TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

It ihooks as if Lhassa had lhost a hittle of its "forbiddenness."

Most of the Russian navy is now of the converted order—converted into scrap iron.

Some of those Russian ships almost deserve capture on account of the names they carry.

An unloaded gun trained on a lynching mob is about as effective as a whistle in a cyclone.

America, by the way, still holds the fistic championship of the world—if there is any credit in that.

Men who insist that the world owes them a living must agree that the collection of the debt is attended with difficulty.

The negro who was locked three days in a car loaded with watermelons must have almost died of stomachache and joy.

It is safe to say that even in his wildest dreams Uncle Russell Sage never fancied that he wanted to avoid the disgrace of dying rich.

Russell Sage announces that he doesn't believe any man can make $50,000,000 a year honestly. It is safe to conclude now that "Uncle Russell's" annual income doesn't reach that figure.

Galveston's sea wall is completed and the ocean will now be unable to break in. Good for Galveston. Now if she could only build a wall that would forever keep out dishonest public officials, what a lovely city she would be.

It is perfectly proper to characterize the grade crossing as an anachronism. It has no place in twentieth century development. It is not permitted in monarchies at which a good many citizens of the republic are wont to sneer. It is a distinct favor granted to corporate wealth that would be denied to individual enterprise. It has grown into a terror and must be abolished, and this despite the protests of owners of stock saturated to the dripping point.

Reports from various parts of the country show much fewer deaths than usual from Fourth of July accidents. The reason is the lessened sale of toy pistols and blank cartridges. Nevertheless there were many deaths—far too many—from lockjaw. Every one was clearly traced to a violation of the law by some dealer in fire arms or fire works, and a violation of parental duty in allowing children to have the dangerous toys. All these cases deserve the widest publicity in order that other parents may be warned.

Rev. R. S. McArthur: "Put all the nations of the earth under the rule of two Anglo-Saxon nations and the world will be for civilization, peace and Christianity." This is race self-esteem on a gigantic scale. What evidence is there that England, which corrupted China with opium, would control China better than she can control herself? What civilization can the United States give to France? Or why should England and America decide what is the best policy for Germany to pursue? The so-called Anglo-Saxon nations are not so infallibly righteous themselves that they can be trusted to take sole care of the rest of the world. Civilization, peace and Christianity are not possessed by Anglo-Saxons alone.

Whether or not a cat is personal property within the meaning of the criminal statute is a question which a Boston judge has decided in the negative. His decision will interest many persons outside the jurisdiction of his court. Dogs, by being licensed, are raised to the level of domestic animals in which property rights may exist; but cats, since the State makes no mention of them, have not attained the same level. The case lately under consideration involved the loss and the alleged theft of an Angora cat which had a recognized trade value of fifty dollars. If this princess among cats could not succeed in establishing her rights at law, the legal status of her humble relatives, the "Maltee" and the "tortyshell," seems to be altogether hopeless.

The thirty years' war of the Dutch upon the Achinese of Sumatra is culminating in atrocities little worthy of the people who so eloquently denounced the British for their war with the Transvaal. In Sumatra as in South Africa the object of the European power was to subject the resisting people and incorporate their country into an empire. But the Hollanders seem able to give points to the British. At Likat, for example, the Dutch, with a loss of but fifteen wounded, killed 432 Achinese, including 281 women and 88 children. Three days later, at Langatbars, they killed 654 Achinese, of whom 186 were women and 130 children, their own loss being but twenty-nine wounded. This reads like butchery rather than war. The Achinese are as "rightly struggling to be free" as the boers were.

The department of agriculture has opened a laboratory in New York to prevent foreign impure foods from entering the United States. That is constructively authorized by law and is as beneficient as any other mode of paternalism, but why should the government at Washington be more careful to guard the American stomach against impure foreign foods than against impure domestic foods—and drinks? In affording protection against injurious foreign eatables and drinkables Congress exercises its power to regulate foreign commerce. It has equal power to regulate interstate commerce and in so doing to prevent the shipment of injurious things from one State to another. Congress might exercise this power and then the consumer could buy only such beer, canned goods, etc., as were imported from another State bearing the government certificate of purity. We could be sure that this would improve the quality of goods, provided we could also be sure that the inspectors inspected thoroughly, honestly and intelligently.

