

Topics of the Times

If fish could talk anglers would have to revise their yarns.

Many a rich man has nothing but sympathy for the poor.

A summer girl's idea of economy is to make one hammock do for two.

Competition works both ways. It is either the life or death of trade.

Some men would rather tell agreeable lies than the disagreeable truth.

Some men are unable to stand up for their rights because their wives sit on them.

When a bachelor has more money than he can spend he should annex a wife.

Don't be too modest. Because of its modesty the lowly violet is frequently trampled under foot.

The judge who fined a girl \$10 for wearing a "peekaboo" waist evidently is not in "society" much.

Possibly you may have observed that lots of girls marry during leap year who never married before.

A Pennsylvania woman who died the other day left \$500 for her pet dog. It ought to be easy enough for some sharp lawyer to get that.

It is almost superfluous to mention the fact that Uncle Russell Sage's money never takes a vacation. It works for him every day in the year.

A London firm has decided to make war on the Standard Oil Company. One needn't be much of a prophet to predict what will happen to the London firm.

Two thousand Mormon missionaries are in the field. The inevitable conflict is approaching. This nation cannot long remain half bigamy and half monogamy.

A French physician claims that autotomobility will cure consumption. It will also cure any other disease that a man who gets in front of the machine happens to have.

Another bank teller has confessed that a large shortage in his accounts is due to speculation. And it is encouraging to note that the newspapers refer to him as a thief instead of an embezzler.

Persons who are not smokers probably will be surprised to hear that some striking cigarmakers down in New York claim that for years the manufacturers have been using cabbage and celery leaves as a substitute for Havana tobacco.

A radium clock has been made that is estimated as good for 30,000 years before it runs down. Before retiring for the night nearly every man has to put out the cat, besides winding the clock. Now that the clock problem has been settled, can somebody invent a way of putting out the cat so she will stay out for 30,000 years?

A Heidelberg professor has aroused interest in Germany by propounding the theory that the German Federal Council has a right to end the empire, eliminate the Kaiser and construct a new federation. It is feared that the Kaiser, who seems to be rather finicky about matters pertaining to the empire, might offer some objection to this program.

Perhaps if the enemies of the divorce evil could take away the matrimonial incentive that impels separation in so many instances, the hardest blow would be struck at the practice. Prevent divorced people from marrying again, or make them wait a certain length of time before marrying, and the divorce courts would find their labors materially lightened. But we need a uniform marriage law to start the reform.

How much more our bill of fare is to be trimmed to suit the newer notions of the day is somewhat difficult to imagine. Aside from the pure theory of the matter, we may in the end be forced to believe that man was never made for a mixed diet, that his stomach and complicated intestinal apparatus are merely an accidental survival of useless organs, of which the insignificant and troublesome appendix is the type. Experience, however, against which there is never much of an argument, must prove its value against the mere logic of arbitrary rules. The hungry man with a juicy steak before him will continue his hurtful habit of loading his stomach with unnecessary fodder in spite of all theories to the contrary. His instinctive need for just such nourishment as he takes will answer all other questions.

In politics it may be desirable to have an opposition party. The happy man in legislation is often reached by the consideration and compromise which criticism from opponents compels. But in the world of social and moral relations one vigorous "This do" is worth a chorus of "Don'ts." Slander is best checked by hearty and charitable speech. Evil thoughts must be crowded out by noble ones—not by a resolve to think no more evil. The

house which was left swept and garnished, but empty, was soon taken possession of by seven devils more wicked than the first. It may seem a long step from these generalizations to the remark that women may win men from undomestic habits by other methods more easily than by anti-lodge and anti-club societies. The man who spends an evening at home because his wife has helped pass a resolution condemning his habit of going out will hardly be a pleasant companion at the fireside. The wife may well seek some new and fascinating way of saying, "Do stay!" rather than some new and strenuous way of saying, "You shall not go!" If it seems at first thought to be beneath the woman's dignity to contrive effective persuasions, she may reflect that nature itself sets her the example. Sun and rain are none the less powerful that they are silent and conservative forces.

