

GOING!

GOING!

GONE!

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MORN AND MIDNIGHT.

It isn't a weary way to go, We're all at the end before we know, Reapin' where thorns or roses grow, Thankful for only a little while For a breathing space in the great Sun's smile, And when the Morning lights Love's face It marks the path to the Good-night Place. Frank L. Stanton.

It has long been accepted as a fact that the ocean freight rate has a direct bearing upon the prices paid to wheat growers. producers in the north-west and this makes the administration's ship purchase bill a matter of particular interest to the farmers. If the bill is passed our government will be able to purchase and use many German steamers now tied up in neutral ports. The action will tend to reduce the ocean charges which since the war have increased in some instances as much as 400 per cent and will also enable American commerce to extend to trade districts from which we are now entirely cut off because of lack of ships.

Reports from Washington show the democrats are prepared to put the ship purchase bill through congress as quickly as a vote can be had. The only danger is from filibuster tactics on the part of republicans who have been organized by Lodge, Root et al to fight the measure in every way they can, out of consideration for private shipping interests. The attitude of these men towards the shipping bill is peculiar in view of the past professions of the republican party to the effect our merchant marine should be encouraged. There is now a chance to "restore our flag to the sea" and to do so at a time when great general good can be accomplished but the move gets no support from g. o. p. sources. Commenting on the republican opposition to the administration's measure the Cincinnati Enquirer said: "The republican party has regularly announced its devotion to the American merchant marine, but during all its years of unbroken power it signally failed to keep its promise to the people and left our harbors and all other harbors in the world singularly vacant of vessels flying our flag.

The present administration for the past six months can show more vessels flying the American flag through its policies than the republican party can show in the eight years of Grant, the four years of Hayes, the four years of Garfield, the four years of Harri-

son, the 16 years of McKinley and Roosevelt a total of 36 years." The beauty about the administration's plan is that under the proposed shipping bill the government will own the steamers. In that way it will be possible to provide rates based on the cost of service and rates will not be as at present based on the amount that can be obtained.

Expresident Taft says the Filipinos are not yet fit for self government and therefore they We Likewise should not be given their independence. It is the same thing as saying a child should not try to stand until he has learned to walk. But let that go and look at the matter from another angle.

If Philippine islanders knew of some conditions in the United States they could justly raise the question as to whether the Americans are capable of governing themselves. A few weeks ago an investigation was made into the condition of working girls in some big eastern cities. The search brought to light a condition of barbarity about as heartless as could be imagined. "A girl of 22 was sick last winter," said Miss Packard, "and absent from work for a week. She is a clerk getting \$4 a week as saleslady in the white goods department of a large upstate store. 'You see, I've figured it all out,' she said. 'I pay \$2 for my room—that bill has to be met every week. Then once a month 25 cents is taken out of my tiny envelope for the store benefit fund. That also is regular and can't be cut down. I've got to dress decent to keep my job. If I didn't spend \$1.25 a week on clothes they'd fire me sure. So you see yourself the only thing that is left me to economize on is food.' Fifteen or 20 cents is the highest amount she ever pays for lunch and dinner. 'You know, sometimes I just long for a 30 cent dinner,' she said. 'But I haven't the price of it in my pocket book, so what can I do? I get so tired of these 20 cent dinners year in and year out that often I think I'd rather not eat at all.'"

The investigator said that "statistics tell us that thousands of working girls are receiving only \$5, \$6 and \$7 a week. Such figures, no matter how imposing, mean little to the average person, unless it brings immediately to his mind a picture of just what this wage actually means to working girls. "To one girl \$5 will mean lack of food, to another it will be poor living quarters, and yet to another no savings for the rainy day. But invariably it will mean to thousands a cramped, subnormal way of life—a mere existence, not a real living." Now remember these things do not exist in a land that is ignorant or poverty stricken. What is worse they are found in a nation where democracy prevails, where invention has made the greatest advancement, where nature is bountiful and starvation should be unknown. There is something wrong about our handling of affairs when respectable women and girls who are intelligent and willing to work are forced to exist under conditions enumerated above. Tolerating such torture in our own land and with abounding evidence that we fall far short of making proper use of our governmental privileges it is doubtful if we have any call to cast aspersions on the political abilities of the Filipinos.

Many people have very erroneous views as to the ethnology of the Mexican people and of An Intelligent other so-called Latin Ancestry. republics in Central and South America. The original inhabitants of Mexico, the Aztecs, were very advanced peo-

ple and were immeasurably above the North American Indians in intellect. The South Americans also were advanced in science and learning to an extent few realize. It is now claimed that for centuries a certain tribe has made use, in a crude way, of the principles on which wireless telegraphy is based.

In the Juamara region of the Amazon the natives use a crude system of wireless telegraphy, which, it is asserted, has been in operation from ancient times. The transmitter found by an explorer was a hollowed trunk of a tree suspended from a horizontal pole stretched between two stumps. Inside the transmitter had been arranged much like a violin, and it was explained that when the instrument was struck smartly with a small rubber hammer a vibration was created that carried for miles over the hills.

