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### HEADLIGHT PIRATE Doles Out Gems of Current Topics.

HERE is something that the silverites would do well to put in their pipes and smoke: The production of gold in the United States in the calendar year 1898 was 3,118,398 ounces fine, of the value of \$64,463,000. The amount of gold produced from quartz mining in 1898 was in round numbers 2,800,000 fine ounces. The South African Republic produced 3,831,975 fine ounces, the value of which is \$79,313,953; Australasia produced 3,137,644 fine ounces of the value of \$64,860,800. These three countries are the great producers of the world, their output aggregating 10,088,017 fine ounces, of the value of \$208,357,557, or 73 per cent of the product of the world. Next comes Russia, with \$25,463,400; Canada, \$13,775,400; Mexico, \$8,500,000; India, \$7,781,500, and China, \$6,078,700. These five aggressive 92,686 kilograms, valued at \$81,599,000, or over 21 per cent of the whole, leaving 6 per cent to the remainder of the world. There is no reason to expect any cessation of this steady annual increase for some years to come. The Transvaal has not nearly reached its limit; Australasia, particularly West Australia, is not yet half developed; Alaska and the Yukon have only fairly begun to produce, while the recent steady increases in Colorado and other Western states show no signs of abating. The world's production of silver in 1898 was 165,295,572 fine ounces, showing an increase over 1897 of 1,222,400 fine ounces.

Senator Hoar, on his return recently from Europe, said that he heard abroad much adverse criticism of American Philippine policy. He had found Englishmen who thought the course of this government "asinine" and others who deplored it as a departure from our traditional policy. He stated that he met with men who approved our policy, but the impression he conveyed was that the quite general sentiment is unfavorable. Ex Postmaster General James, of New York, has also been abroad and his report of the feeling in England is quite the reverse of that of Massachusetts's senator. He stated that he had been amazed by the unanimity of opinion that prevails in all classes in Great Britain with respect to what we call the question of expansion. Mr. James found no one among those he met who did not think that the United States is meeting an imperative duty in the Philippines. Foreign opinion upon this or any other American question is not a matter of very great concern. It will not in the least influence our course or policy. We shall do as we think best regardless of it. We refer to these different reports of two American citizens equally worthy of confidence merely to show how easy it is to find opinion abroad for or against our Philippine policy and therefore how little claim any of it has to American attention. It would be well if less consideration were given to foreign opinion respecting our affairs than we are in the habit of according it.

One noticeable feature of the markets these days is the fact that every drop in prices is followed by a falling off in receipts. It used to be different a few years ago. Then when the markets showed weakness it was almost impossible for the railroad to furnish cars enough to accommodate the rush to market. Stockmen just now are very familiar with the situation. With a big war on in South Africa, a war on in the Philippines, fewer cattle in sight than for years, and the demand steadily increasing, no one is very much frightened at the weak spots

in the markets, but are willing to stand back and wait. As an instance, it is reported that a large number of sheep and lambs were headed for the railways in Idaho when the bad drop in the sheep market came last week. Instead of coming on, the flock masters held a consultation and decided to drive back to the feeding grounds and wait until there was a better demand for their sheep. The producer is the man who can afford just now to be independent and he is realizing the conditions and exercising his prerogative. The outlook for the future is as bright as could be desired and while there is little expectation of any higher prices, the present prices are good enough.

The perplexing Alaskan boundary question has been temporarily adjusted and the danger of serious friction between American and Canadian interests in Alaska for the time being removed. According to report from Washington the agreement temporarily defining the boundary makes no concession detrimental to American interests, while at the same time being essentially fair to Canada. It is admitted by the representative of the Canadian government in London that the provisional arrangement is fair to both sides and insofar as it will prevent local friction, satisfactory. It is stated that the effect of the modus is to give the United States control of the tidewaters, the British being fifteen miles above; to maintain the American control to the new and important Porcupine country and to save the rights of all American miners who are now on the Canadian side of the line. This result of the protracted negotiations, which for a time promised to be futile by reason of Canadian objections and obstructions, will be welcome to all those people in both countries who desire that a settlement of all the differences between the United States and Canada shall be effected with the least possible delay.

