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HEADLIGHT PIRATE. Doles Out the Gems of Current Topics.

ONE of the Democratic sorrows at the coming session of Congress will be an increased surplus in the treasury. The people must be willing to stand it or they would not have elected a Republican administration.

THE conditions which seem to threaten a European war may not prove to be so grave and serious as the correspondents represent them. Matters quite as menacing to the peace of Europe have within the last half a dozen years been settled by diplomacy and the nations are probably less disposed now to go to war than at almost any time in the past. All are well prepared—Great Britain with its powerful navy and the continental powers with their strong armies. It is this readiness for war which is believed to be the best safeguard against a conflict. Still the conditions are unquestionably threatening and it would seem to depend chiefly upon Great Britain whether war is averted. The nation that should break the long peace of Europe would assume a tremendous responsibility.

A CANVASS of the platforms adopted by the state conventions so far held throughout the country throws some additional light upon the status of public opinion in regard to the Philippine question. It has been generally understood that the Democratic party would take an aggressive stand upon the question of territorial expansion and an aggressive foreign policy, as opposed to the administration proposition to retain only naval and coaling stations in the islands involved by the war with Spain. The record shows, however, that, with the single exception of Colorado, no Democratic state convention has so declared. On the contrary, all others that have been held so far have either opposed the permanent retention of these islands or remained silent upon the question. The Republican conventions have been somewhat more aggressive, but even they are evidently desirous of avoiding a clear-cut issue.

"YOU are seventy millions and able to take care of yourselves," said Hon. Joseph Chamberlain in an interview since landing in America. Mr. Chamberlain understands the self-reliant qualities of the race.

ACCORDING to the figures made by the Democratic national congressional committee, the Republicans will certainly lose their majority in the next house of representatives at Washington. These figures officially announced a few days ago, forecast the following political complexion: Democrats, 167; Republicans, 129, fusion, 26; doubtful, 32. The full membership of the house is 357. Should the Republicans capture all the doubtful districts they would still have only 161 votes, or eighteen less than a majority. In support of its claim, the Democratic national committee declares that reports from many districts now represented by Republicans give the most flattering indications for Democratic success. So encouraging is the news that comes from all over the land that the Democratic managers find that their most liberal estimate gives the Republicans but 134 members in the next house, 25 less than a majority. The committee expects heavy gains for the Republicans in the East. In Ohio, Illinois and Indiana alone a Democratic gain of twenty-five is claimed. These states now have only fourteen Democrats in the present house.

THE Marquis de Fontenay contributes to the New York Journal an article in which he points out the inexplicable folly of anarchy in directing its attacks against personages who are particularly

innocent to anarchistic principles. History furnishes an unbroken record of just such instances, and many of them are strikingly illustrative of the point mentioned. This record shows that wherever anarchy has decreed the assassination of great personages and people who personify caste and affluence, as opposed to poverty and squalor, it has almost invariably turned its weapons against precisely those who are the least identified with oppression and tyranny. It is difficult, for instance, to conceive what possible political purpose can have been achieved by the foul and cowardly slaying of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria. Less perhaps than any other consort of an old world ruler has she played any part in the administration of the government of her husband. Equally difficult to comprehend was the assassination of President Carnot, who, like the Austrian empress, was laid low by the dagger of an Italian anarchist. He was the most exemplary of men, distributed the major portion of his presidential salary in charity, and if anything erred on the side of mercy, while the ministers whom he selected to assume direction of the destinies of the republic were nearer socialists than any other cabinet officers who have ever been intrusted with portfolios either in France or any other civilized country. In our own country the assassination of President Garfield, while not an act of anarchy, serves to illustrate the same lack of purpose which appears to govern all such murderous deeds. It is such facts as these that make anarchy detestable and abhorrent to the minds of all intelligent and right-minded people, and which tend to defeat rather than to promote the ends of justice aimed at.

