

Topics of the Times

Practical jokes usually come home to roost.

Men who claim to own the air above their premises will have to fight it out with the comets.

The question is how did the Pope discover that Fairbanks had been Vice President of the United States?

A southern man wants a divorce because his wife threw a glass of jelly at him. Reports do not say she hit him.

"Let children eat what they want," says one of the medical experts. Perhaps he is interested in the sugar trust.

Members of the Black Hand are in the penitentiary, where they belong. They are no better than defaulting bankers.

Statements as to the size of King Leopold's fortune do not agree. But however large it was he didn't take any of it with him.

When Nordica told a Havana audience that Cuba is God's country, she probably meant that it needed more than merely human help.

"I crave not gold in yellow heaps," says one of the bards. Perhaps he is too busy yearning for a pound or two of bacon to have time for the lust of gold.

Carrie Nation recently received an offer of marriage, but ex-Queen Lil has not been able to find anyone who seems to wish to talk to her privately in the front parlor.

Mrs. Peary has just exchanged two nice Arctic meteorites for \$50,000. They leave a vacant place on the parlor what-not, but \$50,000 will help a lot with the new spring hat to buy.

It is reported that a Pennsylvania clergyman has refused to marry a loving couple because the young man's income is less than \$2,000 a year. Where is the evil of the high cost of living to end?

An advance of 20 per cent in the price of Bibles is announced for March 1. There is, however, no threat of an additional advance of 10 per cent a month after that. Evidently George F. Baer is not behind the Bible business.

The czar's brother has caused trouble by marrying a lady who has a string of divorces. His mother refuses to speak to him, and Nicholas is reported to be furious. Well, it was time for a grand duke to do something to dispel the idea that the tribe had gone out of existence.

According to statistics there are 40,000 more married men in this country than there are married women. But there is no occasion for gossip. The discrepancy is accounted for by the explanation that many married immigrants leave their wives at home when they come to this land of the free.

One of the most wholesome effects of the present discussion of the high cost of living will be the consideration of the advantages of economy and the conservation of the family resources. Many American families remain poor because they waste more than would maintain a thrifty French family in comfort.

Caught in the swirl of political economy, brayed between the upper millstone of supply and demand's nether stone, necessities have become arrogant luxuries and the former luxuries have become specimens to be treasured in museums. We have learned to do without; we have been accumulating stores of merit by controlling appetite; a moral exercise.

There is no class of people so apt to do foolish and imprudent things as the girls who have nothing to occupy their minds. The girl that has to work for a living is really safer than the one who is under no such compulsion. Where a girl has no serious interests her future is largely dependent upon the discretion and discernment of her parents or guardians. The Philadelphia girl that ran away with a hotel waiter, according to reports, has been forgiven. From what is known to the public concerning this case, she should have been. But has she forgiven her guardians? She is not as much to blame as those who neglected to take care of her. If her life had been normal she would not have been seized by the notions that have drawn a cloud over her.

Modern school and college life is different in many respects from that which the boys of antiquity knew, but in other respects there is a remarkable similarity. A writer who has made a thorough study of the universities of ancient Greece tells us that the "freshy" was put through "stunts" which have changed but little in twenty centuries. He was pulled this way and that by various groups and by the partisans of certain teachers, just as he is now "rushed" by fraternities. The Grecian student decked himself out in crimson, purple and other "loud" hues. He had nicknames for his teachers, indulged in college politics, occasionally precipitated a small riot on the street or in the theater, got wildly excited over athletic contests, and not infrequently mispent his money. Educational methods and standards change, but boys are always boys.

There are chronicled every summer a long list of fatal drowning accidents which plunge thousands into mourning, and the pity of it is that a little knowledge of watermanship and ordinary care might have prevented most of them. To ignorance or carelessness in entering and leaving a boat or while in it; to venturing in open water unprepared, and to neglect of the rudimentary principles of watermanship can be traced half the recorded fatalities.

