

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

What is the biggest game in your vicinity? asks a New England correspondent. Draw poker.

Spain certainly experienced a great deal of trouble in Manila Bay, but her war ships were at the bottom of it.

The Spaniards really believe the man that Dewey was a bad boy, and in addition they think he grew worse to be got older.

The attention of the Harvard professor who says there are no gentlemen in America is called to the fact that there are a few fighters.

This war may mean more compulsory education in giving scholars something additional to learn about the United States and its dependencies.

Adherents of the Spanish throne prudently talk of what is behind it, but it is at present to its occupants must be of less interest than what's before it.

The Australian government has decided that "hello" in telephoning is impolite and must not be used. But it often is convenient for abbreviation.

"All honor to the new navy!" exclaims the Detroit Free Press. In view of a well-known occurrence at Manila we would like to inquire what is the matter with our old navy also?

A local poetess contributes to a Western paper a "stirring, martial poem" beginning "To war, to war with Spain, I say!" So do we—remembering always that Gen. Sherman said "War is hell."

The Wichita Beacon says that "any girl who bleaches her hair can be tamed." So can any girl who doesn't bleach her hair; but the job must be done by the right party of the second part of course.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Always inevitably; and it is generally cheaper to help him maintain himself at home than it is to let him go to the poorhouse—and then support him altogether. This applies to nations as well as individuals.

The Cramps at Philadelphia have secured contracts from the Russian government for a first-class 12,500-ton battle ship and a first-class 6,100-ton protected cruiser. If we are in a position to build navies for Europe we certainly should be able to build a first-class navy for Uncle Sam.

The nation takes off its hat to the American navy. It may not number the ships that are gathered into the fleets of England and the great continental powers, but man for man, officer for officer, ship for ship, nothing afloat equals it. We are not a warlike people; our ways are those of peace, but there is a satisfaction in the knowledge that when the crisis comes we are not unequal to maintaining ourselves like men.

It must be remembered that in this war the private's part is more important than in any war in the past. The open order formation in which battle is now fought, on account of the precision and rapidity of fire of modern small arms and machine guns, makes the individual soldier more dependent upon himself and less dependent upon his officers. He must use his brains as well as his legs and arms. Other conditions being equal, the army that has the most intelligent soldiers will win.

Spain furnishes to the world a melancholy example of the imprudence of the policy of unrestricted free trade. Its arid territory, its torrential streams, are the natural result of indifference to or ignorance of the demands of a wise foresight. We do not want to make a Spain of America—either physically or morally. We do not want to strip our timber lands for the enrichment of a few speculators and leave a forestless domain to the next generation.

It sometimes requires more and better courage to stay at home than to go to war. Many a man who, if duty would permit him to volunteer, would be glad to go, is compelled by the most solemn and binding of all human obligations to stay at home. It is not a manly, a wise or heroic thing for a citizen to leave his wife, children, parents or sisters in want in order to go where he is not needed. So long as there is a surplus of men who want to enlist, and whose presence at home is not essential to the support of families, no man whose presence is thus required has a moral right to enlist.

As a medium through which to convey pessimistic inferences the essays are overworking the subject of reject volunteers. Without other information the conclusion might be drawn from some of these comments that the people of this nation are rapidly deteriorating in physical capabilities. As has been said, this subject has been badly overworked. The nation is not running short of manly material capable of standing the tests of manhood, speed and strength. It is because it has so much of it to select from that it is bound to be especially rigorous in the selection of its troops. We are not becoming a nation of weaklings.

The National Farmers Association has organized the lead of the National Farmers Association by calling for "a re-organization of the entire code of law."

yers." It is felt that the frightful increase of crime can never be checked so long as attorneys, who are admitted to the bar as the sworn ministers of justice, are willing to sell their services to secure immunity for the worst of criminals, not only by securing the fair trial, which is the right of every accused person, but by using their legal ability for the perversion of law and evidence and the misleading of juries. Is there any possible form of wrong, any dishonest combination for private or public plunder, which does not find able and willing lawyers to dress it up and parade it before the courts in the robes of innocence and virtue? Yet there have been lawyers, like Horace Binney and Abraham Lincoln, who would not thus prostitute their powers; and we would gladly give full credit to the claim made by Hon. Joseph H. Choate for his ninety thousand brother lawyers, that "you will look in vain elsewhere for more spotless honor, more absolute devotion, more patient industry, more conscientious fidelity than among these."