Try as we may to ignore the fact, the upward path toward wealth and social advancement is dangerous. The ticklish edge of the precipice is none the less giddy because it commands a wide vision. Conditions of life shift so rapidly for the individual that the severest strain is often put on character by their change. Here, for instance, is a man who, as cashier of a bank, in a small town in one of the Middle States, supports his family comfortably on his salary of twenty-five hundred dollars a year. Some of his townsmen conceive the plan of developing an industry new to this country. A little stock in the new enterprise is offered to him in return for his services in managing the accounts of the business. As the scheme enlarges he discovers unknown resources within himself. In nine years he becomes the possesser of fifty million dollars. He controls men, establishes policies and influences legislation. But "climbing hath tickleness," as Chaucer said five hundred years ago. Who can insure the man and wife and sons and daughters against the perils of the way? Who can bar out vanity and extravagance and lawlessness and hard, cruel selfishness from that household as burglars are barred out from treasure vaults? Who can keep simplicity and graciousness sympathy and generosity enthroned in heart and home? No outward power can make safe the issues of life. From the successful man himself must come his salvation from the perils of his upward course. The measure of his responsibilities by his opportunities must be made by his own hand. If he scant the due, he will some day pay an arrears which will sweep away content and joy, even if fortune remain.

While John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was absent from his country home at Tarrytown, N. Y., the other day a telegram was received for him at the telegraph office, three miles from the Rockefeller mansion. Orders had been given to telephone all messages to Mr Rockefeller's residence, but the telephone line happened to be out of order and a boy was sent to deliver the message, $1 being charged for the service When the young millionaire returned home and learned that his valet had paid the money he became justly indignant, insomuch that he drove to the telegraph office for the purpose of demanding an explanation of the outrage He was informed that $1 was the regular price charged for delivering a message three miles from the office, and knowing something about the rules of corporations he gave up all hope of getting back any part of his money. He took occasion, however, to deliver to the telegraph company a well-earned rebuke, explainingg that he could hire a man for a whole day for $1.25 and showing the utter absurdity of charging him $1 for a service that had taken but a few hours of a 15-year-old boy's time. Mr. Rockefeller ended by giving positive orders that all his messages must in future be telephoned to him, thus furnishing a lesson in prudence that may be well taken to heart by all people who hope to become billionaires or even ordinary millionaires It is only by carefully looking after the dollars that the billions may be amassed. Mr. Rockefeller could have paid the dollar to the telegraph company without seriously missing it, but he realized that he owed it to himself to take precautions against a repetition of the offense. He saw the danger that would lie in silent acquiescence. He knew that by suffering himself to be separated from a dollar on Tuesday, the probabilities were that an effort would be made to get another away from him on Wednesday It was necessary to meet the danger at the beginning—before it had grown too great to be grappled with. Mr Rockefeller has shown us that it is only through eternal vigilance that we may hope to keep from falling into the clutches of the greedy ones who are after our dollars. Narrow indeed was his escape from the danger of being started down the road that leads to poverty, but he is on safe ground now.

Dental Specifications.

Among the curiosities of the late Dr. Evans, the American dentist of Paris, was a letter written to him long ago, when he began his career in America. The letter, says the New York Tribune, was from a young farmer of Vermont who wanted a set of artificial teeth.

My mouth, the young man wrote, is three inches acrost, five-eighth inches threw the jaw. Some hummocky on the edge. Shaped like a hoss shew, toforard. If you want me to be more pertickler I shall have to come thar.

A man never realizes the true worth of his wife until she gets sick and he has to cook his own meals.

CLAIM A VICTORY

RUSSIANS MAKING MERRY OVER CHANGED CONDITIONS.

ST. PETERSBURG IS JOYOUS

PUBLIC HAS NEWS THAT KUROPATKIN IS ADVANCING.

Rumors Taking Place of Official Reports at Both Capitals—Little Doubt That Battle Is Continuing.

ST. PETERSBURG.—There is a jubilation throughout the city over the news that General Kuropatkin has resumed the offensive, and the holiday, which began, with little heart, closed brighter. The crowds in the streets and illuminations in honor of the czarevitch's name day gave a tinge of brilliancy to an evening otherwise depressing, through a constant drizzle of rain. Newsboys up to midnight raced through the thoroughfares with evening extras, shouting "Great Russian victory," and crowds bought the papers. Groups of men in brilliant uniforms or evening dress at the hotels and restaurants discussed the change in the fortunes of war, but the population as a whole were slow to take fire. They received the news of the earlier reverses stolidly and now accepted reports of Russian success and the capture of guns quietly with satisfaction but with considerable reserve.

