EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Abusing the Flag.

THERE are two kinds of abuse of the flag, and both are objectionable. One abuse consists in using the flag to advertise goods, enterprises or occasions, without arousing a wholesome patriotism. Against this form of misuse the American people have raised their voices in emphatic and effective protest. But there is another abuse which arises from an improper conception of public duty, and such a case occurred the other day in Minnesota. There has been a local agitation around the city of Hutchinson against Sunday baseball, but no court processes have availed to prevent the games, the managers of the sport having won their cases. Finally, aroused to a pitch of high indignation, a woman, who is prominent in the community, sought to put an end to the practice by unusual methods. She attended a Sunday game with a large flag draped around her gown, displaying a placard with the words: "To attack the flag of the United States while it is being used in the enforcement of law is, according to the statutes, high treason." When the game was started she advanced to the center of the diamond and stationed herself, thus attired, between the pitcher and the batsman, in an effort to have the flag hit by the ball. After a ridiculous performance, the players trying to avoid striking her, and she dodging to and fro in order to get in the line of fire, the spectators, tiring of the unusual sport, took a hand and swarmed into the field, surrounding the determined woman and forcing her off the field. The game then proceeded without molestation. This woman's purpose was to enlist the federal authorities in the crusade against the Sunday ball players, but, of course, she would have failed to do so, even if she had succeeded in getting the flag hit by a ball. In thus invoking the aid of the national emblem she made not only herself, but to some degree the flag itself, ridiculous.—Washington Star.

New Anti-Trust Decision.

IN accordance with Attorney General Moody's decision that the government may take rebates from railroads transporting material or machinery to be used on government works Secretary Hitchcock will accept reduced rates from all common carriers willing to give them in connection with the contracts for irrigation dams and other constructions in the arid regions. In the Attorney General's opinion, however, the right of public authorities, including those of States and municipalities, to accept rebates is dependent upon the fact that governmental works, as roads, water supply systems, etc., are not competitive. If a city or State or the United States should enter upon a commercial enterprise, as the refinement and sale of petroleum, for instance, the rule as to equality of rates to all shippers for like service would become operative.

When Kansas shall get its projected oil refinery agoing the State government would be under legal compulsion to pay the published rates for shipping and distributing the product. So would the Standard Oil Company, to be sure; but this concern could dodge the law by securing secret concessions from the railways, whereas the State, which must conduct its business above board, could not. Somehow the anti-trust decision of President Roosevelt's administration seems to redound mainly to the advantage of the trusts.—Philadelphia Record.

The Panama Canal and the Jap.

THE prospect of this country's being flooded by a tide of Japanese coolie labor, brought over in thousands to work on the Panama Canal, is anything but assuring. It is thought the Japs that come over will never go back, but will find their way into our Southern States and spread throughout the whole country.

It is a problem affecting American labor much more intimately than does even the proposition of the canal commission to purchase its ships and supplies abroad. The one might force a reduction in the price of certain products of American labor, but the other would cause demoralization in the price of American labor itself.

If half that is said of the efficiency and quickness of the Jap coolies be true they would be dangerous competitors in the labor markets of this country. They can live a year on what would not keep an American family a month. And they are not content to remain in menial employment, but rapidly perfect themselves in skilled labor and obtain high positions.

There is no law to keep them out, and it is not likely that Uncle Sam, since Japan has become so great a power in the world, will care to inaugurate any policy of exclusion.

Just at present the Japanese government itself has the matter under consideration. A special Japanese commission to investigate climatic and labor conditions on the isthmus and report upon the advisability of encouraging subjects of the Mikado to seek employment there has finished its inquiry, but has not yet made its report.

There are now between 7,000 and 8,000 government employes in the zone, but the number of Japanese among them is not given. So far the commissioners have depended chiefly upon the native and Jamaican negro, who is unsatisfactory. The gate is wide open to the Jap.—Indianapolis Sun.

Tontine Insurance.

BY the new law which has been adopted in France for the regulation of life insurance companies and associations, the writing of tontine insurance is apparently prohibited—that is, it appears to be made impossible because an accounting of the profits, so far at least as French policy-holders are concerned, is made compulsory each year. There is not a little reason for believing that this is a proper precaution for the French government to take. Our own State has never justified tontine insurance—that is, it has not permitted companies inaugurated under its laws to issue policies of this kind, but it has not considered it advisable to prohibit companies incorporated under the laws of other States from issuing these policies through their Massachusetts agencies. The ground taken by the State of Massachusetts in this prohibitory action has been that tontine insurance was contrary to public policy, in that it was a species of gambling where the gains went to those who were so fortunate as to live, and the losses to the estates of those who were so unfortunate as to die, or who were compelled by adverse circumstances to permit their policies to lapse.—Boston Herald.

