That's true as shootin'; but it will still make a difference whose humbug it is that invites strangling.

The Spinners' Club of Philadelphia, organized for the purpose of abolishing men and marriage, should have begun operations by wiping out mice. From this they might have worked up to the point of tackling man.

Wire rope has been considered a modern invention, but recent excavation at Pompeii has unearthed a piece of wire rope an inch in diameter and about fifteen feet long. The rope is made of strands, each containing fifteen wires twisted together, and the strands are twisted upon one another exactly as in modern cordage.

Some one has pointed out in a "society column" that the woman of today needs, to dress properly, three times as much money as her grandmother, who in 1850 dressed well on \$200 a year. This leaves out of consideration the great majority of neatly and prettily dressed women—our wives, sisters and mothers, who have but a few dollars to spend for clothes. They make their own garments, and with skillful fingers and good taste supply for themselves that for which dressmakers would charge many hundred dollars.

The Michigan physician who puts the annual money loss to the United States from typhoid fever at \$50,000,000 is far from setting forth the full truth. He reaches his estimate by assuming \$1,000 as the average value of the lives sacrificed and he omits all account of the money spent in the care of non-fatal cases. The real value of the lives lost—so far as such value can be expressed in money—might properly be rated at \$5,000, and at least \$100 on the average must be spent on victims who recover. On this calculation, assuming that the Michigan physician is correct in his number of cases, the annual loss to the country from typhoid is nearly \$300,000,000.

A woman in New Jersey has been convicted—on her own admissions, among other things—of having killed another woman of whom she was jealous by sticking a knife into her seventeen times. The conviction was followed in due and regular course by sentence to death on the gallows, but the execution of the sentence has been delayed and the chances are that the murderer will never be hanged. The only reason for leniency, so far as we have heard, is that the murderess is not a murderer. In a country where women had only their rights, of course, there would be no hesitation, but here some of women's rights are withheld, very cruelly, it is asserted, and in compensation privileges are accorded to them. One of the privileges is the almost certain avoidance of capital punishment, however horrible may be the crimes they commit. Whether there is compensation in this or not is for the woman to say.

There are some indications that the good old charivari—or "shiveree"—of the fathers is going out of use. Now and then you hear of mobs assembling during the night and making pandemonium for the newly married, but as a rule this relic of early barbarism and frontier humor is considered passe. One modified form of the charivari that seems to be growing in popularity

and that has points of respectability that the "shiveree" lacks is the burlesque serenade. This occurs early in the evening, the midnight hour being left for repose. All kinds of instruments are permitted in this band, and facility in tone production is all that is necessary to the performer. Nailing ribbons and shoes to the baggage is no longer au fait, nor is it absolutely necessary to waste a half barrel of rice on the depot floor. To tip over the house, knock the steeple off the church and pry up a rail so as to wreck the train are no longer practiced. The burlesque serenade is really not so bad, and it serves to show the appreciation in which the bridegroom is held by his fellows.

"It never rains but it pours," and the action of the Presbyterian General Assembly, forbidding the remarriage of divorced persons by Presbyterian ministers seems to have been re-echoed all around the horizon. The Baptist Home Mission Society has adopted resolutions condemning all divorces except for the scriptural cause and all remarriage of divorced persons except the innocent parties to scriptural divorces. The committee of the Methodist General Conference to which the matter was referred has discussed and rejected all grounds for divorce except the scriptural ground. Bishop McLaren in his opening address to the Illinois Diocesan Convention made a feeling allusion to the divorce evil, and the subject forced itself in a meeting of the peace and arbitration committee of the W. C. T. U. with the same effect.

