# TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

## A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Reflect, again, that many a harmless old bachelor would be a howling nuisance as a married man.

Most of these city people who invest in get-rich-quick schemes would probably laugh at a farmer who bought a gold brick.

A trust has been formed for the purpose of cornering the mastodon bones. The stray Indian arrow heads are still open to invidual enterprise.

Now that the London laundry men have entered a trust, maybe it will be possible for the transatlantic tourist to get a really white collar there.

The only time the Emperor of China is ever taken into consideration is when the empress dowager makes him sign the pay roll after she has put his envelope in her stocking.

The next alliance may be formed by the European powers for the purpose of permanently curing the "sick man." And we may with much propriety in'ect here the scriptural injunction, "Physician, heal thyself."

The Iowa supreme court holds the owner of a hive of bees is responsible when a bee hits father on the neck and lifts him about twenty feet into the air. It is not only a good law but it is good ethics.

Mr. Mitchell recently said a few things which should be impressed on recalcitrant employers and employes alike. One of them was: "No great strike can succeed if the American people are opposed to it. If they conclude a strike is right, it will win; if wrong, it will fail."

If the disappearance of millions deposited with turf companies, for which no accounting can be made except that one depositor was robbed to pay another, or all depositors were robbed by the managers, does not involve the violation of either State or Federal laws, there is certainly a deficiency in the laws.

There has been much heedless rhetoric spilled both here and in Great Britain over the ties of blood and birth and language which should array the two great English-speaking peoples in a hard-and-fast alliance against the other nations of the world. The true basis of friendship between them is natural, not sentimental. They are held together not so much by common ideals and common inheritances as by common ambitions and common interests.

That Merrimac farce was a bad thing for Hobson. How singular that it should have settled in his eyes! The young man is deserving of all our sympathy. There is no hope in this world for a handsome man who is a hero. Heroes should be ugly as sin, because their heroism makes them beautiful in the eyes of the emotional feminine. The man who is both hero and handsome is taking undue advantage of the compensating influences of nature.

The editor of the Medical Record declares that the average woman of the "smart set" thinks more of a dog than she does of a baby—that is, a baby of her own—and he ascribes this mainly to life in flats and the demands of society. While the statement in a general way may be open to question, there is no room for argument when it is asserted that a woman who lives in a flat and goes into society had neither room nor time for raising much of a family.

In Sweden thousands of people are sorrowing. It is not alone because the crops failed and there is hunger in thousands of homes. An old King has laid aside his crown and his jewels and the cares of state, and will no longer play the part of father to his people. Why did he do it? Perhaps he was tired of it all. Pomp, ceremony, grand dinners, gaudy clothes seem very fine when age has not laid its heavy hand on a monarch; but when the end of life approaches, adulation, fame, ambition, all become baubles. King Oscar dignified a throne, and has really loved his people. Were there more like him wearing crowns there would be less unrest in Europe, and fewer attempts to snuff out royal lives. To-day he is still a giant, a mighty oak. He stands six feet four inches, has great shoulders, a great chest and a gracious manner. All his life he has lived simply and cleanly. There are no scandals attached to him. He has good brains, and has kept them well stirred. He is a writer, a poet, a diplomat and a good fellow. He likes a good story, and can tell one and laugh as heartily as the next. He has mingled with his people as freely as has the President of the United States; and the gap between King and commoner, in Sweden and Norway, has been bridged by hearty good fellowship and sincere trust as a result. What couldn't such a man do for Europe, if he possessed the ambition of a Napoleon and the wealth of a Nicholas? King Oscar is 74, and at 74 ambition faffers, and the eyes of men who are wise are lifted higher than thrones.

