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HEADLIGHT PIRATE.

Doles Out the Gems of Current Topics.

The total mortality of the war with Spain, from bullets and disease, up to October 3, is shown by the official records of the Adjutant General to be less than 3000. The figures are much smaller than could reasonably have been anticipated in so important a conflict.

ACCORDING to one of the recognized populist organs, "if permanent prosperity is to prevail the power of capital must be curtailed by the free coinage of silver and a large issuance of greenback." Hitherto we have been told that currency inflation would not impair the power of capital, but would rather stimulate productive industry. In this restatement of the popocentric position the demand for free silver, however, is surplusage, as the curtailing process can be done so much more readily and inexpensively by the coinage of pure paper fiat.

AGUINALDO and his followers want independence and they are hopeful that the United States will give it to them. They have sent a representative here to ask that our government recognize their independence and they are showing an earnest purpose to press their cause. Aguinaldo is reported to have recently said: "America came, destroyed the Spanish power and allowed me to return and reorganize the revolution until the revolt became general. It should not now desert us. America interfered in Cuba for humanity's sake. For the same reason it cannot return these islands to Spain." Aguinaldo was some time ago in favor of Philippine independence under joint European and American control, but it is not certain that he holds this idea now. Still he would probably accept such an arrangement if it should be deemed the best way of solving the problem of the future government of the Philippines. What the insurgent leader is firmly committed to is that Spanish authority must be completely eliminated from the islands.

ACCORDING to advices from Japan the railway promoters and wreckers have been getting in their work in the Orient in a way that recalls some of their operations in this country not many decades back. In one of the Japanese railway projects it is found that a large sum of money that has disappeared can be accounted for only as promotion expenses and in another money paid in for stock has been dissipated without any visible work of railroad construction. That is almost equal to certain American railroad jobbery, who secured large bond subsidies on paper promises that never materialized in any shape or manner. It looks as if Japan and other eastern countries cannot learn the les-

son except by repeating the costly experiences.

REGARDING the proposed new railroad to be constructed from Hankow to Hong Kong, China, by an American syndicate, ex-Senator Calvin S. Brice, said: "The American syndicate has now on hand, on the property, part of its engineering force, and is sending, as rapidly as it can be equipped, a corps of engineers and other officials, who will make the survey, beginning at Hankow and extending to the city of Canton, and thence to Hong Kong. There are in the syndicate seven representatives of the Vanderbilt interests and three of the Standard Oil Company, John D. Rockefeller, Wm. Rockefeller and the president of one of the largest banks; also the presidents of several of our largest trust companies, Levi P. Morton, George T. Bliss and officials of the Carnegie Steel Company. Our best opinion is that it will cost between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000. The syndicate will undoubtedly control the road for a period of four or five years, during which it is subject to negotiations which may change its character. The provinces through which the road will pass are the most populous in China, having a population of 300,000,000.

THERE is a popular notion that milk is soured by thunder. It probably originated in the fact that milk often becomes sour immediately after a thunder storm. However, it is not the sound, but the general state of the atmosphere, that is to blame. The milk sours because it is warm. The moist, oppressive atmosphere that immediately precedes a thunder storm encourages the activity of germs in the milk, and they multiply very rapidly. The same condition normally exists in the stomach. It is moist and warm, the temperature being 100 deg. F., so that milk, when retained alone, it passes out of the stomach in about an hour, but if eaten with vegetables or fruit, it is obliged to remain in the stomach with them, and often creates no small disturbance.

THE fall campaign is on in the Eastern states, but the following statement by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat is interesting aside from the fact: "The party's war record will of course, help the republicans in the coming congressional elections, but the party will not depend for victory on this record alone. When the republicans entered power a little over a year ago the country was financially depressed but all signs of the business stagnation have disappeared. The mills and factories of all sorts are again running at their full capacity, everybody who wants work has it, the farmers have an active market for their products, and the country is prosperous. This swift and complete business transformation is evident to everybody. It came just as quick as the republican party got to work. Republican supremacy brought

it. The fact is going to make hundreds of thousands of voters for the republicans in the elections in November. The party which gave prosperity to the country, and which can maintain it, can appeal with confidence to the suffrages of the people."

