

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

The new girlless telephone in Berlin does not chew gum.

There are no cartoonists in Russia, and none is going there, so far as we are able to learn.

Dr. Lorenz says American surgeons are progressive. This is true. Some of them even have progressive appendix-cutting parties.

Does Jenkin Lloyd Jones want this nation made completely dyspeptic? His demand for young women who can make pie and cake is alarming.

Franklin MacVeagh thinks the world is too big to be run by J. Pierpont Morgan alone. How ridiculously skeptical some people are.

The cake walk and coon song have shocked Paris. Well, the French ball has shocked us, so the score may be called about even.

The deplorable scarcity of old boots and shoes for fertilizers in France may be due to the demand for hash ingredients in the French cities.

Carnegie says a nation is known by the heroes it makes. Wouldn't it be mean for the people of this country to turn around now and make Frick a hero?

An Eastern divine has evolved the theory that it is man's ability to say "I will" that raises him above the brute. Another plausible theory is that it is his ability to say "I won't."

A bacteriologist examined the hem of a skirt a woman had worn in London and found on it 10,672,000 disease microbes. And yet stubborn women doubtless will go right on wearing dresses in London.

Dr. Hirsch finds that Sunday school literature is worse than the yellow-backed novels. Isn't it strange that so many people grow up to be useful citizens in spite of the terrible things they have to pass through?

At all events the proposal to postpone inauguration day till the last Thursday in April will be a welcome change to the large body of office-seekers. March is a bitterly inclement month for hanging around department doorsteps and waylaying friends of the new administration.

Now we know why so many men have risked fortune and life in an attempt to find the north pole. A Yale scientist tells us that the remains of our monkey and ape ancestors are buried there, that all life began there. Therefore the hunt for ancestors leads us to brave the dangers of the frozen North.

It has cost \$10,000,000 to notify the people of India through the medium of the durbar that Edward is emperor of India. The same publicity could have been attained absolutely free of charge by whispering the intelligence to half a dozen ladies throughout the Indian peninsula and warning them that it was a great secret.

Half a century ago there was no more popular woman in the United States than Jessie Benton Fremont, the young wife of John C. Fremont, the first Republican candidate for the Presidency. Her recent death at the age of 78 years reminds one that great changes can occur in the lifetime of a single individual. The annexation of Texas, the foundation of a national political party, the abolition of slavery, and the expansion of the United States into the Pacific, to say nothing of the building of transcontinental railways and the invention of the electric telegraph, all happened within her memory.

A learned professor at Yale, who has given the subject of the origin of the species much intelligent thought, assures us that all life began at the north pole, which had the honor of being the home of our simian ancestry. Perhaps we were not aware that life began at the north pole, but we have had very satisfactory evidence within the last fifty years that life ends there quickly and satisfactorily, and that is enough for our present purposes. It is a glorious illustration of the superiority of our human development that as we progressed from monkeyhood to manhood we gradually wandered to a more congenial climate. We except, of course, those monkeys who persist annually in attempting to revisit the homes of their ancestors.

There is a Russian proverb, to be spoken by a man to his wife. It goes: "I love thee like my heart and I dust thee like my jacket." Also there is a story in Rimbald's history of Russia about the Russian woman who married a foreigner, but who wrote back to her relatives to say that her husband didn't love her; he never gave her any physical correction. In Anglo-Saxon countries, at least at the present time, this view of the case does not hold. The courts are anxious to give wife beaters an adequate expression not of their approbation of wife beating but of their indignation against it. The difficulty is, though, that when you send a wife beater to prison you leave his wife without support. The Delaware whipping post does not commend itself to people in

general. To punish the wife beater he must be imprisoned. But how can he be kept in prison while his wife and children starve? This question has found at least a temporary answer in New York. Commissioner of Corrections Hynes has issued a circular letter to the city magistrates announcing that a private association has got together a fund for the support of wives whose husbands have gone to prison on the charge of cruel treatment. The magistrate's path is now made clear. He can send wife beaters to prison and know that the women and children left behind will be taken care of. Pending such changes in the law as will make it possible to put prisoners at work and send their wives their wages, this plan of private relief seems most desirable. The offense is one that deserves severe punishment. It will never receive such punishment, however, until the wife's side of the case is so handled as to prevent her husband's imprisonment from resulting to her own destitution.