The receiver is very similar to the transmitter, except that it is placed on a hardwood platform, the base of the hollowed tree trunk being grounded on the platform. When the message is struck in the neighboring village, sometimes thirty miles away, this receiver catches the vibrations, causing a jerky, singing sound. In Mexico irrigation enterprises of considerable consequence had been carried out before the conquest by the Spaniards. Mexico's troubles have been due to misrule and the prohibiting of education. There are historians who say that should Mexico be given a generation of free and general education the people would make such progress as would astound the world.

Idaho is also planning to get aboard the water wagon.

As time goes by the American people will realize more and more fully that they ought to have a feeling of deep thankfulness for a great many evil things that might have befallen them in 1914 and did not.

CURRENT THINKING

THE VISTULA RIVER.

The Vistula river, along which the great struggle in the eastern theatre of war is raging, is thus described in a bulletin issued by the National Geographic Society: "The Vistula river, one of the mightiest streams flowing toward the north, sweeps in an irregular course through three empires, Austria, Russia and Germany. It serves as a frontier line between Austria and Germany, between Austria and Russia, and for a shorter distance between Russia and Germany. Upon its banks lie the cities of Cracow, Warsaw, Modlin, Plock, Thorn, Kulm, Graudenz, Marienburg and the Baltic port of Danzig. The Vistula rises in Austrian Silesia and takes a circuitous route of 650 miles to the sea. Its source is on the northern slopes of the West Beskiden, a spur range of the Carpathians. The upper reaches of the river run through a narrow, wooded valley, narrowing in places to a picturesque gorge with tree-hung sides, and throughout its highland way is surrounded by as wild scenery as can be found within the United States. Just before reaching Cracow the Vistula leaves the mountains, and from this Galicia city seaward it is navigable for smaller boats. Its direction from Cracow is away from its mouth, and it penetrates deep into the plains of Russian Poland before it turns, not far from Warsaw, back to German lands. Its banks through the high Polish plateau in the south and in the neighborhood of Warsaw are high bluffs, often sharp and faced with loosely held earth erosion, and with difficult of passage, and altogether difficult of passage, between bank and bank. From Warsaw on it is navigable for larger river craft. The plain through which the river passes from Warsaw to the Prussian boundary smooths away into swelling lowlands, the river course becomes tricky and wandering, while the sandy banks are forever sliding into the water. The Vistula enters Prussia ten

miles above Thorn, the strong Prussian frontier fortress. Beyond this point it cuts through the Prussian ridge, enters low country again, where its shifting banks give considerable trouble to navigation. The Prussian government has expended large sums of money in the endeavor to win a mastery of the river, and keep it serviceable as a great trade artery. The Vistula has a heavy traffic of lumber, grain and other farm products.

Before reaching the North sea at Danzig, it divides into two arms, that on the west retaining the name Vistula. Thick sheet ice binds the river at Warsaw, as a general thing, from about Christmas time to the first of March. It is visited by periodical floods of powerful headway in spring and in mid summer. The Vistula forms one of the most important commercial avenues in Russian Poland, in

addition to its important Prussian traffic: It is connected by canal with the German river Netze, and through it with the Oder. It has a drainage basin 74,000 square miles in area, and receives the rivers of recent war fame the San, the Bug, the Pilica, Bzura and the Wiepra as tributaries."

THIS MAY ENTERTAIN

THE RESEMBLANCE.

The Russian army of 8,000,000 men is a prohibition one. Russia, in fact, is now a prohibition country, the czar having closed all the governmental vodka shops, which yielded a revenue of \$450,000,000 a year.

"Prohibition," said Representative Hobson, "is advancing everywhere. Take politics. The politician, even the statesman, was a heavy drinker in the past. How different now! "A political failure, during his first, last and only term in the house went into the house barber-shop to be shaved one day. "Congressman, sah," said the house barber, "do you know, sah, you remind me mighty strong, sah, of Daniel Webster?" "The brow, eh?" chuckled the congressman. "Is it the brow, George?" "No, sah," the barber answered; "it ain't de brow. It's de breff."

A BY-PRODUCT.

A teacher in a children's institution was giving the geography class a lesson on the cattle ranches. She

spoke of their beef all coming from the west, and wishing to test the children's observation, she asked: "And what else comes to us from these ranches?"

"That was a poser. She looked at her shoes, but no one took the hint. She tried again.

"What do we get from the cattle besides beef?"

One boy eagerly raised his hand. "I know what it is. It's tripe!" he announced triumphantly. — The Youth's Companion.

British Cruiser at Practice.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—The Swedish steamer Bur, which arrived from London, reported that she saw today a British cruiser engaged in target practice 20 miles southeast of Ambrose channel.

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