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HEADLIGHT PIRATE Doles Out Gems of Current Topics.

In Kansas, where they raise much corn and formerly raised a warm article of much less profit, there exists a law that says that its citizens shall touch not, taste not, handle not rum, or any of its rebellious kindred, for a consideration. It appears that this good provision is not always complied with in a spirit of strict observance. It further appears that not only do individuals fracture the commandment, but municipalities, for a price, wink the other eye at violators, thereby compounding a crime. A widow in one of these municipalities has sued the city for \$10,000 damages, value she places on her husband, dead, although she doubtless measured him by the 30-cent standard while alive. Our full worth is often so little appreciated until it is too late to be of personal benefit to us. This widow, with the commercial instinct, alleges that as her husband drowned himself, on the installment plan, in drink which he obtained contrary to law, the city is liable for damages for his death. Whether \$10,000 represents his earning capacity, if alive, or his drinking capacity, deponent saith not. Such a price for a man who has drunk himself to death can scarcely be based on his actual value as a producer; so it must be the measure of the value of the liquor which he damaged as a consumer. Considered as a legal proposition, the case is one whose outcome must be watched with interest. Is a city liable for damages for acts that result from non enforcement of laws? It has been established that property destroyed by riots must be paid for; but does such responsibility extend so far as to hold a city for other damages incurred by its failure to grant protection?

THE position of David B. Henderson, who will be speaker of the next house of representative on the question of fixing the gold standard, is important and no part of his recent speech will command more general interest and attention than that in which he refers to the financial question, because he will have great influence in determining the action of congress, or at any rate of the house, respecting that question. Mr Henderson predicted that congress will legislate at the approaching session "so as to increase the confidence of the people, establish firmly the gold standard of the civilized world and let the people know that all of their obligations will be discharged on a safe and firm basis, making contracts to pay the laborer, to pay the farmer and to pay the pensioner, and to pay for every product of this country, adjustable only on a just and fair basis, admitting of no doubt or uncertainty as to the adjustment between man and man." With this statement the sound money of the country can feel confident that the next speaker of the house will exert his influence in favor of legislation firmly establishing the gold standard and that he will do this at the approaching session, not leaving the matter for after-consideration.

THE agitation of the marriage question growing out of the increased number of divorces has brought out from Bishop Potter of the Episcopal diocese of New York several statements of the problem, in which he takes the position that the mere prohibition of remarriage does not exhaust the duty of the church. The bishop insists that the church should be the protector of the family, and that in order to protect the family it must begin before marriage, by surrounding with greater safeguards the entrance into the wedded state. A great deal of married unhappiness cul-

minating in divorces and in the breaking up of family life is, no doubt, due to vicious legislation, which has not only made separation easy, but promoted divorce for the sake of remarriage. Legislators enact laws only for the interests of the entire public and society in general, while the church can enter into the peculiar conditions of each individual family. If Bishop Potter's suggestion should lead to the exercise of greater care before the church will sanction marriage within its doors, the assurance of contented families and happy homes would certainly be increased and the danger of divorce correspondingly lessened. The subject is a wide one, deserving the best thought of all interested in healthy social conditions, and the churches cannot do better than to grapple with it and devise the remedies for existing abuses.

THIS is how some people look upon the war in South Africa: Gold and Cecil Rhodes are the root of Transvaal trouble. The narrow strip of gold-bearing earth called the Witwatersrand is now producing \$100,000,000 a year, or over one-third of the world's gold output, and experts say it will soon be producing \$125,000,000. It is this that has filled the Transvaal with Englishmen and other outlanders, so they outnumber the Boers three to one. The strangers want to rule the country, and the Boers naturally object. Fifteen years ago Cecil Rhodes made a boast that in twenty years he would have all South Africa under one flag as a British dependency. The two Boer republics still remain to be stamped out in order to fulfil his ambition. He tried it in the Jameson raid but failed. Now he is hoping to see it accomplished by means of a British war.

