

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

It is always easy to forgive other people's enemies.

Perjury is a pet of the law's always ultimately answered.

What we call cowardice at twenty has become discretion at fifty.

A Harvard professor says some slang words are beautiful and poetic. He doesn't give a list of them, though.

"The man who talks one thing on Sunday and lives another on week days does untold injury," says young Mr. Rockefeller.

Important if true. Special dispatches state that young Mr. Sprackles has secured a job in his pa's office out in San Francisco.

No one seems to suggest that the man who shot at Nordau may have been one of the geniuses who were written up in "Degeneration."

Wesley Gill took \$200,000 in cash with him when he left San Domingo. It says to be president down there if one doesn't delay his departure too long.

If that Texas negro who has been sent to the penitentiary for 1,000 years does not repent and reform he may expect a life sentence for his next offense.

They can elect a new president in Switzerland without even calling for big headlines in the newspapers. What contempt mingled with pity the South American republics must have for that country.

A French observer says the American men are inclined to be shy and self-doubting. He hadn't seen the statement that there are now on file 344,000 applications for a pension on account of our little Spanish war.

Let him who doubts the benefits of women read the statistics of the foreign missionary societies. Of the eighty-seven missionaries supported in China by one American society, sixty-two are women; moreover, when war is threatened the women do not run away, but stay at their posts.

Mrs. Ogden Goetz has made a contribution to the New York police pension fund in recognition of the services rendered by the police department at the recent wedding of her daughter to the Duke of Roxburgh. This is well. It will encourage the police to risk their lives at other ducal weddings. If there are any dukes left for the rest of our sweet heiresses.

Some purist in Boston is bent on returning our language until it shall have lost original meanings and become "etherealized." The latest proposition is to give up the phrase Indian summer, since "it isn't summer, nor is it fall, nor has it ought to do with the poor Indian." The supersublimated individual then goes on to say: "Let us get in touch with the poets and call this time of grace simply 'the afterglow.'" Fortunately language has a will of its own and cannot be made to seler, even by a Bostonian.

Australian apples of a small and inferior kind sell in Manila at from ten cents to twenty-five cents each, and one can fancy the enthusiasm with which an experimental shipment of California fruit was greeted by our countrymen in the Philippines. The shipment included apples, pears and plums, and although it was five weeks in transit and the refrigeration was not perfect, most of the fruit arrived in fine condition. With cold-storage consignments already going to New York, London, Hamburg and Manila, California fruit will soon girdle the globe.

The tendency in all advanced countries is more and more every year in the direction of a more popular form of government. If not for the actual republic, William of Germany is for a personal government. He has the old ideas about the majesty of the king or emperor. If he had the ability and force to carry out his own views and desires he might be a good deal of a despot. On the whole, it doesn't seem to make material difference whether William or somebody else is king and emperor. William will be obliged to keep within his present limitations and will possibly have to yield a good deal in the near future. His successor is likely to be more of a man for the people than he is.

The quartermaster's department of the British forces in Somaliland made a requisition, among other things, for "three persons." In due time the commanding general, whose men are mostly natives, was surprised when three chaplains, an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian and a Roman Catholic, responded to him for duty. They had come from England by way of the Suez Canal, in response to the requisition. Nevertheless, what was wanted was not preachers, but pumps of a kind named after a famous English maker. A clerk in London is held responsible for the blunder, which is not without its usefulness as a comical incident. But there seems to be enough stupidity to allow a little to the quartermaster in Somaliland.

Chicago is to have a better law respecting wife desertion. The proposed ordinance provides that any man who

shall desert his wife or children shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; shall be sentenced to the house of correction; shall be put to work and the city treasurer shall pay to the deserted wife \$1.50 for each day the husband is confined. It is further provided that no man who abandons his wife or children shall be exempt from these provisions unless he shall provide \$5.00 more each week for his wife and \$2.00 more each week for each of his children. He shall furnish bonds to guarantee payment. The magistrate shall determine the amount he is to pay weekly. A good law. The base crime of family desertion is on the increase and the law must check it. The defect in the law heretofore is the failure to provide for the support of the family. The husband is punished but the punishment falls equally upon the family. So far as the faithless husband is concerned no punishment can be too severe. It is not severe enough and in the nature of the case it cannot be what he deserves. The man who deserts his post in the army or navy is regarded by the government as a traitor. If in time of war the deserter is shot. The husband who deserts his family is a traitor to his family and to society. Society cannot adequately punish him. But it can punish him to some extent and as an example. And if in addition to this it can put him to work for the benefit of his family it has done something. The Chicago law should be enacted everywhere.