June 14, 1777, the American flag was adopted by Congress and the annual recurrence of the anniversary calls to mind the first standard of our independence, which had represented on it a snake cut in thirteen pieces, representing the thirteen colonies, bearing the motto, "Join or die." Patrick Henry's men marched behind a standard bearing a rattlesnake in an attitude ready to strike and the warning, "Don't tread on me!" Doctor Franklin wrote of this design: "The ancients considered the serpent an emblem of wisdom. It is quite customary for countries to be represented by animals peculiar to that country. The rattlesnake is found nowhere but in America. Her eye is exceedingly bright and without eyelids—emblem of vigilance. She never begins an attack and she never surrenders—emblem of magnanimity and courage. She never wounds even her enemies until she generously gives them warning not to tread on her. Her thirteen rattles, the only part which increases in number, are distinct from each other, and yet so united that they cannot be disconnected without breaking them to pieces, showing the impossibility of an American republic without a union of States." Doctor Franklin pursues the simile still further, and in following it the reader is impressed with the analytical keenness of the old philosopher in his study of the fitness of the symbol that was to represent the character and relationship of the thirteen colonies.

New York Journal: The Oregon taking nearly two months to join the Atlantic fleet when, had the Nicaragua Canal been existent, it could have made the voyage in two weeks, leaves nothing to say against the military necessity of that short waterway to the United States. Either we must cut the canal or make up our minds to do a more costly thing—maintain a double navy. Every nation that maintains a powerful fleet in the Pacific has us at a fearful disadvantage now. The voyage from New York to San Francisco by way of the Straits of Magellan is 13,174 miles, and by way of Cape Horn 15,600. By way of the Nicaragua Canal it would be but 4,507, a shortening as to one route by 8,267 miles and as to the other by 10,753. With the canal we could hurry our ships from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice versa as they might be needed; without the canal every one of them will have to follow the same track that the Oregon has taken—the same that was pursued by the exploring Magellan, discoverer of the straits in 1520. Commercially the canal is as necessary as it is strategically. Its opening would mean an enormous impetus to the development of our Pacific coast. Well within ten years the population of that region would be doubled and its natural wealth poured out to enrich the whole country. New Orleans and other Southern ports would spring into greatness under the stimulus of the new trade opened to them and the territory which produces their special exports. The western coast of South America would become tributary to us by furnishing a direct market to our cotton growers, iron founders, and manufacturers in general. Thanks to the Suez Canal, England is nearer than we are by about 2,700 miles to China, Japan, and Australia. Open the Nicaragua Canal and our Atlantic ports would be only 1,000 miles further from Hongkong and Central China generally than is England, and from 1,200 to 1,900 miles nearer the northern ports of China, Corea, and Japan; 2,700 miles on the average nearer the western ports of South America; 1,300 miles nearer Melbourne, and over 3,000 miles nearer New Zealand. The canal would bring within trade reach hundreds of millions of consumers with whom we have now but scant connection. The commercial face of the world would be changed, and all to the benefit of the United States. The canal will be cut now. The Oregon's voyage has been a kindergarten lesson to the entire country, and the fight with Spain has opened everybody's eyes to the cold fact that the best time to prepare for war is when we are at peace.

You will soon be going off for a picnic. When you go, behave yourself. As a rule, when people go away on a picnic, they act worse than savages, and those living near the picnic grounds are disgusted. It isn't necessary to go crazy in order to enjoy a picnic.

A young country fellow's idea of a good time seems to be to pile two pretty girls in a single-seated buggy, and ride to town on their laps. And, by-the-way, we rather admire his taste.

We have known a man twenty years ago who says he is very sick, and liable to die at any moment.

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Succeed with a Butter Dairy
—Caring for Bees in the Spring—Hints on Beet Sugar Raising—Keeping Old Cows Unprofitable.

