

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

The Binghamton Republican says editorially: "Money is too scarce." We have always noticed that.

And now a waterspout is reported in Kentucky. Nature is obliged to resort to heroic measures to get water into that spirit land.

The Boston Globe says: "Strawberries are beginning to taste different from prunes." That shows what bro-mo seizer will do for a man.

A writer in Scribner's Magazine tells everything about "The Working of a Bank" except how a man without money can work one successfully.

Boston announces the failure of a firm of "corset tailors." It would seem that those fellows ought to have been able to pull through by a tight squeeze.

Somebody down East claims to have discovered a way to telegraph 3,000 words a minute. Science seems to have overtaken the board of lady managers at last.

An Italian inventor has produced a machine for shocking vineyard insects to death. The electrocution of church bugs and grasshoppers would be a pleasing advance in agriculture.

A Washington correspondent wired his paper the other day that "in well-informed circles the possibility of war is now considered probable." Probably the probability of war also is possible.

About ten million cattle are now to be found in the Argentine Republic. They are said to be all descendants of eight cows and one bull, which were brought to Brazil in the middle of the sixteenth century.

An Iowa paper claims that a case of empty beer bottles recently found in that State was thrown overboard from an air ship. It is safe to bet that the air ship was thrown overboard from the beer bottles.

The most scientific forester in Europe says that the oldest trees in Northern Europe are the pines of Norway and Sweden, and that these are not known to live more than 570 years. Germany's oldest oaks lived only a little more than 300 years.

Minneapolis Tribune: If pugilism continues to count its victims at the rate of two a day it will not require legislation to abolish the practice of fighting. The moment the business becomes dangerous the pugs will give it up of their own accord.

Medical experts are puzzled by the case of Rev. T. C. Hanna, of Plantsville, Conn., who has "suddenly become entirely forgetful of his past." This may be a very unpleasant affliction, but it is by no means rare. Politicians habitually suffer in that way.

The Nestor of newspaper reporters lives in Worcester, Mass., where he has been in service sixty years. His duties at first were light, and he worked eleven years before there was a policeman in the town. The "new journalism" would quickly break up that state of affairs.

The Kennebec Journal says: "The young gentleman and lady who undertook to make some molasses candy a few nights ago and whose efforts resulted in a failure have come to the conclusion that when making candy business must be attended to first and other matters postponed." Aha!

The notorious Dr. Carl Peters, the German explorer of Africa, whose cruelty so shocked the world when it was revealed a year or two ago, has been tried on those charges and dismissed from the imperial service. It speaks well for the humanity and integrity of the German courts that even the influential friends of this man could not save him from just punishment.

The King of Sweden and Norway has given welcome evidence of his friendly feeling toward the people of this republic by erecting a monument at the spot in his realm where an American traveler and his wife met death through a carriage accident. The base of the shaft bears the inscription, "Oscar II. Erected This Memorial." Americans reciprocate the cordial feeling, for the gates of the republic are never closed to the sturdy Swedes and Norwegians who come hither to try their fortunes in the new world.

Any railroad company which sets in to fight the people will find it expensive work. Legislatures must be bought or controlled, city councils must be bought or controlled. And they must be kept bought and controlled. This is most expensive and in the long run the people will surely win. When a corporation once begins the work of bribery the greed of the bribe taker grows with what it feeds upon. And, finally, the bribe giver makes himself so odious that the bribe taker finds he can no longer brave public sentiment and then the people prevail.

A dog case has at last reached the United States Supreme Court, and that tribunal has rendered a decision, said to be the first of its kind. The case, which was one for damages for a dog killed by a railway train, turned upon

the validity of a Louisiana legislative act recognizing dogs as personal property only when placed upon the assessment rolls. The owner of the dog in question was not assessed. The court upheld the constitutionality of the act and refused damages. The moral of this seems to be that if your dog is valuable enough to demand damages in case of death you should pay your dog tax.

