

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In a search for a cause for the growth of the cocaine and other stimulant-seeking habits, many people look beyond the druggist, that "unconscious minister of celestial pleasures," as De

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOUND A REVOLVER

Possibly a New Light on Little Case Weapon Drawn From Well

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

NEW LAWS

Bills That Have Received Executive Approval

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

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

H. R. 100, by Hanna, to provide for five junior normal schools an appropriation of \$110,000 therefor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Falls Under the Wheels.

Beatrice, Neb., April 13.—Thomas Johnson, a young man twenty-one years of age, was instantly killed in the Rock Island yards here at 5 o'clock this morning and his body frightfully mangled. The dead man and his brother, Robert, one year his senior, were on their way from Des Moines to Colorado. They were expert miners and work being slack in Iowa, were going to the Colorado coal fields. Although they both had plenty of money, over \$100 being found on the body of the man killed, \$90 of which was sewed in his undershirt, the men were beating their way as a means of economy.

When the Rock Island freight which they boarded at Horton, Kansas, last night, reached here, the car they were in was set out. They waited until the train was made up and about to start out when they attempted to board the car next to the engine. The oldest brother made the car bright, but noticed that his brother had fallen to the ground, and as he leaped to the ground he caught one glimpse of his brother under the wheels. He was dead before they could reach him. The train only contained six cars, all of which passed over the unfortunate man. The body was completely severed below the breastbone. The left arm was cut off below the shoulder and portions of the body were picked up two blocks away the hands being partially severed and the face badly bruised.

Coroner Walden was notified but no inquest was held. The remains were taken to Ryan's undertaking rooms and prepared for shipment, the brother turning his face homeward over the Burlington at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Both men show evidences of refinement and were well dressed. Both belong to the order of Red Men, members of which order lent what assistance they could to lighten the surviving brother's burdens while here.

The parents of the young men reside at No. 3010 West Second street Des Moines. They have one sister living in Omaha, who is said to be quite wealthy and prominent. The surviving brother keenly felt the disgrace caused by their manner of travel and hoped the matter could be kept from his sister in Omaha. The two left home last Thursday night.

The elder brother was heart broken by the sudden and terrible taking away of his brother and felt that he was partially responsible in not having counseled against traveling in that manner and feared he might be criticised. He bought an elaborate burial outfit having about three hundred dollars with them.

Railroading Him to Asylum

Indianapolis, Ind., April 11.—An effort to hold an insanity commission on Rufus Cantrell, the negro who is charged with grave robbing, broke up in a row today. Charges of bribery were openly made by one of the attorneys representing Cantrell. It was also charged that an effort was being made to "railroad" Cantrell to the insane asylum so that he could not appear as a witness against Dr. Alexander, whose trial is set for next week.

When Suler Emerich declared the court open and that the examination of witnesses would begin, prosecutor Ruchshaus protested against the proceedings. He said:

"I have a right to see that no man is 'r railroaded' to the insane asylum instead of getting his just dues for crimes committed against the state. I stand here on my rights and I demand that this commission continue the inquest until after the trial of Dr. Alexander."

Keeps Far in Wilderness

Cinnabar, Mont., April 11.—Secretary Loeb received no word from President Roosevelt today. The president is in the mountains at a camp forty miles from his headquarters. When he started for this place yesterday morning it was his intention to remain there for a number of days and possibly a week. Snow fell today in the vicinity of which the president has gone, but the fall apparently was not heavy. John Burroughs the naturalist, did not accompany the president yesterday, as he was suffering from a slight cold. This has about disappeared now, and it is Mr. Burroughs' intention to join the president tomorrow. While Mr. Burroughs will be with the president off and on during his stay in the park he will not accompany him on all his trips. The president is studying animal plant life in the park and is enjoying himself there.

Murder in Second Degree

St. James, Minn., April 11.—The jury in the Tanke murder trial, after an all-night session, today rendered a verdict of second degree murder. Judge Gray sentenced the prisoner to life imprisonment and gave the attorneys twenty-five days' stay. Frank Tanke was charged with the murder of John Weider, the farmer of whom he worked, and whose wife he afterwards married. Mrs. Tanke is now serving a life sentence.

