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HEADLIGHT PIRATE.

Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

In no country on the globe are ideas worth more than in the United States. Here comes President Charles J. Glidden of the Eric system of telephone companies and offers \$1,000,000 for a telephone repeater and telephone quadruplex which will produce the same results, telephonically speaking that the telegraph repeater and quadruplex do in the working of a telegraph circuit. Here is a chance for some ambitious scientist to make a clean million dollars. There are no doubt many men at work in the world today on just the thing Mr. Glidden wants. Electricians all over the country are experimenting, and some day Mr. Glidden will be asked for the million dollars. And he will no doubt pay it willingly. It would be cheap at the price. If one wire can be made to do the work of four the saving to the telephone companies would be untold millions in a short time. This offer calls to mind the oft-repeated assertion that there is more money in patents than in anything else. The man who patents something the world wants on the royal road to wealth. Many of the greatest fortunes of the country came from the simplest of inventions. Many of them, however, were simply experiments, and the inventor did not know whether his product would find a market or not. But in this instance the million awaits the first man who succeeds in producing the thing wanted. It will be interesting to await the result of the offer.

"Man that is born of woman is of a few days and full of trouble." Thus said the preacher long ago. The poet added: "It is a tale that is told; it is as a watch set in the night." And still another poet said: "Out, out, brief candle." And finally a philosopher said: "Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities." And now this philosopher has pierced the veil and gone to the second eternity. "Painless we come—whence, we know not; painless we go, whither we know not." Death came to Robert G. Ingersoll without warning. In the fullness of his life he was cut off. Immediately the almost unanimous utterance was: "He has solved the mystery; he knows now." Ingersoll was once absolutely challenged on the doctrine of nothing after death. He declined to give a positive answer, but said that he would prefer annihilation to hell. This gives a clew to his notion of a future existence. Ingersoll has attracted world-wide attention by reason of his assaults on orthodox religion. A wonderful orator, a master of invective, a keen logician, and a deep reasoner, he has for years been the bogey man of the Christian world, almost sharing first place with Satan himself. It was through his merciless stream of criticism against the church and some of its pet notions that Ingersoll attracted attention. Had he never delivered his lecture on "The Gods," or "The Mistakes of Moses," it is still likely he would have achieved great success as a lawyer and orator. He chose to direct his shafts at the weakest spots in the make-up of the Christian religion, and while doing so he lived, himself, practically the life of a devotee. He disarmed criticism to a great extent by his personal conduct, and thus added force to his onslaughts against the dogmas he attacked. Who shall say that his attacks have not had their effect—that the Christian church has not been the gainer because of Ingersoll and his preachings? It is certain that the effort to answer him brought about a wider discussion than any popular means that has ever otherwise been possible.

Mrs. Ella May Chapman of New York city, who is a sister of Mrs. Howard

Gould, is the latest advocate of currency reform, and has a novel proposition to lay before the new congress. She suggests that all the coins made during the first year of the new century bear on their faces the likeness of Christ, and on the reverse side the crucifix.

REPORTS show that the deposits of money in the Kansas banks have increased \$500,000 in the last four months. Still the Kansas people do not seem to be worried very much over the situation.

THE United States has not only taken a higher rank as a naval power as the result of the Spanish war, but results have called attention to the fact that in several respects this country is in advance of all other powers in naval construction. One of these is the disapproval of the contention of European naval architects that American ships carried too many guns. Another is to challenge attention to the extent to which electrical appliances are used on American ships. In this respect the United States navy is years in advance of any other. That Europeans appreciate the value of this is shown by the official announcement that the new naval attaché of the English embassy is to be an electrical expert of the highest class.

CONFLICTS between employers and employed are common alike to periods of prosperity and times of depression. When industry and trade are dull and employers reduce wages, strikes ensue. When there is industrial activity and business prosperity conflicts arise from the demand of labor for better pay. It has been remarked that human nature is the same in employers and employed and the natural instinct of all is to get the best of the bargain. The protracted period of industrial depression from which the country emerged two years ago was severe upon labor as well as capital. Great numbers of people were out of employment and the wages of many of the employed fell to almost the starvation point. The efforts of workmen to maintain wages were unavailing, because of the superabundant supply of labor. The situation has changed. Within the past two years an extraordinary industrial and trade revival has taken place, creating a demand for labor which has nearly or quite exhausted the supply of competent and willing workers. It is labor's opportunity. The revival has been accompanied by a general increase in wages, for the most part voluntarily made by employers. The average pay of labor in most industries is nearly or quite as good now as before the period of depression. The earning power of the wage-earners of this country has been increased during the past two years hundreds of millions of dollars. It is needless to say that as a whole the laboring classes of America are better remunerated than those of any other country.

