TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

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

A leader is never afraid of being alone.

Honor is too big a price to pay for any honor.

When the devil is driving you he is willing you should boast that you are leading him.

J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., says that if you live long enough you are bound to win, a remarkably profound statement.

No woman ever becomes quite strong-minded enough not to want some man to give her away at the altar.

Perhaps the Chicago doctor who thinks bathing shortens life bases his theory upon the fact that tramps never seem to die off.

Secretary Root says the average American does not know how to shoot. Has the Secretary overlooked the story about Chicago's boy bandits?

After all Professor Langley may be trying to invent a new kind of submarine boat, merely using the word "aerodrome" as a subterfuge.

In Wales there are 500,000 people who can't speak English. But that's nothing. In London alone there are 500,000 people who can't speak English "as she should be spoke."

A certain German professor may or may not be interested in the fluctuations of oil stock, but it looks a little queer when he comes out and claims that there is radium in petroleum.

John D. Rockefeller is said to be disappointed because his new grandchild is a girl. Probably he is afraid she will grow up to write magazine articles about the Standard Oil Company.

With so many English-speaking people studying Spanish, and so many Spanish-speaking people studying English, a compromise may be looked for that will present weird opportunities for the dialect writer.

Announcement is made of the fact that the Standard Oil Company is going to open up for business in Roumania. Neither Russia nor Turkey may expect hereafter to get possession of that country.

The desecration of Sunday by the pursuit of secular labor common to the grind of the other six days in the week is a sin, not only against the command of him who prescribed its observance in refraining from work, but it involves the sin of self-slaughter, only differing in degree from the sudden, violent death that we name suicide.

According to the internal revenue report there are no less than 26,423 cigar factories and 517 cigarette factories in this country and they turned out last year 6,787,458,108 cigars and 3,258,883,303 cigarettes for domestic consumption. Of course these figures are exclusive of all tobacco smoked in pipes, as well as of imported cigars and cigarettes. Are we smoking too much? These statistics seem to point that way.

King Edward made a fresh manifestation of his tact and kindliness recently by sending a letter inquiring as to the condition of a member of Parliament who had undergone an operation for appendicitis. The king said that as he had been subjected to a severe operation for the same malady, he had a fellow feeling for all who had to endure similar suffering. His act was the more noteworthy from the fact that the member is a prominent representative of a party which does not look with favor on kings or on an aristocracy.

No interest in the country has a brighter outlook than that of agriculture. It is only within the last twenty years that farming has been conducted upon anything like a scientific basis. Formerly the squatter on the plains worked his land with no conception of the proper rotation of crops or of the replenishment of the hidden springs of production; now, by the aid of agricultural colleges in nearly every State in the Union, by the co-operation of the efficient department of agriculture at Washington and the application of modern farm machinery, the farmer is enabled to double his gains from the soil.

Speed is likely to be the greatest discovery of the twentieth century. Indeed, motion especially adapted to transportation seems to be our greatest aim. We still remember the thrill with which we heard of the sixty-mile-an-hour train. It was nothing short of wonderful. Then came seventy miles and ninety miles. Early this year a mono-railroad between Manchester and Liverpool, England, put the record up to 110 miles an hour. We had hardly become accustomed to this, hardly passed the stage of regarding it as a freak, when from Germany came the news that on the Marienfeld-Zossen military road an electric car made a speed of over 125 miles an hour. The news came with the statement that even higher records were expected, an expectation that was realized a few days later in the highest record yet obtained—130 2-3 miles an hour.

There is far more than mere sentiment in that good old adage that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." Illustration is found in the case of Gustav Marx, the young Chicago desperado, whose gang has put eight murders and innumerable robberies to its credit in the last six months. "I was just wondering," Marx said in jail, "whether I was the victim of a criminal mind, inbred, or whether sheer recklessness was responsible for my lawlessness. Then it dawned upon me it was none of these. It was simple idleness." No doubt he has hit the bullseye of truth. The mind that is not occupied with useful employment will go to the bad, just as a garden not cultivated will grow up in weeds. In the reformatory at Jefferson, Ind., a census taken of the last 500 prisoners who entered the institution showed that 406 had no trades, 66 were illiterate, 251 had not reached the third grade of the public schools and 252 were out of employment at the time the crime was committed. The daily grind in any court of crime is but a continued story of idleness—not wanton idleness, but a lack of knowledge of how to produce something. When the habit of idleness is once acquired, means are found, legitimate or otherwise, to pursue it. Its followers take what they have not earned; they have nothing healthy to think about, no wholesome aspirations, no good incentives, and petty things are found over which to quarrel, and unnatural things secure the retention of the mind. It is labor which sets us in right relations to our fellows. It is labor which fits us into our niche in life. It is labor which brings us into real sympathy with the spirit of humankind. Labor is at once the mainsail and the compass in the voyage of life. Labor is as necessary to healthy morals as it is to a healthy mind. It gives us moral perspective while propelling us onward and upward. Labor is the best moral and mental tonic that there is. It develops, strengthens and contents. It stimulates purpose and generates hope. It puts the powers and qualities of man to their intended use and makes him a part of universal harmony. Labor is life. Idleness is death.

