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Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

The trust movement is declining and it would not be surprising if within a year it will have entirely subsided. The New York Journal of Commerce, noting the abandonment, for the present at least, of several projected combinations, for the reason that they could not market their securities, says: "The public has less confidence in trust securities than it had in the spring and the capitalization of some of the more recent combinations has been attempted upon a more modest scale than that prevalent a few months ago. But it is simply impossible for the community to buy all the manufacturing concerns in the country at once and to buy them all at pretty high figures. Such being the case there is very good reason to believe that the trust movement will shortly subside and it is highly probable that some of those which have been organized with a heavy overcapitalization will find much difficulty in holding on. This would assuredly be the case in the event of a hardening money market, which is quite possible in the not remote future. The neglect of the "industrial" securities by the public has not yet produced any ill effects financially and there seems to be no apprehension of any, but had the trusts movement gone on much longer as it was being pushed a few months ago it would most certainly have eventuated in a serious financial disturbance. The subsidence of the trust craze is good for the country and there is no probability that it will be revived."

The horseless carriage still requires much improvement before it is adopted for general use, and the advent of the horseless age is yet an unsolved problem. A late foreign dispatch announces that the London Electric Cab company has dismissed its employes and closed its yards, chiefly in consequence of the difficulty it had in obtaining expert and reliable drivers for its vehicles. They have proved anything but a luxury. Investors report the great danger and difficulty in manipulating the motor cycles and the impossibility of obtaining experienced operators. They are not easily controlled and are continually out of repair. The Stevens Bros., silk merchants of Chicago, who adopted them for delivery service, after one year's experience, abandoned them. The Hub, another large commercial establishment one year ago purchased two automobiles with the intention, if satisfactory, to equip their entire delivery department with the new invention, with the results that they have returned to vehicles operated by horses. The mechanism of the automobile is too complicated to allow the "innovation" to be classed as one of general utility. Owners of pleasure carriages desire a vehicle that will take them somewhere without employing a mechanic or a high-priced operator, and the commercial concerns must be just as well at ease. The promoters of the motor cycle may "talk" moneyed men into the possibilities of the "great invention" and thus be able to dispose of good-sized blocks of stock, but they will have to put on the market a less complicated vehicle before they can predict that the world is in the dawn of the horseless age.

The soldiers who are returning from the Philippines have well defined views of the situation there and are giving free expression to them. That the opinions of these intelligent men, who have so amply attested their patriotism and valor, will have a great deal of influence with the public no doubt. Criticism of the military operations is general. In regard to the duration of the war officers agree that it is likely to be protracted, and declare that hundreds of lives have

been uselessly sacrificed because the authorities persisted in accomplishing through men and rifles what a rapid-fire gun would have done in half the time without any of the loss of life. The brave men who are coming back to their homes after having rendered as faithful and heroic service as ever soldiers gave to their country are not animated by any prejudices. They talk as American citizens who have a profound interest in the welfare of the country and who have won the right to speak freely of events in which they participated and of a situation with which they are entirely familiar. And what they say is entitled to most respectful attention, for there can be no doubt that it reflects the general sentiment among our soldiers in the Philippines. It may make no impression at Washington, but it will not fail to receive popular consideration. The tendency of these expressions of returning soldiers must be to strengthen the demand, already pretty vigorous, for a change of military commander in the Philippines. President McKinley has expressed satisfaction with what has been accomplished by General Otis. Military men declare that the operations in the Philippines have not had results commensurate with the sacrifices. The optimism of Otis is not shared by the men who have been fighting the Filipinos. We are inclined to think that a majority of the people will accept the view of the soldiers.

The startling story is sent out by the Associated Press from Chicago, reinforced by a certificate from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, that thousands of goats are being slaughtered by American packers and sold as mutton. This is simply awful. People who eat mutton will do well to look for wool in their broth. Otherwise it's a goat.

Dr. A. Campbell White, of Vanderbilt clinic, Columbia university, is preparing to announce the results of a series of remarkable experiments which he has been making with liquid air for the treatment of cancer, erysipelas, lupus, carbuncles and other diseases. He has actually cured a number of severe cases of erysipelas, carbuncles and boils in one or two treatments. Abscesses and ulcers he has aborted absolutely with a single freezing. Neuralgia and sciatica he has treated most successfully, in every case giving almost instant and permanent relief. An obstinate case of lupus—lupus is a form of tuberculosis affecting the skin—was perfectly cured after two treatments, although the patient had been under ordinary medical attendance for a long time, the disease resisting every remedy. But the most significant and important feature of all Dr. White's work has been his experiments with cancer. He has had a number of very severe cases. In one of them, cancer of the nose, the sore has entirely disappeared and Dr. White believes the patient to be permanently cured. All the other cases show marked improvement, although there has not been time for the sores to heal entirely. Dr. White refuses yet, with professional conservatism, to assert positively that liquid air will invariably cure cancer, but he says: "I am hopeful as to the ultimate result." Besides the cancer cases experiments have been made in using liquid air as an anaesthetic, with some curious results, of which he will speak later.

Paramount Power of The Pacific.

