TIMELY TOPICS.

No change has been announced as yet in the spelling of Colorado Maduro.

The open door in China continues prominent in the public eye because so much may hinge on it.

There are still those who decline to take up the nineteenth century under the head of "unfinished business."

Uncle Sam's geographical experts may insist upon "Habana," but the people will continue to spell it with a "we."

A French scientist claims to have a serum that will prolong human life 250 years. It is only fair to hope we may all live to see him prove it.

A divided household is not implied in that while the mother brings the boys up it is sometimes necessary for the fathers to take them down.

The usually correct Chicago Chronicle describes a man as having "fringe on the bottoms of his trousers." Up in Boston they would say the terminals of his trousers legs were fringed.

That physician who is treating the pet dog of a society woman for dyspepsia caused by overeating is away behind the medical procession. An up-to-date doctor would have operated upon it for appendicitis.

Sir Thomas Lipton is in earnest. Another attempt to "lift" the American cup will be made next year. He will build an entirely new boat, having learned wisdom in his last year's experience. Sir Thomas is a good sportsman.

If we must spell it "Puerto" Rico let us do so, but let us luise nue time in petitieuning Cuengressman Gruesvenuer, Speaker Hendersuen, Senatuer Fueraker, Secretary Lueng, Secretary Wilsuen, J. Addisuen Puerter and the others who may have some influence to change it to the common sense spelling.

A witty American mother, who has been following the government investigations into food adulterations, recently heard politics defined as something outside the house. "Politics affects the quality of almost everything we eat and wear," she replied. "It even determines the purity of the city's milk supply. Instead of being outside the house, it is actually inside the baby!"

Western towns spring up with incredible rapidity. The Congressional delegate from Omaha Territory recently had occasion to visit the Pension Bureau in the interest of some constituent who lives at Wetherford, a thriving place with two thousand five hundred inhabitants. But the origin of the town was so recent that its existence could not be proved, nor its name found in any public record at Washington.

Walking, as a form of exercise, is growing in favor. Of all forms it gives, perhaps, the best results with the least interference with mental activity. Exercise that builds up large bunches of muscle, for which brain workers have no use, is time largely wasted. And so the best and cheapest form of exercise, walking, is coming into favor. And no one can beg off from it on any plea except physical laziness. With a cheerful habit of mind, cultivated in connection with walking, there is within everyone's reach the best sort of exercise to keep the whole system in best condition.

Our history is yet young, and if we set out to make an annual holiday for every great deed of every great son of the republic we should soon exhaust the calendar. The proposal to name May 1 as Dewey Day by legislative sanction and give it celebration for all time to come, like the Fourth of July and Washington's birthday, ought not to be considered for a moment. The State and the country have abundantly shown that they can find other ways in plenty to do honor to the Admiral, and there is no danger that his glorious May day exploit in Manila bay will ever be forgotten. We have already as many legal holidays as we ought to have, and if new ones are to be constantly proposed under inspiration of enthuisasm rather than of wisdom, it may become necessary to bar them out with a constitutional amendment.

The vagueness that so often characterizes masculine description of feminine garb extends to authors, and exacting women readers have been known to express a wish that novelists would take courses in dressmaking before attempting to dress up their heroines. Writers have been known to visit asylums and hospitals in order to make a study of the physical and mental phenomena which they wished to describe, and why should they not be apprenticed to dressmakers in order to understand fully the equally difficult problems of gores and gathers? Even Henry James, usually so careful a student of detail, has been guilty of describing a gown as being trimmed with "knots of pale-colored ribbon." Naturally a feminine reader would ask, What color, Mr. James? And Tolstoi's immortal Anna Karenina wears a velvet robe, "adorned with Venetian guipure;" no mention is made of where the guipure is placed. It would be well for novelists to recognize the fact that indefiniteness on this subject will no longer be accepted and that heroines arrayed in "soft stuffs" with impossible knots of color at the throat, or ladies dressed in indefinite shades of gray, with "gleams of white" at the neck and wrists, will meet with but a cold reception at the hands of critical feminine readers.

The director of the agricultural experiment station of the University of Illinois advises farmers not to yield to the temptation to rush into the cultivation of broomcorn because the present price is so extremely high. The director says that about two-thirds of the broomcorn of the world is grown in four Illinois counties, which in favorable years can produce 28,000 tons out of the 30,000 tons consumed annually and which could double their production if the demand warranted it. There is no reason to anticipate an increase in the demand. Therefore a much larger output will pull down the price considerably. The farmers are warned also that while broomcorn is a close relative of Indian corn, flourishes on the same soil, and needs much the same kind of cultivation, the crop is a precarious one, and the business requires a special outfit of tools and sheds costing from $800 to $1,000, which are of little value for other purposes. The director says also that the present high prices were not realized by the grower, nor could they be established until the crop was practically out of his hands. Experienced growers have often made fair profits. Sometimes, however, they have received only $30 a ton for what it cost them $50 a ton to produce. Farmers will do well to heed the advice given them, and not rush headlong into the broomcorn industry because a few men did so well at it last year.

