

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Better Stay at Home.

GET the Panama idea out of your head. If you have packed your trunk and thrown up your job, unpack it and ask your former employer to take you back. There are a few thousands of young fellows in this country who have an idea that in the construction of the great canal fat jobs will go begging, and that it will be a fine thing to chuck up the \$30 a month place on the farm and draw \$200 every thirty days on the great ditch. Applications for places are reaching the Canal Commission at the rate of 1,000 a day already, in the face of the fact that there are no places at the commission's disposal.

Some time there will be a lot of work, and undoubtedly the rate of pay will be high. But you couldn't stand it. There isn't a more pestiferous hole on the globe than that same canal site. The climate is as different from that of the United States as dark is from daylight. Strange fevers, that slay almost in a night, abound, and disease is to be found everywhere. Undoubtedly, all that can be done to make the surroundings healthful will be done; but even then it is probable that the digging of the canal will be done at the cost of thousands of human lives. The men who work and survive will be largely those who have grown up in hot countries, who are used to killing labor and who are physically stronger than the average American.

If you have any kind of a position that pays you decently and has a future in it, you will be wise to get the Panama idea out of your head. If, when the time comes, you will go, and have a family, in justice to them get your life insured, if any insurance company will take the risk.—Cincinnati Post.

How Far Is the Traveling Public Responsible?

THE recent Colorado railroad disaster is another startling demonstration of the fallibility of managerial precaution in the operation of railroads. The cloudburst which caused the wreck and resulted in the loss of so many lives was one of those exhibitions of elemental force which not infrequently upset every theory of human foresight and make a mockery of engineering skill. Such accidents can be avoided in only one way, and that is by holding all trains during such terrific storms—and this the public would not tolerate. On the contrary, there is a constant demand for a reduction in running time, for greater speed, for annihilation of distance. By yielding to this pressure railroad managers are in danger of losing sight of the cardinal factor of safety. The American people are afflicted with the mania of rapidity. No railroad train, no trolley car, no automobile, no horse can go fast enough. If a railroad company were to run its trains on a safety schedule it would be boycotted by the traveling public.

How far, then, is the public responsible for railroad accidents that are caused by the lack of proper precautionary measures in the running of fast trains? Accidents, of course, happen which cannot be avoided. Unfortunately too many of them result from the recklessness bred by the devil-may-care impulse of "getting there at any risk." It would seem that we have about reached that point where a reaction must set in. A few more horrors like that in Colorado and the recent one near Chicago Heights, and there will be a revolution of public sentiment which may result in the subordination of speed to safety.—Chicago Journal.

Teach the Boys to Swim.

THESE are the days when the parents of small boys feel anxious lest their offspring may seek deep water and come to grief. The youngsters are commanded not to go swimming. They are punished if they are caught with wet hair. Sometimes the shrewd mother ties peculiar knots in the fastenings of shoes and clothes and thus detects the outdoor bathing enterprise of the boy. Then comes trouble, and the average boy, having once tasted the

sweets of a dive in a pool, will only await his chance to repeat his adventure. When such disposition is discovered it is far better that the father of so determined a boy, instead of punishing him, take in hand the lad's natatory adventures and escort him personally to the bathing beach, to superintend his swimming. The more the youngster is whipped for his secret swims the more shrewdly he will contrive to hide them. And in his hiding he is likely to seek dangerous places, where he cannot be easily seen. His companions are usually boys of his own age, who cannot help him if he gets into trouble in the water. He should, of course, be kept at home if possible from such places, but when the water-call is heard in midsummer nothing short of bolts and bars can keep the boy swimmer from his plunge. The bathing beach is provided in large part just to offset this danger. It is not all it should be, yet, in point of equipment and regulations for its use, but it is nevertheless an excellent institution, where every condition is as near to safety as possible, and where the danger to the youngster who goes swimming alone is reduced to a minimum. The boy who is taught by his father to swim is a happier lad than he who has to sneak away with other boys and learn in some muddy hole in the creek or some dirty wharf basin. Every boy should be taught to swim as soon as he has the strength to maintain himself in the water. It is an invaluable accomplishment, which at any time may save a life.—Washington Star.

Where Is the Russian Army?

WHERE is the enormous Russian army which the advance notices of the war said would be in Manchuria by this time? What has become of that mighty host, as numerous as that which followed Xerxes? Before hostilities began the estimate was that the Czar had 200,000 troops in the Far East. At home, with the colors and in reserve, were several millions ready for transport. Nearly five months have elapsed. Does the Manchurian army manifest the phenomena of preponderous bigness?

