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HEADLIGHT PIRATE. Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

WHEN the probability of a war between Spain and the United States was the subject of comment among the foreign journals the people of this country were characterized as a nation of shopkeepers and traders. It was stated that the Americans would not fight unless it should be for some pecuniary consideration. Another idea that gained followers was that the American nation was made up of remnants from other nations and could not concentrate or amalgamate its strength. Dewey at Manila, Schley at Santiago, Roosevelt, Wheeler and the loyal Americans behind the guns and under the folds of Old Glory soon dispelled this idea. The other nations now admit that while the English spoken in the lines may have been broken there was no break in the line of loyalty. To-day the American rises head and shoulders above any man in any nation on earth. The American flag is cheered in every harbor, and the bravery and heroism of the American soldier is known from one side of the world to the other. The average American is modern. He is in the "too-hot-to-handle" class so far as comparison with the citizen of any other nation is concerned. Our English brethren across the water are successful, but easy going. It is a case of the sit-down-as-soon-as-you-Britisher.

JUST to show his faith in the czar's disarmament proposition Emperor William has selected as one of Germany's representatives at the peace conference a university professor committed in advance against all disarmament measures. If the other European potentates are playing the same kind of a hand, it may be predicted with substantial certainty that the little international game at The Hague will terminate in a draw.

THE changes of a year are almost incomprehensible. A year ago the United States was in the midst of active preparations for the war with Spain. To-day it is preparing to participate in an international peace conference. No nation on earth can equal the United States in the facility with which it can transfer itself from a peace basis to a war basis and back again to peace.

THE principal bank of the City of Mexico is about to raise its capital stock from \$7,500,000 to \$17,500,000. This trifling jump of \$10,000,000 need, however, create no alarm when it is remembered that Mexican dollars are still worth less than 50 cents.

THE highest death record ever made by any epidemic diseases in this country was that of 1878, when yellow fever in its most virulent form ravaged the entire Southwest, from Louisiana to Ohio, destroying nearly 15,000 lives. Consumption destroys more than 102,000 American lives in each recurring year. Thus consumption kills about seven times as many people every year as yellow fever ever killed in any year. This startling fact lends peculiar interest to every scientific effort either to prevent the spread of this dread disease, which is now definitely recognized as infectious, or to find means for its cure. Especially interesting, because especially hopeful, are the experiments now making by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia with a new treatment discovered by a physician.

THE hitches which are reported in the Samoan affair are not likely to prove very serious. Germany has been reported as averse to the plans favored by the United States for a settlement of the controversy. Some sort of an arrange-

ment will be entered into, however. The Samoan Islands are worth a good deal more to the United States than they are to Germany. But they are not worth enough to either country to quarrel over them, and so their will be no quarrel.

THE President's Chicago organ, the Times-Herald, interprets the proclamation of his Philippine Commission to mean that the Administration "proposes to keep what it has got"—regardless of Congress apparently.

THE Philadelphia Record thinks that "if the Democratic party can find no better candidate than one who is willing to crawl upon the Chicago platform, the attempt to elect him would be a stupendous waste of political energy."

A GOVERNMENT OF FORCE.

Professor Woolsey of Yale, the eminent authority on international law, believes that the government of the Philippines must be permanently a government of force. He said in his address before the American Academy of Political and Social Science that no government can succeed there which is not based on force, that "we need to place a benevolent despot in every district in the archipelago," therefore the military government is the only one possible. He made a distinction between Porto Rico and the Philippines, saying as to the former that when congress sees fit to legislate the government of the island should be laid as largely as possible upon the shoulders of its own people.

The proclamation of the Philippine commission promises that the people will be granted "the most ample liberty and self-government reconcilable with the maintenance of a wise, just, stable, effective and economical administration of public affairs and compatible with the sovereign and international rights and the obligations of the United States." This wholly indefinite assurance may fairly be regarded as contemplating the condition which Professor Woolsey believes to be the only practicable condition—permanent military rule or a government of force, such as other nations have in their colonies. He said: "This despotic form of administration is not an ideal method; its justification is that no other is practicable." Of course it is in the power of congress to establish civil government in the Philippines, but the danger is that the American people will become so imbued with the idea of military rule, notwithstanding its repugnance to American principles, that they will be content to permit it to continue indefinitely. Doubt as to the capacity and fitness of the Philippine people for self-government, now quite general, is likely to retain its hold for a long time and if under military rule the island shall become peaceful and prosperous and their people make no serious objection or opposition to that form of government, there would undoubtedly be created in this country a strong sentiment against any change. The influence of the army would certainly be so directed and most probably that of the commercial interests also, together with that of whatever American capital may be invested in the Philippines. These influential forces may safely be counted upon to favor the permanent maintenance of military rule and it is needless to say that their potency is very great.