The present is an age of economic experiment, and for that reason an instance on a large scale is interesting. Such an example is described in the Forum by E. J. Smith, founder of the Trade Alliance in England. Mr. Smith claims that his organization has successfully solved the problem as to how capital and labor may be reconciled. As his undertaking has been in successful operation for eight years, it certainly seems to have passed the experimental stage, and should therefore be accepted as a proved possibility in this direction. Starting with the basic fact that employer and employe must co-operate if each is to have his proper share in the proceeds of their joint interests, the alliance fixes a minimum of selling profit for the articles it puts upon the market, and all products are sold at prices measured by these qualities and values are honestly put upon them. As there is always by this arrangement a minimum margin of profit, it is possible for employers to guarantee certain wages, which may be increased, but will not be diminished. For the settlement of disputes between employers and workmen a wages and conciliation board is formed, its members being drawn in equal numbers from employers and employed. At present the alliance has control of $250,000,000 capital, and numbers among its adherents 500 employers and 30,000 workmen. A high standard of business integrity is insisted upon, and in fact is necessary to the successful working of the plan.

The subject of diseases in the schools and the manner and method best adapted to an effectual suppression of the danger to the public health that emanates from this source is one of the most important and interesting problems with which the cities and communities have to deal. Important and interesting from the sole fact that every person living in a city or a community is directly benefited by every measure that contributes to lessening disease in the schools. It has been estimated by an authority on the subject that 70 per cent. of the epidemics of contagious diseases might be prevented simply by a proper inspection of the schools. Some idea of the value of medical inspection in the schools may be judged from the experience of Boston, the first city to make an experiment. Of 8,964 pupils examined 1,156 were found to be physically unfit to attend school and 276 were suffering with contagious diseases. After such conclusive proof Boston permanently adopted the daily medical examination plan, and other cities have followed the example. In New York there are 150 medical examiners who visit the schools daily, and they have excluded from attendance 6 per cent. of the enrolled pupils for no other cause except that they were ill with contagious diseases. If the mind fails to grasp the benefits of the daily medical examination plan of protecting the public health from the figures given, the assertion, based upon statitstics, made by an officer of the New York Board of Health, that the city saves in coffins for potter's field enough to counterbalance the expense of medical examination in the schools, may help to comprehend the magnitude of the good that is done.

ALLIED FORCES SUFFER HEAT

HEAT IN CHINA IS INTENSE.

Admiral Remey Makes Report—Chinese Put Up Little Opposition—Nearing the Capital—The Worst Road Is Past.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The bureau of navigation has made public the following dispatch:

"Taku, Aug. 13.—Just received an undated dispatch from Chaffee, Mathou, yesterday. Opposition was of no consequence, but the heat is terrible, many men having been prostrated. Please inform the secretary of war.

REMEY."

Mathou is about 11 or 12 miles beyond Ho-si-wu. The road between Ho-si-wu and Mathou is indicated on the war department map as the worst section of the road between Tientsin and Pekin.

May Be Delayed by Rain.

London, Aug. 16.—Rear Admiral Bruce, telegraphing from Taku to the British admiralty, says:

"Have received the following from the general at Ho-si-wu, August 10:

"'The troops are distant about 27 miles from Pekin. They experienced little opposition. A position had been prepared by the enemy, but as the allies advanced they fled. The Tartar cavalry was charged by two squadrons of Bengal Lancers. Many of the former were killed. The standards of Generals Ma and Sung were captured. The troops are much exhausted by the heat, but their health and spirits are otherwise excellent.'"

A second dispatch, dated Ho-si-wu, August 11, says:

"The advance may be somewhat delayed, as rain is falling."

Conger's Last Message.

Washington, Aug. 16.—It is generally believed from information gathered at the state department that the Conger dispatch received yesterday through Minister Wu, and which was not made public, is practically on the same lines as that sent to Paris by M. Pichon and made public today. (It is learned from high authority that while the matter may have been treated in a somewhat different form, the dispatches to the ministers at about the same time are identical information.)

Will Not Be Made Public.

Washington, Aug. 16.—A dispatch has been received at the state department from Consul General Goodnow at Shanghai. Its contents will not be made public, as it relates largely to questions of policy and international affairs, and it is stated that nothing regarding such questions will be given out.

Massacre of Armenians.

