

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

Mr. Carnegie's plan is to make every workman a capitalist. Then, of course, there would be a library in every house.

Pawnbrokers are planning to establish branch offices at the race tracks. This is bringing cause and effect close together.

Better hurry up with that Temple of Peace, and in letting the contracts arrange for a strong iron cage to keep the Russian bear in.

A man found a pocketbook and returned it to the owner, who accused him of taking \$100 out of it. This incident teaches that virtue is its own reward.

While we are commenting on the fact that employers and employees are becoming strongly organized let us not forget that the hapless consumer is still struggling to be heard as a mass of divided units.

Don't envy the rich man, says Philosopher Roosevelt. We don't. We'd much rather be ourselves than any rich man in the world. But we certainly would like to show the rich man how to get a run for his money.

Because a native interpreter got mixed in his translations a Belgian officer in the Kongo Free State shot him and then to keep his hand in slaughtered eighty other natives. Belgium is making the name "Kongo Free State" one of the greatest paradoxes in Christendom.

"Music hath charms to . . . soften a rock," as the saying goes. It can do more, for it was discovered in the Brooklyn navy-yard not long ago that it can move coal. At any rate, the men put more coal on board ship in a given time when the band played lively music than when it did not play at all.

America will have nothing but kind memories for Max O'Rell (Paul Blouet), who died in Paris recently. We laughed with this genial humorist when he satirized "John Bull and His Island," and we were not offended when he turned to "Jonathan and His Continent." He was an observer without guile. He saw what was to him the funny side of things, and in this he appealed to the American people more, perhaps, than any other foreign writer.

"College spirit" of a commendable kind seems to have been shown in a small Eastern city. A capitalist erected, near the college campus, a handsome dormitory, intended exclusively for rich students who could afford to pay for luxuries and attendance. But the collegians who patronized the place lost prestige, and it soon became evident that the capitalist had made a bad investment. Social exclusiveness and vulgar display belong in Vanity Fair, not in a democracy of learning.

Quarantine regulations, approved by Secretary Shaw recently, provide that no foreign-born mosquitoes shall be admitted to the United States. This is a novel and universally acceptable law restricting immigration. All ships coming from yellow-fever ports must be so thoroughly fumigated as to kill every mosquito, and if there are any passengers on board suffering from yellow or malarial fever, they must be covered with netting so that no mosquitoes may have access to them. The regulations restricting the immigration of mosquitoes could be supplemented by equally stringent rules for the destruction of the native product.

Boys who begin at the foot and work their way to the head are not peculiar to the United States. "William Crooks, M. P." is the present title of a man who began his career in an English workhouse, that is, poorhouse. Necessity drove him there, but at the first opportunity he got his discharge, and began to deliver milk on a regular route. What time he could get he gave to learning the trade of a cooper, and to school. Work and study together made him in time a member of the London City Council, chairman of the board of guardians of the very workhouse of which he was once an inmate, and now a member of Parliament for the division of Woolwich.

Dr. Barton made one of the most important discoveries of the century when he told the Congregationalists the other day that "football is a means of grace." He has observed that the organization of a football team has drawn many boys to Sabbath school, thus supplanting in its beneficent influence the Christmas tree and the annual Sunday-school picnic. For these functions are good for one Sabbath only, while the football allurements hold for a long and blessed season. A New York minister secured a large attendance at Sunday school by getting up boxing exhibitions and amateur prize fights, but the football idea, while more perilous, appeals to a higher public sentiment. If a soul can be saved by kicking its way into the paths of grace, who so narrow and bigoted as to protest? If boys scramble, one over another, in their anxiety to get into the rush line of salvation, who shall restrain them? All hail football, the new means of grace.

