

Topics of the Times

Meat consumers complain that they are getting soaked. Ditto the producers. The trust is mum.

If you trace your genealogical tree back far enough you may discover monkeys in the branches.

It is a woman's fondness for change that prevents many a husband from leaving any in his pocket.

Save your silver dollars. The estimate is that there are only 600,000,000 of them in circulation now.

It has been suggested that at the close of the present war Japan may insist on revising Russia's autogeography.

Isn't it about time for the higher criticism to declare that it was not a whale that swallowed Jonah, but a loan shark?

Dr. Schurman says no man has a right to be "a bachelor as a matter of choice." What! Not as a matter of the lady's choice?

In Australia grafter means a doer of hard and faithful work. Now we understand why they call that country the antipodes.

"Taking an interest in the solution of problems of political economy" is likely to become historical as a euphemism for "banging the trusts."

Russell Sage has lost a lawsuit up in Minnesota, but he was foreboding enough to make up for the loss by not taking a vacation back in the '70s.

Only a trifle more than half the graduates of women's colleges marry, according to President Thwing's figures. This may make a father stop and think.

The New York man who found a diamond in his "soft-boiled" breakfast the other morning is one of the few who have no reason to complain of the price of eggs.

Miss Stone wrote an account of her experiences among the Macedonian bandits. Mr. Perdicaris is in duty bound to favor an impatient world with the story of his captivity in Morocco.

A Kansas City court has decided that kissing in public constitutes a breach of the peace. What sort of a crime is that of the man who kisses and tells? It ought to rank with manslaughter.

When a man is so spectacularly honest that his neighbors familiarly refer to him as "Honest John," or "Honest Bill," or whatever his first name may be, it is unfair to tempt him with a position of private or public trust.

Not to be behind the progressive cities of the Occident which regulate the height of buildings and the width of the streets, Canton has a municipal ordinance providing that no street shall be less than six feet wide. That is space enough to allow two fat Chinese to pass each other without grazing.

Some one has said that it is the ambition of Emperor William to put into the hands of every child in the world a toy bearing the inscription, "Made in Germany." Thus would he advertise the fatherland. He is making progress, for the value of exports of German-made toys has increased in seven years from nine million to thirteen million dollars a year.

"Brain-fog," the familiar ailment which Bill Nye of humorous memory knew and named, is known now to physicians by an unlimited vestibular word—arteriosclerosis. The trouble comes from excessive mental strain and insufficient exertion of body, and is the affliction which ought to attack millionaires and others who do not believe in vacations. It has attacked some of them; indeed, it may be the pathological reason for their attitude as to vacations.

Marine torpedoes have changed mightily since the civil war. A pension has recently been granted to John Jackson, who was a sailor on a Federal man-of-war, the Miantonomah. During the blockade of Charleston, when the Confederates launched three torpedoes in the harbor, Mr. Jackson swam from his ship and unscrewed the caps to prevent explosion. The pension comes late only because it was not necessary before. The government recognized the deed at the time, and gave Mr. Jackson a medal.

The Palma trophy, awarded to the team representing the National Rifle Association of the United States at the contest at Bisley, England, last July, is to be returned to England because the British rifle association thinks that it was not fairly won. The rules of the contest provided that the rifles used should be those regularly issued to the army, but the British have charged that the rifles which the Americans used were not of the pattern so issued. It is because there is some ground for this charge that the American association has decided that it ought not to keep the trophy. The misunderstanding which has arisen in this case is unfortunate, but it has

value because it calls attention to the importance of conducting all contests of skill with complete frankness and mutual understanding between the contestants. Whatever differences of opinion there may have been as to the propriety of using the rifles which won at Bisley, it was a sportsmanlike act on the part of the rifle association to refuse to profit by a victory the fairness of which could be questioned, even in a small particular.

