

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Death wears a kinder face many times than life.

Doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self.

In order to acquire wealth the dentist must keep plugging away.

It is impossible to please the woman who doesn't know what she wants.

The pawnbroker doesn't have to shut up as long as people will put up with him.

Lillian Russell is a mother-in-law. Good-by, Lillian, take care of yourself.

If dyspeptics would only marry good cooks half the trouble in this world would be eliminated.

The man who has hay fever every year ought not to feel that he will meet any punishment in the future.

About the time love begins to wane a woman ought to learn to be a first-class cook and everything will be serene.

One of the unpleasant features of life in Macedonia is the ever-present possibility of meeting a Bashi-Bazouk in an alley.

A Massachusetts pastor has resigned because his church wouldn't raise his salary above \$12 a week. Twelve dollars is a lot of money.

The Puget Sound salmon crop is reported to be almost a total failure. Alas for the masses! With salmon beyond their reach little that is worth while will be left for them.

A German actor has been sent to jail for getting off stage jokes about the emperor. If they were anything like the American stage jokes we can't blame the emperor for shutting him up.

A Philadelphia millionaire has received two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the rent of his steam yacht in the past fifteen months. Happy thought: let us all rent our steam yachts and get rich quick.

Canada has been digging canals to some purpose, as the diversion of grain trade from Atlantic ports in the United States to Montreal sufficiently attests. The fact that Canada is so far north that her canals are frozen up during many months of the year has not induced the Canadians to rely solely upon rail transportation. They are reaping the reward of their courage in opening their water ways, which serve not only to induce trade, but to modify rates.

Assuming that the people at church in the morning and evening are not the same, one person in every four and a half goes to church every Sunday in London. The London Daily News has ascertained this after a canvass of six months. It has discovered that the Church of England leads in total attendance, that the non-conformists are second and the Roman Catholics third. The non-conformists lead in the attendance of men, with a hundred and twenty thousand in church every Sunday, against ninety-eight thousand men in the Church of England churches. There is not seating accommodation in the churches for a quarter of the population. London and many, if not all, large American cities differ in this respect from many small villages, where the churches are so numerous that they could readily hold every man, woman and child in the place.

No one need find anything paradoxical in the statement that cooking, which is one of the oldest of feminine occupations, offers a new profession to women. It is true that women have always cooked, but not in the modern sense. Surveying is the foundation of civil engineering, and Washington had the reputation of being a good surveyor; but if he were alive today, and were put at work beside a young graduate of a technical school, the chances are ten to one that the young man would easily outclass the father of his country. Cooking has gone through somewhat the same kind of evolution as has civil engineering. "The kind that mother used to make" is a term of pleasant reminiscence rather than a descriptive accuracy. The admission comes hard and sounds ungrateful, but truth demands it. The other day a young woman was appointed official dietitian to the city of New York. She sits at a big roll-top desk in the office of the department of charities, and by means of the telephone controls all the cooks in all the hospitals and other institutions under the rule of the municipal authorities. She owns her position to her knowledge not merely of the preparation of food, but the chemistry of it. Two college girls, after a thorough course of study relating to foods, have opened a bakery. It was their idea to make and sell a better quality of bread than the ordinary baker provides. They are doing it with so much success that the business has already outgrown the plant, and an extension of their building is necessary. These are but instances of a tendency which shows itself in many ways; for example, in the hundreds of "health foods" which are so generally advertised and so widely sold. The greatest producers

of the material of food in the world, Americans have been backward in the art of preparing it properly for use. Especially is this true of the country, although popular opinion may be to the contrary. The schools are giving good training, and there is need of it all. "The kind that daughter makes" may yet replace the older and more common phrase.