Attention was called in these columns some days ago, says the

Springfield (Mass.) Republican, to the letter of a Vermont farmer setting forth his entire inability to get hired help. He had been driven into a position where he must work himself to death, so to speak, or give up his farm, and similar cases in New England are doubtless to be counted by thousands. Western farmers are making louder complaints than ever for this cause. Ordinarily, in the region tributary to Chicago, a farm hand is paid from \$15 to \$18 a month, with board and lodging. This year \$25 is being offered, with extra inducements as to hours and privileges, but the desired help is not forthcoming in anything like the needed quantity. Something more than the unattractiveness of farm life at the moment enters into the problem. The demand for labor in manufacturing and transportation is now at a higher point probably than at any previous time during the present period of industrial revival. Production is taxed to its utmost. The great railroad companies of the country are planning extraordinary expenditures for improvements which will call for a large amount of extra labor, while the congestion of traffic is such as to force into employment every available hand for which room can be found. Labor in manufacturing and railroad is demanding higher wages or shorter hours with exceptional confidence that its place cannot be filled and that it has but to strike to bring employers to terms. Nor is this all that the farmer has to contend against. In the west there has been going on a speculation in farm lands and the opening of new tracts to settlement which has caused an emigration of regular farm help, tenants and sons of farmers from the older to the newer agricultural regions. The railroads have been active in forwarding the movement, extending it southward toward New Orleans and northward through the Dakotas into Canada—offering lands on favorable terms and transportation thereto, moving whole villages of people, with their household goods and farm implements, as colonies in newly-settled sections. The speculative spirit of the period is thus not confined to stocks and trust combinations and street railway extensions, but as usual at such times seizes upon even the agricultural classes and hurries off large numbers from established positions into pioneer land enterprises elsewhere. It is a time of extraordinary industrial activity and employment even for the boom period. Labor has been taken up into the boiling solution, as money has been taken up and floating capital, and the labor market is as tight as the money market in the more attractive lines of employment, which do not include the farm. So the farmer must suffer most from the situation.

WILD MAN OF BORNEO.

How Barnum Got the Idea of One of His Famous Freaks.

Joaquin Miller, the California poet and naturalist, was an intimate friend of P. T. Barnum. They met abroad many years ago and kept in touch until the great showman died. Many are the stories which the old poet liked to tell of his friend, "the great American humbug," and one of them is the true story of the greatest humbug which Barnum ever perpetrated—the Wild Man of Borneo.

"It came about through Mr. Barnum's love for temperance and his great kindness of heart," said the poet, in telling the story to a New York Tribune writer. "An old sailor who had been everywhere and seen everything came to Barnum one afternoon in Bridgeport, Conn., and asked him to buy some things which he had carved from wood on his last voyage across the Pacific. He was ragged, hairy, hungry and altogether a terrible specimen."

"Where have you been?" asked the showman.

"Been to Borneo," answered the old sailor.

"Well, you look it! Come in and sit down. We are just going to have supper."

"The sailor did come in, and after the meal begged Barnum to look him up in a cage, a cage with iron bars, that he might refrain from drinking! Thus was the 'Wild Man of Borneo' conceived, and every one who attended a Barnum show remembers what an object of interest he was to the small boys."

Melt Away Before Civilization.

The disappearance of aboriginal peoples before our advancing civilization, as seen in the islands of the Pacific, is being repeated in various settlements of the far north. In twenty years the inhabitants of Labrador have decreased from 30,000 to 15,000. The natives of southwestern Greenland now number but 10,000, and they require assistance from the Danish government. The extermination of the seal, walrus and polar bear by whalers has reduced the Alaskan Eskimo from perhaps 3,000 to about 500. The Eskimo at Smiths Sound, who a dozen years ago numbered 800, are reported by Peary as being reduced to about 200.

Alexander Selkirk.

A Philadelphia genius claims to have perfected a noiseless typewriter. We fail to see the advantage of such a machine if a woman is employed to operate it.

DICK BERLIN DEAD

HE WAS A POPULAR MAN IN OMAHA AND KNOWN IN LINCOLN.

DEATH CAUSED BY GAS

THE DEADLY FUMES ESCAPED FROM A SMALL STOVE.

AN ACCIDENTAL DEMISE

Body Was Found Lying in the Dead Man's Office and His Death Had Come Sunday Afternoon—He Was Formerly Legislator.

(From Lincoln Star.)

Omaha, Neb., July 15.—Richard S. Berlin, who was one of the best known and most popular men about town, was found dead in his office at 9 o'clock this morning. Death was due to illuminating gas, which escaped from the open cock of a small gas stove in an adjoining apartment. Life evidently had been extinct since about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The discovery of the tragedy was made by Dr. H. R. Foster, an intimate friend, who has an adjoining office, and Robert W. Patrick, a cousin, who had called on a business errand.

Berlin was seated in his arm chair at his desk, where he had written two letters. His pen was held firmly in his hand and his chin rested on his breast. The attitude was one of ease, as though he had fallen asleep. The body was cold and stiff and the physicians say death had come at least from eight to ten hours previous.