There is much interest in Iowa over the question of race suicide, because of the recent array of suicidal statistics with which the State has been furnished. The superintendent of schools for Polk County has published a report which shows that there has been a falling off in the school population of Des Moines. This was followed by a report from the State Board of Health which indicated that while there was an increase of marriages there was a decrease of births, and finally the State superintendent of public instruction has taken part in the grewsome revelations by producing figures which would seem to prove that the school population of the entire State has decreased by 46,381 since 1900. The last-named official, however, is in a dubious frame of mind. After referring to the theory that "the higher the degree of intelligence of any people the smaller the families," and pointing with pride to the large percentage of literacy in Iowa, which may be taken in connection with the decrease of population to illustrate the truth of the theory, he adds: "But I am not convinced that more painstaking work by the federal or school census enumerators will not completely disprove the theory so far as this State is concerned." Possibly the work is inaccurate, but the conditions which are noted are not peculiar to Iowa. A writer for The Nineteenth Century who made a study of our census reports some time since declared that the population of the United States would decline if it were not for immigration. He cited figures to prove that both in the East and in the West growth came from foreign additions. "According to the census of 1900 the population of Massachusetts was 2,805,346, of which 1,743,710 were foreign born." Again: "The population of Illinois is 4,821,550. Of these 966,747 are foreign born and 1,498,473 of foreign parentage." And generally speaking "from 1850 onwards the foreign birth rate has gained on the American birth rate." It would appear then that the tendency of the country is unmistakably toward small families, but it is by no means proved that this is what the writer calls it, "the weak spot in the republic." That is another question, and there is a wide difference of opinion over the general proposition that large families are desirable.

A Mistake.

"If you only knew it," said the patron to the cigar man, "that wooden Indian is a mistake.'

"How so?"

"Why, it indicates that you cater to the Indian trade, and any old plug tobacco will satisfy an Indian. Why don't you put out a sign that will catch the discriminating smoker?"

"I've thought of that," replied the cigar man. "I thought of putting the figure of a real swell out there, but the fashions change so fast that he wouldn't be a swell more than two weeks. That's where the Indian has an advantage as a sign."—Chicago Post.

An Impossible Situation.

Flipper—Why does he object to his wife going out alone in her motor car?

Flapper—Because he can't see how one unmanageable thing can manage another.—Modern Society.

A woman objects to serial stories because she can never tell how they are going to end until they are finished.

NOW IN TRIM FOR FIGHT

RUSSIAN FLEET EQUIPPED FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE.

Increase Tension at Tokio as Result of Long Delay at St. Petersburg in Answering Japan's Note.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A dispatch from Vladivostock dated toady, and issued here by a semi-official agency, says the Russian fleet at Vladivostock had been fully equipped for immediate service and prepared for sea. All the wood fittings of the ships were removed yesterday. The harbor is being kept open by the breakers. The fleet consists of four cruisers, the Cromoboi (of 12,336 tons), the Russia (of 12,130 tons), the Bogatyr (f 6,700 tons,) and the Rurik (of 10,923 tons), and a transport, the Lena.

The czar now has before him the report of the special council on the Russian response. All the papers relating thereto were submitted to him yesterday by the Grand Alexis, and the czar is giving them earnest consideration. He had not rendered his decision up to 6 o'clock this evening, and it is authoritively said it may possibly be several days before the response is forwarded to Tokio.

Prices on the bourse are a gain weak 4 per cents falling point.

Prince Khilkoff, the minister of communications, has started today on a tour of inspection of the Siberian and Trans-Baikal railways.

"The announcement of the Russian mobilization proceedes the Russian response, as a warning to Japan," says the Bourse Gazette today.

Dollar Wheat a Reality.