Andrew Carnegie told a story on himself the other day. He said, some years ago he wanted to cross a mountain in Pennsylvania, and a youngster of rather hardy appearance offered to take him over for 50 cents. Carnegie thought the price too great, and told the boy he would pay him only 25 cents. After a long argument, in which each stuck to his price, the youngster won out, and Mr. Carnegie says he allowed the lad to collect the 50 cents, not because the trip was worth it, but because he had to get on the other side of the mountain. "I predicted that the boy would some day make a fortune," said Mr. Carnegie, "and he has. His name is Charles M. Schwab." The foregoing is a yarn from the New York Sun, published to show the early characteristics of men who attain to million-dollar salaries. It shows something else, too—a principle. It was appropriate that Carnegie and Schwab should be the characters of the story, for they both represent what is called success—enormous wealth—achieved on the line of that principle or personal policy. It is this principle, or policy, that curses the nation, and humanity at large. It is the great producer of paupers and thieves. It has filled prisons, lunatic asylums, poorhouses and graves without number. And to hold this story of Schwab's success up for the emulation of youth is to encourage robbery, selfishness, inhumanity and general meanness. It is a policy through following which men's souls become weakened, their lives a mere apology for existence, their leaving this world a common blessing to their fellow creatures. Get your fellow man in a corner and then skin him for all he's worth. This is the principle. The young man who starts with this aim, perseveres and has the opportunities, will some day be able to fill as many poorhouses and libraries as can Carnegie and Schwab. These two had the opportunities and were remarkably adept at the skinning. Carnegie had to go over that mountain. Young Schwab had him at a disadvantage and skinned him. Carnegie at once foretold a brilliant future for the boy who would charge 50 per cent hold-up for what the other fellow had to have. What a travesty on Christianity and civilization to hold up as models of success men who make such principles their life principles. Better go through life giving full value received and wind up a moderate success, than to step off into eternity with an unbroken record in the matter of taking unfair advantage of your fellows. Eternity is a long while, and so far as there is any evidence, it is to the effect that the opportunities over there are very impartially distributed.

GLOVE-COUNTER PALMISTRY.
Character Reading by an Observant Young Woman in a Store.
"Do I believe in palmistry," repeated the glove-counter salesgirl, "don't know much about it. But just let a customer hold out her hand to be fitted and I can read her main traits of character without ever noticing her face."
"The woman who extends her hand with the thumb shut in under the fingers is apt to want the best gloves in stock at the cheapest price, and is likely to find some flaw or misfit in the gloves after it is on that no one else can see. Reasonable people, with determination of character, unconsciously shut the thumb over the fingers when the hand is folded in repose."
"If a girl puts out her hand to be measured and the fingers bend backward a little and are not over tapering at the ends I know that she has a sweet, sunny disposition and is considerate of others."
"Customers with fingers more square than tapering are sure to thank you for your services after you have fitted them, and will generally make some comment pleasant to hear. They have good taste, as a rule, and don't select ultra-fashionable shades and styles."
"The woman with the fine-tapering fingers has good taste, too. But she is formal and seldom considerate. I never expect such a one to thank me for having tried to please her. And she seldom does, taking it as a matter of course, I suppose, that a sales person's duty is to please and that she is paid to do so."
"From looking at a customer's hand I can tell whether she will want her gloves to draw on and off easily or try to wear them so tight that she could hardly turn a door knob, lift her skirts, or otherwise use her hands with them on. Fewer women want their street gloves tight now than used to be the case. But a good many still persist in wearing their evening and full-dress gloves a quarter size smaller than they should be."—New York Sun.

LITTLE TOWN ALMOST BURNT OUT
Shops and Stores Destroyed at Springfield, Neb.—Whole Business District Wiped Out
Springfield, Neb., March 21.—Fire early Thursday destroyed every place of business in this village, entailing a loss of \$50,000.
Ten stores and shops were burned, the largest loss being that of W. M. Kreck, dry goods and groceries and warehouse, \$20,000.
Spearman's bank building and a number of smaller structures were also badly damaged. The town has no protection.
The blaze started in Bates' drug store and is supposed to have been of incendiary origin.
Springfield is a small town in Sarpy county, through which runs the Missouri Pacific railroad. Among the burned buildings was that of the telephone exchange.