On the contrary, the excuse of every Russian commander who has yielded his line has been the presence of the enemy in greater numerical superiority. At the Yalu, Nanshan Hill, Telissu, in fact, everywhere contact has occurred, the Russian story of a few against many—an encompassing Japanese tide at once sweeping over the front and lapping the flanks. Even Kuropatkin has joined the chorus, thus confessing weakness, and as a justification for the withdrawal, not merely of a detached force or an advance guard, but of his main army, says the Japanese possess the vis major.

Yet the most liberal estimate does not place the Mikado's soldiers in Manchuria at more than 200,000. An army in defense, according to accepted modern military canons, ought to be able to hold twice its number in check. Did not Lee stay Grant from Richmond with a force less than half that of his adversary? Were not the Boers able to arrest the progress of an army many times larger than their own? Kuropatkin's dispositions, unless Russian incapacity is colossal, suggest a commander who believes his enemy exceeds him. Where, then, is the Russian army?—New York Globe.

Big Expositions Played Out.

THE plain truth is that the country has had a surfeit of expositions, and that there is not the popular interest in this one, great as it undoubtedly is, which its projectors anticipated. It is useless to say that the people ought to be interested; that it is a patriotic duty to lend support to such an enterprise. Perhaps that is the idea that Secretary Shaw has in mind when he complains that the management has not made sufficient use of the newspapers. It is of no use to talk of that. If the people do not want to go to St. Louis, they will stay away. In the autumn, when St. Louis is cooler, the attendance will doubtless be larger. But there is little reason to hope that it will be large enough to make the enterprise financially successful.—Rochester Union and Advertiser.

A REMARKABLE WATCH.

Curious Relic Once Belonged to Queen Mary of Scotland.

The descendants of Mary Setoun, one of the four maids of honor to Mary Queen of Scotland, have in their possession a curious watch, which was given by that queen to her favorite. The watch, which is in the shape of a miniature skull, is about two inches and a half in diameter. It is supposed to have been purchased by Mary herself when on a visit to Blois with her husband, the dauphin of France, as it has the name of a celebrated Blois manufacturer engraved on it.

The entire skull is curiously engraved. On the forehead there is a picture of Death, with the usual scythe and hour glass and sand glass. He is depicted as standing between a palace and a hovel, to show that he is no respecter of persons, and underneath is the familiar quotation from Horace, "Pallida more aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas Regumque turres." At the back of the skull is another representation, this one being of Time devouring everything. Time also carries a scythe, and beside him is the emblem of eternity—the serpent with its tail in its mouth.

The upper section of the skull is divided into two pictures. On one side is the Crucifixion, with the Marys kneeling at the foot of the cross, and on the other side are Adam and Eve surrounded by animals in the Garden of Eden.

Below these pictures, running right round the skull, there is an openwork band, to allow the sound of the striking of the watch to be heard. The openwork is a series of designs cut to represent the various emblems of the Crucifixion, such as scourges, the cross, swords, spears, the lantern used in the garden, and so forth. All of the carvings have appropriate Latin quotations.

By reversing the skull and holding the upper part in the palm of the hand and lifting the under jaw on its hinge the watch may be opened, and on the plate inside is a representation of the stable at Bethlehem, with the

shepherds and their flocks in the distance.

The works of the watch are in the brains of the skull, the dial plate being where the roof of the mouth would be in a real skull. This is of silver and gold, with elaborate scrolls, while the hours are marked in large Roman letters. The works are remarkably complete, even to a large silver bell with a musical sound, which holds the works in the skull when the watch is closed.

This curious old watch is still in perfect order, and when wound every day keeps accurate time. It is too large to be worn and was probably intended for a desk or private altar.—Kansas City Journal.

AMBITIOUS OLD AGE.

Better Seek an Education at 70 than Remain Ignorant.

A few years ago two American women excited some comment by entering college for a complete course, one being 70 years of age and the other nearly as old. One gave as her reason a life-long ambition. Having married before her aspiration for a college education could be realized, she devoted herself faithfully to her domestic career, but never ceased to deplore her meager schooling. Her children having grown into men and women and having married and left her alone in her home, she could see no reason why she should not undertake to carry out her early purpose. She found greater pleasure in study than in anything else and although she might die before graduation, still she would have enjoyed her later years to a degree which no other occupation would allow.