As Russell Sage is regarded all over this country as a parsimonious man from whom nobody ever expected a generous, sympathetic or humane sentiment to proceed, his article in the Independent on "The Injustice of Vacations" will probably excite no feeling but resentment and contempt, and still it contains just enough truth to keep it from being absurd. Mr. Sage's indictment against "the vacation habit" when analyzed contains three counts. In the first place, he thinks a vacation is an outrage on the legal rights of the employer. In the second place, he contends that a vacation instead of being a recuperative process depletes a man's vitality, wastes his money and returns him to his work a less valuable employe than he was before. In the third place, he charges that it betrays a want of business ambition. In regard to the first objection it may be freely admitted, as Mr. Sage says, that there is no more justice in an employe being paid for two weeks without working than there would be in his working two weeks without pay, but that is not a fair statement of the case. The presumption is that the employe's pay is adjusted to the vacation habit. That this is so is proved by the fact that vacations are not granted until employes have been a year in their positions. The second objection—that vacations do people more harm than good—has just a grain of truth in it. There is no doubt that a number of people return from their vacations not only worn out but disgusted and deeply impressed that they will never take another. Strange to say, however, there are people in good circumstances who have money enough to pass the summer anywhere they please. With poor people the effect of the vacation is just the opposite. The hard-worked clerk and the physical toiler returns from his outing boasting aloud of his diversions and his improved health. That he is worth less to his employer than he was before his vacation cannot be true. Certainly employers do not seem to think so. In the third place, Mr. Sage thinks that if a young man has the proper ambition to be a good workman and to rise in his business he will be too much in love with the workshop or the store to leave it for a vacation. He backs it up with his own example and says he has never taken a day's vacation in eighty-three years. This is the same as to say that if a man has a proper devotion to his business he will put every rule of health at defiance and do the best he can to work himself to death. Nobody thinks this except Mr. Sage. As a general thing the American people work too hard and take too little rest and recreation. To Europeans they appear to be business mad and our own physicians are all agreed that this incessant activity has made nervous prostration a distinctively American disease. They say we need shorter hours and more holidays, and probably they are right about it. Still, everyone will agree with Mr. Sage that there is a good deal of humbug about vacations, especially among well-to-do people.

Shorn of His Power.
In the closing days of the last session of Congress, one of the Representatives from a Northern State was complaining to a colleague of the political non-activity of a number of his constituents whom he had been influential in placing in public offices.

"There is no use talking," he said, "this civil service business is a humbug. I named four or five fellows for good jobs, and as soon as they got warm in their seats they snapped their fingers at me. They felt that they were protected, by the civil service, and made up their minds to lay down and not do any work."

"That's nothing to a fellow that I had appointed," said the other man, who hailed from one of the Western States; "he was worse than any of your fellows."

"Why, what did he do?" inquired the Northerner.

"Do?" was the indignant reply. "Why, as soon as he got his place he joined the church, and now he is useless as far as our political organization is concerned."

New Kind of Mother-in-Law.
"You're one of the few men I have met who don't object to his mother-in-law paying a long visit."

"Me object to my mother-in-law? I should say not!"

"You get along well, then."

"You bet we do. And you ought to see her boss my wife around."—St. Paul News.

There is plenty going on, but in so many cases reporters do not dare say anything.

Dead men pay no doctor bills.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Why Do Inventors Neglect the Kitchen?

An inventor and a housewife were discussing the practical side of kitchen work the other day, when the inventor expressed his surprise that no easier plans had been found for doing the hundred and one odd things which are still done in the kitchen in the same laborious manner that prevailed when he was a boy. He said that if he had to do "housekeeping" he would get easier ways of accomplishing a lot of things which are now done by main force; and expressed his surprise that women, who are supposed to be too weak to attempt any heavy labor, regularly do things which would be a severe test upon the muscles of the strongest man.

"Well, there are certain things which have to be done," said the housewife. "And most people have only maids in their kitchen."

"Why, I would put in a little motor," began the inventor, when a pair of surprised eyes told him that this had never before occurred to the housewife.

