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HEADLIGHT PIRATE.

Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

It is somewhat bewildering in these days to look over the business projects before the country which are reorganizing and capitalizing on a basis of tens of millions and hundreds of millions. A few years ago these combinations were content to fix their stock at a million or two, but scarcely a day passes in which schemes are not broached for \$50,000,000 or more. One much talked of at present announces that its stock will be placed at \$500,000,000, or \$800,000,000, or possibly a round \$1,000,000,000, an elasticity in the prospectus that would have delighted Colonel Sellers. This is for a single line of manufacture. Another, and by no means one of the most prominent, is arranging a capitalization of \$50,000,000. Producers of copper talk of marking up their stock to several hundred millions. In fifteen months new American "industrial securities" have been created to the extent of \$5,000,000,000, and the daily additions are running higher than ever. These emblems of wealth, for they can be called no more at present, are piling up at a rate never equaled before in the world's history.

REPORTS are to the effect that before the present trouble in the Philippines is over Admiral Dewey is to return to this country. The admiral will realize when he gets here that active service at Manila is rest and quietude compared with what is in store for him in the United States.

ACCORDING to General Laceret the \$3,000,000 paid by the United States to the Cuban soldiers has been practically dissipated in the saloons and the recipients, as soon as they shall have finished their carousing, will resume operations as brigands or beggars. Had the United States given over the whole \$60,000,000 demanded for these soldiers the result would probably have been the same, although perhaps longer delayed. The more experience we have with our Cuban proteges, the more serious appear the difficulties arising out of our occupation of the island if we do not make up our mind to annex them.

A DECISION of far-reaching consequences, if sustained by the higher courts rendered by the Missouri court of appeals, sustains the Missouri anti-trust law in its broadest phrases. The most vital application of the law is to the effect that a trust cannot force the collection of a bill for goods sold and delivered, even though the sale is not made by the trust itself, but by one of its constituent members. Should this decision be affirmed the entire trust fabric would fall, as it opens a way for state legislation to reach trusts incorporated in other states. While one state cannot legislate out of existence a corporation chartered in another state, inability to collect for goods sold would be a blow reaching the very vitals.

A CHICAGO man, who withholds his name for pious reasons, but claims to be a member of Mr. Atkinson's anti-expansion league, has written a little leaflet in which he says: "Aguinaldo is the George Washington of the Antipodes. As peerless a heart beats in the bosom of that dauntless young Malay as ever pulsated in the breast of the great Virginian." It will not be necessary to comment upon the heroism of the father of the country we all love, and for which the loyal sons of the nation are now fighting in the Philippines. The world knows Washington. He was a hero for liberty and for liberty alone. Aguinaldo is a sprinter, a thief, holdup, or whatever epithet one may desire to apply to him. At the present time he has thousands of Spanish prisoners, and is holding them for ransom. He has

United States prisoners, and it will not be long until he will offer their release for a stipulated sum. But the above is simply given as an illustration of how the alleged, or so-called, anti-expansionists are conducting their campaign. When they find that the government is hostile to its enemies they continue to ply their vocations of inciting war by distributing their leaflets with no name attached.

MUCH interest is being developed in the diamond anniversary of the American Sunday School Union to be held in Philadelphia on the 24th and 25th of May, at which address will be made by eminent speakers. The work of the society, in part, is as follows: 100,928 Sunday schools organized, containing 587,680 teachers and 4,070,348 scholars; 224,844 cases of aid to schools, having 13,333,868 members. Nearly four schools a day organized for every day of the last 75 years. Value of publications distributed by sales and gifts, over \$9,000,000. After all this work that has been accomplished by the union and the great work which the denominations are doing, there are no less than \$11,000,000 youths in the United States between the ages of five and eighteen who are not in any Sunday schools. Realizing the great need, as the union does, it is desired that this anniversary shall be the occasion for arousing fresh interest in the great work.

THAT much of the food people eat is adulterated is a matter of common knowledge, yet very few give any attention to it. As a rule the adulterants are not injurious to health, but they impair the quality and value of foods. Needless to say that the great body of consumers are defrauded. A committee of the United States senate is investigating food adulteration and the evidence already elicited is highly interesting. Dr. Wiley, chief chemist of the Agricultural department, said that the grocery store shelves are groaning under loads of adulterated coffee, spices, jellies, syrups and so on. He had found green and roasted coffee to contain 25 per cent of false beans. So-called jelly is to a large extent gelatin. Much of what is sold as olive oil is cottonseed oil. There is very little pure sugarcane syrup, most of it being glucose colored with the refuse from the sugar houses. "Vermont" maple syrup is manufactured in large quantities in Iowa. Most spices and condiments contain 75 and 80 per cent of adulteration. A great deal of what is sold for honey, is simply glucose. As to canned fruits and vegetables Dr. Wiley stated that poisonous chemicals are used as preservatives and for coloring.