Harvard reported four venerable students in the summer school, one a New Hampshire preacher of 83 years; another a Congregational minister (Dr. Leonard Woolsey Bacon), who has written a good deal for the magazines and who is 74 years old, and two other preachers of about 60 years each. Of course this is not like entering for a full university course, but each of this remarkable quartet has a special

branch which he wishes to master with the aid of the college professors. They recall the case of the learned blacksmith, who, after he had reached the term of life prescribed by the Psalmist, became an unusual linguist with the complete mastery of many tongues.

There comes a time in the life of nearly every man when he realizes that he is growing old. Perhaps it is in the very prime of life, about the fortieth year, that this recognition of his mortality gives the most distress, and he is disposed to doubt whether it is possible for him to accomplish anything worth while. In the face of much evidence to the contrary it has been affirmed that a man who has done nothing great before that age will never do it; that life after 40 consists mainly in learning on previous acquisitions. However, as time goes on many a man develops a new courage, and especially he resolves to live thoroughly and heartily to the last moment. As a French philosopher urged, a man should keep at his work as though immortal, even though he should know that death would come tomorrow. Another moralist asserts that a man who, on a sinking ship, should not take his pill at the prescribed moment and wind up his watch lacks a manly quality. Anyhow, the man who at 80 or any other age at which he retains a healthy mind does not shrink from an undertaking merely because death is near gets the best out of life.—Philadelphia Record.

A Substitute for Cork.

Notwithstanding all the achievements of practical science, there are some indispensable materials the making of which is still nature's secret, and for which no entirely successful substitute has been found. Among these substances is cork, and it is possible that in this case nature offers a substitute in the wood of a tree, growing on the east coast of Lake Tefad, in Africa, which is of even less specific gravity than cork.

Best Language for the Telephone. French is said to be more easily understood over the telephone than English.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Out of 29,287,000 persons in the United States engaged in earning their bread by the sweat of their faces in the census year 1900, 10,438,219 were employed in agricultural pursuits. These were divided into many classifications, farmers, planters and overseers, day-laborers and dairymen, gardeners, florists and nurserymen, stock raisers, herders, drovers, wood choppers and aparlants. Next to the farmer in numerical strength stands the manufacturing and mechanical pursuits. There are 7,112,304 persons actively engaged in these wonderfully varied occupations, so extensive in all their ramifications and classifications that a mere list of these would enumerate more than 150 forms of skilled and ordinary artisanship, ranging through all the different forms of manufactures. Domestic and personal service comes next, 5,633,778 persons being enrolled as barbers and bartenders, watchmen, policemen, firemen and waiters. In addition to these, under this classification, are gathered the soldiers, sailors and marines of the regular army, 128,733 in all. Fourth position in this great rank goes to trade and transportation, which gathers within its numbers 4,778,233 persons, or about the present population of New York city. This includes an army of steam and street railway employes, sailors and their officers and the like.

Immigration officials say that the class of immigrants coming here has materially changed within the last few years. Formerly passage was more expensive and it required industry and moral stamina to acquire the necessary funds to make the journey. Then men and women of the sturdy pioneer type came to this country and made good citizens. To-day the competition between the steamship companies has resulted in offering unusual inducements to immigrants. Foreign governments are also more or less indirectly promoting immigration of the undesirable surplus in their overcrowded districts. The result is to overcrowd the cities, reduce the price of labor by oversupplying the market and crowding every avocation and to tend constantly to lower the standard of living of the American workman by bringing him into competition, in the mines and on the railroads, with the same class of labor from competition with which he has been shielded by a protective tariff.

Prize money for the capture of Spanish ships and property in the battle of Manila Bay has recently been paid to Admiral Dewey and his men. Bounty for the destruction of the Spanish ships has already been paid. The payment of prize money, which is distinct from bounty, was delayed by complicated litigation; the disagreement about the real value of the capture was genuine, and in no way involved unfriendliness between the claimants and the government. Half the prize money went by law to the naval pension fund; the other half, amounting to three hundred and seventy thousand dollars, was divided between Admiral Dewey and those who fought under him. The admiral received \$18,500; the commanding officer of each vessel received one-tenth of the amount awarded to it; and the other officers and the men were paid in proportion to their salaries, an amount equal in each case to five months' pay.