Correspondents at the front the past forty-eight hours had been hinting that the Russian army was on the eve of another advance: but it was thought here that the troops were too exhausted by more than a week of titanic struggle to engage in an immediate advance movement Therefore the news of the definite resumption of the advance was calculated to arouse the greater satisfaction, but the realization of the significance of news permeates the masses here more slowly than in American cities.

The kaleidoscopic changes on the Shakhe have been too swift for the populace to follow, and so the better news from the front has been so far taken with comparative quiet, in the best informed circles, however, it is already accepted as true. It is believed that General Kuropatkin intended to signalize the czarevitch's fete by a victory just as the grand Duke Nicholas did at Plevna.

The failure of the war office to give out dispatches is attributed to the holiday, the censors commission disbanding early. The Associated press, however, hears on good authority that the emperor has received a telegram from General Kuropatkin reporting that the Russians are moving forward. The reverse sustained by General Yamada's column has not been reported by General Kuropatkin or General Sakharoff except in reference to an unsuccessful attack near Shakhe.

The Associated press Mukden dispatch evidently refers to this affair in reporting that the Japanese left had been beaten off with terrible slaughter and its retreat cut off by a Russian army corps. Another Associated press dispatch from Mukden confirms the news of the Russian advance. When telegraphing late the correspondeent says: "It is rumored that we are moving ahead."

Offenders To Be Punished

WASHINGTON.—The report of the United States commission of investigation on the disaster to the steamer Slocum, appointed June 23 last by the then secretary of commerce and labor, Cortelyou, and consisting of Lawrence O. Murray, assistant secretary of commerce and labor; Herbert Knox Smith, deputy commissioner of corporations; George Uhler supervising inspector general of the steamboat inspection service; General John M Wilson, U. S. A., retired, and Commander Wiltsiow, U. S. N., has made public.

President directs immediate action of findings. Removal of inspection service men ordered.

Weeding out process to be followed at once and those guilty of neglect to suffer loss of positions.

Keeps Bobbing Up

BOSTON.—The divorce issue again has come before the Episcopal convention but no final action was taken on several resolutions referring to the subject which were presented.

Kills Wife and Policeman

BROOKLINE, Mass.—Crazed the police say, by drink, Harry Bowles, a town laborer, shot and instantly killed his wife at their home at Boylston street and a few moments later killed Policeman Joseph MacMurray who attempted his arrest. Mrs. Bowles lived but a few moments after the shooting and the policeman expired almost immediately after receiving a bullet wound below the heart.

TOKIO REPORTS ARE GOOD

CLAIMS A CONTINUATION OF SUCCESSES AT FRONT.

General Oku's Division Bags Twenty-five Guns of Enemy—Valor of the Russians Admitted by Japanese.

TOKIO.—The latest telegram from the front indicates the continuation of Japanese success. General Oku's left army alone bagged twenty-five guns.

The Russians made two desperate counter attacks against the Japanese left, but were repulsed with heavy slaughter. The Japanese commanders in their reports give expression to their admiration of the valor of the Russians.

The Manchurian headquarters in a telegram recently reports as follows

"Since the last report our right army has been continuing a vigorous pursuit of the enemy towards the north. The column that was dispatched in the direction of Shihchiao Tsu to intercept the retreat of the enemy from Benshu continues its operations to occupy the line between Tungshankou and Huchiakuchiatzu. The enemy in this direction appeared to retreat continuously until dusk.

"A report that a large column of the enemy is moving to the southwest and commencing the erection of defensive works at Chienhuangchiatien cannot be verified.

"The number of guns captured by the center column of the left army is sixteen, instead of eight, as previously reported.

"The right wing of the center column of the left army captured four guns.

"The enemy's two counter attacks against the center column of the left army were very daring, but these attacks were repulsed with heavy damage, which was inflicted by our artillery and by a heavy infantry fire.

"The right column of the left army, while pursuing the enemy west of the Schili river captured five guns, making the total number of guns captured twenty-five.

"The supports and the artillery reserve advanced to Kuchiatzu from Huechiatien.

"The right wing of the left column of the center army captured 150 prisoners."