The most noteworthy action of all, however, was taken by the Federation of Women's Clubs. The by-laws of this organization make all of the women who have served two years as president honorary presidents. It happened that one of these honorary presidents was recently married to a man who had been divorced only two weeks before. In order to express its disapproval of her course the federation changed the by-law and made all who had served as presidents merely "eligible" as honorary presidents, the intention being to elect all of them except this obnoxious woman. From these almost simultaneous incidents it appears that the church and society, the two agencies that have more power to purify the marital relation than the law itself, are now fairly awake to the necessity of declaring themselves in the most unmistakable terms and of exerting all the disciplinary power they possess over their own members to extirpate the social cancer of the present day. In both of these movements it will be observed woman is the mainspring, for the church is almost as much a woman's institution as the woman's clubs, and who should originate this reaction if woman should not? Woman is the almost invariable victim of divorce, and never more so than when she is bribed or abused into seeking a divorce. Woman, home and childhood are what is crushed in the modern divorce mill, and it is no wonder that woman's voice should be first lifted for deliverance. Is all this parliamentary activity mere "sound and fury, signifying nothing," or is it to bear fruit in a determined onslaught on the evil? If anything is to be accomplished it will be through these religious and social organizations. That they are almost omnipotent in this field is unquestionable.

EXCITING BUFFALO HUNT.

The Animal Drags a Yawl Across the Prairie.

A yawlful of men wrecked by a buffalo is among the exciting reminiscences told by the author of "Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri River," according to a story in the Philadelphia Ledger. The fare provided for the crews in early days was extremely plain and scanty. One of the boats commanded by a Capt. La Barge was going through the buffalo country when only a poor supply of salt pork and bread. Every eye was alert for a meal of fresh meat, if such should appear on four feet anywhere in the vicinity. At last, near Handy's Post, four huge bulls were sighted, swimming the river. Capt. La Barge's first mate was a greenhorn, named John Durack, and the captain thought this a fine opportunity to break him in to some of the experiences of the wild and woolly west. He gave orders to the men on the boat to shoot the buffaloes and he and John would land when they were either wounded or dead and tow them back to the hungry crew. But John, it seems, did not quite understand the program. About midstream he suddenly flung the noose over the head of the foremost buffalo, which was naturally the strongest of the swimming quartet. Capt. La Barge's shout of dismay came too late.

"Isn't he as good as any?" called back the innocent first mate, tugging hand over hand at the rope.

The buffalo "right about faced" and swam like mad for the farther shore, the yawlful of men helplessly in tow. The rowers backed their oars, protesting volently to the obdurate John in the bow, but all to no purpose. Soon the buffalo's feet touched the bottom and up the bank he scrambled, carrying with him the stem of the yawl as it struck the rocky shore. Terrified and furious, the buffalo, lasso, boat, bow and all, went careening out of sight across the prairie, and the sorry yawl crew had to wait, hungry, angry and disappointed on the further bank until another crew came to take them down the river beyond the warning bellows of the escaped buffalo.

A girl tries to judge the quality of a man's love by the stone in the engagement ring.

If a friend pulls his watch on your funny story cut it short.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Women as Wage Earners.

IT has never been determined to the satisfaction of the men workers that it is a good or a fair thing for the women workers to compete with them in the open labor market. The men contend that the women, by accepting a lower wage, decrease the average wage paid to all. The unmarried women who have no one to work for them maintain that the woman who has a husband for her bread-winner is an unfair competitor. Then, again, there are those, generally old-fashioned folk that have, like Webster's veterans, come down to us from former generations, who devoutly believe that the woman's sphere of labor, as wife and mother, is in her own home, where useful, helpful work for the world may be found to engage much of her time, energy and intelligence. These ancient people contend that the rearing aright of children, the making of good men and noble women, is the very best and the most profitable work to which married women can put their hands or minds.

Respecting the merits or demerits of any of these three contentions we do not pretend to decide, as we are past masters in neither political economy nor sociology. What we do know on the subject pretty thoroughly is that the right kind of labor is a good and beneficent thing for women as well as for men, and that day by day recognition of that fact is becoming more general. What else is being recognized is that the woman who works for a wage or salary loses no dignity nor prestige, but rather gains both by her willingness and ability either to work and support herself in womanly independence or to assist in the support of her family who need her assistance.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Saving Niagara.

G OVERNOR ODELL'S veto has, for the time being, saved Niagara Falls from spoliation by utilitarian enterprise. He rightly considers that sentiment—a love for the grand and beautiful in nature—has claims upon the law-making power which cannot wisely be ignored in behalf of money-making propositions. It will be easy to find elsewhere the power necessary to run the machinery of a population five or ten times as great as that of the United States to-day. But we cannot find another Niagara. So the New York statesman has the approval of the nation at large, whatever the disappointed Niagara corporation and its tools in the State Legislature may think of his veto.