Killed by a Woman.
Buffalo, N. Y., March 21.—Superintendent of Police Bull said today that his opinion as to who killed Edwin L. Burdick had not been changed at any time since the murder.
"I believe a woman killed Burdick," he declared, "and I suspect the same woman now that I did the day of the murder. I believe Mr. Cusack and the district attorney are of quite the same opinion."
The foregoing statement was made by the superintendent in an interview denying a published report which quoted him as saying:
"It looks more like Pennell's job than at any time since the murder."
Former District Attorney Thomas Penney said today:
"Not a dollar of Mr. Pennell's life insurance will go to Mrs. Burdick."
Mr. Penney made this statement in view of the publication of a report that only \$25,000 of the enormous insurance carried by Mr. Pennell was made payable to his estate. The circumstances have given rise to surmises that Mrs. Burdick might be the chief beneficiary.
The general manager of a New York insurance company, confirmed the statement of Mr. Pennell. "Mr. Pennell has \$30,000 life insurance in our company," he said, "and this is made payable to his estate. From all I have heard I believe that the rest of his life insurance will be found to be payable to his estate or to his family."

The Stranger Died Alone.
Grand Island, Neb., March 21.—At five o'clock this afternoon the dead body of a neat appearing man was found in his room at the Union restaurant. The man had come to the restaurant late last night. At 9 o'clock this morning a chambermaid about to make the room noticed a man in bed, and presumed he was sleeping. Late this afternoon the maid went to the room and noticed that the man was in exactly the same position. An investigation proved that he was dead.
In a letter written to "My dear wife" and addressed to Mrs. O. L. Erickson, the writer said he had had a fall and hurt his side, but expected he would be better in the morning.
He is believed to be a Iveyman and until recently in business at His gas. His death was undoubtedly due to natural causes. Cash to the amount of \$25 was found in his clothes.

Caught Between Two Trains.
Phillipsdale, R. I., March 21.—Three women were instantly killed and a fourth was probably fatally injured while walking from Pawtucket to this place on the tracks of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad today. The victims in trying to avoid a train were struck by an engine on another track.
May Not Be a Suicide.
Beatrice, Neb., March 21.—Dr. D. A. Walden returned tonight from Hoag, where he had an autopsy on the remains of Paul Schindler, who was found dead there last night.
Coroner Walden considered the circumstances very suspicious. The opening was larger than would be made by a 22 caliber bullet, the rifle did not appear to have been used and it was lying under the foot of the bed covered with a blanket. Schindler's body lay in the door about half way outside. The range of the bullet was almost directly downward from the left shoulder, piercing the lungs and heart. The ceiling of the shanty where he lived is so low that no one of his height could hold the rifle in the position necessary to inflict such a wound. The head of the bed was flush with the door.
Dr. Walden, Sr., said that he was unable to find the bullet, that he removed everything from the viscera and searched and re-searched but no bullet could be found. He did not attempt to explain this strange feature. The inquest will be continued.

Prisoners Saved Sheriff.
Walnut Ridge, Ark., March 21.—Sheriff James E. McCall, in company with his wife and baby and having in charge two prisoners, while attempting to cross the swollen Black river was thrown into the water by the overturning of the skiff. The baby was drowned but the sheriff and his wife were saved through the aid of the prisoners who afterward went unattended to the county jail and knocked for admission.

DEAD BY SCORES

HURRICANE OF AWFUL FURY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

ISLANDS ARE DEVASTATED

LOSS OF LIFE BELIEVED TO BE FULLY SIX HUNDRED.

NATIVES MAIN VICTIMS

Storm at Its Height January 14, 15 and 16, and Details Just Received—Urgent Need of Prompt Relief.

Papeete, March 4 (via San Francisco) March 16.—The latest intelligence relative to the hurricane in Tuamotu, or Lower Archipelago, indicates that the fatalities will number 800. The loss of property will be one-half million dollars. Relief measures have been instituted.
The hurricane and high water lasted during January 14, 15 and 16. At Hikueru, 377 deaths occurred, in most instances among visitors from other islands who were there during the diving season. One hundred and forty-two deaths are reported from six other small islands.
On the awful night of January 15, when in the darkness and a driving downpour of rain that stung their faces and naked bodies, the parents tied their little children to their backs and sought safety. Over their heads rolled the mighty wave, and when the surges retreated the infants and half drowned boys and girls succumbed. The father and mother would vainly endeavor to retain the corpses of their dead, and at length had to abandon them. They tied themselves to cocoanut trees, and some at last fell with them. Others escaped, clinging to trees temporarily and at other times able to catch hold of something else, and so between the breakers reached safety after many hours of hardship.

