

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

### A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Never enter a guessing contest in competition with a doctor.

To prove its right to statehood Oklahoma raised two crops of potatoes last year.

The trunkmakers have formed a trust, thus tightening the grip of the octopus.

People who think the world is going to the bad generally keep busy helping it along in that direction.

Major Glenn has been acquitted. This will make it unnecessary for him to write or lecture about it.

It is not surprising that molasses should prove to be good food for horses. Children have thrived on it for many years.

Do not put your light under a bushel, but keep it in a can where it may give light to all that are in the house—at so much per.

A milk dealer has given up his business because he has become converted. Evidently he didn't put water enough in the milk to wash away his sins.

It now appears that William K. Vanderbilt's house, Idle Hour, is built on sand. Why should a man with so many "rocks" make such a blunder?

There is this to be said in favor of Cardinal Gibbons' plea for stricter divorce laws—a good many people would not get married if they figured they were in for life.

A woman, talking to women, lately enunciated the interesting proposition: "If you can't get your vote, you can always get your voter, and you can influence him in his vote."

Mr. Rockefeller's daily mail now consists principally of letters advising him how to get a new stomach. If he undertook to read them he would soon have more headache than stomach ache.

Sousa gave back \$3,000 to the purchasers of concert tickets in order that he might play before King Edward and the royal family of England. Sousa has evidently discovered that advertising pays.

To establish a limit of \$10,000,000 as the maximum amount any person may acquire or lawfully hold we fear would result in Uncle Russell Sage packing his gripsack and emigrating to some other country.

A Chicago boy committed suicide because his father wouldn't give him five cents. That boy should have taken to heart the noble lesson given out by young John D. Rockefeller, who says that money is not all.

The powers maintain that China will be able to pay that indemnity in gold by the exercise of due economy. It will be observed that the justice of the claim does not enter. The sole question is what the traffic will bear.

Col. Pope's declaration that cessation of advertising was responsible for the wreck of the bicycle trust offers a suggestion to the associated trust busters at Washington. Let them pass a law forbidding the octopuses to advertise.

What a pity it is that our learned anthropologists never discover that a man has criminal eyes, mouth, ears and nose until after he has committed a murder! O Science! how many frauds are perpetrated in thy helpless name!

Mark Twain said of the Legion of Honor that it was a decoration which few people now escape. The same thing must be true of the German order "pour le merite." The Kaiser has taken to decorating gumbats with it, thus indicating that it has already been conferred upon everybody whom there is the slightest excuse for decorating.

A man with a taste for statistics began, early in November, to keep a record of the corporations, employers of labor, which because of the coal shortage had undertaken to furnish fuel to their employes at cost. In three weeks, by the help of the newspapers, he found more than two hundred such corporations, including several trusts, and this was only the beginning of a movement which, when colder weather came, assumed widespread proportions. The willingness of these corporations to extend such help, at the cost of considerable bother and expense, ought not to be forgotten.

Compulsory cleanliness may, of course, be as difficult to attain as compulsory morality, but should one be made possible the other might follow. Already, in the minds of some philosophers, physical and moral cleanliness grow on the same stem, and to them a scrubbing brush is not a mere scrubbing brush; it bristles with moral possibilities and wipes out spiritual as well as physical stains. Every housekeeper knows the spiritual exaltation that follows the spring cleaning, and it is said that a woman is never so capable of heroism as when she is conscious that her pantry shelves are speckless and her curtains fresh from the wash. To such housekeepers the skeleton in the closet is not so much

to be dreaded as that more shameful visitant, dust, and they would welcome any number of ghostly presences provided the closets offered nothing in the way of disorder to catch a phantom eye.

Some one wants to know more about the life of Abram S. Hewitt, who died the other day. In almost every city you can find at least one rich man who has looked upon his wealth more as a trust than as a personal possession. Hewitt came up from the soil, the same as nearly every famous man in this country has known. We have poets and players, Presidents and warriors, from the farms. The old men of now who have risen above their fellows were nearly all country boys years ago. In the peaceful atmosphere of a thousand villages, close to nature, they learned how to live. They imbibed clean morals with the air they breathed; they inherited honesty and rugged principles, and were taught by fathers and mothers who believed that, after God, their first duty was rearing their children right. Hewitt went through all that. He was born in a log cabin, worked on a farm, got an education, because he felt that he must have it to succeed in life. In college he paid his way by tutoring, and worked so hard that he injured his health and sight for life. Did it pay? Depends on how you look at it. In business he made a large amount of money, and he used a fortune in making it easier for other boys, who were as poor as he had been, to gain an education. New York never knew a man fairer to his employes. He tried to put himself in the other fellow's place, and judged accordingly. When he died no one thought about his money. There was no person to blacken his memory; no scandal was attracted to his name. The world dropped a few tears; the poor placed flowers on his tomb, and humanity knew that a really good man had done his work and quietly passed on. That is about all that Abram S. Hewitt accomplished. Has any man done more?