It is certainly a curious fact that invention, which has done so much for man's work all along the line, has done so little for that of women. Of course, it has done something. The housewife was able to mention several labor-saving devices which could now be bought at the department stores; but they made up a pitiful total when compared with the myriads of inventions that have come to the assistance of man. It is safe to say that the average typewriter carries almost as many patents as a kitchen shelf.

Of course, men are very willing to buy any little work-savers for the kitchen which are invented; but it is a sentimental demand upon which these devices must depend for their profits—not the imperative demand of increased production. When a kitchen produces a meal, it produces all that can be required of it. To lessen the labor of producing this meal, is not to produce two meals; it is only to produce one meal more easily.

Yet a priceless economic product would be the result of this invention. Woman would be given more time. It is doubtful if the human race can buy any more valuable thing than a higher average of leisure for the women who work. In many cases, they are the mothers of the next generation; and they cannot be given too much time to prepare themselves for the bringing up of that generation in the best way. An invention or set of inventions which should give the women of Canada two extra hours a day for mental improvement, would tell immensely on the more material productiveness of this country when the children of the present shall have become the producers of the future.—Montreal Star.

Desertion of Forest Fires Last Year.

THE Bureau of Forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture has published a report upon the "Forest Fires in the Adirondacks in 1903." This report, which is most instructive, estimates the direct loss from the destruction of timber, building, etc., in those fires at \$3,500,000. In addition to this \$175,000 was expended in futile efforts to extinguish the fires. The indirect loss caused by the destruction of undergrowth, injury to the soil, destruction of fish and other game was enormous, but no estimate of it could be attempted. The fires occurred between April 20 and June 8 of last year, at the time when the breeding and nesting season was at its height, and in the conflagrations a great number of young animals and birds and some that were full grown perished. Trout in the streams and lakes perished in great numbers, some from the heated waters and some from the lye leached from the ashes left by the fire. Over 600,000 acres of woodland were swept by the fires, much of which is the property of the State. The fires originated variously. It was a time of protracted drought and the whole region was filled with dry and highly combustible material. Many of the fires began along the railways from sparks and cinders from the locomotives. These were due largely to carelessness, as they could have been prevented. Other fires started from camp fires and smokers. Many were of an incendiary origin, and the reasons assigned for the incendiarism are peculiar. It seems that the law provides a fund for paying laborers for fighting fires, and that the rate of wages allowed being greater than for other labor, men set the woods afire in order to get employment in fighting the

HISTORY OF AN OLD CLAIM.

Creek Indians Soon to Come Into Possession of Thousands.

The loyal Creeks will soon receive the cash on their old war claims, says the Kansas City Journal. The entire amount of the original claim was \$1,200,000, but after long years of waiting and many conferences between the Indians and congressional committees it was finally scaled to half that amount. The Indian most instrumental in securing the award was D. M. Hodge of Tulsa. For his services he was allowed to retain 5 per cent of the amount collected. This circumstance alone shows that the Indian had but little hopes of ever getting anything out of the government. The claim was pending more than thirty years.

The largest claim is that of Celia Scott, a resident of Coweta. The claim is \$23,000. The other claims range down to a few dollars or even cents. A large number of persons residing in the vicinity of Tulsa will get large amounts. The principal of these is Lincoln Postock, whose check will aggregate about \$9,000. Ex-Gov. L. C. Perryman will get a nice little slice; so likewise will several others. Several boys who never saw \$100 in their lives will get various sums ranging from that amount up to \$1,200 or \$1,500. What they will do with this money no one knows. But all have agreed upon one thing—viz., get rid of it as soon as possible. All sorts of schemes are hatched calculated to part them from the money.

