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THE HEADLIGHT PIRATE

Does Out the Gems of Current News and Topics.

Prof. E. Benjamin Andrews, formerly president of Brown university and now superintendent of schools in Chicago, who three years ago was perhaps the most prominent supporter in higher educational circles of Bryan and his free silver fallacies, has an article in the current Independent in which he ranges himself diametrically at variance with Colonel Bryan on the Philippine question. Prof. Andrews takes as his thesis that the United States is the Pacific Coast power and that to maintain its supremacy on that body of water the seizure of any vantage point is justifiable. He even goes so far as to advocate "pacification by us, forcible if necessary, and a subsequent rule of justice, military if you please," as the best fortune that could possibly come to the people of these islands. All this is interesting, as showing a widening breach on the Philippine question among Bryanites formerly solidly cemented together in behalf of 16 to 1.

The craze for motor car riding is distinctly on the increase in England. Manufacturers, either England or in France, cannot turn them out fast enough and leading English firms are overwhelmed with orders. It will be as great a craze next season in England as it is in France now and most of the cycle makers at Coventry and Birmingham are experimenting on the motors. Petroleum is the motive power used in every case. Electricity is rejected owing to the necessity for charging stations.

England's foreign trade continues to expand. Returns from the Board of Trade for August show imports up nearly \$18,000,000 higher than during the same month last year and exports up more than \$10,000,000. Exports of yarn and textile fabrics are \$5,000,000 higher than raw material \$2,000,000 higher. Taking eight months, the volume of trade in imports is up \$41,000,000 and exports \$65,000,000.

The San Antonio Express observes that one of the commercial agencies which prevailed last week to the speculative liquidation of tired holders, who, with confidence in the future of the prices, have weakened under unsatisfactory foreign demand. This seems to indicate the need of another Joe Leiter movement to bolster up the market, it being generally known that the world's harvest for the season is far short of the world's demand for consumption.

Whatever may be the outcome of the travesty on justice just perpetrated by a French court-martial, the world must be sickened with disgust at the shame of the Frenchman, a shame that cannot be wiped out in the usual French way, in a flood of tears, but is more apt to be the cause of bloodshed and the possible overthrow of a disgraced republic. The Frenchman usually weeps where the American would grit his teeth and fight the cause of trouble to a finish. France has cause to weep today. Justice has been outraged. The world will look upon the verdict in the Dreyfus case as the culmination of a conspiracy as dark and damnable as ever blackened a page in the world's history.

It appears that people generally are greatly mistaken in the notion that there is an enormous surplus of unmarried women in this country. The truth is that no such excess of spinsters exist; in fact it is quite the other way, the bachelors outnumbering the maidens. At the present time there are in the United States 2,300,000 more unattached males than females similarly situated, the exact figures being 5,427,757 bache-

lors against 3,224,562 spinsters of ages from 20 years up. Thus it is obvious that if girls do not find husbands it is not for lack of a plentiful supply of the article. What is required, seemingly, is a general migration of spinsters from the North and East to the great and growing West, in parts where there are ten available males for every maid. From the last remark however it must not be inferred that there is actually an excess of unmarried women in the Northern and Eastern states. Even in those parts of the country there are more bachelors than spinsters 20 years old and upward, notwithstanding the theory to the contrary so widely accepted. No state in the union has as many maidens as bachelors—not even Massachusetts, where the figures are 219,255 spinsters against 225,086 bachelors. Massachusetts is the banner state for spinsters, the bachelors outnumbering them by only two-tenths of 1 per cent.

The scheme of disgruntled pension attorneys to induce the Grand Army of the Republic, at the national encampment, to attack the commissioner of pensions, failed and the men who for months past have been insidiously and persistently assailing a faithful public official and an earnest friend of the union soldier have received a merited rebuke. The warfare upon Commissioner Evans started by the attorneys who were not permitted to dictate the administration of the Pension bureau had not a shadow of justification, as was conclusively shown by the investigation of the charges against the commissioner by a committee of the Grand Army. The animus of the attack was clearly indicated in the fact that Mr. Evans, in the strict performance of his duty, has compelled the attorneys and claim agents to keep within the law, that he has sought to protect the claimants for pensions against extortion, that he has endeavored to safeguard the government against fraud, and that in doing this he has reduced the fees of the claim agents in the last fiscal year over 40 per cent from the amount they received the preceding year. The simple truth is that Commissioner Evans has been honest in his office, he has been fair to fair men and watchful of those who seemed to be tricky. He has construed the laws liberally in the interest of honest claimants and he has been fearless in dealing with those whom he had good reason to believe were not honest. Perhaps the laws are in some respects faulty, as pointed out in the resolutions adopted by the Grand Army, but for this the commissioner is not responsible. He is an executive officer and must execute the laws as he finds them. This he has done fairly and faithfully and as now appears to the satisfaction of the great majority of the members of the Grand Army.

The Rothschilds have no doubt received many strange requests, but the favor which was recently asked of the head of the Frankford house is as audacious as any on the list. A young fellow stated that the trade to which he had been apprenticed, that of a cooper, was a little distasteful to him, and desired to be accepted—to use his own phrase—as "an apprentice millionaire." He was good enough to promise every diligence and all application in learning what he described as "the business."

It is stated that \$3,000,000 worth of American goods had been entered at the port of Chefoo, China, last year, and that not one dollar's worth of them had been handled by an American merchant in that city. All the business had been done by foreigners. British, French, German and Chinese merchants had been the middlemen between the American manufacturer and the Chinese consumer, and had reaped the profits from the transaction. It is safe to presume that Chefoo is but an example of what can be found in all the other ports of entry on the Asiatic coast. America is everywhere paying tribute to the tradesmen of other countries on every dollar's worth of goods which is sent to that section of the world. This should not be allowed to continue. Americans are as enterprising, as ambitious, as capable as any people on the face of the globe, and should not permit the citizens of any country to reap the profits which of right belong to our own people.