One of the new journalism newspapers in New York recently announced that Mrs. Cleveland had melted the spoons in the White House which had been used by Dolly Madison, and had had the silver made into prettier spoons. There was a long and interesting story about it. The silversmith had offered their weight in gold for the spoons, but Mrs. Cleveland rejected the offer, sent the spoons to the mint, so the story ran, had them melted into ingots, and then required of the silversmith an affidavit that the same silver was put into the new spoons. This story was promptly denied at the White House, and in proof of the denial it is declared the Dolly Madison spoons are still there. But the melting story is going the rounds of the press just the same. It is surprising how circumstantial, interesting and apparently truthful the accomplished new journalist can be.

The greatest fortress in the world is Gibraltar. The height of the rock is over 1,400 feet, and this stupendous precipice is pierced by miles of galleries in the solid stone, port-holes for cannon being placed at frequent intervals. The rock is perfectly impregnable to the shot of an enemy, and, by means of the great elevation, a plunging fire can be directed from an enormous height upon a hostile fleet. From the water batteries to a distance of two-thirds up the rock one tier after another of cannon is presented to the enemy. A garrison of from 5,000 to 10,000 is maintained, with provisions and ammunition for a six months' siege. In 1779 the celebrated siege lasted three years. The fortress was successfully defended by 7,000 British and attacked by an army of over 40,000 men, with 1,000 pieces of artillery, 47 sail of the line, 10 great floating batteries, and great numbers of smaller boats. For months over 6,000 shells a day were thrown into the town.

An indignant Maryland lady criticizes in the Baltimore Sun a Philadelphia recipe for making Maryland biscuit. She says: "This is an insult to the Maryland biscuit! It knows no yeast powder. And the Maryland biscuit of colonial days knew no biscuit block, no ax nor beating. It was made by working the dough on a biscuit board with hands and wrists until it became light and flaky; coherent, not adherent; spongy, not sticky. The biscuit block and the ax-beater is an innovation, introduced to lighten the labor and expedite work as regards time, but the process does not make the true Maryland biscuit of colonial times nor of these times. The dough is made by mixing the best flour, water, a pinch of salt and hog's lard. The lard must be the 'leaf fat' of the hog that taken from the entrails is not good enough, rendered and preserved with the greatest care. No one but the Philadelphia Record writer ever thought of putting yeast powder or any form of saleratus in a biscuit."

The continued increase of the British navy in battle ships and cruisers of formidable dimensions is urging upon the Government the necessity of establishing, without further delay, increased docking facilities for their new specimens for naval warfare, not only at home, but in the colonies. Gibraltar has been one of the coaling stations which has already received the earnest attention of the admiralty, owing to its deficiency in dock and other accommodations for the refitting of war ships, beside securing protection from outward attack for the large stock of coal that has to be kept on hand. The construction of these formidable works has already commenced, with the employment of about 4,000 workmen of all classes, who are daily kept hard at work, under the special charge of superintendents sent out from England by the admiralty authorities, who control everything connected with this important undertaking, which is likely to consume at least five years for its completion and an outlay of several millions of pounds sterling.

Another affray between French and Italian workmen has taken place at Lessines de Giroude, near Arles, France, have been sent to the scene of the disturbance.

Local dispatches from Arles say that affairs are becoming quietier at Lessines de Giroude and that work is being resumed there.

Train Runs Into the River.

CHICAGO, June 18.—A Milwaukee & St. Paul suburban train ran into the river at Kinsbury street near the down station about 10 o'clock last night. The police believe that few, if any, lives were lost.

The baggage car and engine went into the river, the passenger coach being stopped on the bank. Three trainmen went down with the engine, but all escaped without serious injury. No one was hurt.

Fisheries Association Meets.

DETROIT, Mich., June 18.—About twenty members of the American fisheries association appeared at the first session of their national convention yesterday. Routine business only was transacted. The question of uniform lake and inland fishing laws is expected to come up for discussion later. The association favors the enactment of federal laws that shall be as strict as the Canadian fishing laws.

### HAWAII LAID OVER.

Treaty not Likely to be Ratified This Session—England Talks.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The sentiment is now prevalent in the senate, even by the friends of Hawaiian annexation, that the treaty cannot be ratified at the present session if there is any such opposition as is promised. The program now is that the treaty will be reported from the committee and after the tariff bill has been passed it will be called. The senate will be asked if a time for a vote can be fixed and on the objections being made by the opponents of the treaty its friends will say they are content to let it lie over until the next session. It is said that many senators who are now undecided may become influenced favorably after more mature deliberation and after finding out what the drift of sentiment is in their states. It is well known that senators cannot be held here after the tariff has been passed.