A CONSIDERABLE number of persons have gone to Hawaii since annexation and most of them, according to the late advices, would be glad to get back to the states, but are with out means to do so. Many of these people, professional and business men, expect to find abundant chances in our new possession, without the need of capital, but they found the conditions all against them. Why anyone should expect to find opportunities in Hawaii for bettering himself it is difficult to understand. The fact that the lands have been annexed to the United States has not improved them as a field of enterprise and industry. They are no better now than they have been at any time in the past four or five years as a market for any sort of labor. Nor are they likely to improve to any material extent. There will be some further development, but it cannot amount to much. There will be the same experience with the Philippines, if the United States should annex them. Americans will go there only to find that the opportunities for money making have all been taken or if there still are any chances large capital will be required to take advantage of them. So far as industrial labor is concerned these islands are no place for an American workingman who has been paid enough for his labor here to live decently and comfortably. It will take time to dispel the delusion that territorial acquisition is a great boon, but it may come.

The peremptory message from Washington to the American members of the Cuban military commission saying that there must be no further delay in Spain's evacuation of the island is timely. The language of the protocol was that the evacuation should be "immediate," and the acceptance of that compact by both branches of the Cortes and by the Queen Regent commits Spain to this as well as to the other condition of the agreement. The United States never intended strict compliance with that condition. Spain was to be allowed a few weeks' time in which to wind up its affairs in the island and to get out. The lack of transportation from Cuba to Spain and the absence of a quick communication between the different Spanish posts in the islands were taken into the account of the Presi-

dent. There was a disposition on the part of the people to make the terms as agreed upon as easy for Spain as possible consistent with the interest of the Americans and Cuba.

THERE is that about the system of giving a bounty to men and officers in the navy based on the amount of damage done the enemy and the odds of the battle inconsistent with the theory of military and naval warfare. Men enlist in the navy, as in the army, for the defense of their country or to maintain the right, not in the hope of pecuniary reward, nor simply for fame and the victor's laurel wreath, but from a sense of duty. In the army there is no possible way that the soldier may receive full compensation for his time, to say nothing of reward for his courage and self-sacrifice, but in the navy it is possible to win large bounties. The bounty system was followed during the rebellion and nearly \$10,000,000 was paid to men and officers in the United States navy on that account, with a great many claims never yet settled. For each man of the force opposed to Admiral Dewey at Manila the commander and his men will get \$100 which it is estimated will give them \$187,200. There is provision for a bounty for each person on a ship captured and the bounty on the ship destroyed or defeated varies with the relative strength of the contending fleets. Dewey will get as his share of the bounty on account of the Manila fight about \$9,300 and the lumber workers in the stockholes will get as much as \$50 each. The sailors will also be well paid on account of the prize collection of Spanish ship at Key West. Whatever may be the shortcomings of this system it seems to work well in practice. It is true that American seamen fight wholly from a feeling of patriotic duty and they need no bounty stimulus, yet the American people do not begrudge them the extra compensation they may get by reason of the substantial victories to their credit.

A CABLE dispatch says that the extraordinary record 40-8 miles an hour was made at the second trials of the torpedo boat destroyer "Hai Lung," just built at Elbing, Germany, by the Schichau works for the Chinese government. The runs were made in the open sea between the lighthouses at Pillau and Brusterort, which are 19 knots apart. The wind was fresh (five by the scale) and there was considerable sea on. The "Hai Lung," according to the Kohlsche Zeitung, traversed the course several times, the average time for the runs being 32 minutes 25 seconds, which gives a speed of 35-2 knots, or 68 kilometers, or 40-8 statute miles. This exceeds by far any speed heretofore made on the water, surpassing even the best performance of the "Turbinia."

A REPORT just issued by the Department of Agriculture on the cultivation of beet sugar in the United States contains a great deal that is instructive to those interested in that industry. It appears that this country has paid to other nations during the last five years more than \$500,000,000 for sugar. The total domestic product for 1897 was 335,656 tons and the total refined product of beet sugar 1,670,607 tons. Of the total consumption 45 per cent was beet sugar in the United States in 1897 was barely 12½ per cent of the total domestic consumption. Secretary Wilson shows that upon 1,000,000 acres enough sugar can be produced to make the United States entirely independent of foreign supplies. Assuming the correctness of this estimate, and the authority of the secretary of agriculture in the matter will hardly be questioned, there is no doubt that with proper encouragement the beet sugar industry of this country could within five years be made to supply the home consumption. But under the changed conditions which the war has brought about the beet sugar industry in this country is not likely to

make the progress it otherwise would undoubtedly have done. With Hawaii and Porto Rico increasing their sugar production under the stimulus of American enterprise and Cuba also adding to its annual output, the incentive to beet sugar cultivation in the United States will be greatly reduced if not entirely destroyed.