MARK HANNA has sounded an alarm, says the N. Y. World. He frankly tells his fellow-Republicans that the next House of Representatives is likely to be Democratic. This is true, and no wonder. With the Dingley bill producing less revenue than enough to pay the ordinary expenses of the Government; with the scandals of the war on the Republican party's head; with the President's shameful abuse of his appointing power in filling the vital departments of the army with incompetents who had pulled; with the records of the sickness and deaths in the camps, attributable solely to incapable administration; with Alger still holding office and controlling the army; with an exasperating war-revenue measure which even with the aid of the commerce-crippling Dingley bill produces a deficit of nearly \$60,000,000 during the first three months of the fiscal year—with all these facts in evidence it will surely be astonishing if the next Congress is not Democratic.

GERMANY, it is said, objects, so far as itself is concerned, to the Czar's idea of national disarmament. Of course it objects, and so does France and every other big European nation. In the abstract, every European country wants disarmament, but in the concrete it wants its neighbors to do all the disarming. Germany would be glad to see France disarm 300,000 or 400,000 of her soldiers and evacuate her forts, while France would be delighted to see the Kaiser let two-thirds or three-fourths of his army go home and stay home. Neither nation will do any thing of the kind, however, nor would it even if there were a promise on the other side to do likewise. Each would distrust the other, and consequently the armies will grow larger instead of smaller. The Czar's peace gathering will be like the international monetary conferences in which the United States has participated. It will be well attended, will evoke eloquent discussion among its members and in the newspapers all over the world, and the military appropriations of the great nations will keep rising on increasing.

FOREST fires will rage in the Pacific Northwest until the winter rains set in, says the Pacific Lumber Trade Journal. The fires are from three causes, namely, careless campers, slashing fires and land clearings. They do not materially damage heavy growth timber, but hollow and dead trees are the first touched. At the same time green timber is killed by the heat, and inside of a year or two fall prey to the fires. There are good laws covering the setting of fires in the forests, but they have never been thoroughly enforced. Probable when timber becomes

scarcer an awakening will come; at least we hope so.

THERE is a good field on the Pacific coast for a small turpentine factory. There are two species of wood rich in turpentine and allied products, Douglas fir and "bull" pine, both of which yield turpentine, resin, wood alcohol, pitch and other so-called naval products. Loggers and lumbermen who have had experience with "pitchy" trees know this is true, and the public is not posted. The yield is by no means as large as the pitch pine of the south, but there is certainly room for a factory that will utilize the stumps and refuse of pitch-bearing trees on the coast. It is worth investigating.

THE Klondike saw mill man is now in clover. With lumber at \$250 per 1,000 feet, he cares not whether rails or cargo freight rates on the Pacific coast advance or not.

So Spain wanted to secure a man to pilot her fleet along the New England coast. "First catch your rabbit," said the old recipe. As Spain did not succeed in catching the New England coast, but caught hades instead, it is evident that her search for a pilot was as premature as would be the making of a rabbit pie without the rabbit.

GEORGE J. GOULD will, by decision of the court appeals, be compelled to contribute to the state exchequer of New York \$132,784 as a tax on the bequest of \$5,000,000 left him by his father. Since there still remains of the bequest a small balance of \$4,867,316, his sleep will probably not be disturbed by visions of the poorhouse as a refuge for his indigent old age.

THE secretary of the Spanish peace commissioners says, "We are here to defend ourselves, and naturally are not willing to give up any of our weapons to our opponents." That is, the reports, that Spain is determined to resist all attempts of the United States to take any of the Philippines except part of Luzon are untrue. Spain is going to make the best contest it can in the Paris conference, but it is not going to fight fate. It will hang on to as many of the islands as possible. This number will be small if the American members do their work faithfully and intelligently. Despite the frigidity of the political atmosphere of France to Americans on this annexation question, Mr. Day and his associates can get the whole Philippine archipelago if they are resolute. The situation is entirely in American control.

