

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Revenge is sweet—but only in the hands of a fool.

Variety is the spice of life, and vice is the cayenne pepper.

Patience is a woman's long suit when her children are annoying the neighbors.

Some men think they can't be true to themselves unless they keep busy gouging others.

Kipling has rescinded his gift of a Brill ball to Rotterdam. Perhaps the villagers were using it for ping-pong?

The poet says that "once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide." As for woman, the more of it the better.

There have been no reports of hazing at West Point for several months. Can it be possible that the cadets are doing nothing but study and drill?

A Pueblo Indian whipped his wife, was promptly castigated by his mother-in-law and in his mortification committed suicide. There is no use in trying to civilize an Indian.

Longfellow probably could have stood it if he had known that posterity would regard him as a poet for women and children. The poet for men undoubtedly is Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A late historical novel called "The Gate of the Kiss," carries the reader away back of the revolutionary war to the time of Heczekiah, King of Judah, and Isaiah, the prophet. Sennacherib also appears in its pages. The "oldest inhabitant" is lost in attempting to go back in memory to this date.

For the first time since her creation woman has recently won something like a fair chance in the fields of knowledge and practical endeavor. She is proving so well her right to these opportunities and her capacity to use them nobly that they will never be taken from her. On the contrary, there is sure to be a still larger employment of the genius of women in more and more lines of the world's work.

Sousa, the popular bandmaster, was summoned to play before King Edward VII. After his men had rendered various selections he spoke a quiet word of command, and "The Star-Spangled Banner" rang out. At the first note of it the King rose, and the whole brilliant audience followed his example. Our American folk may learn a lesson even from a king. It is no true democracy that tries to demonstrate its worth by a display of bad manners. Wherever our national air is played or wherever our flag waves, there hats should come off and a salute be given. Girls ought to devise a graceful gesture of respect. Boys have their prescribed for them. On such marks of reverence patriotism thrives, and there will never come a day when a republic can live without vital patriotism.

The immigration bill which the House of Representatives passed proposes to shut out anarchists, and also persons over 15 years old who cannot read. Unfortunately, there is no sure way by which anarchists can be identified. Now and then the proposed prohibition might be enforced against some notorious representative of the class, but in general its chief service would be as an expression of the national detestation. As to illiterates, not every immigrant who cannot read is dangerous or burdensome. Some such persons have become useful citizens; but as a class, they are a menace. Handicapped by their deficiencies in the competition with the more intelligent and energetic, they lose heart. Their tendency is to mass themselves in the great cities, and many of them become public burdens in the poorhouses, asylums and jails. The increasing volume of immigration makes this an urgent question. During the first four months of the present year immigration was more than one-half larger than in the corresponding period last year or the year before, and more than one-half of the immigrants are natives of the countries which furnish most illiterates. The United States cannot justly be charged with liberality if it declines to go on trying to assimilate the world's ignorance at this rate.

No less an authority than Mr. Carnegie is convinced that an academic education is a handicap rather than a help in business, but a large percentage of the graduating class of the academic department at Yale are figuring on a business career. There are 84 of these young men, against 78 who intend to become lawyers, and of 42 who have arrived at no decision yet as to the choice of an occupation it is probable that more will go to business than to the law. Young men in such an uncertain state of mind are likely to have their choice determined by chances for immediate returns, which are rendered impossible by a long course of professional study. It is remarkable that those who have taken the academic course to prepare for business outnumber the would-be teachers nearly five to one, as there are only 17 of the latter, while minor classes trail off as follows: Doctors, 11; ministers (including one foreign missionary), 9; farmers (including one "planter" and one "rancher"), 6; newspaper men, 3;

architects, 3; artists, 1. The fact is that if a liberal education were merely a preliminary stage to study and work in the professions our supply of colleges would be ridiculously large, and the classes in every one of them would undergo a fearful shrinking. But there is no good reason why the liberal education should be so considered. If it is a handicap in business the value of culture in the business men who survive it is indisputable, and it would be a great pity if it were the exclusive monopoly of lawyers, teachers, doctors and ministers. The more there are of these business young men who strive for it the better will it be for the country.