Why Germany Has No Tramps.

TO-DAY the lot of the laboring man in Germany is in many respects better than that of ours. The German state recognizes the right of every man to live—we do not. When the German laborer becomes old or feeble the state pensions him honorably. In Germany the laboring man can ride on the electric cars for two cents—we pay five. German cities have public baths, public laundry establishments, big parks, free concerts and many other features which soften poverty—although they may not remove it.

The corollary to this is that the Emperor permits no tramps to terrorize his highways. The police is organized for rural patrol as well as city work, and every loafer is stopped and made to give an account of himself. In England vagrancy has been a public nuisance for generations—with us it has become of late years almost a public danger. Germany has no tramps. The man who is without work in Germany finds no inducement to remain idle. A paternal government sets him to such hard work that the would-be unemployed finds it decidedly to his interest to seek some other employment as soon as possible.—National Magazine.

OLD Favorites

The Miller of the Dee.

"There was a jolly miller,
Lived on the River Dee;
He danced and sang from morn to night;
No lark so blithe as he.
And this the burden of his song
Forever used to be:
'I care for nobody: no, not I,
If nobody cares for me!'"

These lines, no doubt, suggested the poem of Charles Mackay, here given:

There dwelt a miller, hale and bold,
Beside the river Dee;
He worked and sang from morn till night—
No lark so blithe as he;
And this the burden of his song
Forever used to be:
"I envy nobody—no, not I,
And nobody envies me!"

"Thou'rt wrong, my friend," said good King Hal;
"As wrong as wrong can be;
For could my heart be light as thine,
I'd gladly change with thee.
And tell me now, what makes thee sing,
With voice so loud and free,
While I am sad, though I'm a king,
Beside the River Dee?"

The miller smiled and doffed his cap;
"I earn my bread," quoth he;
"I love my wife, I love my friend,
I love my children three;
I owe no penny I cannot pay;
I thank the River Dee,
That turns the mill that grinds the corn
That feeds my babes and me."

"Good friend," said Hal, and sighed the while,
"Farewell, and happy be!
But say no more, if thou'dst be true,
That no one envies thee.
Thy mealy cap is worth my crown;
Thy mill, my kingdom's fee;
Such men as thou are England's boast,
O miller of the Dee!"
—Charles Mackay.

The Child's First Grief.

"Oh, call my brother back to me!
I cannot play alone;
The summer comes with flower and bee—
Where is my brother gone?

"The butterfly is glancing bright
Across the sunbeam's track;
I care not now to chase its flight—
Oh, call my brother back!

"The flowers run wild—the flowers we sow'd
Around our garden tree;
Our vine is drooping with its load—
Oh, call him back to me!"

"He could not hear thy voice, fair child,
He may not come to thee;
The face that once like springtime smiled
On earth no more thou'lt see.

"A rose's brief bright life of joy,
Such unto him was given;
Go—thou must play alone, my boy!
Thy brother is in heaven!"

"And has he left his birds and flowers,
And must I call in vain?
And, through the long, long summer hours,
Will he not come again?

"And by the brook, and in the glade,
Are all our wanderings o'er?
Oh, while my brother with me play'd,
Would I had loved him more!"
—Mrs. Hemans.

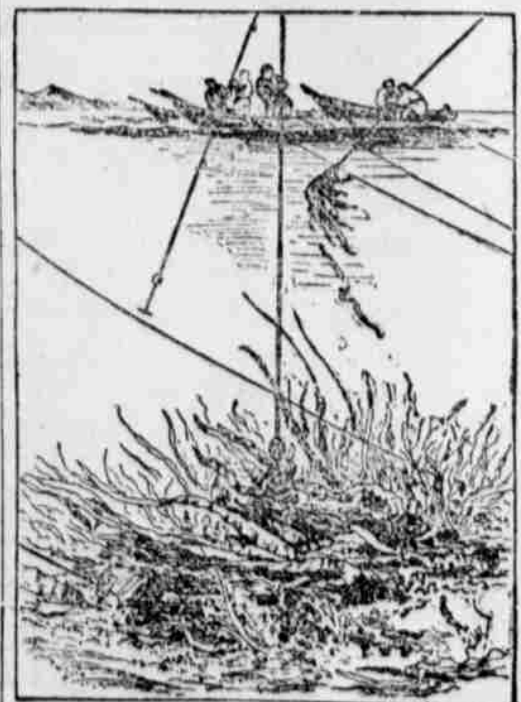
FISHERIES OF JAPAN.