IS IT A REALITY?

Mr Charles E. Tripler, the inventor of an apparatus for making liquid air in large quantities, contends that he has discovered something better than perpetual motion. In other words, his engines will manufacture a greater amount of motive power than they require to propel them. Under such circumstances there is no limit to the power that might be brought into use. Here is what the inventor says:

"The heat of the atmosphere is boiling the liquid air in my engine and producing power just exactly as the heat of the coal boils water and drives off steam. I simply use another form of heat. I get my power from the heat of the sun; so does every other producer of power. Coal, as I said before, is only a form of the sun's energy; stored up. The perpetual motion crank tries to utilize the at-

traction of gravitation, not the heat of the sun.

"I actually find that I can produce, for every two gallons of liquid air that I pour into my engine, a larger quantity of liquid air from my liquefier. . . . I have actually made about ten gallons of liquid air in my liquefier by the use of about three gallons in my engine. There is, therefore, a surplus of seven gallons that has cost me nothing and which I can use elsewhere as power.

"And there is no limit to this production; you keep on producing this surplus indefinitely?" was asked.

"I think so. I have not yet finished my experiments, you understand, and I don't want to claim too much. I believe I have discovered a great principle in science and I believe I can make practical machinery do what my experimental machine will do."

It is bewildering to think of a source of power that costs nothing and has no limit. We can dream of ocean greylhounds crossing the great expanse of water without coal or coal bunkers. The great factories of the world could run indefinitely. With costless power think how everything would be cheapened and a thousand other consummations devoutly to be wished could be realized.

But there are those who laugh at Mr Tripler's idea. Perhaps it can be said that there were those who laughed at Professor Morse's idea. The greatest inventors of the world have been subjected to ridicule.

A DISGRACE TO ILLINOIS.

The lower house of the Illinois legislature has declared in favor of the removal of the tomb of Abraham Lincoln from Oakridge cemetery to the vicinity of the state capitol. The leader of the movement for the removal made this declaration on the floor of the house: "There are people in Springfield who do not desire that the tomb shall be removed from its present location. I do not believe the desires or wishes of the people of Springfield should be considered in this matter. By reason of their shameful neglect of the tomb of President Lincoln they are the last people who should be consulted. For twenty years it has been almost impossible to reach the tomb during the winter months. I want to know how many of the members of the legislature have seen Lincoln's tomb this winter? It has been impossible for them to reach it because the people of Springfield have provided no means of getting to it. At present it can only be reached by wading through a quagmire." The neglect of the Lincoln tomb is matter of national notoriety and a disgrace to the state of Illinois. The monumental structure under which rests the remains of the martyred president has been allowed to fall almost to pieces and the approaches to it are in a shameful state of dilapidation. The bill proposing the removal of the tomb carries with it the appropriation of \$100,000 and also contains a clause asking the national government to appropriate \$500,000 and contemplates in addition thereto an appeal for private subscriptions aggregating \$400,000, making in all \$1,000,000.

If carried out this would be a patriotic scheme of raising money under false pretenses. The state of Illinois has assumed the sacred responsibility of caring for the remains of its greatest citizen. It is in honor bound to provide the necessary means to maintain the tomb and make it accessible by constructing roadways and approaches by which the cemetery may be reached at all seasons of the year. If \$100,000 is insufficient for the work of restoration and improvement the entire state of the west is not only amply able but should consider it a privilege to contribute whatever sum may be required.

WEALTH OF UNITED STATES.

The wealth of the United States is now double that of Great Britain, and next to the United States Great Britain is the richest nation in the world. The census which will soon be taken of the United States will show a population in excess of 83,000,000, without counting our new island possessions. In 1890 our population was about 70,000,000. Enormous as this increase of population is it is small as compared with the great increase of the wealth of the country. In the last ten

years the wealth of the country has increased more than the entire increase of the preceding thirty years, or from 1860 to 1890. The aggregate amount of wealth as will be shown by the 1900 census, will reach the inconceivable figures of \$110,000,000,000, or an increase since 1890 of \$45,000,000,000. No other period in the history of this or any other country has seen so great an industrial and business development as in this last decade.

