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TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Under this head will be printed from time to time noteworthy utterances on themes of current interest. They will be taken from public addresses, books, magasines, newspapers, in fact wherever we may find them. Sometimes these aelections will accord with our views and the views of our readers, sometimes the opposite will be true. But by reason of the subject matter, the style, the authorship, or the views expressed, each will have an element of timely interest to make it a conspicuous interance.

Democrats Should Keep Their Names Off of Republican Petitions.

Since the publication of President Roosevelt's letter to Clark Howell some of those southern Democrats who advised him wish they hadn't.

Human Life Too Cheap.

Human life in this State is getting to be too cheap and murder is entirely too common. It is said that it is better that ninetynine guilty men should escape than that one innocent man should be punished. The ninety-ninth guilty man has escaped, and it is time something was done to put a check to so much murder. A man's life is worth more than five years in the penitentiary.

Will Stay in the Scrap till There's a Kneck-out. North Carolina Baptist.

A brother wrote us the other day: "You need not give so much space to temperance now." Well, you'll see. The Baptist has been in the fight a long time, and, because the Watts Bill has passed, we don't feel that it is time to be quitting. We can't quit. Our conscience won't let us. And, so long as a saloon and the editor of the Baptist live in the same State, we shall proclaim to the people that the "saloon must go."

Stubbern, Mule-headed, and Beffant.

President Roosevelt, in letter to Clark Howell.

I may add that the proportion of colored men among the new appointees is only about one in a hundred.

In view of all these facts I have been surprised and somewhat pained at what seems to me the incomprehensible outcry in the South about my actions-an outery apparently started in New York for reasons wholly unconnected with the question nominally at issue. I am concerned at the attitude thus taken by so many of the Southern people; but I am not in the least angry; and still less will this attitude have the effect of making me swerve one hair's breadth, to one side or the other, from the course I have marked out-the course I have consistently followed in the past and shall consistently follow in the future.

Persistent Sin Against Light and Reason.

Richmond News-Leader But it is safe to assert that the opposition to Mr. Roosevelt's few negro appointments would not have developed in the intense form it has had not there been antecedent and intimately related to them a more serious question. In defiance of what he knew to be most obnoxious to southern sentiment, Mr. Roosevelt lent himself to the doctrine of social equality. He coupled social and political equality in his policy. It was this that more particularly aroused southern indignation and imparted such vigorous emphasis to southern protest. Mr. Roosevelt could not have but been aware of that fact, yet he continued to sin against light and reason by strenuous persistence in his course-by rubbing the irritant into the sore. It is not for us to advise how Mr. Roosevelt can hedge on the situation he has brought about. We fear that he is joined to his idols, and there is no hope of turning him from them. He certainly gives no sign of so doing in his letter. Our object is simply to keep his record straight-present it as it stands-a

Eipling's New Poem on the Rebuilding of South Africa.

record that has done more than that of any other public

years to revive old animosities between the sections.

The theme of Mr. Kipling's new poem, "The Settler," is the reconstruction of South Africa, especially as affected by Secretary Chamberlain's recent visit to the scenes of the fierce three-years' war, and it forms a powerful appeal to public sentiment in England, whose healing hand has already been laid so kindly upon that stricken land. The text for the verses are the closing words of an address by the Colonial Secretary made on his departure from Cape Town. These words, with the poem entire as printed exclusively by Collier's Weekly for March 7, are given below.

THE SETTLER: BY RUDYARD KIPLING.

"I leave this shore more convinced than ever that the forces—the natural forces—that are drawing you together are more potent than those evil influences which would tend to separate you. Above all, South Africa needs the best capacities of all of its children."-MR. CHAMBERLAIN, Feb. 24.

(Copyright 1903 by Rudyard Eipling.)

Here where my fresh-turned furrows run and the deep soil glistens red. I will repair the wrong that was done to the living and the dead: Here where the senseless bullet fell, and the barren shrappel burst, I will plant a tree, I will dig a well against the heat and the thirst.

Here in a large and a sunlit land, where no wrong bites to the bone, I will lay my hand in my neighbor's hand, and together we will atone For the set folly and the red breach and the black waste of it all; Giving and taking counsel each over the cattle-kraal.

