

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 a dull day when Mr. Carnegie fails to shed a new library.

The year, 1902 is making a splendid record as to strikes averted.

The only trust in the world that is able to utilize derisive beats is the best trust.

The long and short of it is that much of the anti-trust legislation is entirely untrustworthy.

Diamonds are said to have been discovered at Cape Nome. It has been so cold at Nome lately that the ice froze.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., says he began earning money when he was 6 years old. It must be a case of instinct there.

Mrs. James Brown Potter is now a grandmother, but people who have seen her as Calypso say she doesn't seem to let it weigh upon her mind.

A man who has asthma claims that the trouble with the climate is that the life is all squeezed out of it by the scorchers who pump it into their tires.

According to J. P. Morgan's idea of a community of interest, that of a man doing what he likes with his own, any one can keep chickens in a residence district.

A wealthy young firebug in the East is accused of "pyromania." A horse-thief in Montana might be an "equeklept," but his health would suffer from it.

The President has wrenched his back trying to learn the Jujitsu wrestling trick. The rest of the country has wrenched its tongue trying to pronounce the name.

A man who endeavored to kick a cat off the porch fell and broke his neck. In these bootjackless days it is much safer to use a shotgun in the closing exercises of a feline concert.

A conscience-stricken New York man who beat a hotel bill eighteen years ago, has just sent the landlord the money due. It was a long fight, but conscience is a stay when she gets after a sinner.

Richard Harding Davis has started away "to take part in a South American revolution just for the experience." If Richard expects to get much experience in one South American revolution he will have to accumulate it in a hurry.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that people who lose their money in bucket-shops may get it back. Anyone who succeeds in doing so ought to be able to make a fortune by exhibiting himself through the country.

Lord Alverstone, Lord Chief Justice of England, lately, when reading slowly and with hesitation an elaborate decision in an important case, remarked that he was sorry, but his writing was bad. A hint for his lordship: There is an American invention known as the typewriter, the manipulation whereof is an art not difficult to acquire.

John D. Rockefeller, being a millionaire, mourns and laments because he has no hair on his head, eyebrows, lip or chin, but were he a poor, impetuous cuss it would be a source of rejoicing that he could make a living in a sideshow as a hairless freak, and thus perverse nature deals out as a curse to one man what would be a fortune to another.

The Czar visited France a few months ago, and now President Loubet has been invited to go to Russia in the summer. The German Emperor will be present at the Russian military maneuvers in Poland the spring, returning the call which the Czar made on him. Thus does the game of diplomacy go on; but none of the three rulers journeying beyond their realms will have so good a time as Prince Henry had here, when most of the seventy-five million sovereigns who had opportunity joined in helping him to enjoy himself.

We have been for generations sending missionaries to China to persuade the Chinese that Christianity inculcates a higher morality than any they know. The Chinese had the opportunity of seeing Christianity applied for the first time on a large scale. They encountered Christian troops engaged in "punitive expeditions" who behaved like fiends in human shape without any tincture or pretense either of justice or of mercy. It is true the Americans did not engage in these raids, and the Chinese pay them the honor of supposing them less Christian than the Germans and the Russians. But the Americans behaved no better than the Japanese, who actually shone by contrast with the European Christians, and who are not Christians at all.

Somebody in London, who has quarreled with the theory that Kings rule by divine right, has dug into history and made some of the monarchs of Europe look very much like average men dressed up for their parts. King Edward owes his crown to a horse. He belongs to the house of Hanover. In 1701 Parliament elected the Hanover-

ian house to the British throne by one vote. The winning vote was cast by Sir Arthur Owen, who rode from Wales, wearing out an immense amount of horse flesh, and arriving just in time to enter the "aye" lobby. Five hundred years ago Frederick Hohenzollern was Burgrave of a small German city. He loaned Emperor Sigismund about \$50,000, and took a mortgage on the State of Brandenburg. The debt was not paid, and the mortgage was foreclosed, Frederick Hohenzollern establishing himself as Frederick I. of Brandenburg. With increased power came more territory, and in 1701 the title of King was proclaimed by the house of Hohenzollern, from which sprung the present Kaiser. Alexander of Serbia can go back 300 years and find his ancestor caring for pigs. This ancestor was a swineherd. Queen Mary II. and Queen Anne were the granddaughters of a domestic, tracing their ancestry back to Lord Chancellor Clarendon, who married a housemaid. For a real King, whose blue blood runs back into the ages, the only man who answers all requirements is the present ruler of Japan. He is the 122d in unbroken descent of his line, his family having sat on the throne since 693 B. C., the time of Nebuchadnezzar. After all, what does it amount to? A little tinsy power, bowing and scraping, pomp and ceremony, overfed ambition, some love and a great deal of hatred. That is a King's life, and it isn't to be compared with the existence of the free man who knows little and cares less about his ancestors, and knows no honor or power, except that he has won by his own efforts.