CHICAGO.—One dollar wheat in the sample room of the board of trade became an actuality today. The fact that the price which has long been attained gave adde stimulus to the efforts of the bull leaders in the pits and shortly after the dollar mark was reached in the sample prices the wheat, corn and oat pits established new records, eclipsing previous high marks for the year.

An advance of 2⅜ to 2½ cents a bushel was made today in the price of wheat. The May option sold up to 94⅛ cents. Manipulation of the market by Armour interests was credited with being a leading cause of the sharp rise, but a reason of perhaps greater potency was the increasing evidence of the imminence of war in the orient. The close was at 93⅝ to 93¾.

Other cereal markets jumped even more excitedly to new high record prices for the season. The May delivery of corn showed a gain of 3⅛ cents a bushel. The option touched 55 cents and the close was practically at the top.

Oats advanced 1⅜ and 1½c, selling at 6¼c for May delivery. Provisions shared in the general advance.

The market continued to gain in strength as the session advanced. Shorts were active buyers and there appeared to be no let up in buying by the bull leader. Within the last half hour of trading May wheat sold at 94⅜c, a gain of 2⅜ and 2½c over yesterday's close. Realizing sales caused some reaction and final figures were at 93⅝ @ 95¾, a gain of 2c for the day. July closed at 84¾c, a net gain of 1⅜c.

May corn continued to advance. The feature in trading was the apparent scarcity of offerings. Just before the close of the price of May touched 55 cents, which was a gain of 3⅛ cents over yesterday's close. Final figures were practically at the top at 54⅞@ 55 cents.

Oats advanced along with other grains, but the situation in that pit was not quite so bullish as in wheat and corn. The May delivery sold up to 46¼ cents and 1⅜ lot 1½ cents above last night's close. Final figures were at 45⅞ cent, a net gain of 1 to 1⅛ cents.

See Danger of Deadlock.

INDIANAPOLIS.—After another day of argument no agreement has been reached by the scale committee of the joint conference between the miners and operators of the central competitive disrict. The operators have abandoned their specific demand for 15 per cent reduction in wages, but insist upon "a substantial decrease." The miners have, it is said, decided to abandon their first demands and will agree to a compromise renewing the present scale and conditions. A subscale committee of sixteen has been appointed consisting of two operators and two miners from each of the four districts.

Accused of Robbing Bank.

ALTAMONT, Mo.—A warrant has been sworn out for the arrest of Lee DeFord, cashier of the Bank of Altamont, charged with embezzlement of $21,000 of its funds, but he left the city before it could be served. The bank has been placed in the hands of John Meade as temporary receiver. DeFord, who is thirty years old and married, is the son of a wealthy Altamont man. It is believed he lost the money in speculation.

FIX THE WAR PAY

JAPAN TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARD TROUBLE.

ORDINANCE NOW ISSUED

RUSSIA IN MEANTIME EXPERIENCING AWAKENING.

Dearth of Reliable News at Tokio, But No Change for Better Expected—Answer Certainly This Week.

LONDON.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times cables that an ordinance has been issued fixing the war pay of men in the army and navy.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Nagasaki says in a dispatch that Japanese refugee from Port Arthur, Port Dalny and Hardin, report the arrival already of one Russian division on the Yulu river. According to the Seoul correspondent of the Times, reports have been received from Ping Yang Korea saying that armed soldiers have been guilty of robbery and house breaking there and the missionaries declare the anti-foreign feeling to be increasing.

A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Tokio says the Russian answer has not yet arrived there and that there is an absolute dearth of reliable news, but the dispatch adds: "Well informed persons continue indisposed to expect a satisfactory answer from Russia."

One of the highest Japanese officials in London, who has been intimately acquainted with every detail of the Russo-Japanese negotiations up to the present, made the following statement to the Associated Press this evening.

"I am convinced that the delay in sending Russia's reply is not for the purpose of enabling the Russian government to make further preparations for war, but that Count Lamsdorff is honestly trying to bring the matter in dispute to anamicable settelment. The delay clearly means that a final struggle is going on between the peace and war parties in Russia. I hope, and I think, I may add, that I believe the peace party will triumph. The crux of the whole matter is Russia's assurances regarding Chinese sovereignty over Manchuria. On other points Japan may agree to certain modifications, but unless Russia gives an assurance, binding and in writing, regarding Manchuria, Japan will break off the negotiations and adopt measures to safe guard her interests. Japan is sincerely anxious for peace, notwithstanding reports to the contrary, and if Russia gives the reasonable assurance asked for there will be no war. Otherwise peace cannot be maintained."