THE return of unexampled prosperity has brought in its train a tidal wave of reckless speculation that if unchecked will threaten the country with disaster. Every student of economic history concedes that the financial cyclones that have swept this and other countries have had their origin in over-capitalization, stock watering and unbridled speculation. This was as true of the crash of 1857 and the panic of 1873 as it is of the collapse of 1893. Each of these financial cloudbursts was preceded by wildcat banking, stock jobbing and real estate booming, with their ruinous consequences. But the fortune-makers and fortune-breakers of the seventies and eighties are being eclipsed by the skyscraping schemes and ballooning operations of 1899. Instead of promoting projects involving the investment of a few hundred thousand dollars, the modern promoters touch nothing short of the millions. This era of boundless inflation calls for thoughtful attention. Prudent business men cannot but deplore the abnormal activity on the stock exchanges which can be viewed only as symptoms of eventual disturbance, if not the forerunners of disaster. This does not necessarily imply that the prosperity due to bountiful harvests and heavy exports of American factory products will be transitory nor does it foreshadow any material shrinkage in property values. It is simply a dangerous manifestation of the speculative spirit that is not content with reasonable profits but seeks to amass millions by trading in fictitious futures.

THE insurance companies which pulled out of Arkansas with such a flourish of trumpets a short time ago, declaring the property in that state could go un-

insured in the future on account of the passage of a radical anti-trust law, have commenced to return. It was predicted at the time that their action was a gigantic bluff and that the companies would not long persist in rejecting profitable business. It failed of its purpose, both to induce the Arkansas legislature to repeal the law and to prevent the Texas legislature from passing a similar one.

Two farmer girls whose brothers are in the army in the Philippines have plowed up the old farm and put in a crop. What's the matter with Kansas?

The price of rubber has steadily worked upward because of the continued demand for it. On this account the search for a substitute is now being pursued with more vigor than ever, but has not been attended with much success. A process that has already been utilized and it is claimed, with very satisfactory results is as follows: Tow soaked with oil is placed in a centrifugal machine which throws out all except that clinging in minute globules to the fiber. The bunches of tow are then put on metallic grids in a current of warm air for twenty-four hours, when the oil becomes completely oxidized and the material is then ground, mixed with coloring and rolled into sheets. The product has many of the properties of rubber and gutta percha. It is resilient but less elastic than rubber, resists chemical action and heat of 240 degrees F., and can be used for electric insulation and for wheel tires of high quality. Dissolved by ethereal spirits it serves for giving any fabric a waterproof coating.

Associated Press dispatches from Berlin announces that a letter from Ernest Benninghoven dated from Chicago has received extensive publicity in the agrarian newspapers of Germany, in which the writer claims to know positively that all canned meat intended for export to Germany is from diseased and otherwise unfit animals. Wagon loads of such meat, he asserts, are delivered weekly at the leading packing houses for "embalming purposes." Inspection, Benninghoven says, is a howling farce, owing to wholesale bribery. The writer adds that he hoped Germany would not allow the importation of such meat. This letter has been widely reproduced in the German press and is quoted as conclusive proof from headquarters against all American meats. When a man craves notoriety at any cost he will not shrink from fabricating villainous falsehoods or malicious calumnies. This is the only charitable explanation that can be made for the infamous fake palmed off on the newspapers of Germany by Benninghoven. The assertion that all American meats cannot for export to Germany or any other country are carved out of diseased animals bears the stamp of brazen falsehood on its face. In the first place diseased animals cannot find their way into American meat packing establishments. Animals for slaughter are purchased in the open market by expert cattle buyers, whose duty it is to reject all stock below the standard. Even if all the government inspectors who certify to the soundness of the meats can be bribed to export were bribed it would be a great risk for packers to export any considerable quantity of meat products that could not stand the test of the most rigid inspection in foreign countries. To take that risk when there is an abundance of healthy cattle in the market would be a most costly piece of folly. It would be just about as sensible as exporting rancid butter, wormy cheese or rotten eggs. That anybody in the United States should seek to fan the prejudices of the German consumers of American meat products by such transparent falsehoods passes comprehension.

Secular Shots at the Pulpit.

There appears to be another heresy trial ahead, but these affairs do not interest us as much as they interested our ancestors, who, if they were bored by the proceedings, were buoyed up by the confident expectation of seeing the heretic burned in the market place. Nowadays the heretic has a brilliant career opened to him, if he really be a heretic to some purpose.

Charles Dickens used to tell a story of a preacher, in one of the midland

counties, who could beat Parker at his own game of gilt-edged swearing. The preacher was a liberal politician, and once officiated at the funeral of a cousin of the editor of a Tory newspaper. The editor was present. In his alleged prayer the minister remarked: "Oh, Lord, bless this afflicted dispensation of thine all-wise Providence unto all here gathered, including theretipile sprawling before thee, who hath frequently abused thy servant in the columns of his beastly publication!"