Now that the great industries of the United States are reaching out so ambitiously for an increase of foreign trade and foreign business, it is highly probable that the next ten years will see an even greater increase, both in population and wealth of the United States. It is apparent now to the whole world that the United States is a nation that does things. While we may gain victories in war both by land and sea, these battles gained are nothing as compared to the great industrial and commercial conquests by the energy and indomitable courage of American business men. From all indications it is apparent that the industrial and business gains of the past ten years only faintly indicate still further and greater acquisitions and increase of wealth for the coming decade.

BANKS AND THEIR TRUSTS.

At a dinner of bankers in New York a few days ago Secretary Gage took occasion to warn them against the over-capitalized industrial combinations. He said that it seemed to him that the chief danger today to American prosperity is that men who think they see profits in the way of economies due to combination immediately set to work to capitalize these theoretical profits and to realize upon the capital. He urged the bankers to protect the community against such fallacies. The warning is said to have made an impression upon the bankers, who had generally themselves been thinking on the subject. It is stated that conservatism has for some months been the policy of the banks in dealing with loans for which industrial collateral was offered, in many instances unmixing industrial collateral being refused absolutely, while in other instances the amount loaned on it has been such as to allow such a material decline in the prices of shares or certificates as to fully protect the banks.

To what extent the various combinations, particularly those organized within the last twelve months, are over-capitalized, it is impossible to determine. It is probable that not only all the common stock of most of the recent industrial combinations represents "wind," but that from 25 to 50 per cent of the preferred stock is of the same character. If this estimate is approximately correct the over-capitalization amounts to not less than \$1,000,000,000 and is probably in excess of that. No intelligent business man needs to be told that this involves a very distinct danger to the financial security and to the prosperity of the country and the worst of it is that the mania has not subsided. Sooner or later these combinations will fail to pay dividends, their stock will be thrown on the market and then there may issue a crash disastrous in its consequences. The banks may not now be able to avert this but it is obviously their duty and their interest not to encourage the combination craze.

A Self-Denying Husband.

"George, dear," said the loving wife, "why don't you smoke the cigars I presented to you on your birthday?"
"A pipe is good enough for me, my dear. Cigars are too rich for my blood."
"But, George, dear, they didn't cost much. I paid only \$1 for the box."
"It was very thoughtful of you to buy them, Mary; but, as I said, a pipe is good enough for me. Your kindness, however, will not be thrown away. The cigars will enable me to do a handsome thing by our friends when they call. They shall have them."
"But I should like to see you smoke one of them, dear."
"Self-denial, my darling, is one of the greatest of human virtues. I deny myself for the pleasure of our friends."
"It is noble of you, George, and after all I am proud of your resolution."

SPIRIT OF THE STATE PRESS.

New Ideas by the Moulders of Public Opinion.

THE United States paid Spain \$20,000,000 for acknowledging she was licked and the Cubans \$3,000,000 for shouting over our victory. When Aguinaldo wants to sell out and retire from the fighting business, he would rather kill off all the Philippines than buy him off. Perhaps, however the Philippine leader will be suitably rewarded as soon as the licking has been completed.—North Yamhill Reporter.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO! Judge Barton today turned into the county treasury \$13,700 received for the sale of chickens raised on the poor farm, and a good many eggs have been sold. The judge believes that when the farm has been run a year or two it will pay the entire expenses of keeping the county poor within \$500 or \$600. If so it will be a big saving.—Albany Democrat.

It is their ignorance more than anything else that has made all the trouble for us among the Filipinos. With the islands rid of Aguinaldo and a few of his mischief-makers, there will be little difficulty in dealing with the natives. They are more promising material than the Cubans.—Hillsboro Independent.

THE trusts and combines are swarming in such great numbers of late that the country will become alarmed. One political party is not liable to have the advantage of the other in regard to them for all will probably declare vehemently against ALL trusts. If they do not, then immediately that party should die. Trusts and combines will break their own necks if they have plenty of rope, and at present they appear to have all that is wanted. These vampire bats are getting a severe hold on the body politic of the land and nothing but extreme exertion on the part of the people will ever make them let go. These trusts have in them many good people of the land who have either led themselves to believe such is the right thing to do, or else feel that they must do so as a matter of protection.—Rogue River Courier.