LONDON, June 18.—The Pall Mall Gazette yesterday afternoon says that the Marquis Ito, the Japanese statesman who was interviewed yesterday in Paris on the Hawaiian annexation question, has declared that Japan will not create internal differences in connection with Hawaii and that certainly no other country will object to the annexation of Hawaii by the United States. Commenting on this utterance the Pall Mall Gazette says:

"President McKinley may call annexation merely a continuance of existing relations, but it is an undoubted departure in the colonization sense. It does not mean that Cuba will follow or anything of that kind, but it means a strong naval policy."

The Globe says:

"Lord Salisbury and his colleagues should stiffen their backs and tell President McKinley politely but plainly that Great Britain claims the right to be consulted before the annexation of Hawaii is finally decided upon."

### Spanish Get Killed.

HAVANA, June 18.—A large force under Gen. Quintin Bandera succeeded in destroying a body of Spanish near Sabana.

General Bandera placed his men in ambush and then instructed five scouts to approach a fort where the Spanish barricaded. The Spaniards rallied from the fort in pursuit of the scouts, who fell back, leading their pursuers in the heart of the Bandera ambush. A hot fight ensued, first with musketry, but finally hand to hand. All of General Bandera's men were negroes with machetes. Ten of the insurgents were killed and the entire pursuing party of the Spaniards perished.

NEW YORK, June 18.—On board the steamer Segurana, which arrived Wednesday from Havana, was F. R. Winn of Sherman, Tex., who has been for some time with the insurgent forces at Pinar del Rio, in the west end of Cuba. Winn succeeded in crossing the treacherous and reached Havana last Thursday and managed to elude the Spanish officials, finally getting on board the Segurana, without molestation. Mr. Winn is the bearer of important dispatches to the Cuban junta in this city. He is quite sanguine of the ultimate success of the insurgent cause and says the Spaniards are disheartened and weary of the fight. Their guerrillas have all been killed off by the Cuban sharpshooters and the Spanish regulars do but very little fighting.

### Died to Escape.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 18.—Isaac Norton, cashier of the United States internal office here, committed suicide Wednesday afternoon. He had been notified that his accounts were to be inspected in consequence of the succession of Captain Thrasher as special agent.

Norton replied that he would be in attendance and went on with his work.

At lunch time he purchased a viol of carbolic acid and took the poison with fatal results. He had given bond for \$20,000 with the National Surety company of Kansas. The collector says that if there is any shortage it cannot amount to more than \$5,000 or \$6,000.

### Frenchmen are Killed.

PARIS, June 18.—In a fight between Italian and French workmen at Barcarin near St. Louis Rhone, Wednesday, two Frenchmen were killed. The district is intensely excited and the police are taking steps to quell further disturbances.

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### Two Steamers Collide.

PRINCETON, N. Y., June 17.—Princeton's 150th annual commencement exercises began at 10:30 yesterday. Alexander Hall was thronged with visitors. President Patton and ex-President Cleveland occupied seats on the platform.

Desiring applause greeted Mr. Cleveland when he arose to be presented to Dr. Patton for an honorary degree. Dr. Patton conferred the degree of L. L. D. upon Mr. Cleveland, who spoke a few words in acknowledgement. In part he said:

"As I recall the sincerity and cordiality which accompanies this honor I think that another tie has been formed which binds me with closer affections and deeper feelings to the home where I expect to spend the remainder of my days."

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### Company Buys It.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., June 17.—The steamer Virginia of the Goodrich line, with 22 passengers aboard, ran down the schooner Evelyn, bound from Menominee, Mich., to Chicago, near this port last evening. The Evelyn's cabin was shifted forward and her yawl was demolished. A panic prevailed among the Virginia's passengers, but the steamer continued on her course to Chicago and the Evelyn was towed to the Milwaukee dry docks for repairs.

### Planned to Rob.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, June 16.—The Tribune yesterday morning prints a story that a party of desperadoes from the notorious "Robbers' Roost," southern Utah, have gone to Wyoming and have located at Wamsutter, a small station east of Rock Springs.