No one should ever take out rowing persons who do not know how to swim without first ascertaining that the boat is safe and seaworthy and provided with the necessary paraphernalia for eventualities. It is when one least expects it that accidents occur, writes L. de B. Handley in the special vacation number of Recreation, and the only way to avoid them is to be prepared at all times. A stout bowline, enough life preservers to go around, an anchor, something to baile with and an extra pair of oars should be carried on principle. You may not need them ninety-nine times out of a hundred, but on that hundredth time they may mean life or death.

In getting into a boat one should try to step right into the bottom over the keel, or if this is too great a reach, on to the middle of the seat and then down. Stepping on the gunwale has been responsible for numberless capsizings and it is a good idea when inexperienced people are embarking to take hold of the boat and steady it. Enter if possible where you intend to sit and in such a manner that you will not have to turn afterwards.

The weight should be distributed as evenly as possible, in a small boat, with slight preference to the stern. If the bow is buried the least head-swell will flood the boat and if the stern is too deep a following sea may swamp it. In making a landing one should approach at an angle, shipping the inward oar a few yards away and rounding up by backing with the outward one. It is dangerous to stretch out over the gunwale to reach for float or pier. In landing the person in the bow should be first, taking the bowline with him and steadying the boat for the others.

I will not insult the intelligence of the reader by advising against rocking the boat or indulging in like idiotic skylarking. One must be decidedly lacking in gray matter to choose such pastimes. There are certain rules about one's behavior in a small craft, however, which should be kept constantly in mind. For instance, should it be necessary for two people to change places they should keep well over the keel until ready to pass each other and then standing face to face move to either side simultaneously that the boat may not lose its balance. Also, whether in picking up anything from the water or in helping a swimmer it is advisable to use the stern and not the side.

When a boat is capsized do not try to climb into it again. It will sustain you easily if you just lean on it, as will any fair-sized piece of wreckage like an oar, a spar, or a board, but attempt to climb over them and they will surely sink with you. And speaking about this, when you are being helped or towed do not hang onto your rescuer or boat with bent arms, as this draws the body up and offers great resistance. Outstretched arms will increase your chances of getting ashore.

Wit of the Youngsters

Teacher—Harry, what did you make a face at me for? Harry—Please, ma'am, because I didn't know you were lookin'.

Helen—Tommy, why doesn't the sea run over if all the big rivers flow into it? Tommy—Cause the sea is full of sponges, that's why.

Sunday School Superintendent—Elsie, can you tell me anything about the apostles? Little Elsie—I guess they were the wives of the apostles.

"Why, Ethel, what's the matter?" asked her mother, as the little one almost choked at the dinner table. "I got a piece of bread head first down my cough pipe," explained Ethel.

Sunday School Teacher—What do we learn from the story of the man who was told to take up his bed and walk? Small Sammie—We learn that they had folding beds in ancient times.

New Spring at Carlsbad.

Another hot spring was recently added to the nineteen which Carlsbad had for years enjoyed. Workmen who were engaged in clearing out the channels of the "Muhlbrunn" suddenly broke into a new spring of hot mineral water twenty-two feet below the surface of the ground.

His Dilemma.

"I'm in a difficulty over my girl," "What's wrong?"

"I've been saying such nice things to her that she's getting conceited. If I stop she'll think I don't care for her any longer, and if I go on she'll think she's too good for me."—London Mail.

Canine Fashion Note.

Spaniel—Going to have your hair cut to look like a lion this summer? Newfoundland—Not much. Some of these Teddy imitators might take me for easy game.—Kansas City Times.

Convenient Fish Hole.

"I have fished here for the last twenty years."

"Ever caught anything?"

"No."

"Then why do you fish here?"

"Well, it's so near my house!"—Fliegende Blatter.

The man who ate thirty eggs in thirty minutes probably couldn't do it now; the fool rarely prospers.

Some people say they do as they please—but do they?

TO AVOID DROWNING.

What to Do If You Fall in Water and Cannot Swim.