Good Butter.
To succeed with a butter dairy it is necessary to have good butter cows—not some good ones and some poor ones—and these cows must have good butter cow feed and care. One bad butter cow will eat up the profit on several good ones; therefore, all unprofitable cows should be tested out and sold to the butcher; a dairyman can't afford to keep them if he is dairying for profit. Then the cows must be treated with the consideration due to their importance as a factor of success; and the milk and cream must be properly handled from cow to churn, and those who don't know precisely how this should be done should stay out of the business. He must know how to make butter. There is absolutely no profit in any other grade, because people don't want bad butter at any price. Then, good butter being made at least possible cost, it must be properly presented to the market. It must not only be good, but must look good. Marketing requires some good, sound business sense. Some people could hardly sell good butter at a profit if it was given to them. It requires an all-round man to make a successful dairyman.—Breeder and Horseman.

First Food of Bees in Spring.
After bees have safely wintered their first gather propolis, a reddish substance which they procure from the buds of trees, and whose use is not clearly known, though part of it seems to be to close up cracks which the winter has made in their dwelling. Then they set to work to gather pollen, the fecundating dust from the stigmas of flowers. They get a great deal of this from the blossom of the maple, and it is this rather than sweet sap that the bees frequent maple trees in bloom to obtain. Of course there is no sweetness in maple sap after the trees have leaved out. The taste is rather bitter than sweet. Nature is an expert chemist, and can change in a week's time all the sugar in a maple tree into the material for depositing fibre in the branches and the new foliage that the tree then puts on. A good substitute for the pollen of flowers is found in very fine rye or wheat flour, kept where it will be sheltered from rain, and where the bees can readily get at it. Hundreds of bees in early spring will visit a dish that has a little rye flour sprinkled on its bottom and exposed to the sun. The bees use this pollen as feed for young bees when newly hatched. Therefore the queen bee does not begin laying until a supply of pollen has been obtained. The earlier the queen bee begins to work the sooner the hive fills with bees, and new swarms are ready to issue.

Beet Sugar Raising.
Beet sugar experts say that the beet, in order to be rich in sugar, must have a chance to send its tap-roots down into the subsoil. The factory wants smooth roots, not those that are all "fingers and toes." Thus they expect the grower to subsoil his beet land in the fall, by following with some sort of subsoil-stirring plow in the furrow made by the ordinary plow. Many farmers will consider this quite a task, and possibly be a little slow to bind themselves to grow sugar beets under these conditions. For most soils this subsoiling will not be so difficult as it may look at first glance. The work can be done in the fall, and should be done with greatest care. All manurial substances should be applied in the fall. Stable manure should be well rotted and applied in moderate doses. Superphosphate may be used quite freely without detriment. Close planting is absolutely necessary. The individual roots should weigh from one to three pounds only. Larger roots are deficient in sugar. The rows are made about twenty inches apart, and the plants left about five to eight inches apart in the rows.

Food for Young Chicks.
More than half the young chicks that die while very young do so because they are improperly fed. Even the most-dreaded of all pests, lice, will never trouble the chicken that is fed as it ought to be, and has free range to scratch in the dirt. But proper feeding does not mean pampering the chick, and still less does it mean feeding with soft, indigestible food, that gives nothing for the chick's gizzard to work on. We never failed to have good success with chicks after they were big enough to eat whole wheat. After a while we took the hint and cracked the wheat, and they would eat this cracked wheat the second day. The chick needs nothing the first day. Its last act in the shell is to store up the remainder of the yolk and white. It is these which make its body, bones, bill and feathers. In picking its way out of the shell the chick instinctively swallows some of the shell, and this supplies its first grit for its gizzard. But the egg shell is itself dissolved and furnishes bone for growth. So the first thing is to put cracked wheat among coarse sand or very fine gravel. The chick will eat some gravel with its food, and soon learn to take care of itself.—American Cultivator.

Keeping Old Cows.
One of the small compensations for the great injury done to farmers by the tuberculosis scare is that it has led to a weeding out of the old cows. These are always most subject to become diseased, as the cow after long milk-

ing usually has her health impaired, and at some one of these periods, if there are any tuberculous germs in the air, the cow is very liable to take them. Young, vigorous cows, not pampered, can resist the germs even if they do get some into their systems. It is curious that the commission pleading for its life tells of the increased knowledge that the farmers have on this subject over what they had before the commission began its labors. It is true; they do know more than they did, and so we may add to the veterinarians! It has been knowledge very dearly paid for, and at the cow owners' expense exclusively.