Their purpose, it is claimed, is to hold up the Union Pacific express train or rob the paymaster of the Sweetwater mines, who is due at Rock Springs Saturday next.

### TO SIGN TREATY

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Providing for the Annexation of the Island of Hawaii.

### M'KINLEY EXPECTED TO SIGN IT.

island Confidently Expected to be Added to Uncle Sam's Domain Before Long—Treaty Already Written.

WASHINGTON, June 15.—The officials at the state department steadfastly refuse to make any statement as to the negotiations of a treaty providing for the annexation of Hawaii, and at the Hawaiian legation the same silence is observed. However, it is known that the treaty, though not yet signed, is drawn up ready for signature and as the president is fully aware of its scope there is no reason to doubt that he will authorize its signature. In this case it is expected that the document will be sent to the senate for its action very soon, even within a week, it is said, in some very well informed quarters. If this be the case it may be taken for granted that the president has taken steps to assure himself of a favorable reception for the treaty in the senate and to guard against such mishap as befell the arbitration treaty last session.

The treaty will be sent to the senate soon after the return of the president, unless present plans are altered. The treaty has been written and all its details were fully agreed before the president and Secretary Sherman left for the south. There is no doubt, it is said, of the president's acquiescence in the terms of the treaty, as he was made fully aware of them before he left. The treaty is on the general lines of the treaty negotiated during the administration of President Harrison and withdrawn by President Cleveland. It provides for annexation without the action of conditions on the part of the Hawaiians as to the form of government to be vouchsafed to Hawaii, leaving that question to be disposed of by the government of the United States. The United States will agree, however, to assume the debt of the present Hawaiian government, but will come into possession of all the Hawaiian crown lands and other possessions.

Several senators have received definite information concerning the existence of the treaty and are well acquainted with the terms, though they refuse to discuss the matter. The knowledge of the existence of the treaty has been communicated to the members of the committee on foreign relations and to the finance committee.

### To Give Chicago's Idle Work.

CHICAGO, June 15.—Mayor Harrison has a plan for the relief of Chicago's unemployed. He declares that something must be done for the hungry men who daily throng the city hall begging for work. In their interests he has a suggestion which he will make to the civil service commissioners at once. The mayor's idea is to extend the list of 1,600 eligibles on the laborers' list to 6,000 and give every applicant at least ten days' work a month in rotation. He believes working the men in squads or shifts will not violate the laws.

Laborers now permanently employed must share with their comrades. He is also confident the plan will stand between many families and absolute destitution. It is thought that temporary relief along the lines suggested will thus afford relief to 20,000 men, women and children in Chicago. At the expiration of every ten days' work will come on the instalment plan, Mr. Harrison believes it will bring blessings to many who deserve it.

### In Favor of Cuba.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 15.—There was an exciting debate in the Arkansas senate on the Cuban situation yesterday. Resolutions were adopted and ordered sent to President McKinley urging that the Cubans be at once granted belligerent rights and that war ships be sent to Havana to protect American citizens.

### Train Struck Them.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., June 15.—Near Strawberry Point yesterday afternoon James Jewett and Martin Marquart, farm laborers, attempted to drive across the railroad tracks in front of a locomotive. Jewett was cut in two and Marquart terribly injured.

### Ate to Many Nails.

KANSAS CITY, June 15.—Harry Whalen the "human ostrich," who was operated upon at the German hospital on Saturday last, and from whose stomach the surgeons took various articles of hardware, died at 2 o'clock yesterday morning as a result of the operation. He had been unable to take any nourishment after the operation on Saturday morning.

### Narrow Escape.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., June 15.—The aluminum coal mine of the Torrey company, near Clinton, was burned yesterday afternoon. Fifteen men were in the mine at the time, but all escaped. The mine is completely destroyed. The loss is placed at \$50,000.

### A Church Paid.

BUFFALO, N. Y., June 15.—A panic occurred in a Polish school house on Broadway Monday night. A church entertainment was being held and 1,000 people, principally women and children were present. A hanging lamp fell and a cry of fire was raised. Men, women and children rushed, crowded and stumbled and trampled over each other in their efforts to reach the exit. One was fatally injured, but a large number of women and children were bruised.