Science is working restlessly toward the prevention and cure of diseases and the prolongation of life. The gradual reduction of the death rate is one of the encouraging incidents of modern civilization. The present generation has seen the yellow fever stamped out in its Cuban breeding places and a scourge that used to carry off many thousands annually in the southern cities of the United States is put at an end. The bubonic plague, that at times in the past claimed its victims by the millions, has been banished by sanitation and no longer overruns and devastates the civilized world. Smallpox is no longer a terrifying pestilence. Only where there is laxity of modern scientific methods can it gain a hold. What was once the commonest and most dread infection in this country has become one of the rarest and least fatal of diseases. Typhoid fever has been traced to its most common source, and only in cities that, from ideas of economy, neglect to safeguard their supplies of water and milk does it any longer claim a heavy death rate. Diphtheria has been mastered by antitoxin and confined by sanitation. The death rate from all these old scourges has been enormously decreased in all the cities of the land. There can be no question of the fact and no doubt that the chief causes lie in the better standard of living, in improved sanitation and in a more rational comprehension of the conditions of health. The lessening of infant mortality is a very important feature of this general improvement. The Health Department of Chicago reports that the death rate in that city has decreased by 39.2 per cent since 1891, while in the same period the death rate among infants in their first year has decreased by 69.1 per cent. This is a wonderful achievement. Such obvious improvements as a purer milk supply and the more successful treatment of infantile diseases are not adequate to account for it. The officials are disposed to attach much importance to the education of mothers in domestic hygiene. But this is only another form of the same thing. Mothers have learned and applied the discoverers of science. Where is it all to end? There is no reason to doubt that scientific men will in the next decade make as great, if not even greater, advances than have been made in the last. Our discovery opens the way to many others. And if cures may be effected in a certain disease why not a million, if the remedies and conditions be promptly applied? It is not at all irrational to hope that since a death rate has been reduced 39.2 per cent in 12 years it may be reduced another 39.2 in another 12 years. Then it looks as though it might not be long until it may be reduced to zero. Still the average span of human life does not grow longer. We have no Methuselahs. Even a centenarian is a rarity. With the death rate reduced what becomes of us? Statistics prove that we no longer die so fast as we used to, yet at the same time other statistics prove that neither do we live longer now than formerly.

Going to Business in Chicago. "Are you wearing your steel shirt, dear? And have you the padded helmet?" "Yes, dearest, and I've got my shot gun and three revolvers. The spiked club is at my belt and I'll carry a knife in my mouth. I have a Maslin mounted in the baby carriage." "I'll unbar the armored door, then, dear, and let you start for the office. Don't forget to 'phone me that you're all right every five minutes, and at the slightest disturbance lock yourself in the safe."—Portland Oregonian.

Too Interesting to Be Safe. Aunt Jane—Hannah, the girls have a book that I don't believe is just the thing for them. Hannah—Why not, Jane? Aunt Jane—You ought to see how they are enjoying it. I'm sure it can't be a proper book.—Boston Transcript

A Thousand Years from Now. Small Boy—Mother, is it true that we are descended from people who walked?—Life.

A man may be able to trade his reputation for money, but he can't trade back.

## DEFIES THE LAW

APOSTLE JOSEPH SMITH MAKES REVELATION FIRST.

FRANK IN STATING BELIEFS

PROPOSES TO STAND BY WIVES AND CHILDREN.

Intense Feeling Exhibited in His Rejection of How Marital Relations of the Mormons Are Spied Upon.

WASHINGTON.—Interest in the investigation before the senate committee on privileges and elections of the protest against Senator Reed Smoot of Utah was unabated today, although most of the time was devoted to introduction of documents subscribed to as the law of the Mormon church. In that connection President Joseph F. Smith, who again was on the stand, testified that if the principle of plural marriage should be attacked it would be defended by the church.

Intense feeling was exhibited by President Smith against individuals who, he said, had spied on the domestic and marital relations of the high officials of the Mormon church, and for that reason he favored the passage of the Evans bill to prevent prosecutions for polygamous cohabitation, unless complaints were entered by husband or wife against the other. This bill was passed but vetoed by the governor of Utah.