It is a commonly expressed opinion that the railroad business of the country is being overdone—that too many lines are being built and too much money being put into improvements. Exactly the reverse is true. Railroad building in America is yet in its infancy. Vast as is its present extent, and seemingly complete as is its equipment, the systems of to-day will only provoke a smile from the next generation. Our grandchildren will wonder how we ever managed to get around and do business under our present crude transportation facilities. Not only will the trunk lines of the future be double-tracked separately for freight and passenger traffic, but they will be fed by electric lines running in all directions in every well-settled community. Fifty years from now electric car tracks will be almost as numerous as are wagon roads to-day. The farmer of the future will load up his car, instead of his wagon, upon a spur running to his granary, will adjust his trolley and be whirled away to market or to the freight depot in the twinkling of an eye. Farm produce, coal and grocery supplies will be delivered in your alley from street railway spurs while yet only servants are awake. Electricity will transport from producer to consumer direct, practically "without change of cars." A nickel in the slot and machinery will do the rest. Time, too, will be annihilated. Already an electric speed of one hundred and forty miles an hour has been attained in practical operation. A Chicago suburban system is even now regularly operating under a ninety-mile schedule. With double tracks, air lines and rock-ballasted tracks, there is practically no limit to what may be attained through the inventor's genius and the mechanic's skill, backed by unlimited capital and Yankee enterprise. From coast to coast in three days? It will be done. A railroad at your very door? Aye, all that, and more. Where there is a mile of track to-day there will be fifty as many years from now. The railroad industry overdone? Forget it—the infant has but just begun to shed its swaddling clothes.

**Good Service.**  
Many good stories have from time to time been told of the Rev. Thomas Hunt, the temperance orator, who was a well-known figure in the early history of the Wyoming Valley.

During the Civil War he enlisted, and served as chaplain in one of the regiments of infantry raised in the valley. One day in the midst of a fierce battle a major rode up in front of the regiment, and to his amazement found Father Hunt at the head of the ranks. "Chaplain, what are you doing here?" he asked.

"Doing?" echoed the old minister, briskly. "I'm trying to cheer the hearts of the brave and look out for the heels of the cowards."

And it was so evident that he was performing both parts of this self-appointed task that the major asked no more questions, but left him to his work.

**A Doubtful Compliment.**  
He brought her a present. It was a dream of a little teapot—fine china with pink roses and gold beading all over it.

"Oh, you dear!" she cried, holding it up from its wrappings. "Isn't it just the prettiest thing?"

"Yes," he said absently; "it's a pretty teapot. It reminded me of you when I bought it."

And she didn't know whether to throw it at him or not.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Those persons you would really like to talk with are always going the other way.

## NOT MUCH FOR SHOW.

House Allows \$35,000 For St. Louis Exposition—Elevator Bill at Last.

Lincoln, Neb., March 31.—Measures of great interest were disposed of in the legislature Monday. The house reduced the appropriation for the St. Louis exposition from \$75,000 to \$35,000, refused to concur in the senate amendments to the general revenue bill and appointed Messrs. Douglas, Thompson and Morsman as a conference committee. Governor Mickey sent a special bill to the house for the purpose of enabling counties to collect delinquent taxes by the sale of property for taxes.

The senate has not yet appointed a conference committee to consider the revenue bill. It is probable that the joint conference will recommend that the maximum state levy remain at 7 mills as determined by the house. Instead of 5 mills as called for by the senate amendment.

The senate did a big day's work in one short afternoon. It approved the Ramsey elevator bill in committee of the whole, passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the rebuilding of the Norfolk asylum and in committee of the whole approved an appropriation of \$100,000 for improvements at the agricultural college. Much to the surprise of every one the university authorities asked that the amount be taken from the one mill levy that goes to the university. The bill was amended accordingly. The taking of this money from the fund raised by taxation instead of from the general fund of the state will probably consume the entire fund and the governor will not recommend a decrease in the levy. It will delay the construction of buildings at the college farm one year. At the end of the two years if the one mill levy under the new revenue law proves excessive it can be reduced.