Constantinople, Aug. 10.—Advices received from Bitlis, Asiatic Turkey, say that 200 men, women and children had been massacred in the Armenian village of Spaghank, in the district of Sassun, by troops and Kurds under Ali Pasha, the commandant of Bitlis. He is also said to have ordered the village to be burned.

LABOR NOTES.

The Massachusetts 58-hour weekly labor law has been declared unconstitutional by the courts. It cost a lot of time and money to have it passed.

The International Union of Steam Engineers have secured an eight-hour day in 26 breweries in the city of Boston.

It is announced that several of the largest building contractors in San Francisco, Cal., have agreed to introduce the eight hour day before the period assigned by the unions.

The supreme court has denied the petition for a rehearing in the Paul Corcoran case, who was unjustly convicted of participating in the Coeur d'Alene riot.

A reduction in the hours of labor from twelve to eight per day for engineers employed in the Kansas City, Mo., breweries has been successfully accomplished.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will deliver the Labor Day address at Cleveland, Ohio.

During the past year seventy additional longshoremen's unions with nearly 45,000 members, were organized. Teamsters of Portland, Ore., 125 strong, struck last week for increase in wages of 50 cents per day, from $2.00 to $2.50.

The Industrial World, a weekly paper published at Rossland, B. C., which is the organ of the district miners' union, will hereafter be issued triweekly.

The printers of St. Louis, Mo., have filed an order with a New York clothing firm for 1,000 union label coats to be worn for the first time in the parade on Labor Day.

The printers will meet at Milwaukee on August 13th in convention. The membership of the organization has increased 1,459 in the past year, bringing the total up to 32,105 members.

The new United Building Trades Council in New York, N. Y., embodies 36 unions, with about 60,000 members, and is the largest Trades Council in America.

LANE'S MURDERER CONFESSED.

Chas. R. H. Ferrell, a Former Express Messenger, the Man.

Columbus, O., Aug. 13.—Charles R. H. Ferrell, a former employe of the Adams Express Company, has been arrested in this city and confessed to the killing of Messenger Lane and the robbery of the way safe of the Adams Express company on the Pennsylvania east-bound train last Friday night. One thousand dollars of the stolen money was recovered.

Ferrell was to have been married Thursday next to Miss Lillian Costlow, a daughter of an engineer on the Pennsylvania line. He had been discharged from the employ of the Adams Express Company and confessed that the motive of the robbery was to secure money for the approaching wedding. The money recovered he had given to Miss Costlow to keep for him, saying he had saved it from his earnings.

The confession of Ferrell disclosed a premeditated and blood-curdling crime almost impossible to believe. He said he had become desperate because of his inability to secure employment and he came to the conclusion he must have money to carry on the approaching marriage. The robbery, including the murder of Express Messenger Lane, had been planned carefully. Ferrell had no accomplices and no confidantes to help execute the crime. He knew that considerable money was always carried by the messenger between St. Louis and Columbus, and that he was certain to secure a large sum if he robbed the way safe.

TRADE REPORTS.

New York, Aug. 11.—Bradstreet's report on last week's business is as follows:

Trade was still exhibiting many of the irregularities incident to the transition period between midsummer and early fall trade. Despite the hot wave, with its effect on the growing distributive demand, and also because of the reports of damage to the corn crop which it has incited, a more cheerful feeling is perceptible in general trade, and the booking of fall orders for dry goods, clothing and hardware at leading western centers and heavy engagements in iron and steel products at lower prices are of encouraging proportions. Prices are not showing the precipitate declines noted some time ago, and among the really encouraging features is the advance in wheat, mainly based on improved export inquiry.

Wool was rather firmer than of late, because of the better inquiry, though it must be admitted that this steadiness is somewhat at the expense of new business.

Cotton goods partake of the strength of raw material, and where weakness is still perceptible in brown cottons, print cloths and wide sheetings, the natural corrective of reduced production is being increasingly sought. It has been a remarkable year in cotton and cotton goods, and although the goods market is comparatively weaker than the raw material, a great deal hinges on the next month's business in dry goods circles. It is regarded as certain that with a 11,000,000-bale crop values will be maintained at prices lower, it is true, than the present quotations for raw material, but still high when compared with last or previous years range. The spring "light weight" season has opened with prices 2½c to 4c higher than a year ago, and much depends on buyers in guiding manufacturers to purchases of raw material. While the dry goods demand as a whole is still classed as backward for the season, the hot weather is credited with some of the responsibility, and the trade attitude as a rule is one of hopeful expectancy.

An immense business in steel products is reported booked at Pittsburg and Chicago, and steel bars are really firmer, with an advance of $4 per ton, announced by western manufacturers who have sold their product up to the close of the year. Pig iron is still rather neglected, but inquiry for this material is really better at the south, largely on large export.