THE statement of Adjutant General Corbin that there has been no information received from General Otis that has not been given to the press promptly will be generally accepted without question. It has, indeed, been suspected that there was suppression at Washington of official advices from the Philippines, but if so, it has been done, according to General Corbin, in contravention of the instructions of the president and secretary of war. Undoubtedly President McKinley desires that the country shall have all proper information in regard to the actual situation in the Philippines. There may be officials in Washington who think it is expedient to conceal the true condition of affairs, but we do not believe the president is one of them. Such a course would be altogether contrary to the habit which has characterized his whole public life, that of dealing openly with the people and taking them into his confidence. Every intelligent person understands that there are some things in connection with military operations that should not be disclosed. Anything that would embarrass operations or which might be of advantage to the enemy, if made public, it is the imperative duty of the military authorities to conceal. But whatever has occurred the public is entitled to be fully and correctly informed of, together with such facts as to the condition of affairs as will en-

able the public to understand the true situation.

THE New York World has undertaken to canvass democratic sentiment in the various states, and makes the estimate that the next democratic national convention will contain 378 delegates favorable to Bryan and free silver and 552 delegates opposed to him.

THERE is an unmistakable sentiment, which is very likely to grow, in favor of a change of command at Manila. Some of the leading newspapers of the country have expressed the opinion that such a change is desirable and a few public men who have spoken on the subject take the same view. Senator Nelson of Minnesota said to a Washington correspondent that in his judgement General Otis had not pushed the campaign against the insurgents as vigorously as should have been done and it might be well for the president to put another officer in his place. He did not blame the president or the war department in the matter, but laid the entire responsibility for the little that had been accomplished during the five months of fighting in Luzon upon Otis, where in fact it belongs, since so far as appears he was given a free hand. The New York Tribune, in its comment upon the protest of the correspondents against the rigorous protest of the censorship at Manila, says the president and the country need, in command at Manila, a man who would hold the public confidence. "It is not meant that he should manage to satisfy all correspondents," says that paper, "whether of reputable and patriotic journals or any others. But the confidence of the people of this country is necessary if the government is to be effectively sustained. If the good faith of reports from the Philippines is distrusted, or the conduct of the service there, that will affect both the quality and the number of enlistments, the results of elections in many states, the convictions which members of congress will take with them to Washington, and thus the supplies of money and troops and the provision for the conduct of affairs in all new possessions. It is for the president to decide whether General Otis can now command the public confidence." The New York Times, which does not approve the protest of the correspondents, yet says: "The commander at Manila ought to be man of first-rate capacity not only for fighting, but for diplomacy. We fear General Otis falls something short of that high qualification. The administration must be supposed to be better informed than the people, but it may with propriety take notice of the prevailing impressions about General Otis and the Luzon campaign. It is not a good campaign to prolong." Other prominent and influential newspaper exponents of public opinion talk to the same effect.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Don't blame the whipped cream for turning sour.
Two heads make a closed mouth—if of the opposite sex.
One glimpse of a dental sign will oft ease an aching molar.
Glue may be obtained from pigs' feet and sugar from a hogs-head.
When a man is all broken up he sees the necessity for mending his ways.
The working men provide the carriage for the walking delegates to ride in.
A man always wonders what his wife will say after the company has departed.
What man needs is a tongue that will stop wagging when his brain stops thinking.
The average man spends a lot of time searching for what he hopes he won't find.
No wonder that time flies when the spur of the moment is continually urging it on.
A little authority or a few dried apples will puff a small man up astonishingly.
It's a waste of time to explain your actions. People prefer to form their own conclusions.
The proudest moment in the average man's life is when he is telling how it happened afterward.
All things come to the man who waits—with the possible exception of the waiter with the things he is waiting for.
While a woman may not be able to sharpen a pencil or propel a stone with

accuracy, she can pack more things into a trunk than a man can pile on a wagon.

The Feminine Observer.

How few cushions are apparently made for anything but show.
Women ought to be able to play poker well. They are so good at bluffing.
A good cure for a wife's insomnia is for her husband to come home earlier.
The hurry of work before a pleasure trip takes away half of its enjoyment.
A pet dog is like a child—it is beautiful to its owner, no matter what it looks like.
Why is it we are always most prone to dawdle when there is the greatest hurry?
There is apparently nothing so easy as telling another person how to spend their money.
If men only knew what a long way a little kindness goes with a woman they could take long journeys at very little expense.
The woman who has the most nautical attire for her voyage across the ocean is generally so ill she has no chance to wear it.
Some persons who are said to closely resemble us make us feel that a certain well known expression, "double or quits," would be preferably to the latter if the double in question really did closely resemble us.

He Was "on the Hog."

A well known contractor of Washington has a son, still under 20, who has been doing the running-away-from-home act every since he attained his twelfth year. The "old man" has always been called upon to fetch the young chap back from remote points. None of the hard luck propositions up against which the boy had stacked while having fun with himself in this way has taught him a permanent lesson, probably for the simple reason that he has always found it too easy a matter to get home by the simple process of writing to his father for the price of the ticket. He went away a month ago and his father didn't hear from him until yesterday. Then the old man got a dispatch dated Hastings, Neb. The message ran:
"Am on the hog. Wire me \$40 for ticket home."
The old man went to the telegraph office, got a blank and wrote the following reply:
"Eat the hog"

Mrs. Von Blumer—I don't think there is anything worse than to ask one's husband for money, do you?
Mrs. Witherby—Oh, yes, there is. To have him refuse it.



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