In a search for a cause for the growth of the cocaine and other stimulant-seeking habits, many people look beyond the druggist, that "unconscious minister of celestial pleasures," as De Quincy calls him, and find that modern lift itself is responsible for such abnormal conditions. In a state of society where women in their twenties know the meaning of the words "anaemia" and "nervous exhaustion," and where they are constantly reminded of the necessity of "building up their tissues," it is not to be wondered at, say the critics, that deadly drugs are eagerly sought. In the good old times the most jaded pleasure lover, the most satiated society lover could be restored to normal nerves by simple tonics and home-brewed concoctionss. But now, so deep is the world weariness, so great the nervous fatigue resulting from "seeing life," that one must resort to those "portable ecstacies," that "bottled peace of mind," that are to be obtained only at the druggist's. Yet, on the other hand, if this is an age of artificiality and morbid introspection and analysis, it is also an athletic age, an age of outdoor ideals and high physical standards. One hears constant repinings over the increasing number of drinking women, cocaine fiends, and morphine victims, yet one seldom comes across a person who numbers any of these unfortunates among his acquaintances, whereas everybody confesses to a large acquaintance with sport-loving women, with croquet fiends and golf victims. It is useless to blind one's self to the fact the first mentioned class exist, but it is quite as unnecessary and twice as deplorable to deduce from this knowledge the belief that present-day society is driving everybody to the drug store, there to plead for some bottled panacea for human miseries.

A coroner's jury fixed the blame for the disastrous wreck of the Philadelphia express of the Central Railroad of New Jersey upon Engineman Davis, who died from his injuries. The jury's finding and Davis' confession bring to the front again the old question of terrific speed of modern passenger trains and safety in operating them. Davis declared that he saw the red light of the block set against him, but expected it to turn white. Davis had the reputation of being one of the best enginemen on the road, and his confession may therefore be taken as evidence that the man at the throttle of the express engine of to-day is accustomed to taking long chances. This conclusion is emphasized by the fact that early on the morning following the Plainfield wreck an engineman on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway ran by two "blocks," over a flaming fusee and a torpedo, only to crash into another train, thereby causing death and destruction. The question arises whether the exigencies of modern railroading necessitate enginemen taking chances. Operating officials would answer this emphatically in the negative, yet they know that there is not an important railroad system in the country on which chances are not taken almost hourly. Competition and fancied public demand have led to excessively fast time in the operation of passenger trains. As the speed increases so does the danger of operation. Schedules are so arranged that time lost is difficult to regain, and chronically delayed trains mean loss of business and discharged or disciplined engine crews. Naturally, therefore, the engineman is going to strain every nerve to keep on time and avoid the carpet in the general manager's office. In such constant effort there come times when desire takes the place of prudence. Ninety-nine times, perhaps, the white light for a clear track has been shown as the train approached the bridge. Upon the one hundredth occasion the fog has enveloped the engine in impenetrable mist, or the storm is beating fiercely against the head windows of the cab, making the detection of signals difficult. Speed is not slackened according to operating rules, chance is depended upon, the draw is open, and disaster follows. Not even in the army is discipline of higher order than on American railroads, but it is the exception that proves the rule, and the exception that causes the fatal wreck. Fortunately the introduction of modern safety devices has reduced railroad fatalities in a faster degree than increased speed has increased the danger of train operation. Railway managements, however, should strive to constantly raise the standard of discipline and not wink at infraction of the rules which ninety-nine times out of one hundred result in maintained time schedules but are bound to sooner or later result in a wreck.

### Cotton Raising in Russia.

A. Ahrens, a cotton buyer for a large firm of cotton manufacturers in Moscow, Russia, spent nearly a year in the United States. He purchased an immense consignment of raw cotton for manufacture in the mills of Moscow, which is the principal Russian point for the milling of cotton. Mr. Ahrens confesses to the admiration for this country without which few foreign visitors are afflicted.

There is considerable cotton raised in Asiatic Russia," said Mr. Ahrens to a reporter for the Washington Times, "but it is not enough for the demand from the mills. Consequently the American market is drawn upon. At the present time all the cotton is shipped to Moscow by water—that is, it comes most of the way by water. When the Trans-Siberian Railway is completed most of it will be shipped by rail.

