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### HEADLIGHT PIRATE.

### Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

The mints of India were closed to the free coinage of silver in 1893 and ever since that time the hope of the bimetalists has been that the British government would restore the free coinage of silver in India and thereby not only acknowledge the contention of the bimetalists, but also take a decided step in behalf of an international agreement. The currency situation in India has received the serious consideration of the British government for several years and last year the entire question was relegated to a special commission, appointed under a resolution of the House of Commons. This commission was composed of representative men, having from official or business experience large acquaintance with the question. After more than a year of careful investigation and consideration of the monetary condition of India the commission has just submitted its report, which concurs in the decision of the India government not to revert to the silver standard and advises that immediate measures be taken to establish effectively a gold standard, which is regarded as of paramount importance to India's material interests. The report recommends that the British sovereign be made legal tender in and the current coin of India and that the Indian mints be opened to the unrestricted coinage of gold under conditions similar to those governing the Australian branches of the royal mint.

It appears that the latest revolution threatened in Guatemala is due, not to political causes, but to financial ones. The men arrested by the government, are not the usual free-booters who are always "agin" any government, but are leading bankers of high character. The trouble has arisen from the government recently adopting a 16 to 1 policy, issuing sixteen \$1 bills from one sheet of silk-threaded paper. This free coinage of paper has resulted in the debasement of the Guatemalan dollar, which is now worth only 20 cents. Naturally, the men who own dollars are opposed to those who so freely coin them. The uprising is therefore a revolt against the American Populists' idea of creating something from nothing which results, correlatively, in the reduction of that something into nothing.

The action of Governor Murphy of Arizona in exposing alleged bucco mining schemes in his territory and in warning prospective investors that they must investigate carefully all propositions from that section has been the subject of a great deal of comment all over the country. There is little dissent from the opinion that the governor has done the proper thing and that the result will be to place Arizona mining investments on a higher plane. It is doubtful, however, whether the lesson will be remembered very long. Some wise man has said that the American public likes to be humbugged and to date no one has been found who was willing to get into a controversy over the proposition. And when a man is looking for a chance to be swindled there is always someone handy who is willing to accommodate him. If the people who invest in mining stocks and mining property would take the time or the trouble to investigate the schemes into which they propose to embark, it is safe to say the mining sharks would soon be out of a job. The temptation to go into mining speculation is very great. The stories of the immense fortunes made by men who have struck it rich are so alluring that the temptation to try their luck is more than the average American can resist. He goes it blind. He buys a mine or mining stock without inquiry as to the value of the thing he is buying and then curses some-

body for his own stupidity. Such people as these will not be reached by Governor Murphy's warning note. They are born to be swindled and will not be satisfied with anything short of that. Governor Murphy's card will only make them the more anxious to put their money into the schemes he has denounced to see for themselves if he has told the truth. Mining properly carried on is as profitable and as safe a business as anyone can engage in, but it should be approached in the same conservative manner in which every other business is approached. See that there is a reasonable prospect of getting what you are buying.

In the good old days of boom and municipal expansion our Kansas neighbors had a merry way of picking up county seats and moving them about just as Aguinaldo, the Philippine Populist, carts around his capital to-day. When a new city was started in a frontier county its town lots were not eligible to be listed on the Sunflower real estate exchange unless it could register "county seat" after its name. Letters of marque and reprisal were at once issued to sundry cowpunchers and other ruffian riders, who would forthwith sail out over the short grass seas and return with a cargo of official records, providing the existing ship of state was not manned by a crew sufficient to repel the boarders. Many were the bloody county seat wars of that period. This ancient custom, for many years fallen destitute, has been revived, less its sanguinary feature, at the very capital of the state. The secretary of the state board of health was removed a few days ago and a successor appointed; but the old official declined to vacate. Tuesday morning, when he opened his office he found it in the condition of Mother Hubbard's cupboard. Everything but the floor and the wall paper had been spirited away overnight and his successor was transacting business at a new stand in another part of the statehouse.