One of the most remarkable stories in the annals of human degeneracy is that relating to Jane Toppan, the Boston professional trained nurse. She has confessed that she has killed by administering poisons thirty-one persons placed under her care to be nursed in sickness. She practiced on private patients, not in hospitals, where her victims might have filled a longer list. She says that she was able to deceive the best doctors, who took her word in explaining the causes of the numerous deaths which she procured instead of making the personal examination in each case which their duties involved. To what extent does this loose practice prevail in hospitals and in private practice where professional nurses are employed? It is entirely improbable that numerous cases like that of Jane Toppan have occurred, but her case is a warning and lesson. No physician should take the word of another person as to the cause of death in a case submitted for his examination. Miss Toppan's confession related to every phase of her career as an habitual poisoner. She described the impulse under which she acted in administering poisons to her victims. The story is like a hideous nightmare. It presents a habit of introspection like that which great students of mental science have followed. There have been weird instances where men watched and noted down in the interest of science their symptoms as insanity or death approached by slow degrees while they retained partial consciousness. But such a case as this is probably without a parallel. Miss Toppan recognized the symptoms when her homicidal mania was approaching to take possession of her impulses and acts. This is evidence of her responsibility in some degree. She knew what she was about. Her conscience warned her of the criminal impulse before it obtained complete control of her. Many persons exhibiting greater appearances of insanity than Miss Toppan manifested have been hanged for murder. She was conscious of each crime which she committed, of the wrong and depravity which it involved and of the degeneracy which her nature had reached, which she admits. Under these circumstances her responsibility for her acts is practically established. She should have paid the penalty of her crimes instead of being rewarded with that asylum of rest and peace which she solicited and obtained in a hospital for the insane.

IMPROVED SAFETY COAT HOOK.

While the coat hook with lock attachment is not entirely new, yet the one here illustrated has an adjusting arrangement to take garments of various thickness, which shows an improvement over those heretofore used. It also has the advantage of confining the key until the hook is locked, thus preventing the user from accidentally removing the key before it is locked, thinking he had already locked it, and also from withdrawing the key and intentionally carrying it off when he has unlocked the apparatus to remove his coat. One part of this device is rigidly secured to the wall by screws, while the other portion slides vertically to adjust the size of the aperture to fit the thickness of the cloth. The rigid member has a toothed rack at the rear and slotted guides on either side, in which the loose member slides. The locking mechanism is so arranged that a turn of the key brings the flat end of the bolt into a horizontal position and forces it backward until it rests in one of the slots of the rigid member. In use the coat and hat are deposited on the hook, the sliding clamp is lowered until the arm firmly grips the garments and a turn of the key throws the bolt and locks the clamp.

Styles Change.
In spring, some fifty years ago, our grandfathers threw aside the headgear he had worn about through winter's sleet and snow, and donned a straw hat, tall and wide, constructed like a tower. Within was room enough to hide a book or two to while the hour, and many things beside. The taller 't was the better our granddad was satisfied.

The style has changed since that fat day. Utility's no longer sought, and now our youngsters think unmatched the summer hat that's shaped this way, with yards of string.

RISKS LIFE FOR SON

MOB NEAR HAZELTON STABS SPECIAL POLICEMAN.

Hazelton, Pa., Aug. 27.—August Sheuch, aged fifty-six years, a special policeman in the service of the Lehigh Valley Coal company was assaulted and stabbed on the outskirts of the city today while attempting to rescue his son, William Sheuch, a non-union workman, employed at the company's No. 40 colliery, from a mob of about 3,000 strikers, who had gathered from all parts of the Hazelton region on the roads leading from the mine, to frustrate the plans of the company for a partial resumption of operations with a non-union force of 250 hands.

A majority of the non-union men were taken to the workings in a special train, with which the strikers did not attempt to interfere. William Sheuch, who lives in the city, walked from his home toward the colliery and thus fell into the hands of the pickets. Most of the clothing was torn from his back in the struggle which followed. When Sheuch's father rushed to his aid the mob set upon the elder Sheuch, who was finally rescued by a mine foreman and removed to the miners' hospital.

Sheuch was stabbed in the breast and on each hip, kicked in the abdomen and struck on the head with a stone. His injuries are not very serious. The knife which was sunk into his breast struck a rib and that fact probably saved his life. The effort to prevent work at the mine was successful.

The report of a resumption at the Cranberry colliery of A. Pardee & Co. caused about 500 men to gather near the mine today, but no attempt was made to start work.

Shenandoah, Pa., Aug. 26.—Much importance is attached to the calls General Gobin receives from coal mine operators, who spend hours with the general in going over the strike situation.

After having met a number of operators, General Gobin said today that he does not see any signs of a settlement. In fact, he states that all indications point more definitely to a prolongation of the strike now than they did when he first reached here. He keeps in touch with the strikers as well as the operators and may be seen daily riding over the hills with members of his staff.