The former American minister to Siam, Mr. John Barrett, has an article in the current number of the North American Review discussing the responsibilities and interests of the United States as the paramount power of the Pacific. Mr. Barrett considers his subject almost wholly in its material or commercial aspect and he treats it with reference chiefly to our interests in China. He points out that there is danger of our interests in that empire being neglected by reason of the attention that is being given to the Philippine question and says that commercial opportunities in China are far greater than they ever will be in the Philippines, under the most favorable conditions. The ex-minister of Siam thinks there is a grave peril confronting our interests in the Middle Kingdom and he urges that "while we should do everything in

our power to prevent this disintegration of China, at the same time, in realization of the fact that we cannot go to war in support of such a policy, if we see that the break-up is inevitable we must leave no stone unturned to preserve our old treaty rights in a new form with the powers in control." He thinks if this is accomplished our trade and commerce in the country that once was China will be greater than ever otherwise possible, but he doubts if such a fortunate result would ever attend our efforts.

Mr. Barrett urges that the country should stand unanimously for a firm policy in respect to the far east and particularly China, because that quarter of the world offers a market for the products of all sections of the United States. He presents a strong statement of trade possibilities in the far east and sees no reason why American exports, which now approximate \$40,000,000 a year, should not in the near future expand to \$150,000,000. In regard to our policy in China, Mr. Barrett says we should stand firmly and persistently for the integrity of the Chinese empire, we should insist on the "open door," an absolute freedom of trade in accordance with the stipulations of the old Tientsin treaties, should exert our influence against the delimitation of alleged "spheres of influence," or actual "areas of operation," and as far as possible should work in harmony and as on the same lines with other powers having similar commercial interests, to protect them from further limitation.

Unquestionably the markets of the far east offer great opportunities for American commerce and our government should by all means consistent with the established policy of the nation protect and promote our interests there, but there appears to be nothing in the existing situation to justify the apprehension of injury to our interests which Mr. Barrett and some others entertain. A time may come when there will be good reason for such a fear and if it should the United States will be prepared to assert itself as the circumstances shall require. Meanwhile its safe policy will be to maintain the attitude which the present administration has declared in regard to Chinese affairs, to wit, that of "disinterested neutrality." A strict adherence to that policy will, we have no doubt, best conserve our rights and interests in China and not in the least interfere with our position as "the paramount power of the Pacific."

Gave Birth to Seven Children.

Mrs. George Hackett colored, of Brownsville, Pa., gave birth to seven children, six boys and one girl, says a dispatch to the Philadelphia North American. The children were all alive when born, but two of the boys and the girl died in a few hours. The four boys are alive and healthy. The mother is also doing well.

The father, who is a coal miner, was notified at once, and hastened to his home, to be confronted with a sight that has probably never been the lot of any other man.

Drs. Lilly, Shoemaker and Worrel, who were in attendance upon the mother, reported the matter, and in a few minutes after it was known the wildest excitement prevailed. Hundreds of people rushed to the house and clamored to see the children. The babies were placed in a row, the four who were in good health taking some apparent interest in the proceedings, while the three others were held by friends, caring little about what was going on.

The seven children were all well formed when born, and their combined weight was about thirty-two pounds. The father and mother have decided to name the four children after Dewey, Sampson, Schley and Captain Coghlan. The happy father will write to the four gentlemen informing them of the honor conveyed upon them.

Colonel Wilson, secretary of agriculture, is going into expeditions over the report that his experimenters have succeeded in raising tea in South Carolina. Revenue agents have been finding cold tea in the South Carolina mountains for many years.

Taking all civilized countries the average age at which women marry is said to be twenty-three and a half years.

Timber Deal On.

ASTORIA, Aug. 10.—The big timber deal which fell through last spring on account of the death of Radir, Doty, Hickmann and Cloutrie, who were poisoned while timber-cruising, is on again, and probably will be made during the next few weeks. The deal comprised many thousand acres of fine timber land in Clatsop and Tillamook counties, and it was announced that it was the intention to build a logging railroad from the tract to tidewater, where a large mill was to be erected. At the time of the death of Radir and his associates, Representative Stone, of Pennsylvania, was in Portland. He was largely interested in the deal and it was only by an accident that he did not accompany the party. As Radir was interested, his death caused the deal to fall through, as Mr. Stone did not feel disposed to proceed with it. Mr. Stone arrived in the city today accompanied by E. D. Wetmore, an extensive lumber dealer of Pennsylvania, and his brother, Geo. F. Stone, of Seattle, and they will take up the deal where it was left off last spring. Mr. Stone had very little to say about this deal other than it was again under consideration and that Mr. Wetmore, who accompanied him, was interested in it. It is Mr. Wetmore's desire personally to make an examination of the property before the deal is closed. The deal is said to represent a cash payment of more than \$100,000.

Connubialities.

The marriage of a young couple in New Hampshire "for a joke" turned out to be for a joke. It will not do to get too gay with Cupid.

A Whangarel (New Zealand) youth who advertised for a wife was surprised to find among the replies letters from his two sisters, with photos enclosed. In this case the mania for matrimonial alliances seems to have been quite a family disorder.

A New York man has sued for divorce because his wife sold her kisses for \$100 apiece at a charity fair, and yet it may seem to some that a woman who is fascinating enough to get \$100 apiece for public kisses must be a wife worth having.

Pennsylvania papers announce that marriages in the state have increased decidedly during the last two years and one editor remarks that "there is an intimate relationship between marriages and the markets." Another pleasing result may be credited to prosperity.

Jan Dzikowska and Katanzya Kudiej are going to be married in Chicago and in Indiana the wedding of Ludin swipig wrak Ferhabwalkonwarwenski and Leviniska Shumeringlapwlapwanski is announced. Life is not all beer and skittles for the people who engrave wedding cards.



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