The recent appointment of Col. Robert C. Clowry as president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, is another demonstration of the fact that there is always room at the top for the boy with an ambition and the proper energy and pluck. Since he was 13 years old he has worked hard and faithfully for the great company of which he is now the head, and the simple story of his life is this: Messenger boy, operator, manager, superintendent, general superintendent, vice-president, president. It has taken just an even half century to make the climb from messenger boy to president, but at the age of 63 years, he now has the satisfaction of knowing that he is the chief executive of the greatest telegraph system in the world, and that he draws a larger salary than does the President of the United States. Col. Clowry was born in Will County, Illinois, in 1839, and the day he became 13 years of age he went to work carrying messages for the Western Union in what was then the village of Joliet. Attending the public schools at the same time, he made every effort to educate himself, and no time was wasted in idleness. When not engaged in studying or in carrying messages he was "learning the key," with the result that at the tender age of 15 he became an operator and went to work in the office as such. At the age of 16 Clowry was one of the best operators in the employ of the company and was sent to Springfield, Ill., to manage the office there. A year later he was transferred to the St. Louis office, and in 1859, when but 20 years old, was made superintendent of the St. Louis division. In 1863 President Lincoln's attention was called to Clowry's clever work, and he assigned him to duty in charge of the United States military telegraph in the Southwest. In 1878 he became general superintendent. In 1885 vice-president, and now, by the retirement of Gen. Eckert at the age of 77, he becomes president. Clowry's whole life is a good sermon for all boys.

TWO DISAPPEARING TYPES.

"Long-horned Steer" and Mustang Gradually Becoming Extinct.

While efforts are making to save the buffalo from extinction, scientific men are just waking up to the realization that there are two other forms of life that once flourished in the West that, while not aboriginal, are nevertheless worth saving as curious examples of development in European animals under mild conditions, and which are rapidly disappearing. These are the old long-horned Texas steer and the wild mustang.

It is said that the old steer, "Geronimo," exhibited at the Buffalo Exposition, is, indeed, the last survivor of that once famous breed of cattle. The National Museum is fortunate in possessing a very fine mounted head of the old long-horned Texas steer, although the manner in which it came into possession of this specimen is rather curious. About twenty-five years ago a farmer out in Texas presented the Department of Agriculture with this head on account of its unusually long horns.

The Department of Agriculture had no place to keep the head, and sent it over to the National Museum. The fact is that neither institution was anxious to own a thing as common as the head of a Texas steer was in that day, and the museum people were rather indignant over the way the head was unloaded on them by the Department of Agriculture people. To-day they are congratulating themselves on their good fortune in owning this unusually fine head of a breed that is now practically extinct. The wild horse of the plains has also disappeared, the nearest approach to anything like the old wild breed being the cayuse pony of Oregon.

A boy's idea of the importance of a town is formed by the number of fire engines it has.

When an agent comes in to sell you a book, how glad he is to see you!

LACE MADE OF METAL.

Gold, Silver, Etc., Spun Out Into Fine Threads and Then Woven.

In the show window of a downtown store there is exhibited a sign that something new under the sun has at last been discovered, and the article in question is called metal lace, with fair samples of it displayed for examination. That it is something new, however, is only partly true, but in the new forms in which it is exhibited it probably comes as near to a new thing as is possible.

The metal lace is a product of the metal worker's art that shows how skillfully gold, silver, platinum, or any other hard substance can be spun out and woven into patterns of great delicacy. The artisans have practically made metal lace by spinning the metal out into very fine threads, and then woven them by hand into a design which exactly resembles the finest lace. The patterns are mostly of conventional designs, and are taken direct from lacework, both common and expensive lace patterns are imitated.

The work is done in gold, silver, platinum, white metal and occasionally in other malleable substances. It is for the most part laid over backgrounds of solid metal to give it an artistic finish. When not attached to any solid substance it is so frail that a little handling will break it. For ornamenting lamp shades, statuary and metal vases and urns, metal lace has no superior, and it has already become popular in certain lines of trade.