Along the road he frequently holds conversations with miners, all of whom display a friendly feeling toward him personally. There is no ill feeling here against the soldiers, and the militia has become so popular that a movement has been set afoot to start a company in this town.

Individual operators are beginning to display willingness to end the strike if a method could be shown them how they could make concessions to the men without stupefying themselves. In speaking with members of the staff at brigade headquarters some have within the past few days stated that if a way could be suggested whereby they could give in without placing themselves in a bad light they would favor a settlement.

General Gobin is using his good offices toward a settlement, and he allows no opportunity to pass when in conference with operators to make a conservative plea for the men on strike.

Pottsville, Pa., Aug. 27.—George Wheatley, an outside foreman at the Brookside colliery of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron company, is under \$1,000 bail, charged with shooting George Saerer, aged nineteen years of Tower City. Wheatley says he was followed through the streets by a crowd of strikers and sympathizers, who jeered and hooted him. Becoming enraged he drew a revolver and fired into the crowd. The bullet took effect in Saerer's leg. Wheatley has been a mine boss for a number of years.

Tamaqua, Pa., Aug. 27.—Not since the inauguration of the anthracite coal miners' strike have the united mine workers had so many pickets patrolling the Panther creek valley as today. Every road and path leading to the colliers were engaged in an effort to persuade non-union men not to go to work. No new recruits were added to the working force and quite a number were turned back. The extra vigilance was due to the rumor that it is the intention of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company to cut coal as soon as sufficient men can be secured.

It is easier to get a man to tell you how a thing should be done than it is to get a man to do it.

ARBERDEEN, S. D. BANK ROBBED

Aberdeen, S. D., Aug. 27.—The First National bank of this city was robbed of \$3,800 in silver and nickels last night. Entrance was made through the cellar, thence into the rear office, where crowbars were used to dig a hole through the brickwork into the vault, in which a large surplus of silver was stored. The safe was not molested.

There is no clue to the robbers, who were undoubtedly professionals. The loss is covered by insurance.

FAIL TO WRECK CAR

BANDITS MAKE WATER Haul ON NORTHERN PACIFIC

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 27.—A west bound Northern Pacific passenger train was held up at Sandpoint, Idaho, sixty five miles east of here, last night.

NOTHING FOR THE DARING

SEVEN HOLD UP TRAIN IN IDAHO BUT GET NO BOOTY

DYNAMITE BAGGAGE CAR

Passengers Frightened by Constant Firing But Not Molested—Elk's Treasurer to Be Short.

The robbers, of whom there were seven, forced the engineer to stop the train, after which they uncoupled the baggage car. Then they compelled the engineer to the point of a revolver to pull up the track about three miles further, where they tried to wreck the baggage car with dynamite. The explosives failed to work and after spending fifteen minutes with the car the robbers decamped, allowing the engineer to go back to the train with his engine.

Two other bandits had guarded the train, keeping the passengers inside by firing revolvers along the sides. No attempt was made to molest the passengers and after the engine came back the other robbers left and the train came on to Spokane. The train was in charge of Conductor William Gilbert of Helena and was heavily loaded.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 27.—A telegram was received today by the general manager of the Northern Pacific railway from a division superintendent stating that train No. 3 of that road had been stopped last night by a gang of seven or eight men. The express messenger refused to open his car notwithstanding the threats of the bandits.

About twenty shots were fired, but no one was hurt and no one robbed. The work is believed to be that of tramps.

ELK'S TREASURER IS SHORT.

Salt Lake, Utah, Aug. 27.—Official announcement has been made before the Elks Lodge in this city that a shortage of \$16,000 has been discovered in the books of Edd S. Orris, of Buffalo, N. Y., grand treasurer of the grand lodge of Elks. Mr. Orris was reelected at the recent reunion in Salt Lake.

According to a member of the grand lodge the shortage was not discovered by the auditing committee until after the election.

Mr. Orris, when confronted, stated that he could and would make the shortage good at once, but this, it is announced, has not been done.

The official announcement does not state what action will be taken in the matter.

Omaha, Aug. 27.—George P. Cronk grand exalted ruler of the order of Elks, was adverse to discussing the reported shortage of Grand Treasurer Edward S. Orris. He said, however:

"I have just gotten back home from a trip to Meadville, Pa., where I went to investigate the reported shortage of \$16,000 and can truthfully say that every dollar of the grand lodge funds are in the proper place."