Preliminary reports indicate that the bulk of the steamer Fu Ping's cargo was ammunition. An inventory is expected soon. The steamer Fu Ping cleared from Taku and it is not known where she received her contraband. She flies the German flag.

The steamer Fu Ping was captured by the Japanese guardships off Port Arthur on October 12.

Had an Ugly Experience.

NEW YORK.—Three sisters and four nurses of the New York foundling hospital returned from Arizona and told of their experience in that territory and how their lives were threatened because the children whom they sought to place with families in the territory were taken to homes of Catholic Mexicans. The sisters had gone to Clifton and Morenci, Ariz., to deliver forty foundlings to Mexican families under present authority of a priest of that region. The foundling hospital will appeal to the federal authorities to recover from the residents of these towns nineteen children who were taken from the nurses. The sisters claim they left some of the children with refined Mexican families, but that the citizens of Morenci took them away and put them with American families.

Exonerates The Officers.

SACRAMENTO, Cal.—The report of the investigation made by the San Francisco police commission of the arrest of Tom Kim Young, a legation attache at San Francisco, has been received by Governor Pardee who will immediately forward the report to the state department at Washington. It is said the report exonerates the officers who made the arrest and states that it was not known that the Chinese was an attache until the instruction of the court was invoked to secure his release. The Chinese, it will be remembered committed suicide, the reason given being the disgrace that had attached to him through the arrest.

Told to Recover Shortage.

TOPEKA, Kas.—Governor Bailey turned the evidence collected by State Accountant Rowlitt, showing shortages in the state treasury, over to Attorney General Coleman and instructed him to take such legal action as is necessary to recover the shortages. On the twelve counts thus far examined the shortage aggregates over $7,500 of which $2,500 has recently been mysteriously turned into the treasury.

STRIKE BODY BLOW

RUSSIANS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.

ARMY NOW IN RETREAT

NOTABLE VICTORY CREDITED TO THE JAPANESE

Losses Enormous on Both Sides, and Russians Have Fifteen Thousand Wounded—St Petersburg Gets Rumors.

LONDON.—A dispatch to a news agency from Mukden, received by way of Paris, says the Japanese have gained a great victory, and that the Russian lines are withdrawing slowly northward, having suffered heavy losses. The battle continues and dispatches are strictly censored.

MUKDEN.—The fight is still in progress with terrible bitterness and the result hangs in the balance The losses on both sides are enormous. The Russians have fifteen thousand wounded, hundreds of who are streaming back from all directions.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A dispatch from General Sakharoff, explains more of the operations of October 11 13, from which it appears that the Russian center was due north of the Yental mines, the right running west a short distance beyond the railroad, and the left sweeping southeastward toward Bensinu. The real bloody work did not begin until Wednesday when the Japanese made a series of determined attacks on Sialiuhdzy, about seven miles north of Yental, but the Russian held of their assailants. In the meantime however, the extreme right, comparatively lightly held, was forced back, thus compelling Kuropatkin to slightly draw back his line above Yental in order to preserve its alignament. On the extreme left, after a determined resistance, the Russians succeeded in carrying the rocky hights and Hua pass, north of Benshu, but the arrival of Japanese reinforcements, Kuropatkin says, made it impossible for the Russians to press their advantage and as the left was now too far advanced it also was withdrawn some distance.

A high officer of the general staff tells the Associated press that the situation while critical is not desperate. Kuropatkin is keeping his head and acting cautiously as is shown by his withdrawal of both wings in that the Japanese assaults will exhaust themselves. He says the slaughter was frightful. No estimate of the losses is yet possible, but they run far into the thousands. The losses were especially heavy on the Russian left and center. In a single regiment out of over a hundred officers only eight escaped.

The Associated press is informed on the same authority that no information has been received here tending to conform the report that the Japanese are likely to cut off a force on the Russian left. Neither is the threatened enveloping movement against the Russian right greatly feared Kuropatkin having a large number of Cossacks on his right, held in lease to meet just such a contingency.

It is now evident that Kuropatkin's plan was to press his advance not directly from the front but toward the left for the purpose of getting in the rear of Oyama's triangle.