EVERY republican platform of this year unequivocally declares for the gold standard. The latest enunciation is from Maryland, whose republican platform says: "We believe in the gold standard and that all our currency should be made by law redeemable in gold coin at the option of the holder." This implies that the law at present is ambiguous, which is the fact, since it leaves it optional with the government to pay its obligation, in gold or in silver. It is this fact which would enable an administration favorable to the white metal to put the country on a silver basis. The American Bankers' association at its session last week adopted a resolution urging "that congress at its next session enact a law that will more firmly and unequivocally establish the gold standard in this country by providing that the gold dollar, which under the existing law, is the unit of value, shall be the standard and measure of all values in the United States; that all the obligations of the government and all paper money, including circulating notes of national banks, shall be redeemed in gold coin, and that the legal tender notes of the United States, when paid into the treasury, shall not be reissued except upon the deposit of an equivalent amount of gold coin." These intelligent financiers do not accept the view of those who contend that the gold standard is a ready fixed by statute and that no further legislation is needed to establish that standard.

EASTERN newspapers are saying that the west is now so well supplied with currency that the general impression is that it will need little if any assistance from the east in moving the crops. We noted a short time ago that eastern bankers who had been expecting a considerable demand from the west for currency and a consequent tight market, were surprised to find, in a recent emergency, that the west was able to send money to the east and did so to an amount sufficient to materially ease the market. This was a reversal of the usual condition at this time of the year which was a source of no little astonishment in eastern financial circles. It was a notable revelation of the strength of the west financially which made a most favorable impression. A New York paper a few days ago published dispatches from bankers in a number of western cities, all agreeing that the west will not have to draw largely on the east this year for moving crops. Doubtless the balances of western banks in the east, which are heavy, will draw upon to quite or nearly their full extent, but eastern banks will probably not be required to send here any of their money. In a word, the financial condition in the west is satisfactory, according to the reports of the bankers, as could be deduced and there is every reason to expect its continuance.

Mr. Schurman, president of the Philippine commission, is of the opinion that the war in the Philippines will soon be ended and it is said that his statements relative to affairs in the islands have made a deep impression upon officials at Washington. There have recently been optimistic predictions from other sources in regard to the Philippine situation. All such expressions are apt to be regarded with some incredulity, in view of the fact that so little has been accomplished since the beginning of hostilities. When it is understood that after six months of fighting the American forces occupy a territory which includes barely more than 1 per cent of the area of the islands and that American control embraces barely, if anything, more than 5 per cent of the population of the islands, it is not easy to believe that the task of suppressing the insurrection is so near the end as Mr. Schurman and some others profess to think.

The demand for American apples in Germany is reported brisk beyond all previous years. The American orchard, like the American farm and the American mill and factory, is at the disposal of the German consumer as long as he is ready and willing to make an exchange that is profitable to American producers.

When John Carroll was hanged a few days ago at Atlanta for the murder of a woman he wore a black 'ap' which had been made for the occasion by his mother.

The Plea of the Boers.

The reported statement of the Boer side of the issue with England, whether really made by a representative of the Transvaal republic or not, is undoubtedly a fair presentation of the sentiments of the people who are resenting and are prepared to resist British interference in their internal affairs. This statement ascribes the existing trouble partly to a section of residents to whom the republic is an eyesore and who are under the prevailing jingo mania, and partly to capitalists who wish to obtain complete control of legislation and administration. It is declared that the object of the agitation is the destruction of the republic and the complete control of the richest mines in the world.

While it is unquestionable that the uitlanders have reasonable grounds of complaint, it is most probable that British greed and cupidity have had no little to do with fomenting the agitation which has reached a point that seems to make war inevitable. There is no doubt that powerful capitalist influence has been brought to bear not only upon the uitlanders, but also upon the British government. The development of rich gold fields in the Transvaal, which promise a yet greater yield of the precious metal and the wealth of which may prove to be almost boundless, makes an irresistible appeal to cupidity. It is true that the development of these riches is due almost wholly to the people who are demanding a share in the government of the Transvaal. It is true that these people pay most of the taxes, that they have contributed greatly to the commercial growth of the republic and that they are the most intelligent and enterprising portion of the population. But is it not also true that what they have done has increased their wealth and material prosperity and that they have found no disadvantages, other than political, in the Boer republic?

The chief grievance of the uitlanders is that they have no share in the government and consequently are subjected to conditions not in harmony with modern civilization and progress. Some of these certainly are harsh and onerous; in England or in the United States they would not be tolerated. But the Boers take the position that the country is theirs, that they have the right to govern it as they choose and that their political system and laws are such as they believe best for their interests and welfare. A defender of the Boers says: "The whole Transvaal issue hinges on one question. Have the Boers the right to govern themselves as they choose; or, rather, have the English the right to interfere with the form of government, administration and life that the Boers have chosen for themselves?" And he argues with much force that England has no right to interfere in the government of the Transvaal republic. He declares that it is an unrighteous quarrel which England has picked up with the Transvaal and that the attitude of the Boers is justifiable and meritorious, a view that he supports with cogent arguments.

As the situation now appears war seems inevitable and we can conceive of no other outcome to a conflict than the overthrow of the Transvaal republic. To give the uitlanders what they ask would perhaps be to sacrifice Boer independence. War would mean the destruction of the republic. Thus in any event the suppression of the Transvaal seems certain.

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