"Was Mr. Orris short in his accounts?" was asked.

"I will not make any statement about the matter one way or the other, at present," replied Mr. Cronk.

"Have steps been taken to remove Treasurer Orris from his position?"

"I think he will resign shortly," replied Mr. Cronk. "and that is all I will say about it, except to reiterate that all of the grand lodge funds are safe and on hand in cash."

Mr. Cronk admitted that Treasurer Orris had been bonded by a responsible guarantee company.

CHICKENS CAUSE A TRADEGY

Muscataine, Ia. Aug. 27.—Herman J. Rauwerdin, aged seventy-four, who was born in Holland, hanged himself in his stable about 6 o'clock last night. He had been hanging about an hour when discovered by his aged wife, who went to call him to supper. He left a note written in the Holland language saying that he and his neighbors were having trouble because his chickens went into their yard, and he would hang himself to settle the trouble. He was quite wealthy and has been a resident of this city for thirty-four years.

WRECK OF ELKHORN TRAIN.

Chadron, Neb. Aug. 27.—The east bound train on the Elkhorn from Chadron to Casper, Wyo., was wrecked Monday night near Glen, Neb. The cause was a broken flange on a coal car wheel, resulting in the derailment of two cars. There were three cowboys riding in the coal car and it was overturned and dumped down the grade. They were able to make their whereabouts known by their cries and were dug out by the train crew uninjured.

BLOOD BEING SHED

DESPERATE STAGE IN WEST VIRGINIA STRIKE.

Bluefield, W. Va., Aug. 29.—Strikers yesterday fired on the miners and tipplemen at Crane Creek operations. Two guards and two strikers were killed. Several were wounded.

Huntington, W. Va., Aug. 29.—Major E. Verlander of Second battalion, West Virginia national guard, has received orders from Governor White to proceed at once with the three companies of state militia here and one company at Milton to New River coal field, where trouble is imminent. The companies have been assembled and will leave at once on a special train. Serious trouble is predicted.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Aug. 29.—Col. C. E. Morrison of this city, commanding the second regiment, West Virginia national guard, received orders this morning from Governor White, calling his regiment to the New River coal fields. The officers refuse to state what is their destination, but it is supposed to be Red Ash, where the deputies were fired upon yesterday. The regiment is composed of nearly 1,000 men and the companies are scattered at several places in the state.

Huntington has three, Parkersburg two, Charleston, Milton and Bluefield each one company. A special train has been ordered out and the companies are assembled at their armories here awaiting further orders to move.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 29.—Governor White ordered the Second regiment of troops to Thurmond, New River strike district, today. The troops are from Parkersburg, Huntington, Milton, Charleston and Ronover. They will arrive here during the afternoon, establishing headquarters at Thurmond.

The situation is serious. Shreffel Daniel, who is here today from Fayette county, says he is powerless to repress disorder and property and life are in constant danger. Nearly every body refuses to act as deputy sheriffs to assist in the eviction of striking miners and hence the sheriff made a request for troops. Men, concealed along the mountain side, fire at the guards and miners going to work and then disappear. Governor White says he sends the troops to protect life and property, but not to settle the strike.

VOWS DEATH OF A SHERIFF.

Butte, Mont. Aug. 29.—With officers of the state penitentiary on his trail, assisted by bloodhounds, Convict Tom O'Brien, who last Friday made a daring escape from the state prison, has sent a communication to the Miner, pleading for a public statement of his alleged crime and vowing the death of Under Sheriff Dave Morgan, whose alleged perjured testimony, the convict declares sent him to prison and wrecked his home. The document received by the Miner bears the postmark of Anaconda. The writer dates his communication from a mountain in the surrounding hills of Anaconda and says that he wrote his story behind a rock, dividing his time between his Winchester and his pen.

The communication is a literary freak and there is no question as to its authenticity, as the handwriting has been fully identified by the warden and others acquainted with the criminal. O'Brien declares his sole object in escaping from the prison is to kill Deputy Sheriff Morgan. O'Brien was sent up for robbery in 1901.

FIRST CLASH AT TAMAQUA.

Tamaqua, Pa., Aug. 29.—The first clash between the striking miners and the troops occurred this morning, and as a result five persons are in the guard house at the Twelfth regiment camp and Cap. J. Beaver Gearhart of company F, Twelfth regiment, is suffering from a wound in his shoulder made by a stone thrown by a striker.