As a result of dietary experiments carried on in Chicago and other cities the department of agriculture at Washington is able to announce some interesting facts as to the cost of living. Although living expenses are notoriously high, it has found that families may be maintained in comparative comfort at a surprisingly low cost. The observation of the food consumed by one family comprising four adults showed a total expense of \$5.53 for the meals of one week, the bill of fare including sirloin steak, mutton chops, pork, fish, eggs and a variety of vegetables. A family of six, two of whom were children, expended \$9.18 for the food supply of one week. In another household the week's food supply for the parents and five children cost only \$5.73. Altogether the experiments show that the cost of diet for each person per diem varied from 104 cents to 42 cents, the average being about 27 cents. It is, of course, of no especial value to know for how small an amount human beings can live. Indeed, no experiments are needed to show that a pinch man can live for a sum much smaller than any mentioned in the agricultural department's reports. By restricting himself to the cheapest food and taking the minimum amount necessary to keep body and soul together a man might keep alive indefinitely on a few cents a day, but his experiment would be valueless. It is of importance, however, that men and women generally should know how to arrange the family food supply that the largest possible benefit may be derived from whatever sum is to be expended. The object should be not to see how cheaply families can live, but how well they can live upon such sums as they can reasonably afford to expend. Studied with this end in view such experiments as those now made by the department of agriculture may be regarded as helpful. By avoiding waste and using good judgment in buying the family supplies many families could enjoy a larger and more varied bill of fare than they do now and without at all increasing the expense. The experiment should be considered in this light and as an aid to better living conditions. The world's best workers, the most intelligent and progressive men and the best developed children come from homes where food is nutritious, well cooked and ample in quantity.

### MAN WHO DESERVES PITY.

He Who Is Compelled to Eat Restaurant Breakfasts to Be Consoled.

A plea for pity is entered by an eastern journal on behalf of the unfortunate man who through the summer months is forced to eat a restaurant breakfast or wait until luncheon time to break his fast. And the commiseration is solicited because someone has complained that restaurant keepers do not give the amount of attention to serving the day's first meal that they do to the two later ones. There are no hard and fast figures at hand to prove that this is so, but it is rather a general conclusion that left-overs from the day before are used for the first corners and that this is hardly square dealing.

Then, besides the matter of food being none too fresh, there is complaint that there is much of setting to rights in the restaurants during the hour one wishes to take breakfast, which creates a confusion calculated to make even an appetizing meal unenjoyable. Sweeping, dusting, filling of salt, pepper and vinegar receptacles go on under the patron's very nose, while the waiters display a sang froid that tells him, or appears to do so, that he has no business to eat in strange places, that if he has a home he should be in it and that if he hasn't a place to call home he is a very poor specimen, indeed, and not worthy of more consideration than he is receiving.

With these complaints at hand, then, it seems we shall all have to take it for granted that there's a foundation of fact for them and do what we can to impress it upon restaurant keepers that their first duty in summer is to do their share toward making life pleasant for the self-sacrificing man who sends his family to the country while he stays behind and earns the money to pay their bills and his own.

An awakening to this duty swept through the ranks of purveyors of life's necessities and pleasure years ago and the results have been as satisfactory as substitutes, or, we might say, compensations could well be. Let the restaurant keepers join this band of home missionaries and the deserted husband may find that desertion isn't all the bad things that some folks declare it to be.

### The Composite House.

When Mr. Subbubs built a nest in which to house his bride, He borrowed from his friends the best Ideas they had tried.

He borrowed here, he borrowed there— Smith's frieze and Green's veneer; He borrowed Johnson's porte-cochere And Cooper's chandelier.

He borrowed Wilson's water tank, Park's pantry, Gray's grill; And then he borrowed from the bank The cash to pay the bill.

—Lippincott's Magazine.

No man's ignorance ever prevented him from giving advice.

## SCHOOLS OF CRIME

NEGRO CONVICT CAMPS IN THE SOUTH GIVEN SCORING.

LEASE SYSTEM VERY BAD HELPS TO EDUCATE THE COLORED MEN TO BREAK THE LAW.

CHAIN GANG CENSURED

Secretary of Freedmen's Aid Society Says Outrages Naturally Follow and Then Comes the Lynchings.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 13.—Dr. W. P. Thirkield, corresponding secretary of the Methodist Freedmen's aid and the southern educational society, in delivering the opening address of the evangelical alliance, charged that the outrages of negroes in the south was due to the chain gang and convict lease prison system. He said in part:

"Let us keep in mind that only about 20 per cent of the black men who are lynched have even been charged with the unspeakable crime against the sacredness of womanhood. Let the black men bring in every influence to bear to make such crimes impossible. Let there be prompt execution of the law against this and all crimes of all men. Lynch law, however, is anarchy. It brings in the reign of barbarism.