It was brought out that all of Mr. Smith's predece sors, as presidents of the Mormon church, had been polygamists and that the man chosen to succeed him has more than one wife. Mr. Smith was asked whether he would obey the law of the land or revelations from God, if the two were in conflict. He said he might obey the revelation though it was not compulsory. He added: "I should not like to be put in a position where I would have to desert my children—I could not do that."

President Joseph F. Smith of the Mormon church was called to the stand by Senator Hoar at the opening of today's proceedings before the senate committee on privileges and elections in the investigation of protests against Senator Reed Smoot of Utah.

Senator Hoar desired information on the subject of rights of women in the church and whether they hold any priestly authority.

Mr. Smith said the women are regarded as the equals of the men in all matters of voting, but that in holding "priestly authority" women are not regarded on the same plane. He explained that the women have a charitable association known as the "woman's relief society," in which they have authority to perform certain prescribed duties. This authority is confined to the relieving of distress, but women are not ordained high priests, apostles or elders.

Mr. Taylor asked about E. F. Cowley, one of the apostles and Cowley's talks on doctrine and in a answer to questions by Senator Dubois. Mr. Smith said Mr. Cowley was elected as an apostle in 1897.

Reading from the D-secret News of June 23 1903, regarding a speech by Mr. Smith at the Weber state reunion, Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Smith if he was correctly reported in saying that the doctrine of plural marriages was a revelation by God, to Joseph F. Smith Jr., and to reject that would be equivalent to a rejection of God himself.

Mr. Smith said he believed he was correctly reported, and when a list of names of those present, including Senator Smoot, was read, Mr. Smith said the list was correct. He declared that he would not have had the article published if he had been consulted. Pressed for a reason he said that he was under injunction not to teach the rightfulness of polygamy and that he had refrained from doing in public.

No Japanese Warships Seen.

VLADIVOSTOCK.—All is quiet here. No Japanese warships have been seen since February 25, when ships were sighted on the horizon, but soon disappeared. The inhabitants continue to have Vladivostok for Nikolok, Kharavsk or Europe.

There are no signs of spring. The ice is heavy and the cold is severe.

Will Lay Its Own Cable.

WASHINGTON.—At today's cabinet meeting the project of laying a cable from the island of Guam was under consideration. It is said to be a worthy authority that neither Japan nor any other foreign power will be allowed to lay the cable now or at any future time. Whenever a cable line is constructed between Guam and the mainland it will be under the authority and jurisdiction of the United States.

## WIFE OF A POLYGAMIST

SHEDS FURTHER LIGHT ON THE MORMON HIERARCHY.

President Joseph Smith Admits Being Father of Forty-two Children, and Declares He Is Proud of Every One

WASHINGTON.—After having Joseph F. Smith, president of the Mormon church, on the stand for nearly five hours today before the senate committee on privileges and elections, which is investigating the right of Reed Smoot to sit as a senator, both the prosecution and the defense announced that they were through with him and another witness was called. This was Mrs. Clara Mabel Kennedy, who told some secrets of the Mormon church, which, if not broken down will prove as important as the statements of President Smith that he and other officials have been persistently cohabiting with plural wives in violation of the law. Mrs. Kennedy said she was married by Brigham Young, an apostle of the church, to James Francis Johnson, a polygamist, since the manifesto of 1890, and that she has had two children by that husband. The marriage was performed in Mexico, according to the witnesses, at the home of a high official of the church.

With President Joseph F. Smith of the Mormon church, again on the stand for the defense the second week of the investigation of the Smoot case opened today before the senate committee on privileges and elections.

Senator Dubois put into the record the census figures for Utah taken in 1890, to show that instead of only 3 or 4 per cent in polygamy, as Mr. Smith had said, in reality there were about 23 1/2 per cent of the Mormon population of average enabling them to be polygamists who were in that state in 1890. Senator Dubois gave it as his opinion that there has been no material reduction in the number of polygamists since 1890.

Mr. Worthington conducted an examination of Mr. Smith to ascertain the process undergone in cases of excommunication.

The witness explained the manner in which the church is divided into wards and stakes, and the machinery of the organization through which charges against any person have to be brought and passed upon. He said the apostles have nothing to do with the judicial affairs of the church. They preach the gospel and send missionaries to other fields. The president, the apostles and high counselors, forming what is known as "the fifteen" meet once a week for prayer and consultation on matters generally relating to the church.