Celia Scott is the daughter of the organizer and leader of the loyal Creeks, who left their homes along the Arkansas river in 1891 for the north. He was neither chief nor soldier, but a medicine man, in whom the Indians had implicit confidence. Seeing the exposed condition of his tribesmen, he went to the chief of his faction and obtained permission to lead them out of the Egyptian darkness overhanging the country. They located at Leito, Kan. The refugees started from their homes on Christmas day. They were away from home nearly five years. Many men who have since been famous in

flames. Many of the fires occurred upon private game preserves. These are attributed to incendiarism due to the strong feeling against private ownership of these lands and the exclusion of hunters. State reservations were fired because the law forbids the cutting or removal of wood from them.—Baltimore Sun.

Work of Yellow Journalism.

It is not service, nor even alleged service, to the public that constitutes yellowness; it is boisterousness, vaunting, morbidity, extravagance, the magnifying of slight accidents into tragedies and bonfires into holocausts.

White papers are sometimes taken in by dispatches from Europe, because yellowism exists there as well as here; but they do not originate those dispatches; they do not "dress up" news in the home office; they print only what they believe to be true, and print it without trying to make the readers believe that it is the most tremendous thing that ever happened.

Sensationalism is like other agencies for excitement in that it creates a constant and increasing demand for more; hence the tendency of the yellow paper is to grow yellower and yellower, because any lapse into sobriety and calm is resented by its almost illiterate patron. He must be kept going by mental stimulants which are just as harmful to him as cocktails. He wants his news strong rather than true, and if he ever reads an editorial does not want it to preach or inform, but only to rouse. And if its editor thrusts himself into his vision as the greatest of men, the reader's mind has been brought by his reading to a state that makes him almost ready to admit it.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Jap Officers and Their Pay.

MILITARY efficiency being so much bound up with the national existence of Japan, the army officers naturally take their profession very seriously. Their pay is small, and few have much private means, so that they live in a very modest way compared to the officers of many other armies.

A major general only gets the equivalent of about £158 a year ordinary pay, a captain £30, and a second lieutenant £18. Most appointments mean additional pay, but foreign service does not. Messes have been established in some regiments, but as a rule, the officers only have the midday meal together. Japanese food is cheap, consisting as it does chiefly of rice and fish; while rich and poor alike drink the inexpensive liquor of the country, "sake." For this reason entertaining expenses come to very little, and the officer is enabled to maintain his position with but small outlay.

As in the Continental armies of Europe, Japanese officers practically live in uniform, and the latter is serviceable and inexpensive. Little attention is paid to smartness and appearance generally, though all are invariably neatly dressed. Promotion is chiefly by selection; especially in the higher ranks.—New York Evening Post.

The Spirit of Recklessness.

MANY—probably most—accidents on American railways of all kinds are due to recklessness. The same is true of accidents from other vehicles. Manifestations of this disposition are to be seen on every side. Coachmen exhibit it by driving heavy carriages at full speed around the most busy and crowded corners of large cities. Messenger boys show it by propelling their bicycles like mad whenever they get where there seems a good chance to run anybody down. The automobile chauffeur acts as if it was no part of his business to look out for people ahead of him, and apparently thinks that the man or woman whom he runs down receives only his or her deserts for getting in the way. Everybody who operates any sort of vehicle, from the locomotive engineer to the laborer or clerk hurrying to his work on a motorcycle, seems to have become possessed with the idea that it is his business to go as fast as he can, but no part of his business to take care that he doesn't kill anybody. This combination of speed madness with recklessness is causing more casualties in the United States than all other causes together.—Kansas City Journal.

partly to the change of sentiment which demands broad shoulders, and selects clothes accordingly.

The model now in demand has usually a 25-inch waist, where it was formerly absolutely necessary that it should be under 24. A 37-inch bust is preferred, where 36 used to be considered the ideal. Thirteen inches across the shoulders is now considered none too broad, though the hip measure accomplished by the model who adjusts herself strictly to the new average is a couple of inches smaller than formerly, being about 4½.

These measurements are the average ones of the gowns that are sold even more than of the wearers themselves. The plan of buying a large size to be fitted down so as to obtain the broad shouldered effect is almost universal, and while the greatest mistake a saleswoman could make formerly was to suggest that a customer take a size larger than she thought necessary, now it is often received as a compliment.—Chicago Tribune.

Setting on a Sure Thing.