Here will we league against our foes—the hail-stroke and the storm— And the red and rustling cloud that blows the locusts' mile-deep swarm: Frost and murrain and floods let loose shall launch us side by side In the holy wars that have no truce 'twixt seed and harvest-tide.

Rarth where we rode to slay or be slein our love shall redeem unto life; We will gather and lead to her lips again the waters of ancient strife From the far and the fiercely-guarded streams and the pools where we lay in wait Till the corn cover our evil dreams, and the young corn our bate.

And when we bring old fights to mind we will not remember the sin-If there be blood on his head of my kind, or blood on my head of his kin-For the ungrased upland, the untilled lea cry, and the fields forlorn:-"The dead must bury their dead, but yet-ye serve an host unborn."

Bless then, our God, the new-yoked plow, and the good beasts that draw, And the bread we eat in the sweat of our brow according to thy law: After us cometh a multitude—prosper the work of our hands That we may feed with our land's food the folk of all our lands!

Here in the wastes and the troughs of the plains where the heating stillness lies; And the vast benignant sky restrains, and the long days make wise-Bless to our use the rain and the sun and the blind seed in its be That we may repair the wrong that was done to the living and the dead.

SEVEN YEARS TO DIG CANAL. 30,000 Men Ought to Finish the

Ditch in that Period. Washington Letter

task may require as much as ten years for its completion. It de-pends largely upon the health of the laborers employed. An epidemic of bubouic plague or cho! era might put us back a good

"Such a misfortune is exactly what we shall take most pains to avoid, however. We shall con-trol everything on the strip, which will be in the future to all intents and purposes, a part of the United States; and our first care will be to fix matters as we want them in a sanitary way. We shall clean up things just as we did in Cuba, establishing proper drainage, insuring plenti-iul supplies of pure water and making cleanliness compulsory iu the towns along the route of the canal. The French company has a fine hospital that cost over a million dollars which will be transferred to us with the rest of

We shall employ about 30,000 workmen on the canal as soon as we get things fairly started, and this army of laborers will be drawn mainly from Jamaica and other west Indian islands. It has been urged that we might utilize a few thousand of our Southern negroes on the job, but such a plan would not be likely to work satisfactorily. Colored folks from the cotton states might suffer from the climate of the tropics and they are not accustomed to live as cheaply and simply as the darkies of the West

"Probably the work will be given out to contractors, who will hire the requisite workmen at 50 or 60 cents a day, which is about what labor is worth in that part of the world. The contrac-tors will give bond to the island governments to care for the negroes properly and return them at a specified time. The labor-ers will be fetched to the port of Colon by steamers, disembarked and assigned in gangs, under gang bosses, to various points along the line of the canal. Work will be carried on in all parts of ditch simultaneously in order to bring the enterprise to com-

pletion as quickly as possible.
"It should be realized that the problem presented by the Pana-ma canal is altogether different from that which would have demanded solution in Nicaragua. If the latter route had been chosen the work would have had to begin with the clearing away of forests and the grubbing of stumps—in short, the opening of a virgin tract of country, with a multitude of difficulties to be overcome as a preliminary to erything is cleaned up; the canal is already half dug—accurately speaking, about thirty per cent of the necessary digging has been accomplished—and we have only to take up the task where the French people have left off.
"We are thus enabled to start

at once and without long delay which would have been unavoidable in Nicaragua. Even the machinery and other apparatus—much of it at all events—is on hand. As yet it is impossible to say what the machinery is worth; experts did not take it into account in their estimate of the value of the French company's property and all of it will have to be overhauled and examined. A great deal of it is antiquated. undoubtedly, but much of it is

"There are a great many loco-motives, nearly all of them brand new-I think not less than fortyfive or fifty-which are valuable assets and represent a lot of money. Then there is a great number of machines, such as steam shovels and dredges, for excavating and carriers for re-moving earth. There are thous-

convenient places where it is under the Hudson river, New dumped. Where rock has to be removed, blasting is done of an ultimate cost of a hundred course; but fortunately very lit-millions.

tle rock is to be excavated along the Panama route.