The address of progubernamento issued to the Cubans, in which the Americans are denounced and the people are appealed to to resist American rule, may voice the sentiment of only a small minority, but it denotes the existence of a feeling which may easily grow and which our government should not be entirely indifferent to. It shows a sentiment of hostility to American authority that is perhaps far more prevalent than is commonly supposed and which may increase under the operation of policies which our military occupation renders necessary. It is the testimony of an American officer in Cuba that our military rule is a source of great irritation to the Cubans. He asserts that the people regard our army as simply the successors of the Spaniards and entitled to no more respect than the Spanish army. They fear and hate the American soldiers. "Our military government in Cuba," says this officer, "as a means of rapprochement between the two peoples, is a failure. And the extent to which this is the case is indicated by the remark sometimes now heard in Cuba, that, as between the American military control and the Spanish military control, the Spanish was preferable." The same authority also says: "It is difficult for the average American to understand fully the nature of the irritation caused by our military occupation. In the first place, it must be remembered that we are an alien race. Our methods of thought, of speech, of action are different from theirs. Brusqueness is our characteristic, politeness theirs. We offend them without suspecting it. We ride rough-shod over their prejudices without knowing it." Our military control is mild and conservative in comparison with that of Spain, yet it appears to be no more acceptable to many of the people. There is, perhaps, little present danger of a revolt in Cuba against American authority, but it is a possibility of the future, if we insist upon maintaining our military occupation. This will of course be done until congress assemblies but that body will be called upon to promptly determine whether the occupation shall go on or our troops shall be withdrawn and the island be left, as we have promised it should be, to the government and control of its people.

The question whether the tropics can be colonized by the white race is interesting in view of the fact that the future development of our new territory may largely depend upon whether it can be colonized by whites. Mr. Benjamin Kidd, a high authority, has asserted that the white race can never colonize the tropics and has presented facts and arguments of a very convincing character in support of this view, citing India especially in evidence, there being few whites in that country outside of the official class. Mr. Beale, formerly United States minister to Persia, takes issue with Mr. Kidd and insists that colonization of the tropics by the white race is practicable. He says the evil effects of hot climates upon the white race are being rapidly conquered by science. Even with our present imperfect knowledge, he observes, a colony of our own planted upon the Isthmus of Darien to-day would not be annihilated by the climate as was the Scotch colony placed there in 1698, and he thinks that with the rapid advance of sanitary science it is probable that twenty-five years hence an American farmer will be able to cultivate land in the tropics with less danger to his health than was encountered by his father in plowing the valley of the Wabash or the semi-tropical valleys of California a quarter of a century ago. In regard to the statement of Mr. Kidd that India has been made habitable only for an official class, Mr. Beale remarks that as yet there has never been any necessity to make it so for any other class. This is plausible, but not quite convincing.

COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS EVANS is to be congratulated on the complete vindication of his course in the management of the pension bureau. The charges trumped up against the commissioner at the instigation of certain pension claim brokers have been thoroughly investigated and exploded by the pension committee of the Grand Army and its members have unanimously declared them baseless. The committee investigated some thirty cases in which the rulings had been criticised and it is understood found substantially no foundation for the attack upon the official action in them. In regard to the demand for the removal of Commissioner Evans a member of the committee, General Palmer of New York—in which state the agitation had its beginning, said: "It is a fundamental rule of the Grand Army that it must not interfere in politics by urging the appointment of any man to political office. In my opinion, it would be just as wrong and would be a violation of the spirit of that fundamental rule, to urge the removal of any man from office." This is understood to be the view of a majority if not of all the members of the committee. It is said they all agreed that changes are necessary in the rulings of the Interior department, but there is no probability that the commissioner of pensions will be held responsible for them or that any demand will be made for his punishment.