"In estimating among the black people, we should keep in mind that since Appomattox nearly every southern state has maintained a school of crime—an organized institution for the training of criminals. This charge against the convict lease system of the south. Under this system both prison and prisoners are farmed out under the control of private corporations—sold to the highest bidder. The motive of both state and lessee is not morals, but money; not reformation, but exploitation of criminals for gain. It is crime turned into a source of revenue; the brain and blood of criminals, bartered for gain.

"Criminals are generally scattered in branch prisons, quartered in rude stockades without proper sanitation, food or clothing. The average life of these convicts is less than ten years.

"Old and young are promiscuously chained and herded together. Even men and women are, in some camps, not separated. Hardened criminals and the boy convicted of his first crime, the comparatively good and the most depraved, vile and abandoned are chained together. One warden of a state penitentiary protests in his report that under the present law and custom the penitentiary is the school of crime instead of being a reformatory institution. Of the fifty boys under eighteen, nine-tenths of them leave the prison much worse than when they came in."

"There is in these convict camps no organized reformatory effort. Reform does not enter into the system. The outcome of the careful investigation of the convict lease system on the part of the governor of Georgia was a revelation of inhumanity, barbarity and shameful immorality. Much of it was unfit for the public press.

"In a period of two years over 1,100 of these convicts are upped from southern prisons. Think of 1,100 thieves, murderers, thugs at large, lawless men roaming about in defiance of all law and order. Think of a system that has no reformatory element, no system to cure men of crime, but that educates young criminals in crime and that by its barbarity brutalizes and debauches man and sends out those that do not die under the horrors of the system to debauch and degrade society. From such criminals what wonder if there have come forth hundreds of moral monsters.

"Over against the outcome of these schools of crime is the fact that of all the thousands of graduates from the Christian schools maintained by the benevolence of the north and south, not one graduate has ever been accused of the crime against the sacredness of womanhood."

Dr. Thirkield made a strong plea for the philanthropic Christian both of the south and north to join hands in educational and missionary efforts for the solution of this gravest problem of the races ever given any nation to solve.

### Killed For Unknown Cause.

SEDALLA, Mo., Oct. 13.—Ellen Broden, aged thirty-six, of Sedalla, the divorced wife of John Rockaway, who is serving a term in the penitentiary for the murder of his second wife, was shot and killed by John Myers, a farmer, unmarried and thirty years old, near Gravis Mills. Myers was arrested and is now in jail at Versailles. The dead woman was visiting her sister Mrs. Cal Bradshaw.

## NEW JERSEY DAMS GONE

PEOPLE FLEE TO THE HILLS—FACILITIES SHUT DOWN.

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y., Oct. 14.—The Runago river, after rising higher than ever before, so far as existing records show, and sweeping away many small dams, several bridges and houses and a section of the Erie railroad track, is now slowly subsiding, and the Tuxedo dam, which it was feared could not withstand the flood, is considered safe. So far as known only two lives were lost. George Nixon and a companion, employed on E. H. Farriman's estate at Arden, when driving home from Central Valley, were overtaken by the flood and drowned. Of the damage to property along the course of the Ramapo no estimate can yet be made. The village of Ramapo was nearly obliterated by the overflowing of Pierson's lake and the breaking of the dam at its lower end. The cottage dwellers fled to the hills and have been looked after by those whose homes were on higher ground.

The dam at Cranberry pond, near Arden, burst and the waters spread havoc through that valley. Several houses were flooded, the electric light plant was disabled, and the fish hatchery was wholly swept away.

The flood also washed away the shanties of the Italian and Hungarian colonies in the lower part of the valley. All the inhabitants were rescued and carried by boats to safety.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—With the receding of the floods, reported from all quarters, Paterson, Passaic and the other water-swept New Jersey towns are relieved of further peril and are beginning now to get a clear idea of the extent of devastation.

In Paterson alone the damage to property is estimated at \$2,000,000, without taking account of the loss in wages to the thousands who have been temporarily deprived of occupation, by the shutting down of factories. The water is reported to have fallen four feet below the highest mark and the only possible source of damage would be the bursting of the great water mains which were undermined by the flood. The distress continues great, and fully five hundred persons were still compelled to seek food and shelter in the armory. No additional fatalities were reported throughout the day.