OLD General Gomez not content with the friendship extended to him by the United States, is now reported to be organizing an agitation for the total independence of Cuba, and urging the withdrawal of U. S. troops from the island. There are many things the old man has to learn yet, and if he begins cutting up any of his Cuban-Spanish fiascos, he will find to his sorrow that his new-found Uncle Samuel won't be trifled with.—Yaquina Bay News.

PIONEER day this year will be given additional interest by the fact that it marks the fifty-third anniversary of Great Britain's withdrawal from Oregon, fortieth year of statehood and the fiftieth since she was formally admitted as a territory of the United States.—The Hatchet.

THE greatest question up for the consideration by the American people to-day is the throttling of trusts. Our greatest enemy lies within our borders. These gigantic combinations of capital, controlling the entire output of commodities, strike at the very root of our national and individual freedom. They must be crushed, and it is the paramount duty of congress to see that it is done. A nation dominated by trusts! Never! It is a question to view with alarm and it will take men who are men to settle it.—Independence Enterprise.

THE idea that a civilized man can be manufactured out of an Indian, even through the costly process employed by the United States government for that purpose, is disproved in the life of Skul-tash Kastru, familiarly known as Chief Moses, of the Okanogans, who died recently at his home on the Colville, Wash., reservation. Moses had an annuity of \$1000, an allotment of excellent land, a good frame house, fast horses, a carriage, improved farming machinery, etc., all government bequests, and was in touch with civilization more or less closely for over a third of a century yet

his dress was that of the Indian, and his dwelling was the Indian tepee alongside of his white-painted frame house built by the government. Moses represented a race whose traditions tremble with a touch of pathos even as its history is blurred by cruelty and treachery, and the remnant of a mighty host has passed to the beyond, his only connection with the vast race from which he sprung being an exceptional figure physically—himself a failure, since he was neither savage nor civilized.—Yamhill County Reporter.

THE Eugene bicycle club favors using the money which will accrue from the bicycle tax in improving the wagon roads of the county. The Graphic would favor the same move in this county and it also believes that a law should be passed at the next session of the legislature placing an additional tax of \$1.25 on every vehicle that is used on the roads. A tax of \$1.25 on bicycles and all other wheeled vehicles that travel the roads would bring in a sufficient income to put the roads in good condition. Every man who travels the public roads could very well afford to pay \$1.25 a year in addition to what he is already paying in order to have the roads put in better condition for travel. The fact is the average taxpayer gets off easy on road work, considering the great advantage good roads are to him.—Newberg Graphic.

At the dairy meeting recently held in Portland one of the speakers repeated the trite saying, "what has been can be done." It is a good saying to repeat, especially in reference to dairying. It is especially easy in dairying, to see that the difference between profit and loss depends upon the man and not upon circumstances beyond human control. At the same meeting Mr. D. Kaufman, of Needy, Oregon, said he was producing butter in mid-winter at a food cost of about ten cents per pound. Mr. Kaufman is not a boaster nor a guesser. A goodly number of dairymen have brought their herds up to such a standard that their cows yield an average of over 300 pounds of butter each per year. The men who have done this are securing butter fat at a food cost of one half to two-thirds as much as the men who secure ordinary results. Now what has been accomplished by Messrs. West, Douglas, Schulerich, Kaufman, etc., can be done by many others. Of those who try, a few may perhaps fail, but what hope is there for any of those who will not even be convinced that it is possible to secure better results than the low average standard with which they are familiar?—Rural Northwest.

UNCLE SAM'S entire indebtedness is \$1,157,904,392, upon which the annual interest payment amounts to \$40,605,751, which is about 53 cents for each man, woman and child in the U. S. More than eight hundred millions of this debt is the result of the civil war, two hundred and sixty odd millions represents bonds issued by the Cleveland administration, and less than two hundred million went to pay the expenses of the war with Spain. Our national debt is a mere nothing when compared with those under which the European nations are staggering; we can easily pay off ours in a few years, but nobody expects those of European nations ever to be paid off. The best they can do is to keep on paying a low rate of interest.—Polk County Observer.

By far the most important of the many new laws relating to judicial proceedings is the one (house bill 15) empowering district attorneys to file information in the circuit court without the intervention of the grand jury. The grand jury system is not abolished, as circuit courts have power to convene grand juries if they deem them necessary. Under the new arrangement, accused persons will have the advantage of an earlier trial in circuit courts than has been customary, and counties will be saved the enormous expense of per diem and mileage of grand juries and witnesses summoned to attend and testify.—Astoria Herald.

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