The Wind Blew in the Wheat.
A sickle moon hung low and white, in the edge of a golden west. With clanging bells the herd came home, and mother birds on the nest. Trilled to the song that is never sung—so soft, so wildly sweet! The whippoorwill in the marshland called, and the wind blew in the wheat.

High summer had broken to hedge-row waves with a foam of elder bloom. By waste and wayside the sweetbriar stars showed faint in the tender gloom. And nibbling hares crept out to play on silent velvet feet. As waxing dewdrops timed the chant, the wind blew in the wheat.

"Benson to each bearded head, in the land of golden grain! Ye shall drink of the sun, in strength and power, nor lack the grateful rain. In the bursting mills, in the ocean pressed with the heels of a laden fleet, Ye may read the smile of the Lord of Hosts, the wind blew in the wheat."—Harper's Weekly.

Cauliflower.
There is no good reason why the farmer should not grow cauliflower if he or his family like them better than cabbage. They require no stronger soil, no heavier manuring and no more labor until the time comes for tying up the heads, and even then the labor is but little, only that they need looking at almost every day to see when they are just right to tie up for blanching and when they are ready for cutting. If the garden is where it should be—near the house—this extra care is but a little task, to be done after supper in a small garden. Market gardeners do not need to be told that cauliflowers are much more profitable usually than cabbages.—American Cultivator.

Manure on Hogs.
John Cruise writes to the Rural World as follows: "Have just had some interesting experience with manure or scab on pigs. Lost fourteen out of thirty-six from dosing them with everything I heard or read about. Was in despair until common sense came to my aid. I figured it out that it was a parasite under the skin, and to cure the pig the parasite must be destroyed. So I mixed up some turpentine and coal oil, and added quite a bit of sulphur. This, while the pigs were at the trough, I squirted the mixture all over them from nose to tail by means of a machine oil can. Have not lost a pig since, and have not been obliged to repeat the dose."

Controlling Plant Lice.
Plant lice are among the most important of the injurious insects. As plant lice suck their food, Paris green and similar poisons cannot be depended upon when used in the ordinary manner. Some external irritant must be used instead. Numerous insecticides of this nature are recommended. One of the most important is good whale oil soap. Experiments during the past season show that one pound of whale oil soap to seven gallons of water will kill plum and currant lice. The solution should be applied in a fine spray to the under surface of the leaves.—Orange Judd Farmer.

The Choke-Ball.
Cows will often get choked with a small potato or other article of food. The following peculiar remedy is sometimes employed: Take of fine-cut chewing tobacco enough to make a ball the size of a hen's egg. Dampen with molasses so that it adheres closely. Lift up the cow's head, pull the tongue forward and crowd the ball as far down the throat as possible. In fifteen minutes it will cause sickness and vomiting, relaxing the muscles so that the object will probably be thrown out.—Kansas Farmer.

Feeding Steers.
A cattle breeder who has experimented in various modes of feeding states that he estimated the cost of the food according to the value of the land and the crop, and with a bunch of steers on a pasture from May to September he cleared \$6.90 an acre. As no labor was required, the steers earning the food from the pasture, the gain was an addition to that which the pasture gives ordinarily, while the manure is also an item of profit.

Let Well Enough Alone.
Novelties in fruit growing serve to keep growers on the alert for something better every year, but the majority of the novelties pass out of sight after the first year's trial with them. Many of the so-called novelties are old varieties brought to the front again, in venturing upon new kinds let it be done experimentally. Never discard a satisfactory kind for another until certain that a change will be of advantage.

Taste in Feeding Chickens.
After making repeated tests in feeding, the New York Agricultural experiment station says: "The ground grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole grain ration with the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight from these chicks, and from others of equal weight and age, fed alike before cooping. No difference was noticed in health or vigor of chicks or capons fed either ration."