THE mediaevalism of the Boers and the progress and enlightenment of the Outlanders are sharply contrasted by J. G. Stowe, United States consul-general at Cape Town, in a report on "The Commercial Development of South Africa," which was recently made to the state department. The Boers stand for all that is reactionary, for policies whose operation tend to check the development of one of the best countries in the world. They have planted 17th century ideas of politics and religion in South Africa, and are desperately defending them against the march of civilization. The light surrounds them, but they refuse to see the light. Neither Jew nor Roman Catholic may hold political office. Outlanders pay all the taxes and get no representation in the government or voice in its administration, not even a statement of what has been done with the money out of which they have been gouged. On the advancement which the United States and Great Britain have made the past century, and which has been characteristic of nearly every country in the world, except the Transvaal republic, during the past 50 years.

PENDING the selection of an officer to fill the vacancy caused by the promotions and retirements of the five officers following General Shafter's retirement, there is much speculation as to who will receive the additional star, although it is believed it will go to Lawton or MacArthur. Lawton is the senior officer of the two, but MacArthur stands closer to the administration, and as this administration remembers its friends, it would seem that MacArthur's chances were the better. Lawton has long dissented from the views entertained by the administration and by General Otis regarding the Philippine campaign, while MacArthur has rather acquiesced and approved Otis' views, and thus made himself strong with General Otis and the president, which gives him an advantage over Lawton.

AMERICA holds the cup, and before England can hope to take it back to that country it will devote upon some yacht men to build another boat to compete for the supremacy. Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock was undoubtedly the best English yacht ever sailed on American waters, but the Columbia proved her superior in every respect, winning the three first races with several minutes to spare. It is an expensive sport, for it is stated that it cost Sir Thomas in the neighborhood of a million dollars, and this no doubt is

the reason why competitors for the cup are few and far between. However, Sir Thomas, although not carrying the cup back with him, does the respect and good will of the American people, which is decidedly something to be proud of.

ONE of the latest things out is the electric capsule. It can be carried about in the vest pocket until an illumination is needed, when it can be utilized to the satisfaction of the owner. A company has been found in New York with \$15,000,000 capital to supply power or light in ten or twelve grain capsules. One of these capsules will furnish electricity enough to keep a light burning all night. The assertion is made by a representative of the company that the light can be furnished at less than one-fifth of a mill per lamp per hour for each sixteen-candle incandescent globe. The company intends to sell power at 10 cents an hour for one full horse power. The capsules can be used for propelling automobiles, and it is said they will take up so little room and weigh so little that the weight of automobiles will be reduced materially.

THE Russian thistle, hitherto considered pestiferous, and which is to be found spreading itself on both slopes of the Rocky mountains very fast, has found an advocate in Professor Bessey of the United States department of agriculture at Washington, who declares that the day may yet come when sheep growers of the plains will take pains to grow the Russian thistle as a fodder plant. Do we progress through scientific study and development in discovering valuable qualities in the weeds, grasses and grains in nature's fields and waste places? It is not so long ago that the tomato was held to be a poisonous article. Now, this weed, so long dreaded as a pest by the farmers of the country, is likely to pass out of the category of injurious plants and enter that of the useful.

THE Toledo Market Review says: J. I. Campbell, a well-known Texas lumberman, has received an inquiry from his representative in the City of Mexico that will doubtless startle the lumber world. The agent wired that he could secure a contract for 3,000,000,000 feet of lumber, and wished to know how much time it would take Mr. Campbell to fill this engagement. Such an order is unprecedented, being larger than any lumber deal ever made in the world. It would exhaust the present supply of every mill in the state, and would cause prices to soar. Mr. Campbell is making inquiries as to stocks held by the mills, and hopes to be able to fill the order.

THE Boers, having forced the fighting in South Africa, with results quite contrary to their expectation and God's intervention on their behalf, have experienced by this time what their rash act of declaring war against England entails. The severe battle at Glencoe, where the Boers outnumbered the British two to one, proved beyond a doubt they are no match against a disciplined army. Besides, the much talked of excellent shooting capabilities of the Boers do not appear to be substantiated by their first encounter.

BRYAN, while in Ohio last week, denounced the preaching that God had been the instrumentality of our presence in the Philippines, and said: "When God gets ready to speak to the American people he will find somebody else than Mark Hanna as a mouthpiece." Bryan ought to know that most of the boss politicians are the mouthpieces for his Satanic majesty by this time, for he has already dabbled in politics long enough to convince himself of this.

FAILURES continue to decrease both in number and in the amount of liabilities involved in spite of the democratic demerit that there is prosperity in the land. Last month was a record month in that respect, beating the record of the past seventeen years. When it comes to failures republican times make no pretense of competing with democratic.