Wind in a Fury.

DENVER, Col.—High winds prevailed along the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains in Colorado, Wyoming, and much damage to the city was wrought. In Denver two men lost their lives as a direct result of the gale, they coming into contact with a trolley wire broken by the wind.

Reports are being received from points in northern Colorado telling of the destruction of farm buildings and hay stacks in the country districts, and the falling of trees, small buildings, chimneys, etc., in the towns. In some places the force of the wind was so great that smal stones were blown about promiscuously, shattering windows and injuring people. Numerous fires were started but as yet no reports of serious losses from this source have been received.

An illustration of the great force of the wind in Clear Creek Canon is seen in the derailing of a Colorado & Southern passenger train coming from Georgetown to Denver.

Predictions Of Deadlock.

INDIANAPOLIS,—The Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and western Pennsylvania coal operators' and miners' joint scale committee got to work today on the counter demands presented in open joint conference last week. Both sides indicated before going into conference that they did not expect to refer any report back to the general joint conference before Wednesday. Both operators and miners fear a disruption of the present central competitive field agreement, and there are today indications that it will begin with the Illinois operators forming a settlement with the miners on practically their full demands.

Favors Chamberlain Policy.

WINNIPEG, Man.—Premier Roblin has given notice of a motion which he will make before the legislature namely: "That this house strongly commends and endorses the policy advocated by the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, involving certain fiscal changes within the empire, and the opinion that the inauguration and putting into practical effect of such policy would be of importance and benefit to the people of Manitoba."

PUTS OFF PENDING CRISIS

RUSSIA FURTHER DELAYS FINAL ANSWER TO JAPAN.

Thursday Now Set as Day of Definite Results—Japanese Minister at London in the Dark as to Probable Tenor of Reply.

PARIS.—Another delay has occurred in framing and forwarding the Russian answer to the latest Japanese note, and this will result in further averting the cumination of the crisis until the middle or the latter part of this week.

The official advices received here from St. Petersburg today, although somewhat negative, gave definite details of the status of the note and the program it was intended to follow. Count Lamsdorff, the Russian foreign minister, had expected that the exchanges going on would have permitted the final drafting of the answer so that it could have been presented to the czar yesterday for his approval, but the expectation was not realized, and, as a matter of act, the answer has not yet been finally drafted. It was, therefore, determined to defer its submission to the czar until next Tuesday or Wednesday. Efforts are still being made to so shape this answer as to prevent a rupture.

This new delay is interpreted as slightly improving the situation, as it indicates that Russia is making extreme efforts to bring the answer within limits acceptable to Japan.

Owing to the fact that the Russian answer is not completed, it is pointed out that the reports concerning its general terms must be taken with allowances, as the delay indicates that some points which presented the most serious difficulties may yet be reconciled.

Throughout the past week the authorities here have been kept fully advised of the general tendencies of Russia, but they have not known whether or no these tendencies would be incorporated in the answer by which Russia would irrevocably abide.

It is understood that the empress of Russia has an affection of the ear, which may necessitate an operation. This fact is considered as having some bearing upon the time when the answer will be submitted to the czar for approval. In any event, officials here are confident that definite results will be known next Thursday.

LONDON.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain informed the associated press last night that his government did not know what Russia's answer would be, and that it was, therefore, impossible to say whether a war was probable or not. The fact that the Russian reply had not yet been dispatched showed, according to Baron Hayashi, that Russia's decision had not yet been taken, as it was hardly probable, if a decision had been reached, that the note should be delayed.

Many Suits Against City.

CHICAGO.—Personal injury suits amounting $38,666,952 are pending against the city of Chicago, according to the report of City Attorney John F. Smulski, made public today. The council, the legisalture and finally the people are appealed to for relief. Sidewalk injuries caused the majority of the suits.

Mr. Smulski, in his report, shows that the interests combining to loot the city in this way amount practically to an organization. Names of lawyers, mostly young men and doctors occur with great frequency in the list of suits. The city attorney says the piling up of suits will inevitably continue for some years even should the city at once begin to tear up every wooden sidewalk.

The city attorney says the main cause of this condition is the deplorable state of the city's finances, which makes it impossible to care properly for its streets and sidewalks. The remedy, he says, is a new city charter. The many judgments awarded against the city are pointed out, and Attorney Smulski says that unless favorable action is taken in regard to a new charter inevitable bankruptcy will result.

