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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

AFTER a long consideration of means for stopping a ship suddenly when emergency requires, a German inventor has hit the principle of a recoil of a gun as the only feasible basis for experiment. He proposes to fasten on the front of the ship an immense cannon charged with some powerful explosive and ready to be fired by electricity at a moment's notice. He supposes that the recoil would exactly counterbalance the momentum of the ship, the armament, of course, being proportioned to the tonnage.

ONE test after another shows that electricity as an illuminating agent is far from satisfactory when the question of cost is considered. The last report on this subject is from a large railway station in California. A careful experiment was made, extending over a period of six months, with the employes trained to the best efficiency and expenses cut down to a minimum, and the conclusion reached was that while electricity gave a better light than gas, yet sufficient light could be had for less amount from gas for half the money.

HAYSEED in the hair is supposed to be the distinguishing mark of rural innocents who fall into the snares of city sharpers, but though aggravated cases of this kind are constantly occurring there is no evidence that hayseed has ever actually sprouted on such soil. But precisely that sight may be seen, for Martin Small, a well-known farmer in the English parish of Shapwick, lately found a considerable crop of grass springing up all along the back bone of his sheep. It is conjectured that long exposure to rain has caused the seeds, which might easily have been taken up from the hay with sheep were supplied, to germinate in its warm and dirty fleece.

THE Russian Imperial family is well provided for in the matter of money. The Czar receives annually about $1,000,000 for his household expenses, and as Alexander III. has an economical streak, he no doubt manages to lay up a little at the end of each year. The Czaritza receives $500,000, and the means of support for her count. Every child of the Czar, while a minor, receives $5,000 a year, and on becoming of age attaining a son and grandson receives $250,000, and their wives $100,000 each. The Grand Duchesses get as a dowry about $700,000 each. All this money is paid from the Treasury. Besides, the Imperial family has the crown estates for its own use. And yet, at last accounts, Alexander was not happy.

ALASKA is the better land toward which the miners of the West, in obedience to their passion for new diggings, are setting their faces this spring. Already, it is said, a movement has begun which promises to become a great one during the next few weeks. "A party of twenty," says a dispatch from Deadwood, Dak., to the Chicago Times, "leaves here the 1st of April. It will comprise some of the oldest and best miners of the gulch, will be thoroughly equipped, and if there is gold to be found will find it. That the fever is widespread is illustrated by the fact that a pool of $20,000 was raised recently to defray the expenses of a party, many prominent business and professional men, unable to go, willingly subscribing to the fund. Of course, each subscriber 'stands in' with whatever may be found. Letters received from Nevada report a prospective begin from the state, while the press of Colorado, California and Montana give evidence that numbers are preparing to leave from those localities."

THE season's cut of lumber in the pine forests of Northern Wisconsin is estimated at 1,595,000,000 feet by the Milwaukee Sentinel, about 15 per cent. below last fall's expectations.

SENATOR-ELECT CULLOM, of Illinois, who visited ex-Senator David Davis just before the latter's marriage, says that although the retiring statesman was in capital spirits over his domestic prospects it was evident that the entire abandonment of public life caused him many pangs, which he could not conceal either in looks or speech.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, of Rock Creek, Wyoming, is a lucky man. He has discovered a mountain of natural soap large enough to keep the whole human race clean for all time. Not only is this excellent product smooth, firm and emollient, but it possesses some peculiar quality which makes it the deadliest foe to dirt and grease ever put upon the market; and the owner confidently expects that it will out-cleanse the famous article warranted by Josh Billings "to take the spots off a coach dog in three days."

A picturesque tale is told by The Sheffield Daily Telegraph of Mr. Biggar, the Home Rule Member of Parliament who has just been compelled to pay $2,000 for the privilege of not marrying Miss Fanny Byland. When he was standing for Cavan in 1874 he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, but wishing to win the support of a Roman Catholic Bishop on the subject of denominational education he begged a friend to acquaint the prelate with the fact that he had both of his children at Catholic schools. To this, they remarked his friend, "I thought you were not married" "No more I am," replied Mr Biggar, "and to show you I am no bigot both of their mothers are Catholics."

Fortunately for judges, lawyers and witnesses, a convict seldom keeps his promise to "get square" with the person whose rulings, argument or testimony sends him to prison. But a tragedy of that basis was recently enacted in the Italian village of Cheval-Blanc, though with a result very different from what the convict expected. Ten years ago a laborer was convicted of manslaughter chiefly by the evidence of a peasant, and when he left the dock he declared that he would come back and take his revenge. About a month ago he was released and straightway proceeded to carry out his threat. But the witness had been warned, and shot him dead just in time to save his own life.

THE trouble from which Senator Don Cameron recently sought relief through a delicate and painful surgical operation was originally caused by an accident in 1876. In the summer of that year Mr. Cameron, then Secretary of War, was driving out at Rock Island, Ill., with General Sherman and Mr. Cullom, then candidate for Governor. The horses ran away and the occupants of the vehicle were thrown out one by one, no one being hurt but Mr. Cameron. He was struck by one of the wheels, and received injuries which, although at the time considered trifling, at last seriously endangered his life.

On the ascent of the Mount of Olives adjoining the Jewish Cemetery is a plot of ground which has been preserved to the Jews from time immemorial as the burial place of the Prophets Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Hebrews the world over have been distressed by the report that this sacred spot was about to be sold by the Turkish authorities to a Christian sect which intended to build a church upon it. At last accounts the completion of the sale had been deferred to Raoul Pacha at the urgent solicitations of the spiritual heads of the Jewish Synagogue. The pending purchaser is said to be Baron Rothschild, who is in Jerusalem, and the price agreed upon is $20.