A KANSAS City court has decided that a man cannot be compelled to cut the weeds in front of his premises unless he wants to. With this decree in force

Kansas City people can have all the delights of rural summer residence without the trouble of moving.

GERMANY with its 1,058,000 acres in sugar-beets this year is pretty well matched by India with 1,050,000 acres of sugar-cane. Which goes to show what a fondness for sweets has grown upon humanity.

ALL that England asked of the Boers were the same rights and privileges for the Outlanders which the United States gives to her citizens. Had the Boers done this there would have been no war.

FROM the unequalled weather with which the Baptist state convention has been favored the conclusion is inevitable that the weather man belongs to the Baptist church.

VIOLATING INSURANCE LAW. Seventeen Companies Said to be Liable to have Licenses Revoked.

SALEM, Oct. 20.—An opinion which is of considerable importance to foreign insurance companies doing business in Oregon, was rendered today by Attorney General Blackburn at the request of Secretary of State Dunbar. Mr. Dunbar, in requesting the opinion, stated that he had received a number of complaints from insurance agents saying that the provision of the act to regulate the license of fire insurance companies, and to prohibit overhead writing, is being violated. The violations, it is alleged, consist in the establishment and maintenance of more than two agents or agencies in Portland, and more than one agency or agent in certain other cities of the state. Seventeen companies are alleged to have violated the law. The companies appointed the two agents they are entitled to appoint for Portland, according to the complaints, and also appointed or pretended to appoint agents in one or more of the towns or villages near that city. These agents, it is alleged, though supposed to be doing business in the towns for which they were appointed, maintain residences and fixed offices in Portland, where they write insurance on Portland property as well as property in the town in which they are supposed to be located. Judge Blackburn's opinion says:

"The law is that company may appoint two agents in each city in this state having a population of 40,000 or more. No greater number can be appointed unless the quarterly license is paid. The additional agent or agents which have been appointed have been appointed for towns which are adjacent to Portland, but have been appointed in Portland. The action on the part of these companies in appointing these additional agents seems to be a wilful and deliberate attempt by them and each of them to avoid the payment to Multnomah county of the sum of \$100 quarterly for a license for each additional agent so appointed in the city of Portland, and to evade the law as claimed by complaining parties; and, in my opinion, you have the right to revoke the license of each and every agent in this state appointed by such companies."

Mr. Dunbar will send a circular letter of warning to insurance companies soon, which will embrace Judge Blackburn's conclusions.

Her Idea of Electricity.

THE latest joke concerning electric light is just going the round. It seems that at Bedford an old lady on seeing electric light in that town for the first time was struck with amazement.

After gazing at it for some time she entered a grocery shop, and addressing the assistant, said: "I say, mister, how do you make that big light of yours? I am tired of burning paraffin."

The shopman replied, "Oh, it is caused by a series of electric currents."
"Oh, is it?" said the old woman.
"Then weigh me a pound; if they won't do for lighting, they'll come in for puddings."

NOTICE.
To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that I will not be responsible for any debts or contracts entered into or incurred on account of any of my business in Tillamook county, by any person who over- unless the same be authorized in writing by me.
SAMUEL R. MORE

BOERS DEFEATED. Utterly Routed in a Big Battle at Glencoe.

GLENCOE CAMP, Oct. 20 2:50 p.m.—After eight hours of continuous heavy fighting, Dundee hill was carried by the Dublin fusiliers and the King's Royal rifles, under cover of a well-directed artillery fire by the Thirteenth and Sixty-ninth batteries. The Boers, who threatened the British rear, have retired.
The fight is almost an exact counterpart of that of Majuba hill, except that the positions of the Boer and British forces were reversed. General Symons was severely but not dangerously wounded.

The battle today was a brilliant success. The Boers got a reverse which may possibly, for a time at any rate, check all aggressive action. The British artillery practice in the early part of the day decided the battle.
The seizure of Dundee hill by the Boers was a surprise; for, although the pickets had been exchanging shots all night, it was not until a shell boomed over the town into the camp that their presence was discovered. Then the shells came fast. The hill was positively alive with the swarming Boers till the British artillery got to work with magnificent energy and precision.