As Far Apart as Ever

BOSTON.—During a two hours debate on the divorce question by the deputies of the Episcopal general convention, both sides appeared to be as far apart as they were before and predictions were freely made that no final action would be taken at this time. Rev. J. Lewis Parke of New York, on behalf of those who made the minority report on the proposed divorce canon, withdrew their recommendation, but the withdrawal does not mean that there will be any letup in the fight against the proposal to prohibit clergymen remarrying the innocent person in a divorce suit for infidelity while the former partner lives. The members of the minority considered that the situation would be less complicated by the withdrawal of the report.

Feazel Sentenced

NELSON, Neb.—The last chapter in the case of the State vs Charles and Nannie R Hutchinson was closed with the sentence of the defendants, the jury having found them guilty of murder in the second degree. The prosecution at the close of their case, moved a discharge of the defendant Harley Feasel, on the ground that no case had been made against him. The case was bitterly fought on both sides.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Mrs. Ella Givens, wife of Felix Givens, died at the family residence at Pender.

A falling tree caused the breaking of a leg for A. S. Linn of Oakland recently.

C. A. Swanson, a retired farmer living at Oakland, died, last week, aged 75 years. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

Baizer Mueller, a prominent German resident of Otoe county, died near his home at Nebraska City of paralysis. He was 77 years old.

The Nebraska university authorities expect to ask the legislature this winter for an appropriation for an addition to the university campus.

Humboldt's board of education has instituted a movement to enforce the law compelling children of school age to attend school at least a portion of the year.

William M. Spring, who had farmed near Linwood for forty years, is dead at the age of 78 years. He was born in New York in 1826. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

The new postmaster general Robert J. Wynne, is a relative of Joseph O'Neill of Lincoln. Mr. O'Neill is a cousin of Mrs Wynne. Mr. O'Neill says Mr. Wynne was a telegraph operator at the time of his marriage.

The eight months old child of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Floyd, who live near Holmesville, was severely burned by drinking concentrated lye the other day and the prompt arrival of a physician saved its life.

The fall term of district court for Dakota county will be convened at Dakota City October 17, by Judge G. T. Graves of Pender. The session will likely continue for two weeks. The most important case for trial is that against Steve Whittecar, who has been confined in the county jail for several months past, charged with assault upon his 14-year-old daughter. Whittcar's attorneys are D. H. Sullivan of Sioux City and Mell C. Beck of Dakota City, and the case promises to be a hard fought one, as they will try to save their client from the penitentiary.

The man Martin, who tried to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a knife at the home of a farmer near Beaver Crossing, where he was employed, was brought to Dr. Morrow's sanitarium in Seward and although he succeeded in cutting his windpipe, yet he missed the jugular vein, but fearfully lacerated his throat. Before, or until the time of the Fraternal picnic at Beaver Crossing in August, he was always seemingly light hearted, but at that time he went on a protracted spree and afterwarvd some friend sued him for a small debt, which seemed to make him despondent. Sheriff Smiley is endeavoring to find a relative of the would-be suicide who lives in Iowa.

A very interesting meeting of the teachers of Dakota, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne counties was held at Emerson. The program was a long and interesting one. The discussions were participated in by the teachers generally, those of Principal J. W. Crabtree of the state normal school, President W. H. Clemmons of the Fremont normal, and President J. M. Pile of the Wayne normal being of especial interest. The leading features of the program were the able and scholarly addresses of J. M. Pile of Wayne and J. L. McBrien of Lincoln. More than 200 teachers of northeast Nebraska were present.

Captain R. A. Talbot of Dakota City has received a telegram from Kansas City, that the gasoline propelled car to be used on the Sioux City Homer & Southern railway, between South Sioux City and Homer would be shipped soon. Upon the arrival of the car and its being operated, a movement is now on foot to have a celebration of the event in that place, in the shape of a barbecue and general all around good time. A gang is now engaged in laying track through Broadway and enough material is now on hand to extend the track about three miles south and west of Dakota City towards Homer.

A tailor giving the name of Harry DuBois and who went to work in the tailoring department of Speier & Co., at Beatrice, recently stole a gold watch from Carl McCune, one of the clerks in the store. He escaped arrest by paying Mr. McCune in cash about half what the watch was worth.

Oscar Carlon, who had been working on the Union Pacific railroad, near Pickrell, went violently insane. He will be sent to the asylum.

A man giving the name of Mayhew, who was brought to Seward by the sheriff of York county, had a hearing before Judge Leavens and was held for a thirty day continuance. He was charged with felonious assault on a resident of Utica. He was held to $500 bond, which he gave.