Cost of Stone Roads.
In Owen County, Indiana, where stone is abundant and very accessible, it costs at the crusher loaded into the wagon 50 cents per cubic yard or wagon load. To lay a mile of road with this stone, nine feet wide and eight inches deep, requires 1,173 cubic yards or wagon loads. At that rate the stone at the crusher would cost \$586.50. Then I think 30 cents per cubic yard at an average haul of say one mile, would be a fair estimate of the cost of putting it on the road, and would amount to \$351.90, which, added to the cost of stone, would make \$938.40. In a former article on road building in Owen County, I said roads were being built at an average cost of \$1,400 per mile. According to the foregoing estimate of the cost of putting the stone on the road, that would leave \$462 for grading, bridges, culverts and sewer pipes. This would seem to me a pretty good margin for profit to the contractor and yet in a rough country like this, where the grading is necessarily heavy, and where many culverts are needed, it may not be too great. If the contractor complies faithfully with all the specifications in building the road.—James N. Hill, in Indiana Farmer.

Broad Iron Rails for Roads.
The Government has given a vast deal of attention to the subject of good country roads and has indorsed the plan of using steel rails to form a track upon which the vehicles can run. No wood is used in the construction of the road and no cross ties for supports. The track consists of a simple inverted trough or channel of steel for each wheel, with a slightly raised bead on the inside to guide the wheel, each rail resting on a bed of gravel. The rails are tied together at regular intervals to prevent spreading. Special devices are used for holding the rails together at each end.

The bearing, or tread, for the wheels is eight inches wide and the thickness of the rail is seven-sixteenths of an inch. The total weight of the rails is about 100 tons to the mile, for single track road, and the cost of the iron is about \$3,500 per mile. The first order for rails has been given by the officers of the New York agricultural experiment station, who will make a thorough test of the road from every possible point of view.

Good Roads Abroad.
Americans must feel some disappointment, since their country has long been famous for its quickness and skill in adopting mechanical and scientific discoveries for business purposes, when they realize that European cities are far surpassing any of ours in the use of horseless vehicles. Until we have better roads and better street pavements we must submit to the humiliation of being distanced by Germany, France and England in one of the most interesting and important phases of modern progress. It is one of the penalties we pay for makeshift highways and for the folly which permits the use upon them of destructively narrow tires.—Cleveland Leader.

Earliest Japanese Sculpture.
Prof. Ernest F. Fenolosa contributes to the Century "An Outline of Japanese Art," with unique and unpublished examples. Prof. Fenolosa says:

By the year 600 of our era not only had the Japanese empress Suiko become the devoted patron of Buddhism, but Shokoku, the imperial prince, himself a priest, was expounding the new religion at court, and sending to Corea for architects, bronze-casters, weavers, and scholars, with whose help he designed to erect and maintain Japan's first great monastery, Horiuji. Still in existence it is her finest art museum to-day, though few parts of its architecture date further back than the end of the eighth century. Japanese artists were associated with their Korean teachers in this work of years, and the temple's bronze altar-piece, a trinity of small statues on the Korean model, is said to have been designed and cast by Japan's first professional sculptor, Tori.

But the first great original Japanese statue was carved, nearly life-size, out of hard, dark wood, by the prince Shokoku himself. It represents the Spirit of Providence, seated in thoughtful attitude. Severe and unornamented, without losing Chinese dignity, it adds to Korean spirituality a more human proportion and a more human charm of naive sweetness. Nude from the waist up, its abstract beauty disdains, without offense, all suggestion of muscular detail; and, though it is almost clumsy in Paris, its presence at the nursery Chugurji is so powerful as almost to compel the obedience of the beholder.

Development of Suburban Traffic.
American corporations have been very enterprising in extending their lines into new districts—often, it must be added, where there was little business to warrant such extensions. Without questioning the wisdom of these enterprises, it may nevertheless be said that there has been, in most instances, a failure on the part of these corporations to secure to themselves the enormous local and suburban business which has grown up in and around our great cities. A great number of cases may be cited where this business is handled successfully and profitably on a large scale by the steam roads of Europe, establishing beyond question the desirability of the service that can be secured in this way. American man-

agers, however, have not only disregarded this business, but have actually discouraged it; and it is only within a few years that a proper appreciation of its importance and value has been shown by even a very few of the leading companies. There is, on the other hand, an almost total lack, on the part of the public, of any proper appreciation of the part which the existing lines terminating in or passing through the great cities should take in the development of this local and suburban traffic. Corporations have been allowed, and even encouraged, to withdraw their freight and passenger stations to points farther from the business centers; and, with very few exceptions, there has never been an effort, on the part of either city or State governments, to take such action as would lead to any development in the line above suggested.—Century.