The house spent a large portion of its session yesterday in the consideration of the St. Louis exposition appropriation. The bill for this appropriation as introduced by Mr. Rouse carried a \$75,000 grant from the state. The house after declining to indefinitely postpone the measure first voted down a proposition to appropriate \$25,000 and then voted down a proposition to appropriate \$50,000. The sum of \$35,000 was then agreed to. On roll call on a proposition not to agree to this sum but to postpone the bill, 25 voted aye and 49 voted no. A number of members declined to vote who will be placed on record on the final passage of the measure.

The house declined to amend a bill providing for strict examinations of applicants for doctor's certificates. A proposition to exempt from examination those graduates from state colleges who have matriculated under the present law, was killed. The amendment was championed by Douglas of Rock county and was quite vigorously opposed by the physicians on the floor of the house.

The house appointed a conference committee on the senate amendments to the revenue bill. Speaker Mockett naming Douglas of Rock, Thompson, of Merrick and Morsman, of Douglas on his committee. The senate will appoint three members of the revenue committee for this purpose when the request is made for a conference to-day.

## Husband is Shot Dead.

New York, March 31.—Filled with jealous anger at finding another man being entertained by his wife this afternoon, William J. Peppier, of East One-Hundred and Nineteenth street threw the visitor out into the hall, fought him from the third floor to the front door of the apartment house in which he lived, with the wife screaming and weeping at their heels, and was there shot dead by the man who he thought had wronged him.

This man was William Earl Dobson, a cashier in a stock-broker's office. He fled and the police have sent out a general alarm for him. Peppier was about twenty-six years old and a clerk. He had not been married long.

After being revived Mrs. Peppier, who had fainted, said that she and Dobson were together when her husband returned unexpectedly from work and a fight followed, resulting in Dobson being thrown out of the room and pursued down stairs by her husband. In the lower hall the men clinched again and Dobson fired one shot. After that the woman remembered nothing, for she fainted.

Dobson is said to be a married man with a wife and two children living somewhere in North Carolina.

## Kentucky Miners Lay Strike.

Louisville, Ky., March 31.—The representatives of operators and miners of western Kentucky, who spent nearly all of last week in an attempt to settle the wage question for the coming year, resumed the conference today. The miners' wage scale expires at midnight tomorrow. If the joint committees fail to reach a settlement the miners say they will strike for an increase of 14 per cent, but the operators are not willing to concede this much.

## A RICH MAN IS GONE

MRS. YUS F. SWIFT DIES AT HIS CHICAGO HOME

## PACKER MADE MILLIONS

PIONEER IN SHIPPING OF REFRIGERATOR MEATS

## LEFT ABOUT \$10,000,000

Instituted an Enterprise Which Made Fortunes for Many—Disease Follows Simple Surgical Operation.

Chicago, Ill., March 30.—Gustavus Franklin Swift, president of the Swift Packing company, died at his home, 4848 Ellis avenue, early today of internal hemorrhages, resulting from a surgical operation performed several days ago. Mr. Swift was sixty-three years old.

The hemorrhage which caused Mr. Swift's death resulted from an operation for an infection of the gall bladder, performed March 22. His death was entirely unexpected both by Mr. Swift's family and his physicians. He had given every indication of recovery, and all danger was considered passed. Mr. Swift had been suffering for some time with bladder trouble and a week ago an operation was determined upon to give him relief. It was not expected that the operation would prove especially dangerous, and nothing happened to cause a change in this hopefulness until this morning. His improvement was stopped suddenly by a hemorrhage which the doctors were unable to check and which caused his death in a short time.

Gustavus Franklin Swift began his business career as a butcher and died leaving a fortune estimated at from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000. He was born at Sandwich, Mass., in June, 1839. He opened a small butcher shop in his native town. He removed to Boston when he was less than thirty years old. He remained in Boston until 1875, when he came to Chicago. In this city he engaged in the same business, which he had left in Massachusetts and developed the department of shipping live cattle to eastern markets. In 1877 he evolved plans for the first refrigerating car, and dressed meat instead of live animals, were shipped to eastern cities. He was the pioneer in this kind of business and it was not long before others saw the advantage of his method and they imitated him. Mr. Swift was not only the oldest "packer" at the time of his death, but he was the originator of the method that has made many large fortunes.

From the small plant started in 1877 has developed a great corporation with branches in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Omaha, St. Paul, and Fort Worth, Texas, with distributing offices in every important city and town in the United States, and with representatives in the leading cities of Europe, Asia and Africa. Its employees number 22,607. Upon its capital stock of \$25,000,000 the sales of 1902 exceeded \$200,000,000.