The magistrate was German, but the prisoner at the bar wasn't.

"You been here before, already," said the magistrate.

"Sure I has," said the prisoner.

"How many times arrested?" asked the judge.

"Aw! I been pinched more times than I got fingers an' toes," said Mr. Piugugly, "an' I was always discharged now."

"Put ten on that for me. It's a cinch," said the court policeman who stood near by.—New York Sun.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

The advisability of documentary evidence tending to establish the guilt of an accused of the offense charged is held, in Adams vs. New York, advance sheets U. S. 1903, p. 372, to be affected by the fact that it was in violation of the constitutional prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The constitutional guaranty of religious freedom is held, in People vs. Pierson (N. Y.), 63 L. R. A. 187, not to be violated by a statute requiring the furnishing of medical attendance to minors, where the constitution provides that liberty of conscience shall not justify practices inconsistent with the safety of the state.

The right to interrogate a witness as to his belief in a Supreme Being who would punish him for false swearing, for the purpose of affecting his credibility, is denied in Brink vs. Stratton (N. Y.), 63 L. R. A. 182, where the constitution provides that no person shall be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief, and abrogates all disqualification from civil rights because of such belief.

A stipulation in a railway pass that the company shall not be liable to the user "under any circumstances, whether of negligence of agents or otherwise, for any injury to the person," is held in Northern Pacific Railway Company vs. Adams, Advance Sheets U. S. 1903, p. 408, to violate no rule of public policy and to relieve the company from liability for personal injuries resulting from the ordinary negligence of its employes to one riding on the pass with knowledge of its conditions.

A promise by a conductor to assist a female passenger who is partially blind, in alighting from the train at her destination, is held, in Southern Railway Company vs. Hobbs (Ga.), 63 L. R. A. 68, not to amount to an undertaking on the part of the conductor to enter the car in which the passenger is riding, assume charge of her bundles and escort her from her seat down the aisle and out upon the platform, unless the passenger is so helpless as to require this extraordinary attention and the conductor has notice that such is the case.

The right to cross examine handwriting experts in order to prove their ability is sustained in Hong vs. Wright (N. Y.), 63 L. R. A. 163, and it is held to be error to strike out an admission by such an expert that he had been mistaken as to signatures which he had pronounced genuine, although the trial judge might, in his discretion, have excluded an effort to secure such admission in the first instance. The other authorities on examination of witnesses to handwriting by comparison are collated and reviewed in a note to this case.

WOMAN CLERKS IN GERMANY.

Steady Progress of the Sex in Spite of Conservatism.

Women have become an indispensable factor in the German postal telegraph and telephone service, it seems, in spite of the conservatism which prevented the utilization of feminine activities in public work in Germany until nearly half a century later than in France and England. United States Consul Monaghan, of Chemnitz, in his recent communication to the United States department of commerce and labor, reviews briefly the conditions and requirements which are of interest as showing the progress of women in the fatherland.

It is not every woman who can obtain a position in the German postal service, so strict are the government regulations respecting age, character, education and health. A government medical examiner pronounces upon the health, which must be perfect; the age must not exceed 30 or be under 18, and a good common school education is a primary requisite. Possessing all these qualifications, the woman candidate is eligible only to a position as assistant in the postoffice, and the highest salary she can hope for is \$119 a year. In the telegraph and telephone service, however, all grades of positions are open to women, though the rules of admission are equally strict, and no women with children are employed. Four thousand women are now engaged in the telephone service of the German empire, it is stated, 1,000 of them being in Berlin. The hours are light, ranging from six to eight a day.

The highest pay which a woman can draw in German telephone offices is \$357, which is said to afford a comfortable living in Germany, but is a low wage compared to that to be obtained in England, where experienced telephone clerks get \$600 and chief supervisors are paid as high as \$2,550. In Germany, however, it must be noted that women on their withdrawal from active labor after the prescribed number of years of faithful work are awarded a government pension on the same plane with the men.

A Dividend.
Conductor—I got your fare before, sir.

Passenger—I know; this nickel is for the company.—Judge.