WHAT IS TRIPLE EXTRACT

The Process by Which the Odor of Flowers is Obtained.
Flowers that are to be used in the manufacture of perfumes are always gathered at nightfall or quite early in the morning when the dew is upon them. Before they are gathered, however, receptacles are prepared for them in the shape of large frames, over which are stretched cotton cloths well saturated with olive oil or almond oil. The cut flowers are brought in, and are thickly spread on a frame; then another frame is fitted over it, and that in turn is well spread with flowers; then a third frame is fitted over the second spread of flowers, and thus the work goes on until a huge pile of flowers is prepared.

This flower heap is left for two days, at the end of which time the flowers are removed from the frames and replaced by fresh ones. The frames are filled and emptied every two days until two weeks have passed. Then the cloths are detached from the frames and placed under great pressure, and all the oil is pressed out of them. The oil thus obtained is heavily charged with the fragrance of the flowers, and it is mixed with double its weight of very pure rectified spirit and put in a vessel called a "digester," which is simply a porcelain or block-tin kettle that fits in another kettle. When in use the outer vessel is filled with boiling water.

In this vessel the mixture of oil and spirits "digests" for three or four days; then, after having cooled, the spirit is decanted into another vessel holding the same quantity of fragrant oil, and the digesting process is repeated. After being thus digested three times the spirit is found to have taken up enough of the perfume, and it is then decanted from the oil for the third and last time through a tube, one end of which is filled with cotton wool to serve as a filter. The fluid thus prepared is called "triple extract."

Horse with an Appetite.
"An old horse with an inordinate appetite is one of the curiosities I found on a recent trip in Eastern Kentucky," said Colonel Andrew Yates. "This ancient animal was once ridden by a mail rider over in West Virginia and had to go in a jog from daylight till after dusk each day except Sunday. But after long service old Bawley was traded off to a farmer living on the Kentucky side of the mountains, and he recently pensioned the animal, putting Bawley on the pasture and letting him have all he craved morning and evening at feeding time. An ordinary meal for Bawley is two racks of hay, thirty ears of corn, a two-gallon bucket of bran, a gallon of oats and all the stale bread and meat in the house. Bawley is as fond of meat and bread as of hay and corn, and, in fact, will eat almost anything, not drawing the line at fruit or sweetmeats. The four-legged gourmand once broke in the hog pen and emptied a large trough of slop which had just been poured in for the porkers. His owner said he once heard the old horse whining in pain, and went out and found Bawley, his impudence in devouring a bucket of new-made jam having superinduced a serious illness, but the horse was read to eat the following morning as usual."—Louisville Post.

Horses and Men Killed in War.
In regular battles the proportion of loss among men and horses is quite close, and in hand-to-hand combats of cavalry as well as in sharp artillery engagements for every man killed or wounded there is also a dumb warrior entitled to a place beside him on the roll of honor. The light brigade at Balaklava rode in 600 (not 690) strong and lost 288 men, but of the 600 horses 300 were shot down by the Russian guns. In the fierce charges of the German Uhlans and Cuirassiers at Vionville, Mars-la-Tour, in 1870, 1,400 men and 1,000 horses were killed and wounded. In the fierce artillery contests on the same field 730 men and over 1,000 horses fell around the guns. At Gravelotte, soon after Mars-la-Tour, the artillery fighting was also terrible, and 1,300 horses were shot down around the batteries, though the loss of the artillerymen was less than 1,000.—Our Animal Friends.

A Much-Prized Copper.
Among numismatists one of the most sought after colonial coins is the highly prized copper. They are of several varieties, and were struck in 1787 by Samuel Highly, who was a physician and a blacksmith at Granby, Conn. He obtained the copper from a mine near by and shaped the coins at his forge.

As Fatal as War.
The sudden changes of climate encountered by soldiers when troops are moved from one quarter of the world to another are estimated as increasing the annual mortality of Europe by 80,000 men.

A real boy does not care much for a ball, unless it is a dollar and a half.