## Narrow Escape For Negro.

Muscataine, Ia., March 30.—Frank Brown, a negro, narrowly escaped death at the hands of 1,500 enraged men tonight, and was rescued by twenty officers only after he had received a severe beating. The mob sought his life because he had shot and probably fatally wounded Harry Holtzhauser, a button cutter. Holtzhauser struck Brown in the face during a quarrel and Brown drawing a revolver, shot Holtzhauser in the breast. Hundreds of men gathered around the fallen man and Brown ran followed by several policemen. The friends of Holtzhauser joined in the pursuit. The policemen were outdistanced by the civilians, who caught Brown. A score of men fell to beating him with their fists. The policemen, reinforced to twenty men, charged the assailants with clubs and revolvers and, after knocking several men down, rescued the negro.

## Bid the President Good-bye.

Washington, March 30.—Mrs. Roosevelt and the children will take the projected cruise on the president's yacht, the Mayflower, during the coming week. They had good bye tonight to the president, who leaves on his western trip Wednesday morning, and they then boarded the Mayflower which has been lying at the navy yard here for some days.

## Government Sends Police.

Victoria, B. C., March 30.—In view of the fact that trouble is expected at Fernie, in the event of non-union men being imported by the Crows Nest Coal company, the British Columbia government has requested the dominion government to send a detachment of mounted police to Fernie, the center of the strike, and a squad of fifty men has been ordered to proceed from Calgary.

## NOT SUCH BAD LOT.

Worse People Than Moros Says Captain Pershing—Writes of Progress Made.

Washington, March 28.—Captain John J. Pershing, Fifteenth Infantry, who has been in command in the Moro country, has written a letter under date of Camp Vickers, January 28, to a personal friend in the war department, in which he gave in detail many interesting facts in connection with the disturbances in Mindanao.

Captain Pershing says that after he was placed in charge of Moro by General Davis because he (Pershing) apparently could get along with them, he worked on the theory that it is necessary to establish mutual confidence between the Moros and the United States, "if we are to govern them without a lot of trouble."

He endeavored to demonstrate to them that the United States is their friend, having no desire to carry them off into slavery, or to take anything belonging to them without paying for it. This, he writes is all contrary to what they have been accustomed to in the past. The Spaniards and the Moros could not get along together well. The Moros were very jealous of their religion and the Spaniards tried to civilize them by seizing and baptizing some of them. There were atrocities committed on both sides as a result of these differences.

Captain Pershing says that the Moros do not realize any other kind of government than a one-man power. He says he has been able to keep all the promises he has made, which has enabled him to be more successful in command of that district. They regard him as representing the president of America, and are somewhat uneasy as to what his successor will do.

The question of slavery is intimately connected with their religion and is something of a vassalage or serfdom, and not slavery, as known in this country. He thinks it a subject that should remain untouched until it is understood better.

The Moros, he writes, should have a government which they can understand, and it should be the policy of the United States to let it alone, but to make each sultan and datto responsible for the acts of his people. "We cannot afford," he says, "to tear down their established form of government without giving them something better, and I fear it will be a long time before this can be done."

The Macul campaign has had a convincing effect as to the possibility of natives escaping punishment when they commit depredations.

Captain Pershing says the Moros have some admirable traits of character. "Once a friend they all go to the limit for you." They are industrious and have splendid rice fields and other agricultural crops. The country is capable of great things from an agricultural standpoint. The country is somewhat like the Mohawk valley and the whole district can be compared to that about Lake George.

Captain Pershing says that he believes the troops could march around the lake now and be received in a friendly spirit everywhere except at Bacolod. He has a number of reliable secret service Moros and they inform him of the conditions and feelings among their countrymen.

He says there are about 75,000 people that live in that region and they are in a fair way to become real friends. He says this is an achievement he would be proud of, and is almost ready to promise it, adding:

"Though we may encounter some old hard headed savage to whom we shall have to administer a severe lesson, in order to teach him and others what we can do."

Captain Pershing, in conclusion, says it is the most interesting work he has yet had in the army and he hopes to remain and be permitted to work out the problem. He thinks that a military government for a long time to come is the only one for the Moros.

In reply to the inquiry of the secretary of war stating that the press had alleged that governor Taft had dysentery, a cablegram was received from Governor Taft today containing the information that he has been under treatment for weeks recovering from an attack of dysentery. Examination last Saturday indicated that the treatment had been successful. Later examination indicated that he needed rest and by the advice of his physician would remain in bed for a couple of weeks to secure it. His strength and appetite were reported good.