Grant His Appeal.

WASHINGTON.—Senator Dietrich today asked the senate to investigate his case without delay and the request was granted. A strong special committee was appointed for the purpose. Tomorrow it is expected Senator Dietrich will offer a resolution providing for the expense of the hearing and of the summoning of persons to testify.

Fatal Fire at New York.

NEW YORK.—One fireman was killed and twenty-five fireman were overcome by smoke in a fire in a storehouse of the American manufacturing company in Brooklyn tonight. Nine of the men who were overcome were so seriously affected that they were taken to hospitals. One of them is expected to die. The storehouse contained jute, Manila hemp and bagging. The property loss amounts to about $25,000.

ANSWER IS SENT

PEACE ON WAR IN FAR EAST WILL SOON BE KNOWN.

REPLY TO ULTIMATUM

RUSSIA'S RESPONSE NOW ON THE WAY TO TOKIO.

Ominous Rumors in London Cause Rates On War Risk to Bound Upward—Russian Fleet Sails Away.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Russian response to the latest Japanese ultimatum was sent to Tokio tonight.

LONDON.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Tokio says: "The general impression here is that all hope of peace is gone. The elder statesmen had a conference this afternoon, at which the emperor was present. It is believed a weighty decision was reached."

A dispatch to the Central News agency from Seoul, Korea, says that about 6,000 Russian troops have sailed from Port Arthuh and will endeavor to land at Chemulpo, the port of Seoul tomorrow.

The aminous rumors circulating here of the imminence of hostilities in the far east caused the rates on war risks at Lloyd's to bound upward today from 40 to 70 guineas per cent.

All the Russian warships, except one, which is undergoing repairs, are reported to have left Port Arthur yesterday. Their destination is unknown.

It has been repeatedly intimated by the authorities at Peking, according to the London Globe's Shanghai correspondent, that in the event of China abandoning Manchuria the powers would be compelled to safeguard their respective interests in the remaining provinces, "regardless of China's psuedo sovereignty."

ST. PETERSBURG.—Nothing is known here officially regarding the reported departure of the Russian fleet from Port Arthur. The report is attributed to the fact that possibly a few of the ships have gone on a short cruise.

Advices received here from Korea say that the feeling of panic is general there and that depression prevails at all the seaports, where massacres of foreigners are apprehended. Europeans are preparing to send their families to Shanghai.

Every steamer from Japan conveys to Korea many Japanese officers and soldiers in disguise, and their presence in such numbers is regarded by the Russians as being a secret occupation of Korea.

Sixty doctors have left St. Petersburg during the last few days for Harbin, Manchuria.

SUEZ, Egypt.—The Russian battle ship Oslabay, the transport Saraff and three torpedo boat destroyers sailed today for the far east.

TIEN TSIN.—In the event of an outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan the railroad administration has arranged to bring the rolling stock of the extra-Mural line inside the Chinese gate wall. Russia has ordered another 20,000 tons of China kaping coal for delivery at Port Arthur, making 70,000 tons in a week. It is pointed out here that if war breaks out soon the coal will hardly reach its destination, as the stocks are low and steamers scarce.

It is said the Russians are building a railroad to connect Mukden with Sin-Min-Tang, thirty miles from Mukden, on the railroad running from Shan Hai Kai and Tein Tsin.

Liquor Dealers Indicated.

KANSAS CITY.—Wholesale indictments by the federal grand jury of express agents in Kansas City, throughout Kansas and in the prohibition counties of Texas and of liquor dealers who have been shipping liquor into these prohibition states are imminent, the result of a movement started by John, W. Yerkes, commissioner of internal revenue at Washington. The local agents of three large wholesale liquor houses, it was announced today, were indicted yesterday and arrested, but released on their recognizance, and additional bills will it is said, be found against the agent of every express company in Kansas City, in the state of Kansas and in the prohibition counties of Texas who have acted as agents for the liquor houses in selling whisky as fast as the evidence against them can be presented.

Issue a Convention Call.

CHICAGO.—The official call for the prohibition national convention, which is to convene in Tomlinson hall in Indianapolis June 29, was issued tonight by Oliver W. Stewart, chairman of the national committee. It fixes the basis of representation as follows: Each state and territory to have four delegates at large; each state is entitled to an additional delegate for every two hundred votes or major faction thereof, cast for F. G. Wooley for president in 1900.