The origin of all crime lies back of the quick temper which raises the hand which held the knife. The origin of crime lies in a thought. A crime is the result of a series of thoughts, the first of which may have lodged in the brain of an innocent child. Men who have studied the workings of the human mind tell us that each thought makes a track upon the brain. That the same thought always travels over the same path. They tell us that the track deepens as the thought passes more and more frequently over the path until the thread-like track becomes a deep rut. A wagon track, light at first, if constantly driven over becomes a rut. If the wheels continue to plow into the earth the track is cut deeper and deeper until it is impossible for the wheel to roll out of the rut until it reaches the end of the road. It is thus with the ruts in the brain. When the path is cut too deep the thought must follow the old course, wherever it leads. The rut may lead to theft. The rut may lead to lying. The rut may lead to murder. Every thought, good or bad, if permitted to travel again and again through the mind, leads to some act, good or bad. Crime has its origin in a thought. Great prisons have been built, but crime still walks among us. The habitual wishing to possess what belongs to another too often leads to theft. The ever-present wish to be rid of one who is hateful too often leads to murder. Strong walls cannot control crime until brick and mortar can control thought. And thought is free as the air. It slips past the guard, it passes through the keyhole, it scorns the grating, it laughs at walls of stone. It knows not the terror of the gallows. Prisons cannot save us, the scaffold cannot free us, the laws cannot protect us from crime. Ah, but where the laws are weak, you are strong. When the walls of the prison are fragile you are powerful. While the hangman's rope cannot choke the life from crime, you can. When the desire for the possession of what belongs to another comes to you, turn it out. Don't wish for what is not your own. Resolve to earn what you would have. Thus a different brain track is made and this track deepened will lead to prosperity, never to theft. Instead of wishing to rid yourself of one who is hateful, wish yourself higher and better than he. This thought-path will lead to a higher plane, where the air is rarer and the sight is clearer, and the hateful one, way down at the foot of the mountain which you have climbed, dare not even lift his eyes to the heights upon which you stand. Is that not better than a life behind prison walls? Man is more powerful than the law. We are more powerful than are the instruments of the law. We can control thought, and crime begins in thought.

POPULAR DANCES IN LONDON.

Time for Waltzes Increased—Influence of Cake Walks, Etc.

Good dancers view with dismay the change which has gradually crept over London dancing during the past few seasons.

American cake walks and "rag time" are said to have produced a demoralizing effect. At the same time, one American innovation—namely, the "two step"—is hailed as a blessing.

In this dance the man and his partner are practically side by side, and even in waltzing there is a growing tendency to face one's partner as little as possible.

Consequently, there are no kicks, and fewer torn gowns.

Herr Kandt, director of the famous Austrian blue band, is of opinion that the "rag time" craze is altogether detrimental to dancing.

"It requires a very unmusical person to dance against the time," Herr Kandt said, "and yet I have seen couples dancing a sort of two step to a Strauss waltz."

"I have also seen dancers perform a cake walk under these conditions before a roomful of people. The steps of the cake walk are often unlike any known dance, and the effect is frequently ridiculous."

"But there are many beautiful dancers still, and I find that the very best style is to be seen at hunt or at county balls."

"During the past two seasons the time for waltzes increased so greatly that it became quite as fast as the continental pace. This season, however, there is a tendency to slow down a little."

"Square dances have gone out to a large extent, and I am often called upon to play as many as twenty-five or thirty waltzes in one evening, with, perhaps, two or three two steps."

London Daily Express.

Good Reason for Doubt.

"Do you think he loves you?" said Maude.

"I don't know," answered Mamie.

"He writes to you every day?"

"Yes. But his letters sound suspiciously sane and sensible."—Washington Star.

This is certain: When an automobile breaks down on a country road, the owners of horses that have been scared by the machine feel no sympathy.

Fewer marriages would be failures if the contracting parties would act after marriage as they did before.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Waste of Forests Means Ruin.

THE people of the United States can derive an object lesson from Brazil as to the climatic effects produced by the destruction of forests. No more striking illustration could be found of the fact that trees make the weather.

In northern Brazil large states have been brought to the verge of ruin through the devastation of the timber lands. United States Consul General Seeger at Rio de Janeiro calls attention to the chronic droughts and torrefaction in the states of Rio Grande do Norte and Ceara, where the parched country has brought such suffering that relief measures have been put in operation by the government. The consul general points out that the situation there can be definitely traced to the wanton destruction of the timber, once abundant in those regions. Now the states are being depopulated, and desolation reigns where once nature offered every inducement to the settler.