"Russia is very proud of this new railway, which will entirely revolutionize conditions in Siberia, which is a superb farming region. On the railroad all the engineers are Russian. Very few Americans or Frenchmen or Germans are employed."

Some men owe more to their wives than they ever get paid.

# FOUND A REVOLVER

**Possibly a New Light on Lillie Case Weapon Drawn From Well**

David City, Neb., April 9.—There was considerable eyxcitement in the city Monday afternoon when it was rumored that a revolver had been found with which it is possible that Harvey Lillie was killed. Upon investigation it is learned that A. L. Hughes had employed James Clark to clean out an old well that had not been used for several years, the property being occupied by a tenant. Mr. Clark went to work this morning and as soon as he went down into the well, which had very little if any water in it, he found a thirty-two calibre six shot medium length barrel, rim fire revolver loaded with catridges, two of them had been shot. The gun is a bright looking one and compares exactly with the one Mrs. Lillie told the officers that the man held in his hand when he did the shooting, as to being bright and glistening. The well where the revolver was found is about one hundred feet from the Lillie residence and at the time of the murder the premises were occupied by Arthur Pepper. The officers say that the bullets in the cartidges with which the revolver is loaded are exactly as those found in Lillie's brain and in the barn three hndred feet away. The revolver is in the possession of County Attorney Evens, who declines at this time to give any further description of it than above stated. The motion for a new trial will be argued and submitted to Judge Good on April 17, and it is a question of conjecture as to whether or not the finding of this revolver will have any effect on the motion for a new trial.

# NEW LAWS

## Bills That Have Received Executive Approval

H. R. 132. by Rouse, appropriating $165,000 of money known as "The Agricultural Experiment Station Fund" "The Morrill Fund" and "The University Cash Fund" for the use and benefit of the state university.

H R. 167, by Weborg, joint resolution memorializing congress to submit an amendment providing for elecetion of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

H. R. 100, by Hanna, to provide for five junior normal schools an appropriating $110,00 therefore.

H. R. 27, by Loomis, amending the charter for cities of the second class.

H. R. 305, by Weborg, providing for the annextion of territory to cities situated in two or more counties.

H. R. 13, by Gregg, fixing compensationof county superintendents limiting the same in counties of sparse population.

H. R. 23, by Nelson, appropriating $100,000 for repairing and rebuilding the Norfolk insane hospital.

H. R. 63, by Wilson, defining powers of state board of health, providing for a state health inspector, prescribing rules for quarantine, etc., and appropriating $6,000 for the purpose of the act.

H. R. 70, by Romsey, requiring railroads to grant elevator sites to persons who will expend $3,000 in the construction thereof.

H. R. 102, by Cropsey, appropriating $100,000 out of the state university funds for the construction of new buildings on the state farm at Linocln.

H. R. 136., by Davis, permitting county treasurers to deposit county money in banks outside the county reducing the rate of interest for county money to 2 per cent; permitting the state treasurer to deposit money in depository banks at 2 per cent

H. R. 60—By Wilson, appropriating $28,000 for the incidental expenses of the legislature.

H. R. 279—By Good, transferring $10,000 from the board and clothing fund of Norfolk asylum to same fund of Lincoln insane hospital.

H. R. 16—By Davis, to provide for township cemeteries in counties under township organization.

H. R 40—By Thompson, provides that leases of land must be in writing to be binding for terms longer than one year.

H. R. 8—By Perry, extending to three years the requisite course in state university college of law giving admission to the bar and raising the requirements of examination to applicants for admission at the bar.

H. R. 119—By Gregg, providing that county superintendents shall notify school districts by the first Monday in July of their duty in submitting reports.

H. R. 64—By Douglas, altering procedure in prosecutions for carrying concealed weapons so that on conviction for a second offense the court may not impose a fine and imprisonment together, the old law giving the court discretion to impose both if he desired.