"It will prove serviceable for indoor decoration in time," explained an expert workman in metals a few days ago. "Architects to-day are using more and more metal. This is all due to the cheapening processes of manufacturing the different metals, and to the skill of the workman in fashioning them in artistic forms. Now metal lace is something that follows along this same line of improvement. Here is the very acme of metal workmanship, made so fine and delicate that it cannot be handled with impunity. Yet when we lay it on the proper background, and fasten it there, it should last as long as the article to which it is attached. Metal lace will improve by age. The old, worn look which attaches to old brass or gold work comes in time to metal lace.

"Of course, the kind of metal and the nature of the design determine its price to a large extent. We rarely make it so that it sells for prices within the range of the poor. It is strictly the rich man's ornament. Here is some gold lace which we can sell for \$500 a yard, and we have had some that retailed at \$1,000 a yard. I guess that is about the most expensive lace in the market. Even your genuine old point lace will have to take a back seat when the finest specimens of gold lace are exhibited. Silver lace, of course, is correspondingly cheaper.

"Gold makes the best patterns," said the expert, according to the New York Times, "because it is possible to spin it out to the finest thread imaginable, and at the same time it proves strong and tenacious. It is consequently easier to work this metal up into delicate lace. Platinum spreads out into a very fine thread, and we have it here woven of cotton or linen. Here are platinum threads which you can hardly see with your eyes, and when woven into lace, the effect is about as cobwebby as you can imagine anything. But these cobwebs of metal are as bright and burnished as if the sun had suddenly broken out upon them."

Most Famous Wedding.

Perhaps the most sensational ceremony of marriage that has ever been performed in New York was the one known everywhere in the United States as the "Diamond Wedding." It was the union of a daughter of Lieutenant Bartlett, of the United States navy, to a Cuban gentleman of great wealth, Don Estaban Santa Cruz de Oviedo. As generous as he was opulent, Oviedo lavished upon the bride more than one hundred thousand dollars' worth of pearls and diamonds. The nuptial rites were solemnized by Archbishop Hughes; Stedman commemorated the event in a poem, and moralists pointed to it as an extraordinary instance of the evils of splendor and luxury that were corrupting American society. So great was the curiosity to witness this wedding that probably for the first time on such an occasion cards of admission were issued to the church. A squad of policemen was required simply to protect the bride and groom from strangers who rushed after them. The magnificent nuptials, it may be remarked, had a melancholy sequel—the bridegroom soon died; his widow, under the Spanish laws, was entitled only to the right of dower, and all the gifts which he had showered upon her were taken away from her on the ground that legally they were heirlooms.—Ladies Home Journal.

Longfellow and "Hiawatha."

"Such a confusing variance in the pronunciation of 'Hiawatha' exists both in dictionaries and in the speech of educated men and women," writes Elizabeth A. Withey, in the Ladies Home Journal, "that I have asked Miss Longfellow how the word is pronounced by the poet's family. She says the pronunciation which she always heard from the poet himself is 'Hi-aw-wi-tha, the 'i' pronounced as it is in 'machine' or 'plique,' the second 'a' pronounced as it is in 'far' or in 'father.'"

Microbe of Consumption.

The microbe of tuberculosis may live in a book 103 days, as has been shown by experiment.

How many different "figures" you find among women!

CONFESSION FALSE

MURDER SUSPECT JAHNKE GIVES HIS SIDE OF THE CASE

DENIES THE KILLING OF SIERK

DENIED ANY AGREEMENT OR INTENT TO DO SIERK HARM

ATTORNEY FINED, CONTEMPT

Declares Story Told in Court by Olson Wholly without Foundation—Gage County Girl Suicide.

Alliance, Neb., May 27.—The defense began its inning in the Sierk-Jahnke-Alson murder trial this morning, and has been introducing evidence during this entire day. The testimony was interesting but everything else sank into insignificance when a chief defendant, August Jahnke took the stand and coolly and firmly denied every material part of the confession made by Oliver Olson last Thursday. He told a story as straight as that of Olson's corroborating to a great extent the confession as to his own and Olson's actions but he denied any agreement or intent to do Sierk harm, saying the shooting was accidental. Jahnke denied the story of dropping Sierk in the well, and testified that Mr. Sierk never fell into a well in seventeen years, although he admitted working at the well mentioned by Olson. The attempt to poison the old man was also denied.

The defense will no doubt attempt to corroborate Jahnke's testimony tomorrow. The defense called several other witnesses to prove that there was no motive for the killing, and Mr. Jahnke testified to the friendship that existed between the Jahnkes and the Sierkes.

R. Nolan, attorney for Jahnkes was fined ten dollars for contempt of court this morning by Judge Westover. He replied to the court in its ruling concerning the admissibility of evidence by saying that he wanted to show that the man Olson had been made a pet.