United States treasury experts figured that on the first of last month both the total and the per capita monetary circulation of the country had reached the highest point ever recorded. The total in circulation was a little more than two billion five hundred and forty-six million dollars, and the per capita thirty-one dollars and six cents. There may be some comfort in knowing just what each man's share is, even if some persons find themselves unable to recall, just at the moment, where their thirty-one dollars are.

The treasurer of the United States on May 6, 1903, redeemed two half-cent pieces. This is the first time in the history of the country that any such coins have been presented for redemption. It is more than a century since the first half-cent piece was coined, and it is nearly fifty years since the government discontinued minting them.

Speaker Cannon said the other day that he received a thousand dollars in wages for the first five years that he worked for hire, and saved half of it. If he should write an article on "How to Live on Two Dollars a Week," it would be worth reading, for it would be a record of actual experience.

If the entire production of coal in the United States during 1903 were loaded on freight cars with a capacity of thirty tons each the trains containing it would encircle the globe at the equator about three and one-third times.

The late George G. Vest, when a member of the United States Senate, was the pygmy of that most august body—physically.



One Hundred Years Ago.

The rice crop of South Carolina was completely destroyed by the great hurricane which swept over the Southern States.

Mr. Dearborn, son of the Secretary of War, left for Algiers with presents for the ruler of that country.

Spain formally demanded America's complete renunciation of east and west Florida.

An American newspaper declared that it would be wisest to retain the island of New Orleans and sell the rest of the Louisiana purchase to Spain for what it would bring.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

The first public school in Baltimore was established.

Col. Trumbull, the artist, recommended the application of beeswax to the backs of the pictures in the capitol at Washington to preserve them.

Great preparations were commenced to celebrate the approaching marriage of Ferdinand, King of Spain.

The first steam sawmill in Pittsburg began operations.

Fifty Years Ago.

The British consul to the Sandwich Islands presented his protest against the annexation of those islands by the United States.

The French and English Baltic fleets left those waters homeward bound.

Florence Nightingale, with other nurses, arrived at Scutari to care for the suffering among the Anglo-French army.

The theater at Boulogne was burned and the Emperor acted as a fireman.

Forty Years Ago.

The draft was being put into force in nearly every Northern State.

Corrections in the apportionment cut the draft for Illinois districts 50 per cent.

The Cook county, Ill., board of supervisors offered a bounty of \$10 to brokers for each man secured for enlistment.

An engagement between French and Mexican forces on the Rio Grande became a quadrangular fight in which the French and Confederates were routed by the Union and Mexican soldiers.

New York was depressed over the reported blowing up of Admiral Farragut's flagship, the Hartford, by accident off Mobile.

Thirty Years Ago.

Gov. Kellogg, who was removed by the White League, was restored to the executive post of Louisiana, McEnery surrendering.

The grand jury of the District of Columbia refused to indict Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun for libel on charges made by "Boss" Shepherd.

Theodore Tilton made a second and detailed public statement of his charges against Henry Ward Beecher, giving conversations and correspondence with Mrs. Tilton.

A Chicago and Northwestern train went from Fulton, Iowa, to Chicago, 133 miles, in 142 minutes.

Forty young girls perished in the burning of a cotton mill at Fall River, Mass.

The British claims awarded by the mixed commission under the Washington treaty of 1873, and amounting to \$1,930,000, were paid by the United States.

Twenty Years Ago.

The Czar, the Emperor of Germany and the Emperor of Austria met at Skiernevick.

The sixteenth annual reunion of the Army of the Cumberland opened in New York.

Four hundred and ninety-two new cases of cholera developed in southern Italy and 169 deaths occurred.

James G. Blaine, Republican presidential nominee, left Boston for New York on a tour of the middle West.

Reports were sent out from Cairo, Egypt, that Gordon had raised the siege of Khartoum.

Earthquake shocks were felt in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

England had an army of 13,559 men in Egypt.

Ten Years Ago.

Forest fires raged around Bena, Algiers, with great loss of life.

Judge Gibbons ordered judgment of ouster against the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Company, the so-called "whisky trust."

Levi P. Morton was nominated for Governor by New York Republicans.

Announcement was made at Tokio of the ratification of the British-Japanese treaty.

Reading the Bible.

It was the meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society. "Near the close, the leader suggested that each one should tell what part of the Bible he read the most, and give the reason.