Imitaiton Sealskins and Velvets.

Manufacturer.

A company in Holyoke, Mass., one in Connecticut, and one in Paterson, N. J., are engaged in making imitation sealskins, plushes, velvets, etc. The material from which these goods are made is to be principally mohair, or the fleece of the angora goat. Should the manufacture of these fabrics in America meet with permanent success, the result will undoubtedly be increased attention to the raising of angora goats by our western and southwestern farmers. There would seem to be no reason why a beginning should not now be made in the manufacture of velvetens and silk velvets in the United States. The manufacturers can now produce silks that will favorably compare with best foreign makes in color, finish, style and quality. The new year's forward will be in the direction of velvets.

THE CASHIER AHEAD.—A new bank which had been established in a town in Indiana had engaged the services of a young man who came recommended, but who did not seem over-experienced. The president therefore sent for him to post him a bit, and began.

"Your first duty must be to exercise vigilance."

"Yes sir.

"Your first duty must be to exercise vigilance."

"Yes sir.

"Be careful how strangers approach you."

"I will, sir."

"No strangers must be permitted to enter the bank at night under any pretext whatever."

"No sir."

"And our cashier—he is a good man, honest, reliable, and competent, and worthy, but it will be your place to keep an eye on him."

"But it will be hard to watch two men and the bank at the same time, sir."

"Two men—how?"

"Why, sir, it was only yesterday that the cashier called me in for talk, and he said you were the squarest man in Indiana, but that it would be just as well to keep both eyes on you, and let the directors know if you hung around after hours!"—Wall Street News.

The darkness of death is like the evening twilight: it makes all objects appear more lovely to the dying.

A feeble light in the pulpit is more out of place than a blaze in the pew.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

The M. H. & O. railroad company's freight and passenger depot and the American express company's office at L'Anse were burned to the ground a few days ago. Ten thousand dollars' worth of freight and baggage was burned; total loss estimated at $15,000.

Lexington, Sanilac county, is figuring for a branch of the Port Huron & Northwestern from Croswell. The directors of the narrow gauge road contemplating the construction made a bid to furnish money for the road, bridges and furnish everything except the iron. It will probably be accepted.

A Marshall telegraph operator who was troubled with the Reilly-Rogers gentry, attached wires from a battery to different parts of his next time meddlesome fingers touched them. He says it was filled with "shocking" music.

Fred H. Pitt, secretary and manager of the Frankenmuth Brewing Company, who, in defiance of an Flint, recently arrested on a charge of fraudulently using the mails in transmitting notices of assessments on a fictitious claim, has been deposed by the directors of the association. It will be remembered that the claims he was imposed on by parties who sent notice and collected the dues, have proved a fraud.

Cut this out and paste in a conspicuous place—Adrian, March 20, 1883. Mercury this morning Fahrenheit, the sun shining, snow covers the ground to the depth of one foot.

The work of locating the Houghton & L'Anse railroad is about completed, the engineers being engaged in making the final survey in and near Houghton. It is expected that the first 10 miles section is also nearly finished.

John Mahoney, who has been reported as skipping from Port Huron with about $15,000 of $30,000 debts unprovided for, has more recently been reported as working at Port Huron. It was to pay over as contractor, to those employed under him.

The Manistee railroad has commenced suit against the Grand Rapids & Indiana in the Circuit court at Grand Rapids, for about $45,948, paid by the former company for the latter and interest on the indebtedness. The Grand Rapids people seem to be one of the understanding for the purpose of establishing certain rights in the courts.

B. McLaren, recently station agent of the D. L. & N. road at Stanton, and who left there a few days since, is said to owe the road, says Jackson; as a defaulter, is now very sick at his home in Stanton. It is also clear to some that Mr. McLaren was in no sense a defaulter, but through long continued overwork became affected in his mind, and was therefore irresponsible for the fact and suspicious of circumstances which appeared. He is clear, we said one, and he and his family are receiving any sympathy and aid to which they are entitled.

A few days ago a little girl who resides in Ionia, was bitten by a dog. She went to Saginaw to a doctor's office that the doctor might examine a wound in her face near her mouth, and a very little wound it was, too. The exploration then given of the injury was that of a little scratch, and for a time time ago and fell, and apparently recovered. The wound was healed, and the doctor thought the sick must have broken off and part of it remained in the wound, causing the swelling in the cheek. He had the girl bring the little girl the next day, when he would remove the fragment. The little girl was brought, when the operation was performed. To the doctor's surprise a bullet was found, in fact an ordinary rifle ball was discovered. The true explanation was then detected out. A dissolute fellow had shot had a pistol and shot her, but being frightened at the consequence, he put it down and her little girl who is only a little more than 2 years old, could not tell what was the matter. This may be said to be a very fortunate affair, for to go to show that pistols are poor toys for little boys.

Louis E. Isale, editor of the Saturday Review of Grand Rapids, has been sentenced to the Jackson prison for two years, having been convicted of forgery. Gale insists that he is innocent. The case is a peculiar one and but few persons there believe this guilty.

A newly invented Battle Creek saving machine saved a little boy's life a week or two in record of it in 1½ minutes.

Of the 360 Baptist churches in Michigan 28 net 0 of 40 Baptist churches in Michigan 28 net 0 of 40 Baptist churches in Michigan 28 net 0 of 40