AN American consul who has spent many years in Europe said in a recent communication to the State department that the need of the period in the United States is a class of competent, well trained young men, with good manners, a practical command of French, German and Spanish—one or all—combined with intimate practical knowledge of a certain class of manufactured goods and the commercial methods, currencies, weights, measures and customs of foreign countries. He urged that henceforth it will be necessary that a largely increased class of young men shall prepare themselves for and accept definitely as so many thousands do in Great Britain and Germany, the career of mercantile employes in foreign lands, in which social sacrifices and the discomforts and even dangers of alien climates are balanced by the material advantages which such a career offers to energy, perseverance, trained capacity.

ACCORDING to the latest advices from Washington, Congressman Hull of Iowa, chairman of the house military committee, is drafting a bill, providing for the increase of the peace footing of the regular army to 100,000. It is questionable, however, whether such a measure, contemplating as it does, the quadrupling of regular army appropriations will meet with the support required to carry it through congress. The American people have never favored large standing armies in times of peace. While it is conceded that an army of 25,000 for a nation of 70,000,000 is inadequate, the present number of 60,000 ought to suffice for garrisoning the posts of existing American territory.

THE action of the Connecticut democratic state convention was a distinct victory for the sound money element of the party. The financial plank of the platform declares that "the democracy of Connecticut is now, as it has ever been, in favor of bimetalism as enunciated by Jefferson, affording, as it does, the most stable standard of value, and we declare ourselves unalterably opposed to monometallism of any kind." Referring to the New York Times observation that the free coinage of silver as the experience of the world teaches and everybody knows, leads promptly to silver monometallism. This the democrats of Connecticut are unalterably opposed to and therefore they have no sympathy with the free silver, 16 to 1 elements of the democracy.

UP to this time no expedition has been sent out to explore the island of Cuba for the purpose of locating the seat of government of the paper republic of Cuba, nor have any of our troops or commissioners been able to encounter its president or any member of its cabinet. It is fortunate, however that President McKinley had the foresight and firmness to refuse recognition to a government which did not possess the attributes of popular sovereignty.

IN the present house of representatives the republicans have a majority of about fifty. It is not probable that the opposition can convert this majority into a minority at the congressional elections of this year, but it is possible. All depends upon whether republicans everywhere do their whole duty. If they are apathetic or indifferent the next house of representatives may be controlled by the opposition. A leading Ohio republican paper remarks that easy-going republicans and other supporters of the administration of President McKinley who take it for granted that the return of business prosperity and the success of

the war with Spain will insure the election of a republican congress, without any particular effort by any one, should give a little careful attention to the returns from the state elections in Vermont and Maine. While in both those states every republican candidate for congress was elected by a large majority and the state legislature in each state will be republican by an overwhelming majority in both branches, yet there was a large decline in the republican vote of each state as compared with two years ago, whereas the opposition votes shows a very small falling off from that of 1896. The explanation is to be found in the apathy of republican voters. The party could afford this in these two overwhelming republican states, but similar changes in the vote of the two parties throughout the country would almost certainly mean republican disaster in November. Those who have made a careful calculation assert that not less than fifty districts would be lost to the republicans if the same ratios of loss for both parties which have been recorded in Maine should prevail everywhere, while if he changes were like those shown in Vermont the opposition would gain more than eighty seats.

A FUTURE OF PROSPERITY.

THE London Statist, universally recognized as the most reliable authority upon trade conditions throughout all part of the world, predicts for the United States an era of unparalleled prosperity after the war. It observes that an early proclamation of peace is probable. "This prospect," it adds, "has very naturally given a fillip to the market for American securities, and when a treaty of peace is actually signed it may reasonable be expected that there will be a marked rise."