# PEOPLE TO VOTE

**CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

# DEFER THE ADJOURNMENT

**WEDNESDAY, 1 A. M., THE DATE SET—REVENUE BILL FORGOTTEN**

# ROUSE MAKES DISCOVERY

**Must Pass H. R. 437, Seven Mills for State Levy, to meet Appropriations Pending Enforcement Revenue Law.**

Lincoln, April 7.—A constitutional amendment will be submitted to the to the electors of the state at the general election of 1904 calling for a constitutional convention to revise the organic law of the state. This was decided Monday when in the house the bill by Senator Hall, of Douglas county previously passed by the senate, went through with a vote of 62 to 29. The passage of the bill came largely as a result of the clash between the house and the senate over the submission of individual amendments. A deadlock ensued over these measures and the need of a constitutional convention was forcibly brought to the attention of the members. It is said that the bill went through against the urgent wish of the railroad interests of Nebraska.

The passage of the bill was effected in the house only after the matter had been fully discussed. Representative Sweezy, of Webster county, started the movement against the amendments by moving the postponement of one of the bills sent over on Saturday night from the senate calling for the submission of an amendment. Representative Rouse amended the motion by tacking on the other bills sent over by the senate and calling for this same thing. The amended motion prevailed by a vote of 46 to 30.

### Bills on Passage

At the night session the following bills were passed:

H. R. 446, the claims bill.

H. R. 231, appropriating $35,000 for a state exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition.

H. R. 164, appropriating $5,500 for the payment of the premium on the official bond of Wm. Stuefer and Peter Mortensen. This was recalled later because it was passed prematurely, it having been read only the sec time.

H. R. 303, to realize special assessments in Omaha.

H. R. 224, to prohibit minors under eighteen from using tobacco in public.

H. R. 210, To permit the city of Lincoln to make a levy for the purchase of a city hall.

In committee of the whole with Pemberton of Gage in the chair, with lightning rapidity the following bills were considered and ordered advanced to a third reading.

H. R. 401, For the printing of the annual report of the state banking board.

H. R. 449, For a comission to report on the boundry line between Nebraska and Iowa.

H. R. 450, For a Nebraska-Missouri boundary commission.

H. R. 413, To legalize oaths heretofore taken by commissioners of deeds.

H. R. 385, Making it unlawful for any one to give or sell tobacco or cigarettes to persons under eighteen years of age.

H. R. 157, To authorize county boards to audit fees for justices of the peace, constables and sheriffs.

H. R 259, amending the compulsory attendance law.

H. R. 364, Providing a penalty for interfering with headgates of irrigation ditches.

H. R. 311, For the abandonment and disorganization of irrigation ditches.

H R. 386, To vest power in the South Omaha fire and police commission to license the sale of liquors.

H. R. 277, Appropriating $15,000 from the temporary university fund for the establishing of an agricultural experiment station in the western part of the state.

Representative Sears then started the fight for the advancement of S. F. No. 144, the bill for a joint resolution calling for the submission of the amendment for the constitutional convention. He succeeded by degrees in advancing the bill through the sifting committee to the head of the general file The house immediately went into committee of the whole to consider the measure and before the adjournment for noon it had been recommended for passage by the vote of 52 to 27.

### River Keeps Its Dead.

Plattsmouth, Neb., April 8.—The search for the body of William McClellen, the bridgeman who was drowned in the Missouri river ten days ago, has been given up. The river bottom has been thoroughly dragged and much powder used, but without results. A portion of the traveller which fell into the river and which floated down the stream for some distance, has been located and brought back.

## MAPS OF AMERICA.

**Drawings of the Western Continent Made in the Last Century.**

An entertainment of much interest from the standpoint of the antiquarian was given recently at the Marquette School, under the direction of Miss Fanny M. Bacon, the principal, the main nature of which was the exhibition of ten old maps of portions of the American continent, reports the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. They are the property of Sidney Clemenson of Boston, who secured them while traveling in Australia from a French consul, and were loaned to Miss Bacon.