In Many Respects They Take First Rank Over Those of Other Nations.

The fisheries of Japan are less valuable than those of several other countries, but they take first rank over those of all other nations (1) in the actual number of people making a livelihood thereby; (2) in the relative number of persons engaged in and dependent on the industry; (3) in the quantity of products taken annually from the water; (4) in the relative importance of fishery products in the domestic economy; (5) in the ingenuity and skill shown by the people in devising and using fishing appliances and preparing the catch for use; (6) in the extent to which all kinds of water products are utilized; (7) in the extent to which the fisheries of foreign countries have been studied and the best methods adapted to home conditions; (8) in the extent to which agriculture has been carried; (9) in the zeal and intelligence displayed by the government in promoting the development of the fisheries and the welfare of the fishing population.

From the earliest times down to the present day, fishing has supplied the staple animal foods and a large portion of the vegetable and mineral foods consumed in Japan, and none of the other great powers is now so dependent on the water for subsistence. So important are water products and so numerous are their kinds and the methods of preparation, that I venture the assertion, from what I have seen of domestic life in Japan, that every day in every Japanese family some form of fishery food is served—I am almost ready to say at every meal.

The Japanese fishermen as a class are hardy, skillful, energetic, sober, self-reliant, to which qualities is superadded a spirit of intense bravery and patriotism, which makes them invaluable, indeed indispensable, in the crisis through which Japan is now passing. With ingenuity and deftness which, it



GATHERING SEA-WEED.

seems to me, are unsurpassed by any other people, the Japanese have devised apparatus and developed methods which centuries ago brought their fisheries to a very high degree of effectiveness; but not content with this, they have within our own time superimposed upon and adapted to theirown already well-nigh perfect fisheries all that is best and most useful in those of other countries, so that to-day fishing with the Japanese is more than a mere industry—it is almost a fine art.

A striking feature of the Japanese fisheries, and one which might reasonably be expected in a people so frugal and ingenious, is the utilization of all kinds of water products which in the United States and in many European countries are wholly or largely neglected. In the matter of eating aquatic animals and plants the Japanese have few prejudices, and what they do not eat they utilize in other ways. As examples I may mention marine vegetables, and sharks, which are among the commonest and most wholesome of the Japanese food-fishes. They are sent to the markets in immense numbers, reach there in excellent condition, and are butchered as beeves are in our country. I believe the time will come when we shall have attained that degree of civilization which will make fashionable the eating of sharks, skates and similar fishes now generally discarded. Meanwhile many of us will be content to eat the so-called "fresh fish" of our markets, albeit days and weeks old, reeking with putrefactive bacteria, and kept "fresh" by contact with melting ice when not exposed to the air of a dirty stall.

A branch of the fisheries in which Japan far surpasses all other countries as regards both extent and ingenuity of method is the seaweed industry. In the United States, notwithstanding our long coast line and seaweed resources, not inferior to Japan's, the annual crop of marine vegetables is worth only $40,000, whereas in Japan these products are worth not less than $2,000,000, and are exceeded in value by only four animal products of the fisheries.—Hugh M. Smith, in National Geographic Magazine.

WILES OF THE HORSE TRADER.

Tricky Arts to Make Old Ones Young and Doctoring and "Doping."

Probably in no business are so many tricks and wiles practiced as in that of horse dealing. It is safe to affirm that thousands of horses are sold throughout the country every year under false conditions, and so skillful have "fakers" become that it takes a very clever and experienced man to detect the doctoring tricks of those who are anxious to sell a bad animal to the best advantage.

Perhaps the commonest of all faking or bishoping, as it is often called—a term derived from a man named Bishop, who during the eighteenth century obtained a great reputation for making old horses appear young—is in relation to a horse's teeth. At full age a horse has forty teeth, and not until the fifth year are they all visible. Six months later the "nippers" or front teeth become marked by a natural cavity and it is the presence or absence of these marks that certifies the animal's exact age.