There is no evidence to show that the cause of Mr. Berlin's death was other than accidental. His financial affairs were in good condition, while his personal and family connections were all of a happy character. All the windows were closed, save the door from the small room containing a gas stove. Not the slightest sign could be found that he was tired of life. He had planned to leave for Colorado yesterday afternoon to transact some business connected with the sale of a gold mine, which eastern parties had agreed to purchase for a sum approximating \$5,000.

In front of him on his desk was a letter written to his sister, Alda, which closed:

"My head is hurting, so will close and hurry to Happy Hollow. Always the same—Dick."

He had struggled to address the envelope, but succeeded in making only an illegible scrawl.

The letter is written in a light, cheerful vein and begins by saying that the writer had had breakfast, a shave, read the morning papers and would write as he had just time before going to "Happy Hollow," the home of Mr. Patrick in Dundee, for dinner. There he said he would enjoy the dinner, as he had a headache, but he surmised, to sleeping too long.

The last seen of Berlin alive was just before noon Sunday, when he stepped into the office of Dr. Foster to telephone Mr. Patrick that he would be out for dinner. So far as is known he had no visitors after returning to the office. He had removed his hat, coat and vest, but otherwise was fully dressed. If there had been water in the vessel on the gas stove it must have evaporated before the flame was blown out, as none was left this morning.

"Dick" Berlin was about 40 years old. For years he had been engaged in the real estate business and was president of the Berlin company, which dealt in securities and financial obligations. During the last twenty-five years he has been a familiar and well-known personage in local politics, and at various times held several elective and appointive offices. He was the son of the late Jonathan Berlin, a successful farmer near Irvington, and came to Omaha with his family when he was 9 years old, having been born in Pittsburg.

Army Officer.

Washington, July 15.—General Corbin has approved the recommendation of General Bates in the case of Lieut. William K. McCue, First Infantry, and the officer is now on his way to Elizabeth's hospital for the insane in this city. The papers in the case have been received at the war department and show that the surgeon who examined McCue pronounced him insane. Among the papers is one tendering his resignation as an officer while in the Philippines and another written about the same time saying that he was insane. McCue is the officer who was married in San Francisco although having a wife in Cincinnati.

New King May Not Last Long

Bucharest, Roumania, July 15.—It is told that the Servian authorities have unearthed a conspiracy to avenge the late King Alexander. A lieutenant of a frontier garrison has been arrested and charged with making threats against Colonel Maschin. A search of the lieutenant's quarters disclosed evidences that twelve officers had formed a league to take vengeance upon the regicides.

MUST BE A REMEDY.

LYNCHING OF NEGROES BECOMING TOO PREVALENT.

Milwaukee, Wis., July 1.—"Every man who participates in the lynch-log or the burning of a negro is a murderer pure and simple."

This opinion was given by Associate Justice David G. Brewer of the United States supreme court, who is in the city on private business.

"Of course," explained Judge Brewer, "there may be extenuating circumstances which would vary the degree of the crime, but the principal participants in the crime can be held by any court in the land for murder in the same degree as if the crime was committed by an individual."

"There is going to be a reaction against the atrocious crimes with which the papers have been filled. The fact that the people are now interesting themselves in the discussion of this problem makes manifest the fact that there is a tendency toward a change. I expect that it will soon come. I cannot say what form it will take, but there will be an uprising of popular feeling in legislation or a remedy of some other form."

Mechanics Return to Work.

New York, July 14.—Some 20,000 skilled mechanics in the skilled trades went to work today under the modified plans of the employers' association.

This number will be increased to 50,000 by Wednesday, unions with that membership having voted to accept the terms of the employers, one of the effects of which is to do away with walking delegates and refer all disputes to a joint board of arbitration.

With the mechanics a large number of laborers returned to work and operations were resumed by material supply men.

The united board of building trades held a long and stormy meeting today. The four unions that accepted the plan of arbitration offered by the building trades employers as in, and which placed their men back at work today were expelled from the board. These four unions are: The Mosaic and Encaustic tile layers' union, the Hexogen labor club, the tile layer's helpers, the electrical workers' union, and the united cement masons' union.

Jump from Burning Car.

New York, July 14.—Fifteen persons have been hurt by falling into the subway excavation at Lenox avenue and One hundred and Twenty-fifth street, after jumping from a burning trolley car on which they had a thrilling ride of several blocks, while the motorman was making desperate efforts to reach a fire engine house. The car was filled with about eighty passengers, mostly women and children. When they discovered the fire many tried to jump, but the motorman put on full power. He had not gone two blocks before the car was enveloped in flames. The conductor saw there was danger of burning the whole carload of passengers and rang the bell.