Eight of them were made by Pownall, who came to America in 1753 as royal governor to the colonies of Massachusetts, New Jersey and South Carolina, in succession. He returned to England in 1761 and obtained a seat in parliament. The last part of his life was devoted to antiquarian studies. These maps were published in London in 1794.

The other two maps were published in Paris in 1806. One of the English maps gives the thirteen original States; one of the French maps shows seventeen stars and seventeen States. None of the English maps show Washington or St. Lous. The French map does. There is no Chicago on either of the maps. Cahokia and Kaskaskia are on all of the maps. One of the old maps gives the United States and bordering Spanish possessions, gives the four old paths across the country—"upper," "middle," "lower," and "old trading path." One shows an old wagon road, where the railroad now goes through—Harper's Ferry. The endless mountains in Pennsylvania are shown, and the mountains in the southwestern part of the old "United States," in which there is a "gap for horses." One map shows that California is not an "island." The Gulf of California seemed to make old California an island until finally, traveling to the head of the gulf, it was discovered that California could be "reached by land." New Albion is shown on one of these maps, and Mexico stretches north through the present "United States." On another map is marked "the French ascend the River Missoury thus high," "and the Mississippi unknown," "the Wabash, or St. Jerome, according to the French."

Many other interesting relics were added to the exhibition, one of them being a copy of the first charter of the City of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., published at Kaskaskia, Ill., in 1842. It belongs to the library of the late General Rozier of that city. A pair of slippers given by Pierre Laclede to Miss Valle, belongs to the same collection. A poem on the capture of Fort Kaskaskia in 1778, written by Captain St. Gem, of Ste. Genevieve, is now owned by Miss Chauncey Clemont, a pupil, who was in charge of the precious collection. Many of the pupils assisted Miss Bacon in the entertainment.

### Jones Liked the Girls.

"Yes, it is a pretty good cigar," said Brown as he held it up and looked at it critically. "Jones bought it, but if he thinks he bought my silence with it he is mistaken, as the story is too good to keep. Jones, as you know, considers himself a great ladies' man, although he is old enough to know better. I was walking with him this afternoon and he could talk of nothing but his 'latest.' Suddenly he exclaimed:

"'By Jove, there she is now, across the street! Isn't she a peach?'

"Off came his hat with a flourish, exposing his bald pate to the cold wind, and an idiotic grin spread over his features.

"Much to my surprise, for she did not look like a girl who would indulge in a street flirtation, she waved her hand, hesitated a moment and then started to cross the street where we were.

"'They can't resist me,' said the beaming Jones. 'Excuse me, old man—see you later—ta-ta!'

"Hat in hand and grinning like a monkey," continued Brown, according to the Detroit Free Press, "Jones approached the young lady, who suddenly stopped, looked startled for a moment and then gasped:

"'Good gracious! Pardon me—I mistook you for my grandfather.'"

### "Big Wash—Little Hang Out."

He—Then everything is fixed and we can be married in May, can't we?

She—There is only one thing I have not spoken of, and mamma insisted that I must.

He—Certainly, my angel. What is it? Bid me go through any trial for your dear sake and I'll do it. Ask for the Golden Fleece, and if such a thing is in existence I'll get it—aye, even though I must swim the seas, climb the loftiest peaks, or search in the fuming craters of mighty volcanoes, I'll do it.

She—It isn't much, my dear. Mamma said I musk ask you how much you intended to allow me a week for pin money.

He—Um—er—how much are pins a paper now?—Tit-Bits.

### Drink from the Clouds.

The means by which sea birds quench their thirst when far out at sea is described by an old skipper, who tells how he has seen birds at sea, far from any land that could furnish them water, hovering around and under a storm cloud, clattering like ducks on a hot day at a pond, and drinking in the drops of rain as they fell. They will smell a rain squall 100 miles distant, or even farther off, and scud for it with almost inconceivable swiftness

Borrowed money often causes a total loss of memory.