Messrs. Cheneff and Allen, elders of the Mormon church, and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, of the Latter Day Saints' mission, in a report to the United States consul give greswome details of the disaster. The Gilberts lost one shelter when a cocoanut tree fell, but secured another in a high stump of a booran tree.
The water, which had all but submerged them completely, now only reached their feet. The wind threatened to tear them from their position again and again, and so these Americans passed that awful night. In the morning the scene of horror that met their eyes on every side was harder to endure than the terrors of the night. Corpses, frightfully mutilated, were strewn about, and there were living beings with unsightly wounds. In some instances only one of a family survived.

The story of fatality in Morakau, ninety-five out of a hundred inhabitants perished, is likewise extremely sad, and so also with regard to the other islands where death occurred. It is likely that one-fifth of the entire population of the Tuamotu group succumbed. To aid the injured a temporary hospital was constructed and D. Brunati, acting administrator of the group rendered medical aid.

From the debris were secured tins containing foods etc., but naturally there was a scarcity of such as was not spoiled. Of the sixty-six sail boats all but one or two had been totally destroyed and these could not be sent to Tahiti, a distance of nearly 400 miles. About 1,000 survivors were in danger of starvation or perishing from thirst or disease. Shelterless, nude, weak and discouraged, it is to be wondered at that a few of the natives became looters of their neighbor's goods. However, on the whole, the order was commendable.

It is to the lasting credit of the Americans that the first relief from thirst came from them in the suggestion to distill water. The French administrator was at first skeptical, but finally allowed them to proceed with their experiment.
After a long search Mr. Gilbert's party secured two tanks and some frames of an iron bed for tubes, and erected a plant. With this primitive machinery 200 gallons of fresh water were distilled daily for some time. Supplies amounting to twenty tons sent from San Francisco and carried free by the steamship Mariposa, have been transferred to the French gunboat Zelee to be transported to the destitute natives. The merchants here have lost heavily through the insolvency of numerous creditors who perished in the gale. The merchants say their loss is more than half a million dollars.

Long Ride on Horseback.
Cheyenne, Wyo., March 17.—President Roosevelt carries out his plan to ride horseback from Laramie to Cheyenne during the western trip. Troop A. W. N. G. of this place, will be detailed to escort him. A cowly escort will also probably be provided. The fifty-seven mile run from Laramie to this place is filled with points of interest, including some very rugged scenery.

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Parkersburg, W. Va., March 18.—The Baltimore & Ohio railroad, claiming the right under an ordinance adopted in 1852 brought a force of men into town before daylight today and began to lay a track for five blocks over one of the principal streets of the city.
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FOR THE FARMERS

Elevator Site Bill Will Pass Both Houses—House Approves a Measure

Lincoln, Neb., March 18.—The legislature Tuesday did some important work, showing that it intends to pass a bill to require railroads to give the privileges desired by farmers' elevator companies. It forestalled the senate which was to act on a bill of the same nature introduced by a populist member, Senator Brady of Boone, and took up the bill introduced by Representative Ramsey.

Early in the session it was apparent that a bill of this character would be passed. The elevator combine has kept men constantly on the scene, but those who sought to head off the bill ran up against a stone wall. Petitions and requests came to the members every day for such legislation. No member was able to go to his home without hearing of the desire of the people. The railroads long ago decided to keep their hands off. In fact they have troubles of their own of a more serious nature. It is believed that the railroads would be glad to escape from the continual attempted dictation of the elevator trust and this bill will make escape possible.

The house by almost unanimous vote agreed to the Ramsey elevator bill, H. R. No. 70, in committee of the whole. The original bill was substituted for the committee amendment and the provision was added that elevators to be built under the act must represent an investment of \$2,000.

The two important sections of the bill as agreed upon and as it will pass the house, are as follows:
"Sections 1 of article 5, chapter 72, of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, is amended as follows:
Sec. 1. Every railroad corporation shall give to all persons and associations reasonable and equal terms for transportation of any merchandise or other property of every kind and description, upon any railroad owned or operated by such corporation within this state and for terminal handling, the use of the depot and other buildings and grounds of such corporation, and at any point where its railroad shall connect with any other railroad, reasonable and equal terms and facilities of interchange and shall promptly forward merchandise consigned or directed to be sent over another road connecting with its road according to the directions therein or accompanying the same; and every railroad company or corporation operating a railroad in the state of Nebraska shall afford equal facilities to all persons or associations who desire to erect or operate or who are engaged in operating grain elevators or in handling or shipping grain at or contiguous to any station of its road and shall supply side tracks and switch connections and shall supply cars and all facilities for erecting elevators and for handling and shipping grain to all persons erecting or operating such elevators or handling and shipping grain without favoritism or discrimination in any respect whatever. Provided however, that any elevator hereafter constructed, the construction of which shall cost not less than \$2,000.