The car came to a stop right over the excavation for the subway. The passengers piled off on top of one another. The planking over the hole collapsed and about twenty-five persons were carried down. Those at the bottom were severely bruised, but only one was in a serious condition.

Books Indicate Shortage.

New York, Frank S. Pilditch, for eighteen years New York manager of the Wardlaw Steel company of Sheffield, England, was arrested on two indictments charging grand larceny and subsequently released in \$5,000 bail. Marmaduke Wardlaw of the firm came to this country last April to look into the company's affairs. He found Pilditch had disappeared a day or two before his arrival and the books with him. The books were found later, and it is said showed a shortage of more than \$70,000. Through counsel Pilditch offered to return and pay up the alleged shortage in order to avoid arrest. He was arrested yesterday at the office of his counsel.

Sites Are Chosen.

Washington, July 14.—Secretary Shaw today approved selections of property for public building sites at Grand Island and York, Neb. At Grand Island the government accepted the site offered by Emma Jaus, located at the southwest corner of Locust and Second streets, 132 by 132 feet, price \$9,500. At York the site offered by George W. Post, at the corner of Grant avenue and Seventh street, 120 by 125 feet, purchased for \$9,000.

Comet Growing in Magnitude.

San Jose, Cal., July 14.—Prof W. W. Campbell, of Lick observatory, gave out the following: "The comet discovered by Borely at Marselles three weeks ago has been under observation by various members of the Lick observatory staff. It promises to be an unusually interesting object. Its brightness has increased very rapidly until it is now very visible as a fourth magnitude star."

TO CRUSH THE JEW

POLICY OF RUSSIA MAKES LIFE UNBEARABLE

AMERICA HIS ONLY REFUGE

MADE FOOTBALL OF OLD WORLD FANATICISM

HAVE RIGHT TO PROTEST

Sport of the Rabble and the Buffer Against Which Strikes the Wrath of Savagery and Intolerance

Atlanta City N. J., July 13.—John B. Weber of Buffalo, N. Y., late commissioner of immigration at the port of New York, and chairman of the special commission authorized by congress in 1888 to investigate in Europe the causes inciting immigration to this country, was a speaker today before the Jewish Chautauqua on the subject of "The Status of the Jews in Russia."

In his address Mr. Weber charged the Russian restrictive laws as being responsible for the misery and persecution of which people read and hear. He stated that there would be no peace, no substantial relief for the sufferers until the total disappearance from Russia of either the Jew or the special laws directed against him.

Taking up the laws regarding the right of residence which the speaker characterized as especially hard and oppressive, he briefly sketched the history of the official decrees regulating the area within which the Jews were permitted to live during the past forty years.

Summing up the status of the Jew in Russia, Mr. Weber said:

"Today he is an alien in the land of his birth, a subject who bears an undue share of the burdens of good government without the privileges of its meaneast citizens. Fettered in his movements, handicapped in his vocation, restricted in his educational opportunities, he is unable to protect himself and powerless to successfully invoke the protection of the authorities, a slave without the self-interest of a master to shield him from abuse—he stands helpless against brute force egged on not only by religious intolerance, but by contending forces that strive to strengthen the government on the one hand and to destroy it on the other, the irrepressible conflict between government by autocracy and government by the people. The Jew is therefore the sport of the rabble the spoil of the official, the football of fanaticism, the buffer against which strikes the wrath of bigotry, intolerance and savagery."

Mr. Weber asserted strongly the moral obligation and the legal right of the United States to protest to the Russian government against its treatment of Jews and said:

"We cannot look with unconcern upon the arrival of the thousands of hunted, terror stricken human beings who come to us crushed in spirit and impoverished in substance, to enter into competition with our respected and self-respecting labor. Neither is it an answer to say that we have the remedy in our own hands by closing our ports against these people. This would violate our very instinct of humanity, and would war against the policy which has made this country great and prosperous, and which will continue to add to our progress and prosperity, if immigration is confined to normal causes alone."

Referring to a hope that a considerable part of this stream from Russia may be directed to other lands, Mr. Weber quoted the statement of an emigrant at Kovno:

"I am going to America, for in that direction lies hope. Here I have only fears to comfort me. The hope may prove delusive, but the fears are a certainty. My great ambition is to breathe at least once the free air with which God has blessed the American people."