This morning a report gained currency that the striking miners were gathering in force to make a march on the No. 4 colliery, where the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company is mining and cleaning coal. The colliery is at the west end of the Panther wreck valley and the governor's troop was ordered to that point. Companies F and K of the Twelfth regiment were placed on trolley cars and run through the valley.

When the cars reached Summit Hill they were surrounded by a mob of strikers, who hurled rocks at the soldiers and called them hard names.

BODY SHIPPED TO LINCOLN.

Burlington, Ia., Aug. 29.—The body of C. P. Olson, who was drowned in the river here Sunday night, and whose body was found yesterday, was shipped to his former home today, where it will be buried tomorrow. It was doubted for a while by some people that Olson was drowned but identification of the body sets all adverse rumors at rest. The funeral will be attended by prominent railroad men.

NEBRASKA NOTES.

October 6 to 12 Hastings will hold a street fair.

Two new brick business blocks and numerous new residences are being built at Palmer.

Fire entirely destroyed the cook car of the steel gang on the Omaha road at Tekamah last week.

The state medical society's library of about 1000 volumes has been placed on the shelves of the Lincoln library.

One hundred and fourteen teachers attended the joint institute of Burt and Thurston counties held at Tekamah last week.

The original wooded area of Nebraska is estimated at only 2300 square miles, and where are 200,000 acres of planted timber.

The Rev. H. Sobl, presiding elder, dedicated the new German Evangelical church at Fremont Sunday morning. The building is 48x48 feet and handsomely fitted.

Mary Erickson, an old woman living near Niobrara, was brought to town violently insane and will be taken to the Lincoln asylum. She has been confined in the asylum several times before.

While loading a lumber wagon at Creighton, C. C. Cleveland was seriously injured by being caught between the wagon and the shed when the horses became frightened and started to run away.

Another pioneer of Beatrice has passed away. Anton S. W. Voortman, for twenty-six years a merchant in Beatrice, died Saturday of dysentery. The remains were taken to Chicago for burial.

Piecework Inspector M. F. Ackerman of the Burlington has been appointed master mechanic of the Havlock shops. Mr. Ackerman began as an apprentice in the Plattsmouth shops fifteen years ago.

Arrangements have been completed for a street fair and agricultural display at Neligh September 17, 18 and 19. Over \$1,000 will be given in race prizes and many other prizes for athletic contests will be offered.

W. J. Vincent, a Rock Island brakeman, fell from the top of a moving freight car at Forum, Kas., Saturday and was rendered unconscious. He was removed to Fairbury. The extent of his injuries is unknown.

Jacob Ellis, well-to-do farmer living ten miles northwest of Emerson was almost instantly killed by falling from a ditchfork. Ellis started to jump from threshing machine and stumbled, only to fall on a ditchfork which was sticking up in the ground.

Nebraska has ten cities with populations ranging over 6500, as follows: Omaha, 140,542; Lincoln, 55,154; Beatrice, 13,836; Hastings, 13,584; Nebraska City, 11,494; Plattsmouth, 8392; Kearney, 8074; South Omaha, 8062; Grand Island, 7536; and Fremont, 6747.

Simon Landon of Fremont has brought suit against John Maloy and Ed. Hurst of Saunders county for \$5,000. He claims that the defendants assaulted him with a piece of iron a few weeks ago, injuring him so badly that he was unable to attend to his duties of buying junk for some time.

Mrs. Charles Osterman, jr., the widow of the former sheepman of Fremont, who was found dead on the range last week, has arrived in Fremont to live with her parents. She says she thinks her husband committed suicide in a fit of despondency. He was found with a revolver in one hand and a razor in the other.

A 10-year old boy of John Michael, who lives near Fargo, died in Falls City of lockjaw. Several days ago he was playing in the yard and stepped upon an old umbrella frame, one of the rusty ribs entering his foot. The wound did not heal and he was taken to Falls City and the doctors extracted a piece of the umbrella rib nearly two inches long. The assistance came too late, however, and the boy died of lockjaw in awful agony.

A Swallow's Flight.

It has often been stated that 60 miles an hour was the utmost rate at which a swallow could fly. Recent experiments between Compeigne and Antwerp proves that a swallow in a hurry can cover 123½ miles in an hour.

The executive committee of the board of regents of the University of Nebraska recommended that Prof. S. Avery be transferred from the position of chemist of the scientific school to that of chemist at the agricultural school vice H. S. Sharpe, who has taken a position with the Idaho Agricultural college. The committee also recommended that the salary of Dean Ward of the medical college be increased from \$2,300 to \$2,500 per year.