The United States in recent years has taken steps toward the protection of its forests, but the laws are still far from stringent. The government was slow to awake to the urgency of the matter. The waste of timber in this country during the past fifty years has been almost beyond belief. The continental railroads alone destroyed millions of acres of forests. They slashed and burned recklessly in building their lines, and their engines set fire to and ruined vast areas. Settlers, with no thought of the future value of the timber, added heavily to the waste. In one way or another, the ruthless hand of the destroyer has done damage that can be repaired only at the expense of many years.

The forestry department of the government is one that should be built up and strengthened by laws designed not only to foster the growing of trees, but to protect the timber now standing.—Chicago Journal.

We and Our Neighbors.

IMMIGRATION is a subject of infinite possibilities. We had 339,830 immigrants last year; Canada had 128,000. Who is the more advantaged? Of our 655,000 came from the south of Europe—Latins and Slavs—a class that all authorities on the subject say is little to be desired. Of Canada's comparatively small amount 80 per cent came from Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries and the United States—the best material in the world to build up a country and make it richer materially and morally. Not the kind to people the slums of the cities, live from hand to mouth, increase the drain on pauper care, and, in large part, to get out of the country when they have got all out of it that they can or want. . . .

Canada has millions of acres, and she is setting about their disposal in a way to attract the good citizen. She offers, too, a stable government; peace, order and law, where, alas, we have and offer turbulence and a liberty that, becoming license, infringes on rights like a tyranny. Is the great republic losing its charm? Is the glamor passing off? Our immigration total does not look like it. But again comes the question of quality. What boots it that we get the offscourings of Southern Europe and part with some of our best blood to build up our neighbor to the north, where fruits of their industry are absolutely lost to us?—Indianapolis News.

The Cost and Folly of War.

THE war in the far East, according to the computation of a well-informed newspaper of Paris, is costing the Russian government at least \$1,000,000 a day, and the expense is increasing daily. If the war continues for years, as the experts say it is pretty sure to do, Russia will accumulate a burden of debt that will rest heavily upon many future generations.

Of course, \$1,000,000 a day is not a surprisingly great sum for a first-class power to pay for the conduct of a war. Our war with Spain cost us considerably more than that. But it was a short war and our financial condition was very strong. Russia, on the contrary, has been throwing millions after millions since the new policy with regard to the Asiatic portion of the empire was put into operation. Nobody knows how much the Trans-Siberian railway has cost. But it is an enormous amount; and the expenditures on Port Arthur, Dalny, Harbin, Vladivostok, and the other outposts have run into the hundreds of millions.

OBEYING ORDERS.

During the war with Spain 47,000 soldiers were at one time camped at Chickamauga awaiting orders for the invasion of Cuba. Some of the regiments were made up of the finest and most earnest young men of the communities from which they came. The exigencies of camp life necessitated duties with which they had been unfamiliar. From one cavalry regiment two young men, cultivated, wealthy, and graduates of colleges, were detailed to assist in horseshoeing; and so faithfully did they do their work that within a month they were able to make as good a horseshoe, and shoe a horse as well, as men who had been trained to the trade from youth.

"It was not exactly what we had in mind when we enlisted," said one of them, "and it was as near the battlefield as we ever got; but it was our way of serving our country then, and we tried to do our duty."

A harder duty still was assigned to another man in the same regiment. The major detailed him to keep the regimental canteen. Not only was he a total abstainer, but he was opposed to the canteen on principle, and in his conversation with his comrades had made no secret of his feeling in the matter.

He hotly resented his assignment to this hateful labor, and could easily have risen in rebellion at what seemed a gratuitous insult to his well-known principles. But he said to himself that the responsibility for his assignment to the task rested with the major, but the responsibility for the way in which he performed his duty was his own. So he took up the unpleasant work amid not a little curiosity on the part of his comrades concerning the way in which he would obey the major's orders.

lions. Indeed, it was pretty well known to the Japanese as well as to the rest of the world that Russia's treasury was in an extremely bad way at the time war was declared.

But the \$1,000,000 a day is, after all, only a small part of the bills Russia has to face. Her losses of battleships have meant the destruction of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property that must be replaced, and the prospective capture of her great towns with their armaments must make the Czar's heart sick.

Considered as a plain business proposition, the war with Japan does not seem to be a very good investment. Even though Russia should win at last, she will have to defend her possessions more expensively than ever, and how many years of ownership of Manchuria will be required to make up her losses?—Chicago Journal.

Railroads in Darkest Africa.

