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THE HEADLIGHT PIRATE

Does Out the Gems of Current
News and Topics.

JERRY SIMPSON got more than he bargained for when addressing a local G.A.R. reunion in Kansas City, for he was hoisted off the stage. This was the cause of the riot. After Jerry had made this statement: "I glory in the spunk of Aginaldo's men. They are simply fighting to regain the land the Catholics took from them. A local paper has asked: 'Who is John Brown's soul marching with—Otis or Aginaldo?' I believe John Brown's soul is marching with Aginaldo." Mr. Simpson said in substance that he would rather be with Aginaldo than with General Otis. An old soldier in the audience rose and said that the speech was drifting too much into politics. This was applauded and greeted with cries of "Throw him out!" and "Kick Simpson off the platform!" Men and women arose and hissed, and the men kept crying, "Put him out!"

In this day of progress it is to be regretted that the adulteration of food is on the increase. State Dairy and Food Commissioner J. W. Bailey was a speaker at a national association in Denver, and in part he said: "Fraud in food products is spreading, according to the statement of those in high authority, at an alarming pace, and we must strike at the fountain head of the difficulty. The fundamental basis from which its progress reaches out should be torn down and scattered to the four winds of the earth. We have first to determine just where the actual fault lies, and clamp on its trail, until our efforts are rewarded with victory. Impure and adulterated foods are flooding our markets. They are daily being sold in tin-foil, sugar-coated, and artistically arranged form, that they not only catch the eye but too often deceive the taste. There was a time, not long ago, when foods were served in their natural state. Their kind did not lose its individuality by the cooking. But man has sought many new inventions. Scientific and chemical processes have been brought to bear on our daily food until half the time we know not of what we eat. Many of these enticements are pure and wholesome, yet in all lines of trade there are dishonorable beings ever ready to use the genius of another for unprincipled purposes. Thus that which is adulterated is sold for the genuine article."

The latest advice regarding the Transvaal situation are extremely warlike and while some new developments in the negotiations are possible the indications are very strong that hostilities cannot be averted. The Boer government, it appears, has determined to stand firmly on its latest proposals. The British government is expected to make its reply within the next few days, perhaps tomorrow, and it is believed that it will reject the Boer terms. Meanwhile warlike feeling in the Transvaal has become intense and there is said to be a tremendous pressure upon the government in favor of declaring war. Preparations for hostilities are being steadily pushed by both governments. It is announced that the Orange Free State will support the Transvaal republic and that it will be aided by the Afrikaners throughout South Africa. In that case a formidable force can be marshaled to resist British invasion. Estimates differ as to the number of men available, ranging from 40,000 to 90,000. Probably an army of at least 60,000 can be raised and as the Boers and their allies are among the most intrepid and stubborn fighters in the world, Great Britain will need an army at least one-third greater than theirs to conquer, since the country to be invaded is strongly fortified. There is one factor in the situation, however, which may operate against the Boers. This is the possibility of a native uprising. There are over 600,000 natives in the Transvaal, 130,000 in the Orange Free State and 50,000 in Swaziland, a total of 820,000, of whom at least 150,000 are able-bodied men and who it is said hate the Boers to the death. A portion of the Boer army, therefore, would have to be employed in preventing an uprising of these natives. However, this may be a less important factor than the English papers would make it appear and it is quite probable that it is one the Boers have fully reckoned with. It is believed that in arms the Boers may have the advantage, for undoubtedly they have the best obtainable, both of rifles and field guns and they know how to use them. They also undoubtedly have a supply of the munitions of war sufficient to carry on hostilities for many months, for they have been accumulating for a long time.

England now has a considerable force in South Africa and more troops are on their way, but it is doubtful whether the army in Natal is at present strong enough to repel a formidable invasion. Of course England can send into South Africa any number of troops that may be needed and if war comes it will be prosecuted with tremendous vigor and will end, it is safe to predict, in complete British domination of the region.

The New York World comes out for Dewey for president. This is what it says: "In one way only can the Democratic party elect the next President. This is by nominating a man for whom every Democrat will vote. No man now conspicuous as a possible Democratic candidate meets this requirement, for every one, however admirably otherwise, is part of some grand scheme or is committed to the propagation of some theory upon which there is irreconcilable party division. The need of the hour is a name—not an ambition; a man—not a theory. And the right man is at hand. He is a man for whom every Democrat will vote, as well as every Republican not bound to the machine; a man for whom even Bryan might stand aside with honor and advantage to himself. He is one of the best examples of American manhood known in our history; a man of the supreme simplicity that is part of every lofty character; qualified to perceive all the obligations of a great patriotic duty and with courage to fulfill them; a man upright, earnest, sincere and a Hero. We do not know that there is but one really living, burning issue of principle that to-day concerns the American people, that of imperialism, and Europeanism, and that in that issue he is on the side of justice, freedom and true Americanism. This is Democracy. This man is one whom the development of our national life has brought forth from obscurity at this crisis. He cannot be even nominated if not by the Democratic party, and that party should recognize the facts and constitute itself the organ of the nation to put him in the supreme place. Mr. Bryan cannot be president next year, but he can make the President and have more power and prestige by sacrificing his ambition than by accepting a barren nomination sure to drag his party to another defeat and involve the country in even a worse period of corruption than the present. Whose the man who cannot be beaten? George Dewey!"