In Passaic the damage is estimated to be at least equal to that in Paterson. Many adjacent villages still were under water today, but with the falling of the waters all danger of a collapse of the great Dundee dam was declared to be past.

Traffic was resumed during the day on all the railroad lines entering New York with the exception of the local service on the main line of the Erie. The milk famine in the city was broken by the arrival of the usual number of milk trains on the West Shore, New York Central, Lackawanna and other roads.

PATERSON N. J., Oct. 14.—The people of this unfortunate city are beginning to realize the extent of the great flood which began last Friday. Nearly two entire wards, taking in the manufacturing section, have been under water since that day. This morning thousands of men, women and children employed in different mills and factories found they could not go to work on account of those plants being shut down. A great many of these people have also been driven from their homes, and have neither food nor shelter.

The heaviest damage in Paterson was to the manufacturers. It is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the total loss, but conservative estimates are about two million.

The police and firemen have been engaged since Saturday morning in the work of rescuing families from the upper floors or the roofs of their houses in the flooded district, and the work is still going on.

Today the water continued to fall and there did not seem to be any chance of further damage being done unless another severe storm should set in. There are still many blocks under water and an examination of the flooded districts cannot be made until the water disappears. The health authorities have a difficult task before them in devising means to prevent an epidemic of sickness in the flooded territory. The people who were afraid to leave their homes will not be allowed to return until the districts are in a sanitary condition.

### Fighting Over Clay Will.

RICHMOND, Ky., Oct. 14.—One of the five wills of the late General Cassius M. Clay was offered for probate in the county court today. The will disinherited his children and all relatives except his own former child-wife, Dora Brock, whom it nominated as sole executrix. The other heirs introduced testimony to show that General Clay was insane. Motion to probate the will was overruled. An appeal was taken to the circuit court.

## Nebraska Notes

The supreme court convened at Lincoln.

Arthur Nelson of Beatrice was severely bitten on the left leg by a dog.

Mrs. John Jobman, an old resident of near Beatrice, is dead at the age of 71 years.

Superintendent Fowler of Lincoln, has designated Friday, October 23, as Flower day.

Several fences were partially destroyed. The fire started from an ash pile left by a steam thrasher.

A tramp entered the store of Maybrow Bros. at Riverton and stole a ride and some shells.

The walnut crop at Papillion is the largest in years. One man picked fifty bushels in one day.

prairie fire at Moorehead, burned 300 acres of small grain, and several meadows and the hay in stack.

Charles S. Fisher, a civil war veteran, died at Nebraska City. He was a member of an Ohio regiment.

George Westerman, a well known German farmer of the Humboldt country died Tuesday afternoon after a brief illness.

Hundreds of tons of hay and some out buildings were consumed in a prairie fire, which started eight miles west of Bassett.

The Catholics are holding a ten-day mission at West Point. There is a large attendance present of both Catholics and Protestants.

Miss Estell Payne and Charles B. Wahlgvist were married at Hastings. The groom is associate editor of the Adams County Democrat.

Frank Bender, the Lincoln farmer who mysteriously disappeared two weeks ago, has returned, but is unable to say where he has been.

The saloon of Lacy & Co., at Coleridge, was entered by burglars. They secured \$10 in change. F. H. Peck's meat market was also robbed of \$3.

The new German Lutheran church at Crete was dedicated Sunday. Ministers were in attendance from all over the state. The church cost \$4,000.

George Peterson, who lives at Holmsville, has been sent back to the asylum at Lincoln. He was there last winter, but was discharged as cured.

While cutting a bar of railroad iron at Beatrice, Pearl Bates had a gash several inches long cut in his right arm by a piece of steel striking him.

The Verdel Townsite company has been incorporated with a capital of \$60,000. The company will do a real estate business at Verdel, Knox county.

Miss Emily Herre and Mr. Marlon James, were married in Fremont. They will make their future home in Phoenix, Ariz., where the groom is a merchant.

Passersby frustrated an attempt to rob the postoffice at Oakland. The robbers had succeeded in cutting out a panel of the rear door when they were frightened away.

Mass was held over their remains of Mrs. Bridget O'Donnell at Plattsmouth. The body will be shipped to Burlington, Ia., the former home of the deceased.

Lot Walters of Beatrice received news of the death of his father, the Rev. N. J. Walters, at Worcester, Mass. He occupied a pulpit in Omaha several years ago.