GASTONIA, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1903.

expensive machinery will have to to be purchased. Much of the apparatus now on hand must go "With good luck we ought to to the scrap heap to be replaced make the Panama canal in seven with the newest and most up to-years," said a high government date machines. With American anthority officially interested in the enterprise recently. "The task may require as much as ten ward with great rapidity. It is even now in progress in a sort of fashion, about 1,500 laborers in the employ of the French com-

pany being engaged on the work. The estimated cost of completing the ditch is \$144,000,000 It will be forty-seven miles in length, though the isthmus is only forty miles wide, the route traversed being far from straight. The bottom width of the canal will be 150 feet, its width at the with be 150 reet, its width at the top varying with the formation. Where it passes through rock of course, its sides will be steeper than where the banks are of earth. The depth of the water will be 35 feet throughout, so as to allow for the passage of the largest freight attention and largest freight steamers, an i of solid masonry.

The deepest cut to be made will not be much over 300 feet above sea level at the highest point. By the help of the locks ships will be lifted up the requisite 90 feet on one side of the isthmus and lowered again to the level of the ocean on the other side. The locks will be twins in order that, when one of them needs repairs navigation may

not be anxious to make money out of the enterprise; and it is hardly necessary to say that everything about this great public or lose.

Work will be done on a scale of Up to Tuesday it looked as if liberality. Every modern im-provement will be introducedeven to the lighting of the ditch throughout its entire length with electricity furnished by water-

Because of Hanna's Bill. Buffalo Express

wer.'

As a sample of what has folowed the introduction by Senator Hanna of that bill granting pensions to former slaves, the circular of the ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension As-sociation, with supreme head-quarters in Washington, may be mentioned. This circular starts off with an announcement of the introduction of the bill by Senator Hanna, who is described as a "man of might and power," and as a natural consequence it is asserted that "victory is perched on our banners." Further on it is declared that certain | sell at 15 cents. moneys collected for the purpose the excavation of the ditch. At have not been sufficient to meet all the necessary disbursements, therefore each member is requested to forward \$1, "with the exception of those in North Carolina, who have already con-tributed."

Many schemes have been floated since the introduction of the Hanna bill for the purpose of getting former deluded slaves to part with their money in a useless cause. Fortunately the Post-Office Department is alert, and it is declared to be not unlikely that fraud orders will be issued as they were two years ago against similar efforts.

Stupendous Enterprise.

Pamiliarity with big figures dulls our sense of the significance of the amount of money the Pennsylvania Railroad is about to spend in improvements east of Pittsburg. As much as \$87,000,000 is to be spent within a short time to facilitate and enlarge a traffic movement which is already amazing. On the main line and branches in five years the tonnage increased from 47,000,000 to 77,000,000 tons, or 64 per cent, while gross earnings moving earth. There are thousands of dumpers and miles on miles of portable railway tracks, which can be picked up from carnings 78 per cent. Yet the congestion of traffic about Pittsed in another.

"Xerxes once employed a million soldiers in the making of a canal, but those were days when digging was done by hand with mess that was offered. It is only when the vast total of \$219,850,modern times such work is ac- 000 of gross earnings last year oomplished by machinery.
Steam shovels pick up the earth which is conveyed by trolley carriers to cars and transported spending the \$67,000,000 on imwith the help of locomotives to provements and for tunnelling

BULLS AND BEARS.

"Necessarily a great deal of They are Having a Battle Royal Over the Price of Cotton.

Vorkville Enquirer, 7th, The battle between the bulls and the bears on the New York

cotton exchange during the past few weeks, has been an event of bsorbing interest to the cotton dealing world, and from all appearances the grand climax is et to come

Daniel J. Sully, the hitherto obscure Providence, R. L. man who has suddenly leaped into markable profits as the result of recent advances in cotton is leader of the bull forces, and Theodore H. Price, long identified with the bull interests, and known in the market heretofore as one of the most daring bulls on the cotton exchange, is the accepted leader of the bears.

It will be remembered that two years ago the house of Price Mc-Cormick & Co., failed for about \$15,000,000. It was because Price had overloaded himself with cotton in the helief that it with cotton in the belief that it would go higher. Cotton de-clined to a point where Price was unable to margin his holdings, and the bottom dropped out leaving the firm bankrupt. Within a week or two afterward the market soared upward and remained there, proving that Price's judgment had been correct; but that the opposing interests were too strong for him for the time being.