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THE NATION'S FARMS.



Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

THE NATION'S FARMS.

S THE farm actually the corner stone of the country, or is that merely the wind of the stump orator? Let us glance at Secretary Wilson's annual report and see. The gain in the value of farm products in a single year is \$869,000,000. The total value of these products for 1909 is \$8,760,000,000, which is just double what that value was eleven years ago. The eye observes these stupendous figures, but the dazed mind utterly refuses to take them in. Corn is king, without a rival or pretender. The value of this one crop for 1909 is no less than \$1,720,000,000. Secretary Wilson editorializes to the extent of translating this figure into intelligible terms. The 1909 corn crop is nearly as valuable as the clothing and personal adornments of 76,000,000 people (census of 1900). To pay for it would require all the gold and silver in the country. You could exchange it for Dreadnaughts at the rate of two ships a day. It surpasses the average of the last five years by nearly one-third. But other crops have been doing very nicely, thank you. Cotton stands at \$850,000,000, wheat at \$725,000,000, hay at \$665,000,000, and so on, and so on.—Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEMAGOGUES.

DEAN MATTHEWS has been stirring up things in a series of addresses at Chautauqua, N. Y. Among other subjects that have received his attention has been that of ministerial demagogues.

The ministry should be the last place in the world in which to find demagogism. It is detestable enough anywhere, but especially so in the church, and the strictures of the scholarly dean are none too severe upon those ecclesiastical mountebanks who for the sake of personal gain will be disloyal to the best that is in the advance movements of the church to-day. Happily the number of such clerical shysters is relatively small.

Yet Prof. Matthews, we apprehend, will not find all the ministerial demagogues in the ranks of the professedly ultra-conservatives. In fact, there is quite as great a temptation to pose as a progressive liberal and a discoverer of new truth which is not truth at all. The spirit in both cases is the same selfish masquerading in order to win cheap applause and passing fame.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

YOUTHFUL SNOBBISHNESS.

ARENTS and others interested in the welfare of the public schools will find interest in the article on "High School Fraternities" in Everybody's Magazine. It calls attention in a way that is none the less pointed for being so humorous to a serious menace to the public school system. When, a few years ago, imitation of the Greek-letter society of the colleges was introduced by the high schools, it was feared by experienced observers that mischief might

As sharp a rap as her wooden darning-egg hit Homer—and they agreed then and there to separate.

"As Homer says, if that isn't incompatibility, what is?"

"They agreed to be good friends—apart—and no talk about it. Homer's bruises are healed, and Maria's bought a new top-leaf table, and she's trying it all over the house. Homer goes there for Sunday dinners and some odd meals, and they both are taking on flesh."

Edison's Early Dream.

Trolley "Vision" Came to Inventor Much Less than 42 Years Ago.

Some of the big builders, the kind who erect New York skyscrapers, told me they didn't believe a cement house could be poured. Impracticable! A dream!

I told Edison what some of the New York builders had said, but the news didn't seem to irritate him, says Allen L. Benson in Munsey's.

"Those fellows couldn't be expected to understand how I am doing this," he replied. "They have no imagination. They make me think of the fellows who told me there was nothing in the electric trolley. After I had worked on the trolley for some time, spent \$42,000 on my experiments, and got the idea where I thought it could be made commercially successful, I went before the Edison Electric Light Company, of which I was a large stockholder, and made this proposition:

"Reimburse me for the money I have spent and I will turn over all my trolley patents to the company."

"I well remember the meeting. It was held at the corner of Broad and Wall streets in New York, in the building in which are now the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. The directors were some of the most prominent men in New York. There was just one man on the board besides myself who thought there was anything to the trolley. He was Henry Villard. He was in favor of accepting my proposition. All the others said the trolley was a dream, and they rejected my offer. Spencer Trask, by the way, was one of the men, and I guess he is making more money out of electric railroads to-day than any other one man in the country.