Current production is claimed to be the lightest for months for more than a year past, and further announcements of shut-downs are scheduled as far ahead as September 1. A significant feature of the trade is the strength of structural material. A large quantity of material is reported required for railroads, but steel rails are nominally unchanged at $35 per ton. The other metals are dull and tin is weak here and abroad at a recession from last week's quotations.

Broke the Record.

Plymouth, Aug. 15.—The Hamburg-American line steamer Deutschland, which sailed from New York August 8 for Hamburg, arrived here at 8:20 Tuesday morning, making a new record for the eastward passage and the fastest time ever attained by any ocean steamer, of 5 days 11 hours and 45 minutes. Her highest day's run was 552 knots. The Deutschland made an average speed of 23.34 knots during the passage.

Suffocated by Steam.

New York, Aug. 15.—Three employes of the New York Steam Heating company were killed this morning by the explosion of a 15-inch pipe elbow. They are: Frank Sherrick of Jersey City, George Jenkins and Edward Brown, colored, of this city.

CHINESE WANT PEACE NOW

LI HUNG CHANG TO ACT

Will Be Peace Envoy Between the Powers and China—The United States Still Adheres to First Demands—Will Not Stop Army.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Indications of the desires of China for a peaceful settlement of her present differences have been multiplying for several days. Official evidence of that desire has been presented to the department of state. It was in the form of an edict promulgated by the emperor, Kwang Hsu, appointing Li Hung Chang as envoy plenipotentiary to negotiate with the powers for an "immediate cessation of hostilities," pending a solution of the problems which have grown out of the anti-foreign uprising in the empire. Earl Li is to act directly for the emperor, and a fair inference is that whatever terms he may reach with the powers will be approved by the imperial government.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Secretary Adee, by direction of President McKinley, has presented to Minister Wu for transmission to his government the reply of the United States to the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang envoy to negotiate with the powers for a cessation of hostilities. In effect, however, it is a reiteration of the demands previously made by the United States upon China, coupled with a vigorous intimation that no negotiations will be entered into until the Chinese government shall have complied with those demands.

This government, inspired by a determination to effect the rescue of the legationers besieged in Pekin, takes advantage in its reply to the edict to reiterate the demands previously made on China. These demands first were made by the president on July 23, and subsequently were reiterated substantially by Acting Secretary Adee by direction of the president. The demands for the protection of the ministers, for free communication between them and their respective governments and for the restoration of order in China, form the keynote of the memorandum forwarded to the imperial government by the president today.

The iteration and reiteration of the demands must, it is thought, make it perfectly clear to the Chinese government that no negotiations will be entered upon until a square-toed compliance with them has been made. Should the demands be acceded to, there will be no obstacles, it is believed, in the way of a settlement of other questions which have arisen out of the pending troubles.

Terrible Mistake.

New York, Aug. 14.—A special cable dispatch to the Evening World today, dated Chefoo, August 9, via Shanghai, says:

A terrible mistake occured at the taking of Yang Tsun. The Russian artillery opened fire on the American troops. Before the mistake was discovered many American soldiers had been killed or wounded by Russian shells.

The Fourteenth United States infantry took part in the attack on the Chinese trenches. As the Chinese fled the regiment entered and occupied one of the Chinese positions. A Russian battery some distance off did not notice the movement. It opened fire on the position and planted shells among the American troops. The Russians were quickly notified and ceased their fire.

Chinese Minister Threatened.

New York, Aug. 14.—A special dispatch from Paris to the Evening Telegram today says:

An artful attempt at poisoning by the use of perfume, which recalls memories from Lucrezia Borgia, is exciting all the gossips of Paris. Thursday the Chinese minister, Yu Keng, received a letter. It was signed "Julie Czerwinska" and contained some dried flowers which the writer asked him to accept.

Bicycle Records Broken.

Philadelphia, Aug. 12.—John Nelson of Chicago defeated Archie Menachern of Canada in a 30-mile motor paced bicycle race at Woodside Park. Nelson broke every record up to 30 miles, with the exception of those for one, two and 25 miles. Nelson's time for the 30 miles was 48:02 2-5. The previous record was 50:20 2-5, held by Elkes.

Italian Banker Missing.

New York, Aug. 15.—A detective bureau is looking for Antonio Posce, a banker with offices in this city. He has mysteriously disappeared. Scores of excited Italian depositors have thronged Pesce's ofnces, and it is reported to the police that the banker has gone to Italy, taking with him $16,000.

Millionaire Duryea Is Dead.

New York, Aug. 12.—Edward Duryea, millionaire starch manufacturer, died suddenly at his residence at Glen Cove, L. I. His wealth is estimated at $3,000,000.

Factory Burned.

Chicago, Aug. 15—The clothing factory of K. B. Olsen was destroyed by fire. Loss on building and goods, $95,000.