"These," said the speaker, "are the words of an uncultured Jew, and these are the sentiments in the heart of every Jew in Russia."

Mr. Weber called attention to those of the Jewish faith of the grave responsibilities falling upon them due to the persecutions of their co-religionists, in receiving the thousands who flee from their oppressors in adding to establish them in work and business so that they will become self-sustaining; in distributing them so they will not by congestion become a menace.

Swept by Furious Storm

Beaver City, Neb., July 13.—A terrific electrical and wind storm prevailed here Sunday afternoon, lasting for about forty-five minutes, in which time two and one-fourth inches of rain fell. The wind blew with great violence, doing much damage to small buildings, windmills, and to the wheat crop just ready for harvest. The union Salvation army of Kansas and Nebraska, now holding a campmeeting here, suffered much loss.

Nebraska Notes

General Passenger Agent J. Francis of the Burlington has gone to Kansas City for a few days.

General Manager G. W. Holdrege of the Burlington has gone to Denver.

Travelling Passenger Agent S. R. Stimson of the Grand Trunk is in the city.

Tom Hughes, travelling passenger agent for the Missouri Pacific, has returned from St. Louis.

The Rhea evidence was gone over again at Lincoln yesterday. Rhea is resigned to his fate.

Alex Scott and P. O. Woodland have been re-elected to the school board at Stromsburg.

Alex McQueen and Amos Gates have been elected members of the school board at Silver Creek.

Charles O. Cox and Lulu C. Moffitt of Maryville, Mo., were married in Plattsmouth yesterday by County Judge J. E. Douglas.

Johnnie, the ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Andrews of Beatrice, fell from a tree and broke his left forearm and was otherwise bruised about the body.

Giltner shut Minden out in a well played game of ball. Score 6 to 0. The feature of the game was the pitching by Wanek for Giltner. Umpire, Brown.

At the home of the bride's parents at Plattsmouth Robert E. Long and Miss Adella T. Osborne were married by Rev. J. T. Baird. The happy couple departed on an evening train for a visit with the groom's parents in Iowa.

After an illness of seven years Mrs. Carl Gehm of Norfolk died a few miles north of that city yesterday afternoon. She leaves a son and daughter in Norfolk. Her funeral was held in the German Lutheran church at Hadar.

The Scotia ball team will play the Loup City ball team at St. Paul on July 4. Scotia is not celebrating this year, consequently most of the people from here expecting to celebrate will follow the ball team to St. Paul.

George E. Weissman, the man who committed suicide at Wayne yesterday afternoon, has been in Norfolk since May 14, conducting a cigar store. He left Norfolk on Tuesday noon, apparently in a cheerful mood. His friends are unable to account for his suicide.

At 11 o'clock yesterday at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wosika, of Beatrice, occurred the marriage of their daughter, Miss Emma Wosika, to George Francis Ashton, Rev. M. M. Merki officiating. After the ceremony the couple, who are among Beatrice's most popular young people, received the congratulations of their friends, immediately followed by a wedding dinner which was served in four courses. Mr. and Mrs. Ashton left on the afternoon Burlington train for a wedding tour of a few weeks and will be at home to their friends in this city after August 1.

'SUMMER FOOD'

Has Other Advantages.

Many people have tried the food, Grape-Nuts simply with the idea of avoiding the trouble of cooking food in the hot months.

All of these have found something beside the ready cooked food idea, for Grape-Nuts is a scientific food that tones up and restores a sick stomach as well as repairs the waste tissues in brain and nerve centers.

"For two years I had been a sufferer from catarrh of the stomach due to improper food, and to relieve this condition I had tried nearly every prepared food on the market without any success until six months ago my wife purchased a box of Grape-Nuts, thinking it would be a desirable cereal for the summer months."

"We soon made a discovery, we were enchanted with the delightful flavor of the food, and to my surprise I began to get well. My breakfast now consists of a little fruit, four teaspoonfuls of Grape-Nuts, a cup of Postum, which I prefer to coffee; graham bread or toast and two boiled eggs. I never suffer the least distress after eating this and my stomach is perfect and general health fine. Grape-Nuts is a wonderful preparation. It was only a little time after starting on it that wife and I both felt stronger. This has been our experience."

"P. S.—The addition of a little salt in place of sugar seems to me to improve the food." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Send for particulars by mail of extension of time on the \$7,500.00 cooks' contest for 735 money prizes.