"So, you see, it doesn't bother me much to have men say that something I am trying to do can't be done. I have heard that story before, but I never paid any attention to it, and I shall not pay any attention to it now. I'll pour a house about the beginning of the year, and, by next spring others will be pouring houses all over the

A CASE OF INCOMPATIBILITY.

The former resident of Bushby had been gathering facts in regard to his old friends and neighbors from Lemuel Howe. "What's this I hear about Maria Hixon's marrying Homer Rawley?" he inquired. "Somebody told me they were married six months, and then separated on account of incompatibility. I always thought Maria was the gentlest creature in the world.

"So she was, and is," said Mr. Howe, "but she had a habit that had ought to have warned her not to marry a man in Homer's line of business. You know he was night watchman at the mills."

The old resident nodded, but did not speak to break the narrative.

"Well, sir, Maria had always had the habit of changing round the furniture every few days. Living alone as she did, 'twas kind of company for her. The women folks had always noticed it, but us men hadn't taken any thought about it.

"Of course, when she was married she kept right on at home, having a good house, and Homer having always bached it in the boarding house.

"His hours as watchman were from 10 at night to 7 in the morning, so he used to go to bed along about 2:30 or 3 in the afternoon to get his sleep; and Maria'd set a nice lunch out for him and go to bed at the natural bedtime, long about 9. So she was always in her first sound nap when Homer got up, and scarcely ever waked.

"But from time to time he'd hit on something unexpected when he was crawling round quiet as he could. He'd just get a map o' the house in his mind when Maria'd change things all round. You know yourself that bumps are hard to bear, and that bureau edges and table corners and chair rockers bruise considerable.

"Homer, he talked and argued, and got mad, and finally he said he'd get him a pocket lantern and keep it on the light-stand by the bed.

"All went well for a few nights, and then it struck Maria one afternoon how pretty the light-stand would look in the job by the mantelpiece—and she moved it, lantern an' all, never thinkin'.

"That night Homer reached out for the lantern, missed it, reached farther, and struck Maria's work basket and a big vase of daisies, and they all went.

"I don't know's there was much said, but I guess what was said hit Maria

world. More than that, this new world of construction will ultimately know toward doing away with the lumber in building."

A STATE EGG BUSINESS.

Co-operative System in Queensland, Australia.

Eggs warranted fresh are now being furnished to the householders of southern Australia by the co-operative. For this purpose egg collecting circles are formed, each of fifty-house sons. They are supplied with leather rubber stamps and cardboard boxes. Each egg has its brand, so the same origin can be traced. In actual working the egg-carrying cases are made by road or rail from distances some 300 miles contain so small a peking age of cracked or broken eggs, the loss is negligible. The testimony the receiving depots is by spot light. A bad egg is discovered immediately after it arrives and is thrown away to pass on to the consumer while the sender is promptly wamle.

Each egg goes through the hadroop grader, who weeds out all satisf two ounces in weight. These A weight eggs go to make egg pulgite the few cracked ones, of course, after being tested for quality, are sold through confectioners. The system is rthin co-operative lines. The consumer to pay something more for gfrst seed grade eggs—the increase involvs does not exceed a penny a doz; and the surplus is handed back in egg producers on a proportional one-

Mexican Houses of Gold.

For hundreds of years the reach footed and empty-stomached peoni Guanajuato, Mexico, have been set in houses of gold, says Success. They were not Fifth aurs, mansions copied from Florence and Sienna, but just plain windowless, made out of adobe or the mud throu Guanajuato gold district. A bunch of these huts had to be torn down, permit the construction of a railwa and some man got the idea of ad ing the debris. The houses havnto yielded \$50,000 in gold to the thre sors, and many a poor Guanajuato who last year did not know whetere next cigarette was coming from his reveals in the prospect of somthin and pulque and hot tamales for lucia. New houses are being put up, butqin are not mansions of gold. The shrew building material in Guanajuato plain, unsterilized common or gold mud.

We suppose it is said of all by some one: "He reminds me of Uriah Heep."