In presenting its reasons for predicting unusual prosperity of the United States the Statist first reviews the splendid industrial conditions which prevail in this country at present, the three successive seasons of splendid crops which have put the farming classes upon their feet, the advantages which we have in the possession of improved scientific methods and mechanical inventions, the high average of intelligence and skill of our artisans and laboring classes, and a new field of commercial activity which have been opened to us by reasons of the war. It then continues: "Over and above this, it is to be recollected that Cuba is one of the richest islands in the world naturally; that it has been grievously neglected while under Spanish rule, and that Americans, with their characteristic energy, enterprise and boldness, will throw themselves into the task of developing the natural resources of the island in a short time; that this will give employment to a great mass of capital and that the conquest stimulus given to every kind of industry in Cuba will react upon the United States. Furthermore, Porto Rico will have to be brought up to the American level, and whatever acquisition the United States makes in the Pacific will likewise call for a large outlay of capital."

The Statist also finds that the industries of the United States will greatly benefit, both directly and indirectly, by reason of the many new and important undertakings upon the part of the government. "The new position in the world taken by the United States," it observes, "make it incumbent upon the government to largely augment its fleet. Therefore large additions of first-class ships of the newest type will have to be made, and that implies a considerable government outlay. The army likewise will have to be increased which again means an additional government outlay. For all these reasons, and others that might be mentioned, it is reasonable to expect a long period of exceedingly active trade in the United States as well as much business on the stock exchange, and higher prices in both."

The Statist might also have added that there will be a renewed prosperity in the United States because the people have be-

come infused with a new confidence and a new enthusiasm, the direct results of a new knowledge of their own inherent power, their own capabilities and the vast opportunities and possibilities that lie before them. The war has been a revelation to the average American, which has increased his strength by increasing his confidence, a hundred fold.

THE WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD.

In his address to the convention of bankers at Denver Mr. Hendrix, its president, said: "The promise of experience—that the country which can produce iron and steel at the lowest cost will control and dominate the commerce of the world—is awaiting us, now that Alabama is dictating the price of pig iron and Pennsylvania is fixing the price of steel. We hold now three or four of the winning cards in the game for commercial greatness—iron, steel and coal. We have long been the granary of the world; we now aspire to be its workshop. Then we want to be its clearing house."

There is every reason to believe that the aspiration will be realized. We are making good progress in this direction. In the last ten years the value of American manufactures sent to foreign markets has more than doubled and this feature of our trade is steadily increasing. There is no doubt that the United States will continue to produce iron and steel at a lower cost than any other country, so that if that is the essential thing for dominating the world's commerce our domination is assured. Our supply of iron is inexhaustible, as is also the supply of coal, and the facilities for bringing these together, where they are not found together, as in Alabama, are such as to insure cheaper manufacture of the products of iron than is possible in England or any other country, even with the considerably higher rate of wages paid here. Then our processes are more advanced than elsewhere, a material factor in economy of production. Our ability to undersell every other country in iron and steel must bring us trade and ultimately make this country the workshop of the world. This is our inevitable destiny.

It is most reasonable to believe that when we shall have attained this position we shall also become the clearing house of the world. There is no reason why England should always occupy that position and whenever the time shall come—and it may not be very remote—for her to relinquish it no other European country can take it. It will come to the United States. The great increase in the financial power of this country in the last few years distinctly promises this. We have become practically independent of Europe financially. We have been drawing money from Europe to an enormous amount and there is still a very large amount due us. Many millions have been allowed to remain abroad because there was no profitable use for it here, the rapid accumulation of capital making the supply in excess of the home demand. A few years more of this augmentation of capital, with our monetary system so firmly fixed upon a gold basis as to be beyond all danger of disturbance, would place the United States in a position to become the world's clearing house. The ultimate attainment of this can be prevented only by the adoption of a policy that would debase our currency and impair our credit.

It may be worth while to remark that our commercial growth and our great increase in national wealth have been achieved without any absorption of remote territory. May we not reasonably expect that it will continue if we should not retain possession of all the Philippines? Is it not possible that we shall go on winning trade, by virtue of our advantages and our enterprise, even if we do not retain all the territory our arms have conquered? In the light of experience there must be an affirmative answer to this question.