Says Man Prompted Act.

Beatrice, Neb., May 27.—The coroner's jury in the case of Miss Elizabeth Roberts, who committed suicide near her home south of Wymore yesterday, rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts as given in last night's dispatch. The note which the girl left was as follows: "May 24, 1902: This is to certify that John Y. Helmer is the cause of my death and to nobody else. If I die, which I hope I will, I will be going to my grave with blue and black places on my body caused by him from beating me. I trust that the Almighty God will serve him as he served me. He said if I would buy the revolver he would pull the trigger. (Signed) Lizzie Roberts."

At the request of the family an autopsy was held, but no evidence of her being in a delicate condition were found. The girl and Helmer were engaged to be married, an engagement which the family opposed at first, but finally gave their consent. The people are Welsh and Lizzie's parents wanted her to marry one of their people. Helmer lived with his parents about one mile from the Roberts home. He has borne a good reputation. Two weeks ago he left his home and has not since been heard from. His absence caused the girl much uneasiness and she evidently contemplated suicide several times as recently she was in Barneton where she tried to buy a revolver, remarking that she "only wanted a little one as it could do the work she wanted it to do." The strychnine she used was some her father had bought several years ago to poison squirrels.

See Five Tornado Clouds.

Scribner, Neb., May 27.—To see five distinct tornado clouds in less than an hour in one afternoon suffices an ordinary man for a life time. This opportunity was offered Scribner people Saturday afternoon upon what, fortunately, were the most favorable circumstances. One struck the feed barn in the Ehlers brother's pasture, and unroofed one of the barns. The twister then left the river, traveled almost directly east to the farm of Henry F. W. Borchire, where most of the damage was done.

Five Days of Storm.

Macklond, N. W. T., May 27.—The disastrous results of the five days storm just over, have completely isolated this district from the rest of the world. The whole country has been flooded, rivers and smaller streams are swollen to impassable proportions and railroad and highway bridges have been swept away. Traffic is completely tied up on the Crow's Nest Pass railroad to the Fernie mines.

CAUSE OF FORD TRAGEDY

REFUSAL OF REQUEST FOR MONEY PROMPTED THE ATTACK.

New York, May 30.—In connection with the Ford tragedy, which occurred recently in this city, a story hitherto unpublished is in circulation regarding the cause of the shooting which cost the lives of the author, Paul Leicester Ford, and his brother Malcolm, the famous athlete.

It is to the effect that Malcolm, who was not provided for in his father's will, notified Paul a week before the shooting that he must have \$25,000, which he claimed was his due because he signed a waiver permitting the probating of the will. He is said to have declared he needed the money badly and to have become much incensed when Paul replied that he did not have the sum in hand, adding that he should consult other members of the family. Malcolm is said to have replied that one of the heirs had kept the agreement, but that he would consult the others, and departed with the declaration that he would return a week hence for the money, failing to receive which he would resort to desperate measures.

Woman Badly Burned.

Fort Dodge, Ia., May 30.—While starting a fire with kerosene, the man exploded, setting the clothing of Mrs. H. L. Hahn on fire. Her baby was lying asleep in the burning kitchen and the mother refused all offers of assistance until the child was rescued from her burning home. It was only by breaking in a window that the rescuers reached the baby before the flames. The infant was uninjured, but the mother was badly burned before the flames, which completely enveloped her, could be extinguished. She will recover.

Kills Child and Herself.

New York, May 30.—Mrs. Rose Figeonow, wife of a news dealer, killed her six-year-old daughter Bertha today by gas asphyxiation and then committed suicide by taking carbolic acid. The woman had been a sufferer from a nervous disease for several years and it is supposed she was temporarily insane.

Killed While Scaling a Peak.

Vienna, May 30.—The first fatality of the mountaineering season occurred in the Semmering range of the Alps when Dr. Brzezina and Herr Pacer were both killed while attempting the ascent of the Rax Alp, the highest point of the range.

Fatal Burlington Wreck.

Alma, Wis., May 30.—One man was killed and several others seriously injured, some probably fatally, in a wreck on the Burlington road here this afternoon. A gravel train, on which there were six officials of the road, including Superintendent Cunningham, was going on the switch, when another gravel train, coming from the north at a high rate of speed, crashed into it.

Crushed Skull With Hammer.

New York, May 30.—Policeman attracted by the shouts of alarmed residents in an apartment building at 50 Second avenue early Friday, broke the door of one of the flats and found J. S. Keldain, a dealer in cigarettes, lying on the floor with his skull crushed.