## Oregon Murderer Hanged.

Portland, Ore., March 28.—A. L. Belding was hanged in the county jail yard this morning. He died in seventeen minutes after the drop fell. Belding murdered his wife, his mother-in-law, Mrs. McCroskey and Frank Woodward, July 12, the killing being due to jealousy of Belding, who resented Woodward's attentions to Mrs. Belding. Belding also shot his father-in-law, Lemuel McCroskey but failed to kill him.

## Nebraska Notes

The postoffice at Birch, Pierce county, Neb., has been discontinued. Claude C. Campbell of Clay Center, has been appointed a railway mail clerk.

Edwin R. Pease has been appointed substitute clerk at the Fremont postoffice.

May 1st an additional free delivery route will be established at Getzna, in Sharp county.

The Omaha Builders' Exchange with a capital stock of \$5,000 was incorporated last week.

Henry L. Lowery has been appointed postmaster at Richfield, Sharp county, vice A. Becker resigned.

Articles of incorporation have been filed by the Sampson and Qualla Mining Co., of Omaha. The capital stock is fixed at \$10,000.

J. W. Jones, the Burlington yard master had his hand badly crushed while making a coupling. He will lose the third and fourth fingers.

Governor Mickey signed H. R. No. 152 which reduces the members of the board of education from nine to five members, and the bill is now a law.

Joseph Fehring of Humphrey will probably lose his arm as the result of falling from the wagon and breaking it while on his way home from town the other night.

The postoffice at Rescue, Saunders county, and Olson, Fremont county have been re-established with Mary Palensky and Fred B. Morris postmasters, respectively.

The Rev. Father Carney, priest of St. John's church at Plattsmouth is very ill. An attack of the grip was followed by erysipelas and a return of heart trouble, and it is feared that he cannot recover.

After a married life of one week John Johnson 78 years of age, a resident of Mead, left his bride who had been Christina Peterson, sixty-two years old, and passed to "that bourne from whence no traveler ever returns."

Tom Humberger and John Kelley the two men who held up and robbed Everett Carmichael of \$180 in Wyoming recently were each sentenced to three years in the penitentiary by Judge Stull. Charles Miller a boy of sixteen years of age, who was implicated in the robbery, was sentenced to the reform school.

Announcement has been made of the secret marriage in Rockford, Md., on March 16 of Ernest H. Coolidge of Washington and Miss Jean M. Thurston, daughter of former United States Senator Thurston of Nebraska. In a statement made by Mr. Thurston, the bride's father, it was said the young couple had been engaged for some time with the entire approval of their respective families. Miss Thurston is 17 years old.

The Citizens' State Bank at Wisner have been authorized to convert into the Citizens National Bank of Wisner, with \$50,000 capital.

Norman T. Bliss, a prominent farmer was shot and instantly killed by William T. Turley. The killing occurred on Bliss' farm, three miles north of Shelton, and was the culmination of a quarrel over a number of hogs, which were trespassing in Bliss' corn field. Bliss and Turley occupy adjoining farms. When the body of F. P. Bloom, the stock farmer of Stewart, who was found dead at his home, was examined by the coroner, a bullet hole was discovered in the right temple. The jury returned a verdict of suicide.

Fire entailing a loss of about \$10,000 destroyed the plant of the Norfolk Press and badly damaged the surrounding property. The newspaper office and equipment was totally destroyed. The building was owned by G. A. Luitkardt and P. F. Spreacher. The latter was also proprietor of the paper. The loss on building and contents is estimated at about \$8,000 with \$4,000 insurance.

## MONEY TO COOKS.

\$7,500.00 Donated, to Be Divided Among Family Cooks. The sum of \$7,500.00 will be distributed between now and midsummer among family cooks, in 735 prizes ranging from \$20.00 to \$5.00.

This is done to stimulate better cooking in the family kitchen. The contest is open to paid cooks (drop the name "hired girl," call them cooks if they deserve it) or to the mistress of the household if she does the cooking. The rules for contest are plain and simple. Each of the 735 winners of money prizes will also receive an engraved certificate of merit or diploma as a cook. The diploma bear the big gilt seal and signature of the most famous food company in the world, The Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., of Battle Creek, Mich., the well-known makers of Postum Coffee and Grape-Nuts. Write them and address Cookery Dept. No. 487, for full particulars.

This remarkable contest among cooks to win the money prizes and diplomas will give thousands of families better and more delicious meals as well as cleaner kitchens and a general improvement in the culinary department, for the cooks must show marked skill and betterment in service to win. Great sums of money devoted to such enterprises always result in putting humanity further along on the road to civilization, health, comfort and happiness.