Nebraska Notes

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

Fire last night at 11:30 destroyed the slaughter house and packing plant of B. F. Hofflinger at Bertine two miles south of Beatrice. The loss was \$1000 with \$5000 insurance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western Nebraska farmers may take heart. The Holdrege Citizen makes pleasant promises for this year's crops after the following fashion: "Our crop prediction from our crop reporter is very favorable for this season. There will be a better corn crop than wheat if signs do not fall. There will be some rain in August and September which will be appreciated all corn fields. It predicts a good heavy crop in 1904, as every other '4' has been heavy and every '11' light for the past seventy years and all know that last '11' was not heavy and he predicts that there will be no failure until 1910. Bear this in mind and see if it comes true."

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

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

COL. CODY IS HURT

Horse Slipped and Fell With the Great Scout During Show

HIS CAREER AS SHOWMAN

The First Organization in Omaha in 1877

Manchester, England, April 14 W. F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," met with an accident at the first performance of his show here today. His horse reared and fell on him. He was removed to a hotel. This is the first bad accident that has happened to Colonel Cody in years.

It was immediately after the Sioux war of 1876 that "Buffalo Bill" decided upon a career as a showman.

He had been previously initiated into the show business by Ned Bunnline.

He proceeded to collect Indians, cowboys, scouts, trappers, buffaloes, etc., and produced the Wild West show for the first time in Omaha, Nebr., on May 17, 1883. It is said that over fifty thousand people paid to witness the mimic representation or scenes and incidents with which but a few years before they could have witnessed in reality. The great success of this show and its original character, soon gave it a tremendous vogue and Colonel Cody was besieged with applications from all the principal cities of the country. He continued to enlarge his exhibition and improve it, associating with him Nat Salsbury, already experienced and successful in the theatrical production, and together they brought into existence a combination such as never was seen before. After exhibiting it in all parts of the United States in 1887 the American Exhibition company, which was then making an exhibition of American products and manufacture at Earle's court, London, England and produced the Wild West in connection with the American exhibition of Yankees, as it was called. If it had not been for the Wild West show, the American exhibition would have been a complete failure. As it was, it was patronized by the royal family, including Queen Victoria and became the rage in London, so that the entire experiment proved a great success.

After the London exhibition was closed Cody went on to the continent and played with success in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium, returning to America some months later and making a tour through the New England states. He was at that time worth nearly a million dollars the most of which he invested in western real estate. Salsbury was worth about as much. Several times since the show has toured Europe with great success.

The show was destroyed in South Carolina last fall. After the reorganization the trip to Europe was made. His daughter, Irma Cody, was recently married to Lieut. Stoot, of North Platte, Neb.

LIGHTNING CALCULATOR DEAD
Trenton, N. J., April 14.—William Vallance, the famous lightning calculator who could do any sum in mathematical calculation mentally, and with an instant's hesitation, is dead, aged thirty years. About a week ago he was taken to the state hospital suffering from a severe neural strain, believed to be the result of his work with figures.

Vallance could duplicate the feats of any of the lightning calculators and then beat them all by stating instantly any desired date in history. He could not tell how he knew history, but would rattle off fact after fact without ever making a mistake. He could give instant answers to such arithmetic questions as multiply 389,487 by 4,641, and problems in algebra were his delight.

BFEP TRUST PAYS FINE.

Kansas City, Mo., April 14.—The five Missouri packing companies which were fined \$5,000 each on March 20 for violation of the anti-trust law, through their attorney, Frank Hagerman of this city, have mailed to the state supreme court a draft for 27,136 in payment of fines and costs incident to the action against them. The firms fined are the Armour Packing company, Cudahy Packing company, Hammond Packing company, Swift & Co., and Schwarzschild & Sulzberger.

TEACHERS QUIT IN A BODY

St. John, N. B., April 14.—The east bound express from Boston, which left here today at noon, collided with a fast freight at Windsor Junction, N. S. at 1:30 this evening killing the engineer and fireman on both trains and injuring five others. Driver Nelson Copeland and Fireman Hill were on the freight and William Wall and Fireman M. Oakley on the express. Both trains are in the ditch and telegraph wires are in the wreck.