In an adjoining room, lying on a bed, was N. Carman, a tobacco merchant. Carman was shot through the head. In one hand he held a pistol and near him was a hammer. The police believe he attempted to kill Keldain with the hammer and then shot himself. The cause is not known. Keldain will die, the doctors say.

Four Men to be Garroted.

San Juan, P. R., May 30.—It became known today that Antonia Torrez Acevedo, not Ramon Troche Cadeno (one of the five murderers condemned to be garroted for crimes committed October 1, 1898), is the man whose sentence has been commuted by Governor Hunt to life imprisonment, owing to the fact that Acevedo was only nineteen years of age at the time of the occurrence, which led to his condemnation to die.

The other four men will be garroted at Ponce.

Town Aally Scorched.

Williamsport, Pa., May 30.—A conflagration which raged for two hours Friday afternoon in the town of Jerry Shore, destroyed sixteen buildings in the business portion of the town and caused a loss of between \$25,000 and \$30,000. Fears were felt that the entire town would be destroyed, and word was sent to Lockhaven and Williamsport for assistance but when it arrived the fire was under control.

NEBRASKA NOTES.

The state fair will be held at Lincoln September 1 to 5.

The Methodists will build a church having 600 seating capacity at Adams.

Mrs. Thomas Maxwell, of Humboldt committed suicide by drowning herself in the Nemaha river.

Local business men wish to reopen the West Lincoln packing plant, which was worth originally \$250,000, but today can be bought for \$21,000.

The David City Chatauqua assembly promises to be a far greater success than before. Negotiations are being made with talent of national reputation.

A military company, to be composed of volunteers from the 2nd and 3rd Nebraska regiments is being organized at Hastings, and will join the national guards.

A motion for a new trial in the case against Vincent Connelly of Lindsay convicted of assault with intent to kill was overruled and Judge Jamison sentenced Connelly to two years in the penitentiary.

G. W. Newton a leading merchant of Blair is dead from blood poisoning resulting from a bruise on his foot sustained a year ago. Amputation of the leg was made last week but was not of avail.

The city council last night passed an ordinance granting to the Chicago Motor Vehicle company a franchise to operate gasoline motors over the street car tracks of Beatrice. The new motors will be in operation within the coming month.

The Morton Grain company's elevator at Palmyra burned to the ground. William E. Hill a former banker at Nebraska City was the owner. On the building and machinery the loss will be \$2,000 and on grain destroyed \$1,500.

The recent election for officers in the First Regiment, National Guards, at Lincoln resulted in the selection of Major J. W. McDonnell of Fairbury as lieutenant colonel. Present Lieutenant Colonel Tracy received nineteen votes.

An association whose purpose is to erect a monument to the late J. Sterling Morton has been organized at Nebraska City under the name of the Arbor Day Memorial Association. Many of the most prominent men of the state are identified with the association.

The Morton printing company has announced that as soon as the Conservative is discontinued, a paper called the Nebraska City Weekly will be started which will not follow the Conservative in policy, but will devote itself to promote the welfare of south-eastern Nebraska.

The first failure in Blair for seven years was that of Henry Helmer who delivered the keys of his harness shop to Mrs. J. N. Newell. Mrs. Newell holds a mortgage on the stock. The total liabilities are \$2,000. The stock is worth about \$500.

Articles incorporating the Omaha Lincoln & Southern railroad have been filed in the office of the secretary of state. The capital of the company is \$250,000 and its purpose is to construct and operate an electric or steam road between Omaha and Plattsmouth Ashland Lincoln and Nebraska City.

Instructions have been issued by State Food Commissioner Bassett for a complaint against J. W. Rice of Superior, charging him with selling adulterated butter. The analysis shows but 64 per cent of butter fat, when there should be at least 84. Rice makes a business of buying butter and recently shipped a large consignment to Lincoln. It is asserted he has a method of his own which he uses to adulterate the butter.

It is now thought that Will Berger who is alleged to have deserted his wife and married her sister in Council Bluffs has stolen the two children that were left in the care of his former wife. Mrs. Berger left her two children in charge of friends while absent from the city and on her return discovered that they had disappeared. No trace has been found of the missing children nor of Berger.

Spiced Peas. Take one teaspoonful of whole cloves, one tablespoonful of allspice and one tablespoonful of lemon. Crush them slightly and boil one minute in a quart of vinegar and a pint of sugar mixed. Select a fine variety of peas, halve them, taking out the seeds, boil them in water until nearly tender, and finish them in the syrup, cooking them not too soft. Cover them well with syrup and place them in small stone jars. Tie a cover over the jar.