The last one to speak was a lad, who said with a little hesitation that he read the first chapters of Genesis more than any others.

A look of surprise and curiosity was manifest in all the listeners, as he went on to give his reason:

"You see I always resolve every New Year that I will begin and read the Bible through; but I never get very far, and of course I always have to make a 'beginning'."

Lesson for Women.

Jersey Shore, Pa., Sept. 26.—(Special.)—"Dodds' Kidney Pills have done worlds of good for me." That's what Mrs. C. B. Earnest of this place has to say of the Great American Kidney Remedy.

"I was laid up sick," Mrs. Earnest continues, "and had not been out of bed for five weeks. Then I began to use Dodds' Kidney Pills and now I am so I can work and go to town without suffering any. I would not be without Dodds' Kidney Pills. I have good reason to praise them everywhere."

Women who suffer should learn a lesson from this, and that lesson is "cure the kidneys with Dodds' Kidney Pills and your suffering will cease." Woman's health depends almost entirely on her kidneys. Dodds' Kidney Pills have never yet failed to make healthy kidneys.

Her Curiosity.

"Mrs. Chelius looks bad, doesn't she?" "Yes, and no wonder. She's been awake every night for a week past." "The idea! What was the matter?" "She discovered about a week ago that her husband talks in his sleep, and, of course, she had to listen."

\$85,500 in Gold Coin.

Will be paid in prizes to those coming nearest to estimating the paid attendance at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The above amount is deposited with the Missouri Trust Company, as per the official receipt of the treasurer of that financial institution and published in the schedule of prizes announced elsewhere in this paper. The World's Fair Contest Company, Delmar and Adelaide avenues, St. Louis, Mo., are offering these prizes and there is no doubt of the cash being in bank to pay the lucky winners. The contest closes October 15th.

Why Ned Rescued the Boy.
"That was a brave act!" ejaculated a Boston man, as he stood on the wharf in a little southern town and saw an old negro plunge unhesitatingly into the deepest water to save a very small boy who had stumbled and fallen from some piling. "A brave act and he is a hero, no matter how black the skin he wears!"

The Bostonian was foremost in the group that gathered about Uncle Ned when he climbed back on the deck with the rescued lad.

"Your son is it, old man?" he queried. "Or perhaps only your grandson?"

There was every fervent admiration in the down easter's tones as he put the question.

"No, suh; no, suh," gurgled Uncle Ned. "Dat 'f' rascal ain't no kinnery er mine."

"Then it was all the braver," exclaimed the interrogator, positively baring his head out of respect for the old man's high-born courage.

"Huh," spluttered the hero, "you sho' don't think I use durn fool 'nough to let dat boy drown when he's got every speck er my fish bait in his pocket?"—Washington Post.

THE STRAIN OF WORK.

Best of Backs Give Out Under the Burden of Daily Toil.

Lieutenant George G. Warren, of No. 3 Chemical, Washington, D. C., says: "It's an honest fact that Doan's Kidney Pills did me a great lot of good, and if it were not true I would not recommend them."

It was the strain of lifting that brought on kidney trouble and weakened my back, but since using Doan's Kidney Pills I have lifted six hundred pounds and felt no bad effects. I have not felt the trouble come back since, although I had suffered for five or six years, and other remedies had not helped me at all."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

Preserving the Peace.
Broncho Bill—I was talkin' with an Eastern man to-day, and he says when two fellers in his section have a dispute they just go to law and sue each other for damages or somethin'.

Hair-Trigger Ike—But how about the loser? Don't he get a gun an' try to git even?

Broncho Bill—Waal, as near as I kin make out, by the time the loser hez paid the lawyers, he ain't got no money to buy guns.

To New York City.
Via Michigan Central, "The Niagara Falls Route." A visit to Greater New York and its magnificent harbor is an education. Chicago City Ticket Office, 119 Adams Street; Central Station, 12th Street and Park Row. W. L. Wrand, N. W. Pass Agt., Pioneer Press Building, St. Paul.

Rural Liars.
Old Inhabitant (loafing at Cross Roads grocery)—Talkin' about crop failures, I remember a time when people had to eat up all the farm stock and then live on the fodder wot they had saved for the cattle.

Older Inhabitant—Huh! That's nothin'. Why, I re-collect the time when provisions got so scarce that the starvin' farmers had to go out an' shoot an' eat their own sportsman fer dinner, an' then cook him with the wood from the "No Trespass" signs.