

HEADLIGHT PIRATE

Doles Out the Gems of Current Topics.

With Colonel Roosevelt at the head of the republican rough riders in the coming political campaign in the Empire state, the democrats will do well to take lessons from the Spaniards in the art of timely evocation.

The Postoffice department will make the effort the coming winter to keep mail communication with Alaska open without interruption. If it will but succeed in this we may rely on having Klondike hard-luck stories in plenty all the year round.

INVESTIGATION into the bond-bids for the recent popular war loan shows that the loan has not been so popular as the figures given out were intended to suggest. Hundreds upon hundreds of bids were made in individual names simply for the convenience of bankers and capitalists, who advanced the purchase money and absorbed the bonds. The popular bond issue soon accumulates in the hands of the wealthy few, no matter how widely distributed it may have been in its inception. The only practical and practicable way of floating a real popular loan is by the establishment of postal savings banks, in which the savings of the thrifty may be safely invested.

MEXICO appears to be trying to reap advantage from the late war between the United States and Spain by persuading Spanish residents of Cuba to re-locate there. That is doubtless a legitimate move on the part of Mexico, particularly as they would in all likelihood, if they came to the United States, bring more trouble for us with them than anything else.

JAPAN hastens to assure the United States that it harbors no dissatisfaction over the annexation of Hawaii and feels confident the American government will protect Japanese interests in the island. Of course, it might not make much difference now that the annexation scheme has been consummated what Japan thinks of it, but the rights of Japanese subjects as well as those of every other country will certainly be more amply safeguarded under United States government than they were under the supplanted Hawaiian government.

EVERY man needlessly kept in the standing armies of Europe is not only a man drawn from the economic force of the industrial world, but also a positive burden upon those out of whose labor the cost of the standing armies must be paid. Military protection unquestionably assists trade and industry and thus increases the labor product of the world by safeguarding the laborer, but there is always a point where the benefits are outweighed by the cost. The question of disarmament raised by the czar's proposal of a peace conference is one that goes to the very bedrock of the modern social and industrial organization.

The pension office promises to attempt to stop the growing abuse of pawing or pledging pension certificates by which needy veterans are chiseled out of a large part of their bounty from the nation by the operations of unscrupulous money sharks. The pension officials may rest assured that they will have the undivided backing of patriotic citizens in any measures adopted to put an end to the vicious practice and they may be depended on to take such precautions as held out a prospect of quick and most effective results.

How quickly the horse market has recovered from the depression of two or three years ago. There is a growing demand for horses—not for poor ones, but those well bred. The Western Agriculturist and Live Stock Journal says: "Good horses are becoming scarce in all markets. Many farmers are short of good work horses for the farm work, and there are practically no young horses coming on. Exporters are more eager for high class horses, and we just begin to realize how scarce good horses are and what a mistake we made in not keeping up our breeding. With all possible diligence it will take us five years to mature horses, and prices will continue to advance according to the laws of supply and demand. The whole world wants good horses, and American farmers should breed horses to supply the world's markets in numbers and in the high class quality."

GERMANY is experiencing a genuine meat famine as the result of her severe regulations enforced against American meat and similar restrictions regarding the products of Russia and Denmark. A German journal representing the butchers says: "Away with the prohibition of cattle importation! Each day's delay increases the suffering among the people and the resultant danger." A society for the protection of the German meat trade and industry asserts that of the 3,000 cases of trichinosis which have been recorded in Prussia during the past fifteen years not one is traceable to American salt, corned or preserved pork,

and offers a reward of 1,000 marks for proof to the contrary.

Now that the tomato season is in full way, the old bugaboo that this fruit is liable to produce cancer is again stalking through the land. At this juncture the opinion of such an authority as Dr. Andrew Wilson, of London, will be to the point. He writes thus: "I have received several letters of late reiterating a question I might well be tired of answering, 'Do tomatoes cause cancer?' But for the fact that one takes a pleasure in stamping one's foot on a misleading statement, calculated to prejudice people against a vegetable food which is entirely healthful and safe, I should grow weary of asserting that not a jot or tittle of proof has been offered in support of the outrageous statement noted above. One might as well allege that cabbage causes cancer, for there would be no more proof to be had concerning the tomato myth. I can only repeat that the tomato is an excellent vegetable enough, and may be partaken of by those with whom it agrees without any fear of its initiating any disease whatever."

It is remarked in regard to the proposal of the Hawaiian commission to give the islands a territorial form of government, under which the people will have the management of their local affairs, as in the territories of the United States, that it leaves open the possibility of future statehood for Hawaii. Such is the case and it is a matter of no slight concern to the American people, but as the New York Commercial Advertiser observes, the present generation cannot settle it except for the time being. Even if the American people should desire unanimously to-day, as they undoubtedly would, that Hawaii should never be admitted to statehood, there would be nothing in the decision binding upon the American people of twenty years hence. Settlement of this question must be left to future events, just as was the question of admitting Utah to statehood.

If it be true, as political economists assert, that the commercial primacy of the world belongs to the country that can produce the cheapest pig iron, then the United States is certain to attain this primacy. A writer of authority in such matters, Mr. John Ford, says that iron and steel are produced in the least favored localities of the United States as cheaply as in Great Britain; in the most favored localities they are produced more cheaply. Yet in the very center of American iron and steel production the ore and the fuel have to be brought together from points a thousand miles apart, while in Great Britain a hundred miles is quite an exceptionally wide interval between the two. American enterprise, however, has overcome this formidable handicap of 900 miles of transportation and this has been accomplished by deepening the waters of the channels of the great lakes.