The standing committee amendment to H. R. No. 70, which was turned down, is as follows:
"Section 1. Every railroad corporation shall give to all persons and associations reasonable and equal terms for the transferring of any merchandise or other property of every kind and description upon any railroad owned or operated by such corporation within this state, and every railroad company or corporation operating a railroad in the state of Nebraska shall afford equal facilities to all persons or associations who may erect and operate grain elevators at any station of its road and shall supply side tracks, switch connections, cars and all facilities for erecting and operating such elevators without favoritism or discrimination in any respect whatever. Provided however, that this act shall not apply to any elevator hereafter to be constructed the cost of the construction of which shall be less than \$3,000."

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NEBRASKA

George Henderson of Bostwick, one of the best known men in Nuckolls county, dropped dead one day last week in front of his house.

Wayne Methodist church has an eighteen hundred dollar pipe organ, the gift of Mrs. J. H. Pingrey of Wayne.

Henry Ferren died at his home near Smartville of dropsy. Mr. Ferren had been a resident of Johnson county for more than twenty years.

John Armstrong, of Nebraska City, charged with stealing \$72 from his father, was bound over to the September term of the district court in the sum of \$500.

Omaha Passenger No. 12 ran into the rear end of a freight train about three miles west of Minden, severely injuring Traveling Engineer C. A. Dixon of McCook. The way car and one freight car were consumed by fire. The wreck was due to the heavy fog.

The supreme court dismissed the appeal of Bishop Bonacum against Father Murphy of the Seward Catholic church, and affirmed the decision of the lower court, enjoining the bishop from interfering with the priest in the conduct of his charge.

Six cars loaded with coal, enroute to Beatrice from Manhattan, Kansas, jumped the track at Taylor's Siding a few miles south of Blue Springs. The track was completely torn up for about fifty yards. The accident was due to a rail spreading. No casualties occurred.

The coroner's inquest over the body of the dead fireman, Hynes, killed in the Gilmore wreck, which has been in session at Papillion for the past few days, was finished. The verdict of the jury was death by accident. This clears Operator Second and places the blame on no one.

Mr. Miller, who has been the agent for the Burlington in Tecumseh for the past fourteen years, has been granted an extended leave of absence and will locate on his farm near Blakesburg, Ia. Mr. Miller's health has been ailing for some time. J. D. Poe, formerly of Firth, has been named as Miller's successor.

The party of surveyors who have been at work on the northern section of the Burlington link from Ashland, to Sioux City, Ia., arrived at Home and will pitch their tents and remain for two weeks. The party working at Pender has been compelled to abandon work, owing to the high water.

The regular annual institute of the teachers of Cass and Sarpy counties will be held in Plattsmouth, beginning August 17. Those to assist in the work are: Former State Superintendent L. D. Harvey of Wisconsin S. superintendent James M. Caughlin of Wilkesboro, Pa., and Frank M. McMurray of Normal, Ill.

The north bound train on the B. & M. from Atchison was wrecked about two miles south of Nebraska City, and as a result twelve freight cars are completely wrecked. Brakeman S. T. Jensen was pinned down under a car and badly mangled. He was taken to the Neals hospital at Nebraska City, where he died.

Mrs. Warren Brittan of Callaway, is suffering from a severe case of blood poisoning. One of her fingers had been burned as she wore a mitten while the finger was sore. The red lining of the mitten poisoned the burn. At the present time one of her arms and the entire right side of her body are swollen. Light hope of her recovery is entertained.

Otto Hallstein, the 17 year old son of George Hallstein, was found dead at a railroad crossing one and half miles east of Seward. He had been to a dance at Bee and was returning home alone, and it is supposed that the fast freight on the B. & M., which passes Seward about 4 o'clock in the morning, struck him as he was crossing the track. The buggy was broken into pieces and the team went home, about eight miles. The body was not found until Leonard Hallstein, an older brother, drove from home to find out what the trouble was.

Last weeks delegates from Humboldt, Dawson, Porter, Nemaha and Salem telephone lines met in Humboldt and resolved to associate themselves under the name of the Richardson County Mutual Telephone company. Officers were elected as follows: Crush of Salem, president; Zook of Spenser, vice president; Hummel of Porter, treasurer; Page of Dawson, secretary.

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