As the horse gets older, these marks wear away, and it is then that the coper or faker sets to work to make fresh cavities, as found in a horse of the age he wishes to represent. The surface of the teeth is cut out with a steel tool and the black lining of the groove, which must be visible, burnt in with nitrate of silver or some other chemical. In this way horses which are often over 8 or 9 years of age are sold as 5-year-olds.

The age of a horse is often increased as well as reduced by means of faking the teeth. A 3-year-old will often be transformed into a 5-year-old by means of chiseling out the side milk teeth with which horses are furnished up to their third year, when they are supplanted by the permanent ones. The extraction of the former, of course, brings on the latter much quicker than would be the case in the natural order of things, thus making a horse appear much older than it really is.

There are various other things, however, besides the teeth, which give away the age of a horse and which have to be faked if the animal is to fetch a fair price. In old horses there is generally a certain cavity or depression of the skin in the forehead immediately above the eyes. This disfigurement is remedied by a process known as "puffing the glims." A fine-pointed blowpipe is introduced under the skin above the eye, through which the coper blows gently until the deep hollow is filled and is replaced by a perfectly smooth surface.

The faking of broken-winded horses is an art in itself, so to speak. It is generally accomplished by means of drugs, arsenic being chiefly used. The "coper" also pays strict attention to such an animal's diet previous to a show. If during the trial a horse is a little short-winded the owner will turn furiously upon the groom for giving his horse too much hay, when in all probability it has had nothing to eat or drink for hours.

The groom will thereupon explain how the animal got loose and ate a bushel of oats and half a truss of hay in the night and that he was afraid of losing his place if he said anything about it. This explanation will, in nine cases out of ten, satisfy the intending purchaser and remove any doubts which he might have had.

A singular dodge is resorted to by the "coper" when he comes into possession of a lame horse out of which he desires to make some profit. The method is called "beaning" and consists in making a horse which is lame, say, for instance, in the left fore foot, lame in the right one also.

Perhaps a small pebble is inserted between the shoe and the hoof of the latter foot, the pain of which causes the animal to limp with the right as well as the left leg, one thus counterbalancing the other and making it appear as though it was the horse's natural gait. In lieu of a small pebble a small iron wedge is sometimes driven underneath the foot corresponding with the lame one, thus causing both legs to go lame alike, which only gives the horse a different motion.

"Doping" is a term usually applied to the trick of making horses appear spirited and high-steppers by means of drugs or chemicals. An animal is often made to pick up its legs in the quick, nervous style of a thoroughbred by having the back tendons of the leg rubbed with turpentine, cow-itch and ammonia, which burns like fire and makes the animal prance with pain.

Occasionally, says a writer in the Boston Herald, the "coper" is successful in selling what is known as a "rogue" horse—one who resists all attempts to be put into harness. With a sharp razor the sides of the horse will be shaved in certain places, making it appear as though the animal was just out of harness and a thorough carriage horse.

The same performance will be gone through just below the withers, where the collar chafes, while, if the horse be a tricky one, chloral hydrate and opium will be administered. It is not until the unlucky purchaser tries to harness the horse to a carriage that he discovers the animal's temper and its unmanageable ways.

The Race He Won.

In the old whaling days a New Bedford captain fell in with a lot of his "townies" in the Pacific, says the Chicago Record-Herald, and after a landing for water on the coast of South America, began a boat-race off shore toward the ships. The old skipper kept muttering to his crew to take it easy. The others jeered him as he fell behind, but he took it cheerfully.

"The race I'm after is the race home," he said. He pointed to a little bight in the rocks, into which the crew could just see.

"Ever see that rock in there before?" he asked. "No, I guess not. That's a cow whale and her calf up there on the shore. It's her nursery."

When the others were far enough away to give him a clear field he made for the shore. He got the cow and the calf. The others said very little about the race he did not win, for he was the first man back to New Bedford.

Mean Dig.

Poeticus—I want to write a poem that will express a universal sentiment—something that is felt not only by myself, but by every one that reads it.

Criticus—You have already done so.

Poeticus—I'm afraid not—when?

Criticus—Your latest sonnet begins 'I would that I were dead!'—Cleveland Leader.

Explanation by Pa Henpeck.

Little Willie—I say, pa, what is an empty title?

Pa—An empty title, my son, is your mother's way of referring to me as the head of the house when there are visitors present.—Glasgow Evening Times.