The title effort by President Brigham Young in 1875 to have Bishop Jacob W. Weyler removed from the leadership of a ward was related by Mr. Smith to show that the presidency does not exercise to over the wishes of the people, and that the members of the church by the freedom of their vote in reality form the power of the government. Several other like advances were related for the same general purpose.

Mr. Worthington read the revelation by Joseph Smith Jr., January 19, 1841, nominating Brigham Young as president, and all the members of the high council and the apostles. In this revelation was a command to accept them in general as of record. Mr. Smith declared that even in the original revelation naming a successor to the first president it was in the power of the members to accept or reject.

Wreck At Mullen.

MULLEN, Neb.—The Burlington eastbound flyer was wrecked here at 5:40 this morning, and brakeman Charles Shaw killed. The only passenger hurt was James McIntyre, a traveling man from Denver, who had his left thigh bruised, all the other passengers and the crew escaping miraculously, without injury, receiving heavy jolts.

The train was passing through here at a rapid rate when the light tender flew the track, breaking loose from both the engine ahead and the baggage car behind, and shooting off into the sand to the right a distance of a hundred yards.

The engine ran ahead over two hundred yards before it could be stopped. The baggage, the mail and the express cars, together with the smoker, two chair cars, the diner and the tourist sleeper were derailed and knocked from their tracks. The first three cars crashed into the platform and the front of the depot, completely demolishing it.

Strike of Cement Workers.

CHICAGO.—The cement finishers and helpers unless will go on strike tomorrow to enforce its demand for higher wages. The walkout will tie up extensive sidewalk improvements that have been planned in every section of the city. The demand of the union calls for a wage increase of ten cents an hour. The finishers are now paid fifty cents an hour and the helpers thirty-five cents an hour. Nearly 1,000 workmen are affected.

## AT VLADIVOSTOK

JAPANESE SQUADRON SHELL ANOTHER RUSSIAN STRONGHOLD.

NO DAMAGE DONE TOWN

WARSHIPS DID NOT GET IN REACH OF FORTS.

Ice Covered Vessels Bombarded Vladivostok for Fifty-Five Minutes at Range of More Than a Mile.

VLADIVOSTOCK.—A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off this place at 1:25 o'clock this afternoon and bombarded the town and shore batteries for fifty-five minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold Island, at the east entrance to Ussuri bay and about thirty-two miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri bay the enemy formed in line of battle but did not approach to a closer range than a mile and one-third. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and town, but so damage resulted, as most of their 200 lyddite shells failed to burst.

The Russian batteries, commanded by Generals Veronetz and Artamonoff did not reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2:20 p. m., and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold Island. Simultaneously two torpedo boat destroyers appeared near Askold Island and two more near Cape Middel. The Japanese ships were covered with ice.

The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the enemy 200,000 roubles (\$100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were six to twelve inch shells.

The population of Vladivostok was warned this morning of the presence in the horizon of a hostile fleet and the prospect of attack during the day but it remained tranquil.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A communication from Viceroy Alexieff to the czar from Mukden bearing today's date says:

"I most humbly inform your majesty that the commandant at the fortress at Vladivostok reports that at 8:50 this morning seven vessels were sighted south of Askold Island. At 9:45 they were seen to be warships making for Askold Island. About noon the enemy's squadron was midway between the coast and Askold Island, making for Ussuri bay. They were out of reach of the shore batteries. At 1:30 the enemy opened fire. Two vessels in the squadron were probably the first class cruisers Izum and Yakumo, but the names of the other vessels are unknown."

Apostle in Anger.

WASHINGTON.—Admissions drawn from Joseph F. Smith, president of the Mormon church, respecting his continued violation of the law forbidding polygamous cohabitation again constituted the feature of the proceedings today before the senate committee on privileges and elections against Senator Reed Smoot of Utah. The witnesses, ordered by the president efforts of some members of the committee to obtain from him every detail of his remission in obeying the law, turned on congress, and charged that body with interfering without authority in his private domestic affairs and usurping the powers of the Utah courts which alone, he said, possessed the right to hold him to account for his conduct.

No Change in Situation.

INDIANAPOLIS.—President Mitchell said tonight the situation between the miners and operators of the central competitive district had not changed since the adjournment of the joint conference yesterday.

"The special committee," said he, "which was appointed yesterday by the miners' organization to consider the situation, met this morning and appointed a sub-committee to frame a formal statement of the position which the united mine workers will now take. This subcommittee is at work and will tomorrow report to the full committee which will submit its report to the miners in national convention at 9 o'clock. It will then be for the convention to ratify or reject the report of the committee."