At the beginning of the pres-"It is estimated that about 5,000,000 tons of freight will pass through the canal during the first year after it is opened and that there will be a steady increase in the traffic thereafter. Tolls will be low—not more than \$1 a ton. be low-not more than \$1 a ton, still buying. At one time he had I should say. Uncle Sam will several millions of profits on paper, and on paper he is still ahead; but it is a question as to whether his side will finally win

> the bull crowd under Sully, had everything their own way. March and May options opened at 10.25 and 10.37 respectively; but on Wednesday the bears had made some headway. March opened at 10.17 and May 9.99. Sully stood his ground, taking 25,000 more, but outsiders grew nervous under the heavy on-slaught of the bears and began selling, and prices for March dropped to 9.96 and for May to 9.88. The bears continued to get the best of it during Thursday forcing May down to 9.83 although at the close the bulls were still standing

their ground.

Both Price and Sully are represented as being satisfied with the present situation. Price belower figures, while Sully claims that March cotton will certainly

Boston Post.

H. H. Vreeland, of the Metropolitan Traction company, who, it is said, will go to London to manage the Yerkes underground lines, rose from the lowest rung of the street railway business and will occasionally unbend enough to crack a joke with a subordinate.

There is an aged New York conductor whom Mr. Vreeland likes particularly well; a Boston man with a great deal of learn-ing stored in his gray head. About this learning Mr. Vreeand likes to banter the old fel-

"Why does hanging kill?" he said to this conductor one day.

"Because the inspiration is checked and the circulation arrested, while there is a suffusion of blood to the brain and a consequent cephalic congestion," "Why does hanging kill?" he

was the prompt answer.
"I thought hanging killed because the rope was always too short to let the feet touch the ground," said Mr. Vreeland.

Baking Powder

Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum liabing periodes are the greatest menacers to health of the powers de-

SPICE SHOULD PROPERTY ...

You will find it at Yeager's, and three also you will find the new styles. Having engaged the services, for this department, of : : ;

Miss Parks, of Baltimore,

one of the finest artists ever sent out from that city, we shall be prepared to serve our customers with the finest and most fashin able millinery for the spring sesson. She is now in New York in the interest of her department and will arrive in Gastonia in a few

JAMES F, YEAGER.

LADIES' FURNISHINGS A SPECIALTY.

The very newest things in Brooches, Belt-pins, etc. Ratisely new designs.

CRAIG & WILSON

We have just received another car load of well broken HORSES AND MULES.

We now have a lot of Mules and Horses that any one may select from, and get suited. In all we have about seventy-five head in our stables. Now is the time to come and buy a nice Mule. We guarantee satisfaction when you buy from us. Our terms and prices are also made to suit you. Now is the time to come and buy a brand new Vehicle. We now have the nicest lot that we have had in our repository for a long while, . . .

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GOING FOR 30 DAYS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

While the holiday season is over, still we have awaiting us many long winter evenings in which some sort of amusement m be found in the shape of indoor games. Nothing in the way of indoor games and amusements has yet been placed on the sastket that is superior to the different styles of game boards which we

STAR ARCHARENA BOARD NO. 1.

This board is 24 inches square, has elegant moulded hards rim finished in imitation mabogany. Panel is of 3-ply maple veneer, light and strong and finished in colors. Crokinole, Carrons, Flags of Nations, and other games, 50 in all, can be played on this board. It is the best cheap combination board ever made. The regular price is \$2.50, but for thirty days we off

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STAR ARCHARENA BOARD NO. 2 Filty-live Splendte Cam:

This board is 29 inches square has round corners, and stre hardwood frame much larger and handsomer than the No. 1, It has beautiful marquetry transfers and is all rub finish. An absointely high-grade game board. Complete with outfit for 55 games. Regular price is \$3.50. Our price for 30 days is only .

NO. 1 CROWN COMBINATION BOARD

This board is superb in material, workmapship, and general attractiveness. It is popular because of the number and quality of the games played on it, its fine finish, and its general excellent. It is 29 inches square and of the same high quality of material and workmanship as the Archarens No. 2 described above.

The regular price of this handsome Crown Combination board is \$3.75. Our price until Mar. 20 is only

bination board is \$3,75. Our price until Mar. 20 is only

Complete outfit and instruction book with every boar Extra set of 28 Cerrom rings, 35c.

MARSHALL'S BOOK ST ON THE CORNER. 4