IT seems only the other day that explorers were gaining fame by penetrating to regions of Africa through which one may now ride in a drawing room car. The other day the first through train left Cape Town for Victoria Falls, on the Zambesi River, near where Livingstone died, and on the edge of that region the exploration of which made Stanley famous. With the opening of traffic to this southern section of the Cape to Cairo road half the splendid dream of Cecil Rhodes—a dream which caused men of lesser minds to say that he was touched with madness—becomes materialized into a prosaic, working fact, a matter of freight rates, time tables and tips to the Pullman porter.

From the north one can now travel more than a thousand miles to where only a few years ago, "the fires of hell encircled in the desert loam Khartum" as easily as one can travel to Chicago, and south of Gordon's reclaimed capital the railroad is creeping along the banks of the Upper Nile. From Cape Town to Victoria Falls is another thousand miles, leaving something like 2,500 miles more of road to be built, but much less than that if use is made, as it will be at first, of the long stretches of lake navigation available. A section of only 750 miles will carry the southern stretch of the road to Lake Tanganyika, from the northern end of which a short section will connect with the head waters of the Nile.

Before we fully realize what is being accomplished, the scream of the locomotive whistle will scare the infant Nilus in his cradle and the realm of the Pharaohs find an outlet along the shores where Table Mountain looks out toward the Antarctic seas. All the schemes of ambition cherished by the dead Egyptian kings had no vision of expansion so great as this. The dream of Cecil Rhodes was greater than the dreams of the Pharaohs.—New York Press.

A National Peril.

HERE is more in the toleration of recent automobile performances on the highway than the mere ignoring of the rights and the safety of other people, since the thing would not be possible unless we had forgotten part of the spirit of our institutions.

For instance, it is impossible to avoid the conviction that the only reason some of the men who drive racing machines escape gaol is that they are conspicuous in some way, generally the possession of a good deal of money. The average man would serve a term behind the bars if he caused the needless annoyance and danger and damage which these men do.

But if this is true, where is the practical equality before the law of which we have boasted for years? And without that what becomes of the basis of our system of popular government?

It is not merely in the matter of sport that the change has come. It is commonly observed that it is almost impossible to punish individuals or corporations of a certain prominence for some offenses. Between the complaint and the exaction of the penalty there is almost always a way of escape for these people, although there would not be for smaller fry. The exceptions are just about enough to prove the rule.

It is a more or less clear perception of the fact which causes much of the discontent which existing in ignorance, takes queer and unreasonable forms, but is none the less founded in a certain degree of justice, and which among wiser men leads to apprehension of the future, unless we can bring about a more general regard for sound principles of justice and for the authority of law against one exactly as against another.—Hartford Times.

were treated to the same pessimism and to much the same stories of national, moral and political decay as we are to-day. If all of these were true we would be sunk so low to-day that it would be impossible to go any lower. If, however, we compare long ranges of time we see unquestioned progress in every line, moral and political, as well as industrial and financial. We hear complaints of bad municipal government, of graft in St. Louis, crookedness in Minneapolis and rottenness in Philadelphia, but, as a matter of fact, the conditions for the country as a whole are greatly improved. The apparent decline is due to the fact that we know of all the corruption to-day, thanks to the press, whereas of old it was hidden away in darkness and secrecy. In the same way the apparent increase in crime, which is the basis of the English plaint, the greater number of arrests reported everywhere, the larger number of prisoners in jail, do not really mean more crime, but are due to the fact that we have a better police system and that very few crimes go undetected and unpunished, as they did formerly.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Mechanism of Gasoline Engine.

It can be understood to what a nicety the mechanism of a gasoline engine is adjusted when it is stated that to make 1,000 revolutions a minute means that in a four-cycle engine there are 500 sprays of gasoline forced into the cylinder, 500 times the electric battery makes a spark and 500 times the escape valve is opened to let the gas out.

Too Much to Expect.

Brookeleigh—I don't know what time it is. Ascum—Isn't your watch running? Brookeleigh—I don't think so. I could hardly expect the pawnbroker to keep it wound up.—Philadelphia Press.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who "popped" the question?

JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

A dilation of the heart, accompanied by deathly paleness, coldness of the extremities and a cold perspiration, which results in death in a few weeks, and is caused by a heavy lift, is held, in *Horsfall vs. Pacific Mut. L. Ins. Co.* (Wash.), 63 L. R. A. 425, to be within the terms of a policy insuring against the effect of bodily injury "caused solely by external, violent and accidental means."

A mutual benefit society is held, in *Royal Circle vs. Achterath (Ill.)*, 63 L. R. A. 452, to be estopped to take advantage of a clause in its certificate relieving it from liability for death by suicide by a clause that, after the lapse of a certain period, the only conditions binding on the member are the arrangements as to full compliance with the laws and rules of the association and full payment of the dues.

A servant who shoots at a trespasser as he is running away after having broken away from the servant, who has arrested him and is taking him to the town calaboose, is held, in *Southern Railway Company vs. James (Ga.)*, 63 L. R. A. 257, to act within the scope of his employment so as to render the master liable for an injury thereby inflicted, where he is employed as night watchman with authority to arrest all persons trespassing upon the premises.

In *People vs. McDaniel (Cal.)*, 69 Pac. 1006 it was held that a prosecution for assault with intent to commit murder is barred by a conviction of a battery. The court said: "It is well settled that a conviction of a lower offense embraced in a higher one for the commission of which a defendant was tried is an acquittal of the higher offense, and an independent trial and conviction of the lower when pleaded must, upon the same principle, be a bar to the prosecution for the higher offense, which included it. *People vs. DeFord* 100 Cal. 150; 33 Pac. 632 cited by appellant is in point and we think conclusive."

In a recent case that came before Federal Judge Lacombe it was held that a Porto Rican was an alien. It appears that Isabella Gonzales, an unmarried woman of Porto Rico, was excluded from the country by the immigration authorities on the ground that she was liable to become a public charge. She took out a writ of habeas corpus alleging that she was a United States citizen. The writ was dismissed, the judge holding that a native Porto Rican had not become naturalized by the following act of Congress fixing their civil rights: "All the inhabitants continuing to reside thereon who were Spanish subjects on the 11th day of April, 1893, and then resided in Porto Rico, and children born subsequently thereto, shall be deemed and held to be citizens of Porto Rico and as such entitled to the protection of the United States (excepting such as had preserved their allegiance to Spain), and they, together with such citizens of the United States as may reside in Porto Rico, shall continue a body politic under the name of the people of Porto Rico, with governmental powers as hereinafter conferred."

LIFE IN ROME.

It Causes the Temporary Visitor to Think as the Romans Think.

The strangest thing about life in Rome is that one not only does as the Romans do, but ends by thinking as the Romans think, feeling as the Romans feel. The best illustration I know of this is the mental attitude of the foreign residents toward certain superstitions, notably the belief in the evil eye—the *malocchio* or *jettatura*, as it is indifferently called. I never knew an Italian who did not hold more or less to this superstition. Americans who have lived long in Rome either reluctantly admit that "there does seem to be something in it," or, if they are Roman born, quietly accept it as one of those things in heaven and earth of which philosophy fails to take account.

In certain respects the Italian is markedly free from superstition as compared with the Celt or the Scot; for instance, the fear of ghosts or spirits is so rare that I have never met with it; on the other hand, the belief in the value of dreams as guides to action is deep-rooted and widespread. The dream book in some families is held hardly second in importance to the book of prayer. The Italian's eminently practical nature makes him utilize his dreams in "playing the lotto," as the buying of lottery tickets is called. To dream of certain things indicates that one will be lucky and should play. The choice of the number is the chief preoccupation of the hardened lottery player. It is decided by the oddest chance—by the number on a bank note that has been lost and found again, or the number of a cab which has brought one home from delightful festivity.—Century.

The Sick Watch.

A farmer entered the village watchmaker's shop, and approaching the proprietor, began, "I say, couldn't one of your men come out in the country with me and repair a watch?"

"Why can't you bring it here?" returned the watchmaker.

"Well, you see it's this way. It belongs to a man that's pretty sick, and he can't spare it from beside his bed, so's to tell when to take his doses."

"I should think it must be going all right if it answers that purpose."

"Oh, it's a runnin'," returned the farmer, "cause the man makes it. But he says he's gettin' mighty tired of pokin' the wheels with a knittin'-needle like that the day through, and he's more'n willin' to send the old mule down for any of you fellers that'll come out and fix it."