The batteries from the camp took up positions to the south of the town, and after a few hours' magnificent firing silenced the guns on the hills. The correspondent could see shells dropping among the Boers' pieces with remarkable accuracy and tremendous execution, for the enemy were present in very large numbers and in places considerably exposed.
By this time the enemy held the whole of the hill behind Smith's farm and the Dundee kopje, right away to the south, in which direction the British infantry and cavalry moved at once. The fighting raged particularly hot at the valley outside the town.

Directly the Boer guns ceased firing, General Symons ordered the infantry to move on the position. The infantry charge was magnificent. The way the King's Royal rifles and the Dublin fusiliers stormed the position was one of the most splendid sights ever seen.
The firing of the Boers was not so deadly as might have been expected from troops occupying such an excellent position, but the infantry lost heavily going up the hill, and only the consummately brilliant way in which General Symons had trained them to fighting of this kind saved them from being swept away. Indeed, the hill, was almost inaccessible to the storming party, and any hesitation would have lost the day.

The enemy's guns, so far as the correspondent could see, were all abandoned, for the Boers had no time to remove them.

A stream of fugitives poured down the hillside into the valley, where the battle went on with no abatement.

General Symons was wounded early in the action.

The enemy, as they fled, were followed by the cavalry, mounted infantry and artillery. The direction taken was to the eastward. At the latest reports the cavalry had not returned.

The final rush was made with a triumphant yell, and as the British troops charged to close quarters the enemy turned and fled, leaving all their medicines and guns behind them in their precipitate flight.
While this was going on, one battery of artillery, the Eighteenth Hussars and the mounted infantry, with a part of the Leicestershire regiment, got on the enemy's flank, and, as the Boers streamed wildly down the hills, making for the main road, they found their retreat had been cut off, but they rallied for a while, and there was severe fighting, with considerable loss to each side.

Many of the enemy surrendered.
LONDON, Oct. 21.—List of casualties issued by the war office to-day shows that in the battle between Glencoe and Dundee yesterday one colonel, three captains and five British lieutenants were killed, and one general, one colonel, three majors, six captains and nine lieutenants were wounded.

The list of officers killed and wounded shows that while the British victory was complete, it was bought at a heavy price. This heavy loss among officers was due to

valiant conduct in sticking to the traditions of the British army and refusing to use the cover of which the men availed themselves during the storming of the Boer positions. Among the rank and file, the Hussars had seven wounded, the artillery one killed and three wounded, the Leicestershire regiment one wounded, King's rifles 11 killed and 68 wounded, Irish fusiliers 14 killed and 30 wounded. The Outlook publishes a dispatch from Cape Town dated yesterday, alleging the Boers are not likely to make any further considerable offensive movement. The correspondent says: "They are utterly demoralized and the men refuse to take risks."

LONDON, Oct. 21.—The war office announced that in the fighting yesterday between Glencoe and Dundee, Natal, 31 non-commissioned officers and men were killed and 151 wounded. A later dispatch from Sir George Stewart White says Sir William Symons is brighter today.

See-Saw.

"Wonder if I was ever like that?" asked a woman who wore a big hat and bright colors on the street car. "If there is anything under the canopy that annoys me, it is a couple of callow children like they are, thinking they're young ladies."

"I think they're very little children from the beginning," smiled the benevolent old lady in the next seat, whose voice was sweet and whose eyes were so kindly that they spoke for themselves.

"I hope not. It's humiliating to believe it. Look at them, chattering like jaybirds and chewing gum as hard as they can chew, and talking about the boys, of course. But it's a horrid age when they eat candy, walk home from school with some boy, giggle, sit in a cold room to exchange secrets and believe in fortune telling. Did you ever hear of a more ridiculous round of occupations?"

"Then you have no children of your own?"

"I have never married. Not but what I've had chances enough. Why, how do you do?" as a middle aged bachelor hurried into the car and took the seat ahead. "I haven't seen you for an age. How well you are looking. Do come back here where I can talk to you better. I have so much to tell you. That's better. Do you know, I was beginning to feel cross towards you for not being more sociable."

Then she rattled away at a great pace, shaking the plumes in her bonnet, snoring, throwing "killing glances" from her eyes and empathizing at least two words out of five.

"Did you ever?" whispered one girl to the other. "Regular talking machine, isn't she? Do you suppose we'll ever be like that?"



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