Shoots Man For Assault.

ALLIANCE, Neb.—Mrs. Fredrick Brauer today probably fatally shot J. M. Bertram, who she alleges attempted to criminally assault her. Mrs. Brauer's husband was absent and the woman says Bertram freed the contents of a bottle of laudanum down her throat during the struggle. She broke away and securing a Winchester rifle sent a bullet through Bertram's body. He was brought to this city and his wounds dressed.

## NEBRASKA NOTES

Judge Paul Jensen opened the March term of court at Plattsmouth. The Oxnard Hotel at Norfolk has been sold to B. F. Shoff by L. A. Bartholomew.

The Dole Floral company has been incorporated at Beatrice with a capital of \$25,000.

Mr. James Stander of Louisville is a delegate to World's Sunday School convention at Jerusalem.

For stealing a meerschaum pipe of Beatrice, Claude Carpenter has been sent to jail for thirty days.

J. H. Sparks of St. Joseph has been awarded the contract for building the bridges in Gage county.

Walker Smith has been appointed postmaster at Elwood, Gosper county vice Alfred M. White resigned.

W. F. Ellis, a lineman for the Nebraska Telephone company, was badly injured by a fall at Norfolk Wednesday.

John Clark of Sioux City is being held in jail at Norfolk on a statutory charge, brought by Floasie L. Richardson.

J. F. Swartz, for twelve years a resident of Beatrice, died at his home of pneumonia. He was 76 years of age.

Sovereign Lecturer G. H. Schlek of the Woodman of the World lectured at an open meeting last night at Pender.

T. C. Bullis, charged with bank robbery at Lyons, was yesterday taken to that place from Lincoln for a preliminary hearing.

Bessie Webb, of Plattsmouth, lost her suit against the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad for \$500 damages for the death of her husband.

D. L. Scheffeld of Petersburg has sold his large stock of hardware to John Erpelding. Mr. Shenfeld will locate in one of the southern states.

Gray Yates of Omaha pleaded guilty in the district court at Plattsmouth to a petit larceny and was sentenced ten days in the county jail by Judge Jensen.

David Quickenbush died at his home near Beatrice. He came to Beatrice in 1866 and was 66 years of age. He leaves a wife and six children.

A rural route will be established at Columbus April 1, with one carrier, embracing an area of thirty-two square miles and containing a population of 4000.

One of the large refrigerator ice houses of the Burlington at McCook was destroyed by fire last night. Loss \$5,500. More than 2,000 tons of ice were in the building.

The Rev. C. R. Hamlin, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational church at Lincoln, has resigned, to take effect June 12. He has not determined on his plans for the future.

Richard Daniels was yesterday discharged from district court at Blair, after pleading guilty to assault and battery. While awaiting trial he was stricken with paralysis.

Real estate is active here this spring, and is bringing good prices. The Hotel Riley block at Plattsmouth was transferred by Fike & Meyers of Newport to J. Way Dalg of Kansas City for the sum of \$65,000.

While engaged in a quarrel at Waterloo, William McClintock drew a revolver and attempted to shoot David Sibert. The bullet went wild. McClintock was sent to Omaha for arraignment.

Miss Katherine M. Shepherd of Lincoln has brought suit against the Lincoln Traction company for \$3,000 personal damages, alleged to have been received by being thrown from a street car over a year ago.

A sheep shearing plant is in operation at Fremont. The power is furnished by a gasoline engine. Operators who can handle the machine get a day and can shear a sheep in three minutes.

At a leap year party, at Norfolk, sixteen maids escorted sixteen young men to the scene of festivities and took them home again. The prize was a cake with the names of the sixteen young women and a free marriage license.

The famous Miles' case from Falls City has again reached the supreme court, on an appeal by Samuel Miles, one of the heirs-at-law, who was defeated in the district court. The appeal is based on the refusal of the lower court to admit newly discovered evidence.

Attorneys for Pearl T. Fullen at Tekamah have filed with the state auditor objections to issuing license to the National Life Insurance Trust company and the Security Life and Savings Insurance company at Des Moines.

The state board of education has appointed George A. Beringhof of Beatrice as architect of the new State Normal School at Kearney. He will receive for his compensation 3 1/2 per cent of the \$50,000 appropriation