The clergymen who have inaugurated a crusade for the removal of women's hats during church services make little headway as compared with the similar movement by theater managers. The reason is very simple, as in the latter case the removal of headgear is made compulsory, however diplomatic the enforcement of the ordinance may be, while in the new church crusade their is nothing but an appeal to the voluntary good sense of the bonnet wearers themselves. Alas! for the brittle reed on which the clerical crusaders lean for support. If all the members of the clergy were women they would know better than to request the feminine portion of the congregation to hide their creations of the milliner's art under a bushel.

The mock marriage of two children which took place on Friday evening in a church of Coney Island was an offense at once against decency, morality and religion, says the New York Tribune. It is passing strange that reputable people, and more especially church members, can lend themselves to a travesty of so solemn and important a rite. We hear many complaints now, of the low estimation in which marriage is held, evidenced by the frequency of divorces. But how can the irreligious people be expected to honor a rite when church members are found burlesquing it in order to make an evening's entertainment? And how can the children who were made to take part in this sacrilegious mummery be expected to look at marriage as anything more than a joke when they grow up? Even thoughtlessness cannot serve as an excuse for such a performance.

GENUINE EXPANSION.

There is something more than a dream in the idea that American vessels, floating the American flag, are carrying American manufactured goods to all parts of the world. This is expansion and the kind the business man and the toiler hail with delight. The exports for the month of March averaged nearly \$1,500,000 per day. Trade is following the flag. Here are the figures from Washington showing exports and imports for the month of March since 1893:

Month Ending	Exports	Imports
March 31, 1893	\$14,599,221	\$35,179,056
1894	15,572,366	19,608,459
1895	15,576,786	28,701,631
1896	19,125,785	27,025,601
1897	25,876,861	28,312,198
1898	28,214,450	23,153,836
1899	36,025,733	24,343,310

It does not require an experienced statistician to realize what these figures mean. The increase in the exportation of manufactures is apparent in nearly all lines. Of agricultural implements the March, 1899, exports were \$2,379,744, against \$1,470,397 in March of the preceding year. Exports of cotton cloths increased from 27,030,657 yards in March, 1898, to 45,266,959 yards in March, 1899, and of this amount the exports of China alone were 23,433,596 yards, against 13,635,874 yards in March of last year. China ware increased from \$13,986 in March of last year to \$40,333 in March, 1899. Instruments for scientific purposes, including telegraph, telephone, etc., increased from \$230,018 in March, 1898, to \$481,790 in March, 1899, thus showing an increase of more than 100 per cent. Builders' hardware increased 33 per cent, sewing machines nearly 30 per cent, typewriters nearly 50 per cent, leather about 40 per cent, boots and shoes 80 per cent, naval stores 60 per cent, and vegetable oils nearly 40 per cent.

For the nine months ending with March, 1899, the exports of manufactures amounted to \$242,883,645, against \$208,788,036 in the corresponding month of last year, and formed more than 26 per cent of the total exports, against 23 per cent in the corre-

sponding months of the preceding fiscal year. After exhausting these figures the question naturally arises: "What causes this?" A Democratic organ will tell you that it is a spirit of "temporary speculation." Go to the manufacturer, who is swelling this grand total of exports and he will tell you that it is a return of confidence, and he is right.

Before Mr. McKinley became president, the people were wading through the mire of panic and Democratic business depression. It needs no history to prove this—every man, woman, boy or girl that possesses a memory can vouch for the truth of the statement. From a condition of destroyed confidence we have become confident.

When an individual feels that his business is not paying him or sees indications ahead that threaten his profits he loses confidence. As soon as this essential has gone he refuses to expand—he will not improve or enlarge his business. But the moment conditions are made better, as a result of some beneficial change, that confidence naturally returns and the man begins to expand and enlarge his business.

This expansion means that he will employ more men, that his output will be increased, that his grand totals at the end of the year will grow larger and that his success will bring competitors in the field. This is the case of the individual, but the same thing applies to the nation. When the individuals who go to make up the nation all share the same optimistic ideas of expansion and business confidence the nation collectively must prosper.

It would be impossible to measure the future of this country. One year ago foreign nations called us hucksters and jobbers. Now they are willing to admit that we are eminently respectable wholesalers and are after our wares. The future is laden with prosperity. Extended trade means more factories and more factories means more employment for more men and more money in circulation.

RAILROAD GOSSIP AGAIN.

Mr. Reid thinks a Railroad from Astoria to Tillamook a Mistake.

"Astoria is coming to her senses when she talks about developing the rich country about her instead of chasing wild visions and optical illusions of a great seaport," remarked William Reid to a Telegram reporter in Portland when he was shown a dispatch from Astoria stating that a railroad was to be built from Young's bay into the Nehalem country.