But Governors and Legislatures come and go, and if Niagara is to flow on forever it is not well that the fate of the Falls should depend on the bargainings of lobbyists and politicians. Neither should it depend on the chance that there may never be a Governor of New York to whom sentiment may be mere silliness, and Niagara a mere waste of water which should be set to turning mill-wheels. The jurisdiction of New York State over a river which forms part of an international boundary is subject to the treaty-making power of the Federal Government. That government, in conjunction with Canada, can make the destruction of the cataract forever impossible through a treaty prohibiting any further diversion of the waters of the river. As both countries are now using the water in about equal quantities the prohibition would be fair to both, and would preserve to Canada and New York the glorious central attraction about which each has created, at vast expense, a magnificent riverside park.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Cupid in the School Houses.

F ROM time immemorial the school house has been a favorite resort for sly Cupid. Thousands of charming young women have found the school house the threshold of matrimony, and countless young men have met their fate while eking out an educational existence by teaching winters and "boarding round." Under these circumstances none but the most hard-hearted educational autocrat would have the temerity to seek to banish Cupid and to say that no female teacher could rise in love and marry the man of her choice without losing her position in the public schools.

The New York Board of Education sought to banish all married women from wicked Gotham's public schools, and forthwith an incipient revolution was started. A com-

AVOID STRAY NICKELS.

Small Coin Lost in Mails Worries Clerks and Costs \$18.43.

Ordinarily no man is rich enough to escape that certain sense of elation which comes from picking up a nickel on a sidewalk, but for a railway postal clerk to find such a coin in a mail pouch where it has worked out from insufficient wrappings, not only does he miss this elation, but it may provoke profanity.

For a nickel lost in a pouch of mail in transit becomes a matter for national concern. It comes to view, perhaps, just as a pouch of mail is emptied upon a sorting table, and when it has broken away from the bunches of letters, and cards, and circulars, rolled to an open space on the table, and there settled down, heads or tails, with a noisy spinning dance, the clerk who first sees it is it.

A necromancer could have no more idea than the man in the moon as to what particular package it rolled out of, and if he had and should tell the postal clerk, the clerk wouldn't dare try to restore the coin to the original package. That would be too easy altogether.

No, it is a lost nickel from the moment the clerk has to see it spinning there before his eyes and according to the tender governmental conscience the clerk has to get ready for the inauguration of about \$18.43 worth of fuss over it.

For himself he doesn't dare go to bed for a short nap until he has got rid of his 5 cents' worth of responsibility to the government for the action of the fool person from whom the nickel was parted. He digs up his printed form for such occasions, printed and provided, and at once fills out a long blank, describing the coin, telling the circumstances of its being found, and whether it landed heads or

ly young teacher named Kate S. Murphy, who fell a victim to Cupid's wiles, determined to make a test case in behalf of herself as well as of her suffering sisters, and she brought action against the superintendent for the purpose of preventing the enforcement of the by-law providing that "No woman principle, head of department or member of the teaching or supervising staff shall marry while in the employ of the Board of Education."

The case was carried to the Court of Appeals, where a victory was won for the matrimonial liberty of the female teacher. Following this defeat the New York Board of Education has now amended its by-laws by striking out the clause which permits charges to be made against a teacher-bride, but it retains the prohibitive feature, merely to demonstrate its continued belief that female teachers ought not to wed and still retain their positions.

In the meantime Kate S. Murphy has won a victory in behalf of her sex in connection with the public schools which will unquestionably be appreciated by her teaching sisters everywhere, and as a token of her good faith she will continue to teach in gay Gotham even though she has fallen a victim to clever Cupid.—Burlington Free Press.

Brazil, Peru and Rubber.

W HEN Brazil and Bolivia entered into a treaty concerning the territory of Acre last fall, it was thought that the long standing disputes over the region had finally been brought to an end. Now it appears, however, that Peru is still to be reckoned with. A battle has been fought between Peruvian and Brazilian troops on the River Crandell, the result being, according to Brazilian reports, a complete rout of the Peruvians.