**What America Cannot Boast.**  
 While the great American republic is making rapid strides as a world-power and prides itself upon the high standard of civilization of its people it still remains far in the rear of leading European nations in many respects. While the world pays tribute to American genius for inventing the most perfect system of telegraphs and telephones these potential agencies of civilization still remain in control of private monopoly in the United States, while England, Germany, France, Austria, and, for that matter, every European state has for years enjoyed the blessings and benefits of the postal telegraph and most of the countries now also own and operate the telephone systems at nominal cost. It is passing strange, also, that London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and other European capitals have for many years been provided with rapid postal transit by means of pneumatic tubes, while New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other great American business centers are still dependent for city letter delivery upon the trolley car and bicycle and communications of messages that could be conveyed by pneumatic tube in a few seconds to points from two to five miles distant and transmitted by local telegraph or district messenger at five

times the expense, with less privacy and speed. All this because private telegraph companies monopolize the business which in every other country is made a function of the government as part of the postal service.

What is true of the postal telegraph is also true of postal packet delivery. In England and all European countries the carriage and delivery of small packages of merchandise and other valuable articles is carried on by the government as part of the postal service at a very moderate cost. With the exception of a comparatively small percentage the package delivery in the United States is monopolized by private corporations known as express companies that have grown rich out of a traffic which other countries conduct at cost for the benefit of the people.

For more than thirty years the people of Great Britain have enjoyed the blessings and benefits of a postal savings system which has its depositories in 12,000 towns, with 7,600,000 depositors and more than \$60,000,000 of deposits. These deposits represent the surplus earnings of the wage workers and are acknowledged to be the bulwark of the British government, because they attach each individual depositor to the government in which he has a direct interest. In the United States the wage workers are still dependent upon private savings depositories and private banks for repositories of surplus earnings, which are jeopardized in every great panic and very often cause untold misery and destitution to hundreds of thousands of people. While the governments of Great Britain, Germany, France and Austria have boldly grappled with the problem of providing government savings depositories for their working classes the American people have been foiled in their demand by the syndicates interested in the unsafe system of private banks.

America boasts the most colossal and wealthiest life insurance companies in the world, but is way behind European countries, notably Germany and Austria, in providing insurance at cost to the breadwinners, who could not pay the high rates exacted by the standard companies. In Germany the government has established insurance for every working man and working woman, not merely against loss by death, but disability by accident, sickness or old age. This insurance system is compulsory and its enforcement has made pauperism impossible. In Austria the government has gone so far as to assume the fire risks at a trifle above cost. Manifestly the people of the United States are not up to date in the use of modern agencies of civilization and cannot hope to enjoy their full benefits until they free themselves from the toils of monopoly that levies tribute upon wealth producers and exercises powers and enjoys privileges which properly belong to the government.

**NOTICE.**  
 United States Land Office,  
 Oregon City, Oregon,  
 July 17th, 1899.  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN—that the approved fractional plat of Township 2 North, Range 5 West, has been received from the Surveyor General of Oregon, and on  
 AUGUST 1st, 1899,  
 at 9 o'clock a.m. of said date, said plat will be filed in this office, and thereon embraced will be subject to entry, on and after said date.

**CONTEST NOTICE.**  
 Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Oregon City, Oregon,  
 July 15th, 1899.  
 A sufficient contest affidavit dated June 26th, 1899, having been filed in this office by WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, contestant, against HOMERED HENRY No. 1003, made October 13th, 1883, for S 1/2 Sec. 3, T. 2 N. & Sec. 3, R. 5 W., Section 14, Township 2 N. Range 5 W., by which the said Jacob Jones has wholly abandoned said tract and changed his residence therefrom, and next prior to the date herein, that said tract is not settled upon and cultivated by said party as required by law, that the abandonment of said tract is not occasioned by the enlistment of said tract in the service of the U. S. Army or Navy in the war with Spain; wherefore, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said affidavit before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Oregon City, Oregon. The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit filed July 15th, 1899, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

CHAS. E. MOORE, Register.  
 WILLIAM GALLOWAY, Receiver.  
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