# Nebraska Notes

Winter wheat is exceptionally fine and this section has never had finer prospects for a small grain crop.

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Fire last night at 11:30 destroyed the slaughter house and packing plant of B F. Hofflefinger at Bertime two miles south of Beatrice. The loss was $1000 with $300 insurance.

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The funeral of Frank Beunier was held this morning from St. Mary's Catholic church at Nebraska City. The Rev. Father McKenna officiated. Interment was at the Catholic cemetery southwest of the city.

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The marriage ceremony connecting the lives of Mr. Oscar Hirth of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Miss Lorett Blanch Frantz of University Place was solemnized by Dr. H. Rowlands yesterday afternoon at the parsonage. They will reside in Grand Rapids.

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A body of Burlington surveyors are runing a line south from Arlington on the east side of the Elkhorn river, on the proposed road from Ashland to Sioux City. The route has been surveyed before and is reported to be the most feasible one to be found.

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Ross E. Mullison charged with shooting John Weidner, Saturday evening at Fremont was bound over to the district court in the sum of $1,500. He was unable to furnish bond. The shooting occured during a drunken brawl. Mullison plead not guilty.

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The 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Armstrong, living in South Beatrice, was fatally burned this afternoon while playing with a bonfire. Portions of the child's body were literally cooked and the attending physicians are of the opinion that the little sufferer cannot possibly recover.

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George Stein of Alliance, Nebr., has come to Denver in quest of his wife and 9-year-old son, who forsook him last month on account of his admonishment to his wife's sister, whom he adopted. Stein is frantic with grief at the breaking up of his home. For days he has been wandering about the city in quest of his loved ones, making an almost house to house canvass. Stein is positive that his wife came to Denver. She has a sister, Mrs. Clark Runyan, living at 3348 Walnut street, but no information as to Mrs. Steins whereabouts can be obtained from her. Stein's story of his wife's desertion is that he was married to Mary Haskins eleven years ago. For several years after the marriage the couple lived in Denver. Only eighteen months ago Stein moved his family to Alliance, bought a cozy little home and enjoyed the esteem of the newly found townsmen until his adopted ward began to make trouble.

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Western Nebraska farmers may take heart. The Holdrege Citizen makes pleasant promises for this year's crops after the following fashion: "Our crop prediction from our crop reporter is very favorable for this season. There will be a better corn crop than wheat if signs do not fail. There will be some rain in August and September which will be appreciated all corn fields. It predicts a good heavy crop in 1904, as every other "4" has been heavy and every "1" light for the past seventy years and all know that last "1" was not heavy and he predicts that there will be no failure until 1910. Bear this in mind and see if it comes true."

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Philander W. Howe, one of the oldest Methodist ministers of the west, known throughout Nebraska as Elder Howe, died at his residence, 100 D. Lincoln, after suffering for two years from a paralytic stroke and a weakness, due to old age. Mr. Howe was 85 years of age. Fifty years of his career were spent in the east. Thirty years ago he moved to Leach Lake, Minn., where for three years he acted for the Indian agency and as volunteer missionary. After a brief pastorate in Minneapolis he came to Nebraska, serving as pastor for the Methodist church at Friend for several years. Twenty two years ago he became pasor of the Trinity Methodist church at Lincoln. Mr. Howe has been prominetly identified with various charitable institutions in the west. For twelve years he was Chaplin of the state penitentiary. Deceased leaves four children

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The Battle Creek school board met last evening and elected the following teachers for the ensuing year: Prof. T. A. McCarthy, princpal; Miss Gertrude Wade, assistant principal; Miss Grace Montrose, grammar; Miss Mollie Taylor, intermediate; Miss Agnes Carberry of Norfolk, Nebr., primary; Miss Eileen Curas, ward school.