Telephonic connections have been completed by the Fremont Independent Telephone company and the Plattsmouth company, making another link in the independent telephone system of the state.

Fire destroyed 300 feet of corn cribs, 1,500 bushels of corn and 300 bushels of oats belonging to Taylor & Morgan in Tobias. The village was saved from destruction by the direction of the wind.

The Norfolk beet sugar factory was started up for the first time this season. The employees in the plant now number 300. The factory will run night and day until January.

The Rev. J. F. Bennett, who with his wife has been conducting meetings at Humboldt for some time, has been called to the pastorate of the local Baptist church at that place.

## HE HID IN OFFICE

WORK DONE BY DETECTIVES IN POST OFFICE INQUIRY.

TESTIMONY OF WATSON

STENOGRAPHIC NOTES SPRUNG ON MILLER AND JOHNS.

RYAN CONTINUES STORY

Interview with First Suspect Brought Out at Cincinnati Trial—Ryan Tells of Money Transactions.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 15.—During the second trial of Miller and Johns for conspiracy in connection with the recently exposed postal frauds, nine witnesses were examined and the government has four more to call. Court was in session from 8 a. m. until after 6 p. m. The principal witnesses were Ryan and the officials from Washington. The defense was not taken by surprise until in the afternoon, when the stenographic reports of the private secretaries of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow and of General Robb of interviews with Miller were introduced as evidence.

Joseph T. Watson, secretary and stenographer to the fourth assistant postmaster general, testified to having been concealed in the office of his chief while General Robb and Chief Inspector Cochran had their first interview with Miller about the reports of the postoffice inspectors regarding the decisions in the Ryan case and the discovery of his relations with Jones, and did not know that a stenographer was concealed in the room, as he did in the last case when he made an equally lengthy statement and signed the report made by Mr. Tullis. The extent of the detective work that has been done in these cases by the government was never disclosed until during the afternoon session, when verbatim reports of these interviews of Miller were submitted in evidence, notwithstanding the objection and exception of counsel for the defense. It is now known that more of the detective work of the government will be disclosed tomorrow when postoffice inspectors are to take the stand.

When the trials were resumed to day the direct examination of J. J. Ryan was still in progress. At the adjournment of court last night Judge Thompson took under advisement the objection of counsel to Ryan testifying to what Johns said.

He then read from his original stenographic notes all that was said during the two hours and more that these officials were thus questioning Miller regarding the case. It required one hour and a half for him to read the note, which he went over much more quickly than the interview was carried on. The difference of an hour in time was accounted for by the witness because of the hesitation of Miller at times during the interview. The sensational appearance of Watson on the stand was followed soon afterwards by Charles H. Robb, assistant attorney general for the postoffice department, being called and he produced a copy of the transcribed stenographic notes of his secretary, Mr. Tullis, of another long interview with Miller when the same parties were present.

At the first meeting of Miller with Robb and Cochran the defendant told what Miller may have said to John concerning future difficulties.

When court convened today Judge Thompson decided that a prima facie case had been sufficiently made out to permit the testimony of Ryan to be admitted. Counsel for the defense excepted to the ruling, and the examination of Ryan by the government at counsel was resumed.

While Ryan proceeded to repeat in detail a conversation between Johns and himself in a room at a Terre Haute hotel, during which the witness claimed to have made a contract with Johns for \$4,500 for a favorable ruling from Miller, counsel for the defendants interposed frequent objections which were overruled by Judge Thompson. Ryan also testified that all his future transactions were with Johns as the middleman up to last December, when Johns came to Cincinnati and they met in a room at the Gibson house, where Ryan gave Johns \$1,100 in cash and \$3,400 in two checks. Ryan continued his story about subsequent transactions in which he said Johns wanted more funds right along until the witness finally made a statement of the whole matter to the postoffice inspectors and made no further efforts to get bets on the races through the mails.

Supply of Food is Scant

MOBILE, Ala., Oct. 15.—According to information received by steamship from Georgetown, Grand Cayman, the conditions on the islands as a result of the hurricane and flood are deplorable and the people are suffering from fever. It is also stated that the supply of food is scant. The fever is attributed to the decaying of sap trees which were felled by the storm and the numerous cattle that perished.