The Ministers of both countries at Washington have thought it important to bid for American sympathy by issuing statements as to their respective claims and rights. Formally considered, these statements have little in them of interest. They deal simply with vague treaties and vaguer boundaries in an exceedingly thinly settled region.

Actually the dispute has great importance to both countries, because the prize at stake is the control of some of the richest rubber forests in the world. Brazilian companies have begun to work the forests in the course of their progress up the tributaries of the Amazon, while Peruvian companies have entered them since the denudation of the forests in Mantana, which is recognized Peruvian territory.

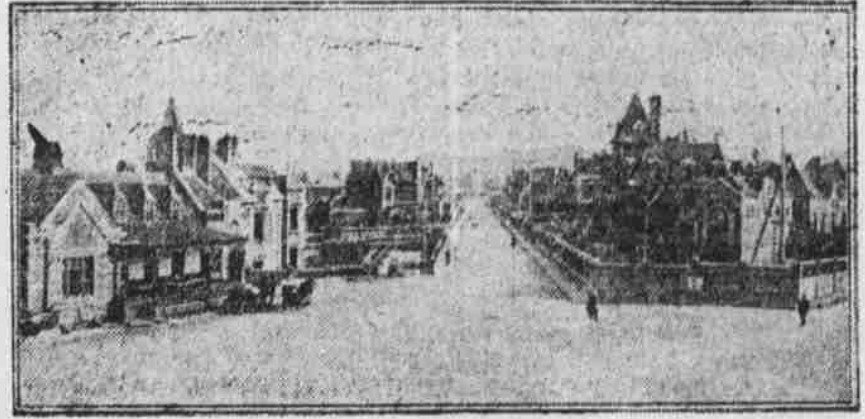
It is reported from Rio Janeiro that no war will result from the frontier battle since both countries desire arbitration. Brazil demands, however, that Peru withdraw all her troops from the disputed country before arbitration begins, while Peru insists that the presence of her troops is not in the slightest degree derogatory of "good faith and fraternal sentiment." Certainly if the desire for arbitration is genuine a provisional arrangement should be easy to make.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Industrial Changes in China.

S LOW as is the progress of civilization in China, compared with Japan, which, in a period covered by the memory of men now living, had sprung from a condition as barbarous as Persia to her present place among nations, yet industrially at least the "Celestial" Empire does move, and that in a manner which cannot be neglected in any computation of future trade with that country. The report of the Inspector General of Customs of the empire shows that China is rapidly getting into a condition to supply herself with certain articles for which she has depended heretofore almost entirely upon other countries. Those who have not kept themselves well informed in regard to the industrial changes which have been taking place in the empire will be surprised to learn from the report that the nation which for so many years relied almost entirely upon England and the United States for its cotton goods, now manufactures 50 per cent of all the goods of this kind supplied to the home market. In a year China's imports of flour have fallen off one-fourth, not that the Chinese are eating less of it than formerly—in fact, the consumption of flour is increasing in the empire—but because the deficiency in imports was more than made good by the recently established Chinese flour mills grinding Chinese wheat.

These would seem to be signs that, in spite of a corrupt and incompetent Government, China is beginning to awake from her sleep of centuries.—New York Press.

DESTRUCTION OF DALNY'S DOCKS.



ONE OF DALNY'S PRINCIPAL STREETS.

The necessities of war produce strange conditions. For five years the Russians had been engaged in erecting the commercial port of Dalny, situated on Tallenwan Bay to the east and north of Port Arthur. It was to be an open port, without a custom house, and free to the commerce of the world. Large government buildings were erected, streets were laid out, houses built and great docks constructed, the entire outlay being in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000. Then came the war, with Russian unpreparedness on land and sea. The defeat of the Russians at Kin-Chow compelled their evacuation of Dalny. Before abandoning the place, however, they destroyed the larger docks and many of the utilities which Japan might find useful, thus wiping out in a few hours works which in times of peace they had created at large outlay of time and money.

tails on the table, naming the pouch from which it was emptied, the number of the train carrying it, the date, and a few other little details any one of which in hot weather would have cost a mug of beer.