Mr. Reid was the original promoter of the contemplated road, and sunk \$105,000 in grades and improvements. He says negotiations have been in progress for some time. He made two propositions—that the new incorporators buy out his interests, or else back him up in finishing the road. In either case, he says, he will be out money. But he says the road can be made to tap some of the richest agricultural, grazing and timber land in Oregon, as well as newly discovered coal-fields. It can be made to drain all the trade of the Upper Nehalem and divert it to Astoria. He thinks Astoria is showing better judgment in developing its resources and depending upon its own merits, than in trying to become a rival of Portland. He says, in 1889, the Astoria people wanted him to build to Goble. He pointed out then that the steamers could take care of the traffic to Astoria, and it would be better to build the Young's bay road, which would tap resources naturally tributary to Astoria. But the citizens were ambitious and overlooked the opportunities near at hand.

Mr. Reid thinks the idea of a railroad to Tillamook and Yaquina bay is another mistake, as Astoria cannot hope to compete with Portland for that trade. But she has no rival in the trade of Upper Nehalem, which is well worth striving for, and will build up the interests of the city faster than anything else.

[Because Mr. Reid thinks a railroad from Astoria to Tillamook would be a mistake that don't make it so, but it shows that if other projectors look at the situation in the same light it will be a number of years before the iron horse makes its advent into this county. In view of this fact the Port of Tillamook Commission should take steps to induce our re-

presentatives in congress to use all their persuasive powers to have the government improvements in Tillamook bay and Hoquarton slough completed as soon as possible. Every Tillamooker realize that Representative Tongue and Senator McBride have taken a deep interest in this county getting channels of sufficient depth to enable ocean steamers to take our products to market, and anything they can do for Tillamook county we feel positive they will leave no stone unturned to secure. Railroad gossip should not divert one's attention from the improvement of the bay and slough, for once that is made navigable for large steamers it will be the means of compelling, through competition, a railroad, should one eventually be brought here, to charge reasonable rates.—Ed.]

Gossip About Noted People.

For many years ex-President Harrison has been known as a splendid "jury lawyer." One of his friends says of him: "His style is most effective, his pose easy, his tone conversational. He talks only to the jury, so that the spectators often cannot hear him. His speech is generally made quite without notes."

Mrs. Garrett of Baltimore, the widow of the late Robert Garrett, has placed a handsome Celtic cross over his grave. It is about eighteen feet high upon a rhomboidal base, upon which is the inscription in Roman lettering: "Robert Garrett, April 9, 1817. Died July 29, 1896," followed by the text: "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The fact that Mr. Garrett was proud of being of Irish descent, and during his lifetime took the greatest interest in Celtic literature and monuments, made the selection of the Celtic cross most fitting.

"Joe" Manley of Maine, now visiting in Mexico, must be surprised at some of the things the Mexican papers are saying about him. For instance, El Pais of the City of Mexico, remarks: "In order to explain the sensation which the arrival of the said gentleman has occasioned in Mexico it is sufficient to say that Senator Manley is president of the republican executive committee and a candidate for president of the United States, and that he has the sympathies of the entire state of Maine. It is unnecessary to state that Mr. Manley was the recipient at the central station of exaggerated ovations, hurrahs and other noisy demonstrations which so well become the disposition of those who belong to the utilitarian race, which never loses gold or time."

The Philadelphia Record says: "Charles H. Cramp, the head of one of the greatest ship building concerns in the world, is so modest in manner and appearance that he would attract but little attention in a crowd of strangers. For a period extending over the last twenty years he has made many trips to Washington and there are no men of national prominence with whom he is not acquainted. Yesterday, while in a reminiscent mood, he told many interesting episodes of his contact with prominent men. 'At one time,' he said, 'I met "Sunset" Cox, the famous New York statesman. He was in Philadelphia at the time, making a political speech to aid Sam Randall. A couple of weeks later I met Cox in Washington. I addressed a few pleasantries to him and he advanced quite a lengthy argument in favor of a certain foreign policy, to which I listened without comment. Again a few weeks later, we met and Cox aired his views on the financial question. As I had much business at the capitol I often met Cox after that and he always entertained me with his views on some prominent subject. One day he saw me in the hall of congress and called me to him. 'Look here,' he said, 'what paper do you correspond for?' 'I'm not a correspondent, Mr. Cox,' I replied. 'Well, then, who are you?' 'Why I am Cramp, the shipbuilder.' The surprised ejaculation of Cox when he discovered his error was more forcible than polite. After that we were quite good friends.'

In these days of private heroism and of daring dashes under fire in the face of the enemy, national pride in American valor receives a rude check in the case of the young New Yorker who broke off his engagement on his marriage day because he lacked the courage to face the crowd at his own wedding.