The great demand for live stock, which promises to extend for several years, is a condition undoubtedly most gratifying to all interested in the industry. The grower, however, does not want to permit himself to become lax in his methods, to produce good stock that will always command the best money, and while we are "in it" we want to set ourselves to making the best of our opportunity in conjunction with reputation. There may come a time, some years hence, when the rush will be over. Then the feeder buyer will get down to brass tacks and begin to scratch over his memory and figure up his expense account to find out what brand it was that turned him the biggest pile of dollars. Remembering the conclusion he makes up his "blue book" and every name that goes in there has a reputation for a good quality, be it beef, mutton or pork, and can depend upon having a steady customer. The stock grower might just as well have a string of steady customers as any business man in other commercial pursuits.

The statement of President Schurman of the Philippine commission does not throw much new light on the conditions in the islands, for it is calculated to strengthen sentiment favorable to the retention of the whole of the Philippines. Mr. Schurman a guess that the United States having assumed sovereignty of the archipelago and thus become responsible for the maintenance of peace, order and justice, and security of life and property among all the tribes, was anxious to fill the obligation as a matter of honor. But may we not properly consider the sacrifices this may involve? Consider the facts. Mr. Schurman says that the multiplicity and heterogeneous nature of the tribes is something astounding; that over sixty different languages are spoken in the islands and that the speech of any one tribe is unintelligible to its neighbors. Some of these tribes are civilized, but a number are not. It is admitted by Mr. Schurman that the archipelago will not be revolutionized in a generation—that is, American civilization will not generally prevail there within that time. Very likely it will take several generations to Americanize the archipelago, if indeed it can ever be done, and it is impossible to foresee what trouble and expense will be incurred in the effort to accomplish it.

The corn crop of the United States this year will probably be the largest in the history of the country and also the most valuable. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Press says that some of the farmers are counting with great confidence on the influence of the corn crop in maintaining and increasing business activity and industrial prosperity. This correspondent says that "our bankers are now of the opinion that the great wealth-producing crop of the United States is heavier to be sown rather than wheat and cotton, and the enormous crop that is to be harvested this month or next is expected to yield far more profitable returns than crops of other years have done, partly through its utilization through the advances chemical science has made for other than food purposes. "It has been said here within a few days," says the correspondent, "that the by-products from corn, produced from what was formerly regarded as refuse, may prove to be as valuable as the by-products from petroleum, and we have heard that very extensive and promising experiments are being made looking to the utilization of corn for the manufacture of commodities formerly exclusively made from rubber."

The suggestion that President McKinley proffer friendly mediation in the Transvaal difficulty is undoubtedly prompted by the best of motives, but the issue between England and the Boer republic is in no sense the affair of the United States and both of the parties to it would be very likely to decline a proffer of mediation. It is true that among the outsiders there are Americans who have interests in the Transvaal and it is the duty of our government to take all legitimate measures for the protection of those interests. But it is not called upon to go beyond this and every consideration of sound policy requires that it shall keep aloof from the Anglo-Boer quarrel.

Some of the Washington correspondents are still predicting that there will be a change of commander in the Philippines. One of the most trustworthy and usually best informed among them stated a few days ago that at the War department it was the general belief that Miles will be selected to take command of the army in the Philippines, Otis being retained there to administer civil affairs. There is no reason to doubt that an arrangement of this kind has been under consideration, but it is intimated that the president is extremely reluctant to do anything which may seem to reflect upon the military course of General Otis.

The St. Louis butchers have organized and threatened to establish a slaughter house to be operated jointly by them in case the packers do not soon reduce the wholesale price of meat. A similar threat was made by local shop keepers. No assurance, however, was given that the dear people would derive any benefit from the new departure if carried out. The packers on the other hand is backed by millions and about the time the shop keepers get their slaughter house to operating the packers would reduce the price materially and install shop keepers to sell their meats to the consumers. And what would happen then?

A LITTLE over a year ago people along the eastern seaboard were having a bad scare over a threatened attack of Spanish war ships. In a few days they will again be straining their eyes to catch a glimpse of a war ship, but instead of preparing to take the steam cellar they will mount the housetops. It makes a wonderful difference who is coming.

It may be of interest to prospective applicants for employment under the census bureau to know that thus far out of 1,420 persons who have been examined only 709 have passed. For eliminating the ineligible these census examinations appear to be successful from every point of view except that of the applicants that fall under the lines.