This report with the nickel goes to the headquarters of the postal division in which the car was operated, and from these bonded officials, by the same general red tape route, the small coin finds its way to the seat of national government and to the fund representing that great constituency of the Postoffice Department which persists in sending money in envelopes

The Way of Servants.

Subbubs—I see Cashman has announced himself as a candidate for governor.

Cittman—Yes, he declares it is his "great ambition to be the servant of the people."

Subbubs—Servant? What! Doesn't he mean to keep the place if he gets it?—Philadelphia Ledger.

Some men belong to church and some others seem to think the church belongs to them.

FIFTY YEARS OF KANSAS.

William Allen White Declares the State Has Ceased to Bleed.

Under the title of "Fifty Years of Kansas" William Allen White tells in the World's Work a significant story of state building. Fifty years ago, he says, Kansas was marked on the maps a desert, and for the most part it was a desert, indeed. It is an upland country chiefly, a vast plateau veined sparsely with a few rivers that were swollen with the floods of spring and, through the season of growing crops, oozed sluggishly in pools on the parching white sand. Before civilized man came to grapple it, this desert lay green and tempting in May and June, and brown and dreary the rest of the year.

And now that Kansas has conquered the soil, getting crops from it with bountiful regularity, she is delving into the ground. In the southeastern triangle of the state the ten years last past has brought important discoveries of coal and oil and gas and zinc and lead. The Iron mountains of Missouri are near by and smelters and foundries and allied industries that need cheap fuel are filling up southeastern Kansas, changing its economic status from agricultural to manufacturing. The gas and coal and oil belt is pushing farther and farther back into the state. It is not unlikely that half the area of Kansas may cover valuable fuel products. Since 1884 Kansas has pulled herself out of debt; her proportion of rented farms is smaller than that of any other state in the trans-Missouri country. Seven-tenths of the homes of the people are owned. The railroad mileage of the state is larger than that of any other American state in proportion to the population.

The per capita wealth of Kansas may not be larger than that of New York, but Kansas' wealth is more evenly distributed. There are no rich men—not a dozen men in the state worth more than \$1,000,000; not 200 worth \$500,000, but thousands worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and scores worth \$100,000. The money of the few Kansas rich men has been earned and saved.

But the chief glory of Kansas is not her material wealth, but her schools. In the amount of money spent for schools in proportion to the wealth and population of the state, Kansas ranks fourteenth. The most considerable item of the Kansas' taxes are school taxes.

BAD MEN OF ARGENTINA.

The cowboys of the pampas are thieving and murderous, and have little regard for human life. They use their knives on the slightest provocation.



BORDER RUFFIANS OF THE PAMPAS.

tion, and the rural police have little control of them. Whenever a crowd of these border ruffians are assembled, their faces, hands and bodies show a collection of scars that is remarkable.

Keeping His Word.

Sandy is the resident janitor at one of the smaller colleges. He is a bit of a character in his way, and makes an effort not to be outdone by the students. The success is sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. Sandy owned a little mean-looking dog, of which he was fond. He was treated to much good-humored chaff about the dog, but always replied in kind, frequently asserting, "I widna tak twenty duthers for ma wee doggy."

A few of the more waggish freshmen made up their minds to test Sandy's assertion. Between them they made up twenty dollars, and one of their number was authorized on the first favorable opportunity to make Sandy an offer.

As was quite common with him, Sandy happened into the cloakroom between lectures. The dog soon became a subject of debate, and out came Sandy's statement, "I widna tak twenty duthers for ma wee doggy."

"Well, Sandy," said a young freshman, "I would like to have that dog, and here's twenty dollars if you'll sell him." He counted the money out on the table near Sandy.

Without a smile Sandy gravely put his hand in his pocket, drew out a fifty-cent piece, and laid it on the table, at the same time pocketing the twenty dollars. "I didna say I widna tak nineteen fuffy. The wee doggy's yours."

Expansion.

"So you have quit selling gold bricks and conducting bunko games," said the old-time pul.

"Yes," answered Mr. Conne. "It is foolish to run around the streets picking up a thousand here or there. The thing to do now is to open an office and have people send you the money by mail."—Washington Star.

During the courtship a young couple are apt to sit around and hold hands in silence, but after marriage—well, that's another story.

An office holder needs little push if he has a pull.