GOLD from Europe is flowing into the New York banks, but the banks do not want it. Like the treasury, they have a larger supply of gold than they need. So long as the Republicans stay in power there will be no dearth of the yellow metal. The treasury's free gold, now about \$243,000,000, is at a far higher line than was ever touched by that fund until

within the past few weeks. A Democratic victory in the coming congressional elections, however, would start the gold reserves downward again. If the Democrats carry the country on November 8 nobody will say a month or two afterward, what everybody has been saying in the past few months, that the banks and the treasury have more gold than they can profitably use. A simple and sure way to kill financial confidence and business prosperity is to let the Democrats win an election.

VIGILANCE, intelligence and firmness on the part of the American commissioners are demanded at this juncture. In one respect the conditions are adverse for the Americans. Public opinion in France, particularly official opinion, is on Spain's side. Some of the astutest diplomats in the world are in Paris ready to coach the Spanish commissioners. Continental Europe, jealous of America, and fearful of the ultimate effect on European pretensions in Asia which would result from a diplomatic victory at Paris for the United States, will use their influence against this country. Nevertheless, with judgment and determination the American commissioners will win. If they take intelligent advantage of their opportunities their demands will be granted. They must stand out for the whole of the Philippines. This is the logical course. It is the only course which will protect the inhabitants of the islands against Spain, against the predatory nations of continental Europe, and against anarchy. It is the only course which will protect American interests and satisfy the American people. By making this demand resolutely the American commissioners can, at the same time, head off all chances for future trouble in any part of the Philippines with any other nation, and prevent, immediately and forever, all outside tampering with the islanders such as is now attributed to Germany.

THERE has been a good deal of talk lately about not hauling down the American flag from over any spot where it has once waved. There are many staffs from which the American flag once floated but now floats no more. We refer to the mastheads of merchant vessels. We are uncompromisingly in favor now and always of resoring the American flag to those mastheads, and we hope that all those who want to see the American flag in every spot where it once waved will not forget to include our vanished merchant marine on their list. This is something in regard to which both imperialists and anti-imperialists ought to agree. The time was when the American flag was seen in every port. We want the time to come when the American flag will float on every sea and in every corner of every sea; when every port will be bright with Stars and Stripes. The greatest manufacturing nation on earth should have a merchant marine to carry its products to every corner of the globe. The greatest grain

exporting country in the world should send its grain in its own ships. The people who use more of the world's products than any other equal number of people on the globe should bring those products home under their own flag. A system of discriminating duties for the protection of American shipping would bring all this to pass.

THERE is much talk going the rounds that feeder buyers are going to discriminate against "common" cattle this fall, but when the growers can get \$25 a head for yearlings and \$30 or better for 2-year-olds which they are doing at present, it makes very little difference as far as the discrimination is concerned. It pays better, of course, to breed good cattle, but the growers cannot change their herds from "common" cattle to thoroughbreds in a day, and if they could, why then these same feeder buyers would likely be hunting the country over for "common cattle."

IS contradicting sensational reports as to scarcity of food supplies among United States troops about Santiago, a dispatch from that city says they have ample supplies of every kind except that in some instances fresh meat supplies have been unsatisfactory. "Near Santiago are great fields of pasture," continues the dispatch, "and the United States government would do well to send live bees here instead of contract meat. The cost would be less and the satisfaction far greater."

THERE certainly must be money in cattle when beef sells for from 8 to 15 cents per pound, and we predict that more men will go into the cattle business. We do know that every man in the country who is in the cattle business and reasonably free from debt is making money. A ranchman is scarcely "in it" unless he has a bunch of cattle, so that he can sell some every year. Working crops of potatoes in the mountains, digging money out of the ground by raising grain and producing hay for sale may be all right, but no man will say but that cattle are of more profit. Get you a bunch of cattle. On account of the broad prairies making plenty of pasture cattle should be the natural product of this country, as cotton is of the warm Southern states or corn a product of the central states.

CHINA is a humorous sort of country. Just as it is crumbling to pieces it has bought in Germany the fastest torpedo boat in the world, with a speed of over forty statute miles an hour. Perhaps some of the imperial family are planning a rapid change of base.

THE late Captain General of the Philippines gives this description of Dewey's first appearance: "At daybreak we were in the power of the Americans and an hour afterward the Spanish fleet had ceased to exist." The story of a defeat is not often so concise and dramatic.

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