EDITORS had the call at the Ohio democratic convention. An editor was nominated for governor. A former editor was nominated for lieutenant governor and an editor was nominated for state treasurer. More than this, the editor of a Coshocton democratic paper was sergeant-at-arms of the convention.

NEW YORK is complaining of a money stringency. If it can hold off until Oregon and other western farmers have old John Bull some of their great wheat crop it can have all the money needed in exchange for the remaining mortgages put on western farms a few years ago.

SENATOR Hanna has returned at an opportune time for democratic organs that had run out of logic men.

Hot Stuff.

A well-known Mississippi farmer will have cause to remember his recent visit to Memphis, says the Scimitar. He stopped in a well known cafe and among other things ordered a sirloin steak. A bottle of tobacco sauce was on the table, and mistaking it for catsup, he spread it quite lavishly on the steak and settled down to enjoy the meal. He cut off a big piece, but no sooner had it struck his mouth than he began to feel like his tongue was on fire. He twisted and turned and soon had the eyes of every one in the dining hall fastened on him. The more he twisted and screwed his face the hotter the steak in his mouth got. He didn't know was the matter. He could stand it no longer, and reaching up his hand he jerked out the burning steak, threw it on the floor, and in a very dramatic way exclaimed: "Now'd—n I have to settle it between ourselves!"

THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

Zella Scovell, a Girl of Twelve Years, Commits Suicide.

Nehalem was all excitement last week on account of the disappearance of Zella Scovell from her home, as reported in our last issue. The corner's jury unraveled the mystery attending the girl's disappearance, which may be briefly stated thus: In a fit of passion, after being chastised by her mother, Zella Scovell, a girl only twelve years of age, tied a rope round her neck to which she attached a stone, weighing about thirty pounds, and then jumped from a log into the North Fork of the Nehalem river, 150 yards from her home.

Corner J. E. Tuttle and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney B. L. Eddy proceeded to Nehalem on Thursday afternoon to investigate the cause of death, and the same night held an inquest on the body, when the first witness called was:

E. K. Scovell, father of the girl, on being asked what was the disposition of his daughter he answered: "A willful disposition—badly spent." He was not surprised that she did not come in to supper, for she went off about a month ago, but came back about dusk. She generally got over such things. He never knew her to make threats to do violence to herself. Had never expressed an opinion that her lot was harder than the rest of the family, but had done so of others. Her temper was above the average of her family. He had no suspicion of foul play, and had never discovered any insanity or any indications of it in her. The last time he saw her alive was about noon on Tuesday. His wife told him she had whipped Zella that day.

Ora Scovell said Zella was about the house all day Tuesday, but was out of humor. She had not heard her make threats. Did not think her father or mother had scolded her. She did not want to play alone. Asked whether she had heard Zella make threats on herself, the witness replied, "I never heard her threaten anything of the kind."

Elsie Scovell had formed no opinion of the cause of Zella going away and destroying herself. She did not fear punishment, although she was vexed during the day. When asked if she knew why Zella was vexed, said, "Yes, I do," and when asked if she objected to tell the cause, replied, "I do."

S. M. Batterson was one of the party who found the body. The first he heard of the disappearance of Zella was Wednesday afternoon. He, in company with others, talked the matter over. They arrived at the house before day break Thursday morning. They asked Mr. Scovell some questions, and then fixed up a grab hook. They went up from the boat landing about 300 yards, where they came to a log sticking out in the river about 50 feet, one end of which was on the bank. About eight or ten feet from shore they saw something in the water, and on examination found it was the body of the missing girl. They fastened the body with a hook and rope and then informed Mr. Scovell they had found his daughter drowned in the river. Witness, with the assistance of S. Scovell, R. Crawford and W. Reddaway, lifted the body to the surface of the water, and there they found the girl tied around her neck. It was a gummy sack cloth with a rock tied to it, the latter weighing about 30 pounds. The rope was three feet from the neck to the rock.

Arabella Pye, who examined the body at the request of the coroner, found marks of violence upon it, although she detected a bruise on the eye, a cut on the ear and the ear slightly bruised. The witness had known the deceased since a baby, but did not know much about her disposition.

Mrs. M. A. Scovell said she was the mother of the deceased. The last time she saw her alive was between four and five o'clock on Tuesday at her home. She did not notice anything wrong with her. She seemed to be happy and her mother spoke a few words with her. She brought in the clothes off the line. Her daughter was very headstrong. Mrs. Scovell went to Nehalem in the afternoon leaving Zella some work to do, which, on her return, was not done. Then she picked some berries. Zella got into an altercation with her brother, when Mrs. Scovell went out and corrected her daughter. Then Zella became very sassy to her mother, and for this she was switched.

Other witnesses having been called corroborating the previous evidence, the jury brought in a verdict that the deceased came to her death by drowning by her own hands with suicidal intent and that no other person is guilty of a crime.

"Sir," began young Timkins, as he entered the presence of the dear girl's father, "I want to marry your daughter."

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