The Missouri republicans, in common with all patriotic Americans, are in favor of the Monroe doctrine, but they would give it an elasticity not warranted by the view of it that has prevailed since it was enunciated, except among those, until recently relatively few, who have advocated the acquisition of remote territory. The Missouri republican platform asserts that "the Monroe doctrine does not forbid the enlargement and extension of American interests in the eastern as well as in the western hemisphere," therefore they favor "the acquisition and ownership of additional naval stations and ports sufficient to afford ample protection to our rightful and naturally growing commerce with Asia." Plainly speaking, they are in favor of our acquiring territory in the far east and they profess to believe that this can be done without any danger to the Monroe doctrine.

The democratic party has no popular policy of its own. As has been pointed out, it has to endorse the conduct of the war by the republican administration in order to get a platform that its own members will recognize. Of course it denounces the tariff and the revenue law, but it will hardly venture to make this legislation an issue in the congressional campaign, since the republicans could desire no better issue upon which to go before the country. Republicans do not claim that the more prosperous conditions are wholly due to the tariff, but they do claim that it started the mills and made a demand for labor, thus contributing largely to the restoration of prosperity. In regard to the war revenue law it was as necessary as any other legislation called for by war and the democrats can make no political capital with intelligent voters by denouncing it.

Now that the projected canal across the Isthmus of Panama has become a live issue, its effect upon the transcontinental railroad lines becomes a matter of serious concern, not merely to the railroad managers and owners, but to the people in the region traversed by those roads. Whenever the canal across the isthmus is built a large portion of the freight traffic of all transcontinental railroads is sure to be diverted to the water route. This is also true as regards the carriage of low class passenger travel, which at the present time constitutes an important source of rail-

road revenue. While the Pacific Coast states would doubtless profit by cheaper transportation charges, it will become a serious problem with the Pacific railroads and their connecting lines how to make up for the losses entailed by the diversion of traffic.

Among the first of December will be added to the collection of important international documents in the State department at Washington the treaty of peace concluded between Spain and the United States at the conference which commenced in Paris the 1st of October. This treaty will take rank in importance and interest with the treaties of wars of 1776 and 1812 and the Mexican war. The action of the peace commission at Paris will not be final. The treaty on which they agree will be subject to ratification by both countries. According to the constitution and laws of the United States no treaty with this country is operative until it has gone through five stages, of which the negotiation and signing by the peace commissioners is only the first.

There is no doubt but what Cleveland's order reserving 21,000,000 acres as a forest reservation was too sweeping, and should be modified. At the same time it is claimed by others, it was a move in the right direction. There is a great deal of injustice in the order, together with a big round lot of ignorance as to conditions. In Arizona it is claimed that a recent order issued by McKinley will wipe out the entire milling business in Williams and Flagstaff, which now amounts to 50,000,000 feet annually. It is asserted this order was secured by certain timber owners who desire to shut these mills out. In Washington the result has been to drive off a good many bona fide settlers.

The work laid out by the governments for the superintendents of Forestry, if carried forward energetically, will prove most effective in reducing the number of forest fires. Already good reports come from Southern Oregon of the work done by the forest patrol; fewer fires, in fact none of consequence. As soon as hunters, campers, clearers and loggers find that government officials are in earnest in this work, the number of fires will be reduced to a minimum.

In the opinion of the chairman of the republican congressional committee, Representative Babcock, of Wisconsin, the danger to the republican party in the congressional elections is likely to be over confidence in the result. He is quoted as expressing the belief that a hard fight will be needed to assure a strong working majority in the house. Mr. Babcock considers the west pretty safe and predicts republican gains; but he is apprehensive that these gains will not offset the losses in the east—in New York, Pennsylvania and other middle eastern states, where contests in state matters will have more or less of an influence upon the congressional elections. At the same time Mr. Babcock feels satisfied that the republicans will control the next house of representatives.

BRIEFLY STATED.

COL. J. MITCHELL, editor of the Little Rock Democrat, the leading democratic paper of Arkansas, says: "Free silver is a dead issue!"

It is stated by some of the critics of the War Department that the hard tack furnished this year was so very hard that it ruined the teeth of the soldiers. In such cases it was clearly the duty of the government to issue rations of gum drops.

EX-SECRETARY SHERMAN thinks we shall certainly annex Cuba. As we have promised to rule that island till a stable government shall be established there, that looks like a reasonably safe prediction.

THERE are \$300,000,000 in the Treasury of the United States, but every five-dollar bill that humble citizens can spare from their own pockets is urgently needed to keep the nation's returned heroes from death by starvation or disease. It is humiliating to think what a reputation this must be giving us abroad.

MUSTERING out will not be as slow a process as was mustering in, but an army of 200,000 can no more be disbanded in a day than could ancient Rome be built in that allotment of time.

With peace commissions and boundary commissions and trade commissions called or in session in various parts of the world the business of the diplomat must be enjoying an era of unusual prosperity.

The London Spectator argues that a Nicaraguan Canal is now imperatively needed by the United States, and that its construction will be of great advantage to the whole commercial world. This is one of the important questions of the near future, and it will be taken up seriously by Congress as soon as the war problems are settled.

It must be remembered that some of the men who went to the front in Cuba would have succumbed to disease had they stayed at home. Vital statistics make a certain percentage of deaths in



The man who whispers down a well About the goods he has to sell, Won't reap the gleaming golden dollars Like one who climbs a tree and hollers.

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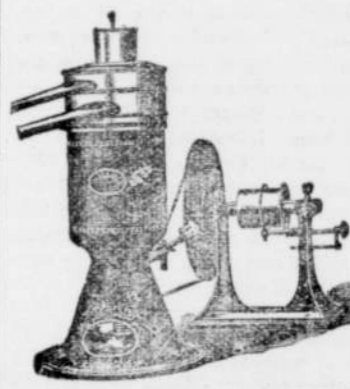
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