An interview with Senator Kyle of South Dakota, as chairman of the industrial commission, indicates that another effort will be made in the next congress to amend the immigration laws by making them more stringent in their restrictive clauses. Senator Kyle says that the feeling is that the law should be altered so as to exclude undesirable elements, and intimates that the commission has discovered regular organizations in several European countries for the purpose of foisting on this country dependent and criminal people. The senator seems to overlook the fact, however, that the laws as they are now on the statute books expressly prohibit the landing either of criminal or of assisted immigrants, and that their enforcement now excludes practically all these undesirable classes. While the United States is reaching out and annexing large bodies of people of different nationalities there is certainly no call for further restrictions upon European immigration which is furnishing unobjectionable additions to our population.

Colonel J. L. Torrey, who gained fame during the Spanish-American war by commanding a regiment of Rough Riders, is a patriotic American citizen in every respect. In the ranks of his regiment he found two young men in whom he had taken a great interest. One of them, Truman Fox of Sundance, Wyo., he has given \$5,000 for a course in art in St. Louis and then in Paris, and to the other, Charles Blake of Sand Creek, Wyo., he has provided for a full collegiate course of four years in the University of Kansas. Does any other nation have such commander and such men in its army? And be it remembered that Colonel Torrey is one of the prominent citizenry of Wyoming.

The special expert sent abroad by the agricultural department at Washington in search of new seeds, grains and plants has brought back, among other things, an "everbearing strawberry." This wonderful strawberry, which comes from France, is said to produce fruit for months on the same plants, and a small patch will keep a family supplied for many weeks. This new plant has just reached America at the proper time. Our people are ready for luxuries and we want them long and plenty. Secretary Wilson evidently is going to see

that American's "man with the hoe," as well as the other fellow, has the best of everything in existence.

The appeal of Captain Carter to the federal court to stay the enforcement of the penalty of the court-martial as affirmed by President McKinley has been dismissed and the disgraced army officer will have to serve his sentence. The yellow journals, however, will not make much ado over this. All the noise they raised about Captain Carter was pure buncombe in the hope of making political capital against the president and his War department officers.

**Some Impressive Figures.**  
 The industrial commission at Washington has been furnished with statistics regarding the American merchant marine which are decidedly impressive as showing the low estate this country has reached as a maritime power in respect to international commerce. The author of the statistics, Mr. F. L. Neall, of Philadelphia, has evidently made most thorough and painstaking study and research and there can be no question regarding the accuracy of his facts and figures.

Mr. Neall states that the volume of merchandise imported and exported by the United States for the calendar year 1898 amounted to \$1,800,000,000. The weight of this merchandise was over 37,000,000 gross tons, or more than 3,000,000 tons per month. In regard to the transportation of the merchandise, vast in value and bulk, it is shown that out of a total shipping tonnage suitable for transoceanic traffic aggregating 27,000,000 tons, the United States has but 125 vessels, steam and sail, with a carrying capacity of 296,185 tons. Think of this for a maritime and commercial nation whose shores are washed by two oceans, whose commodities are in world-wide demand and whose resources are inexhaustible. In all other respects dependent of the rest of the world we are dependent upon the shipowners of Europe, chiefly those of England, for carrying our commodities to foreign markets and bringing back what we buy abroad.

This dependence is not only expensive, costing our people, according to the lowest estimate, \$182,000,000 annually, but it places this country at a distinct disadvantage in the competition for the world's trade. Whatever may be said of the axiom that "trade follows the flag," there can be no question that the nation which is able to send its commodities to foreign markets in its own ships under its own flag has a decided advantage over the nation that cannot do this. Great Britain's commercial supremacy is largely due to her possession of this advantage, which she still relies upon to keep her at the head of the world's commerce, while Germany's rapid advance in recent years as a commercial power has been greatly aided by her merchant marines.

The unusual interest that is being shown in this question of a merchant marine for the ocean carrying trades gives promise of practical results. President McKinley's references to it in his recent tour gives ample assurance that he will urge legislation upon congress and the general expressions of republican platforms favorable to such legislation will undoubtedly induce congress to act. There is no time better than the present, as was said by Mr. McKinley, to build up a merchant marine and other enlarged commercial relations make it more than ever essential that we should take up this work, so vastly important to commercial progress and commercial independence. In regard to the policy that should be adopted there will have to be compromise between extreme views. Free ships are out of the question. The country will not tolerate a policy for the advantage of European shipbuilders. On the other hand there is a very strong public sentiment against subsidies or bounties, such as proposed in the bill introduced in the last congress and which will be brought forward early in the approaching session. A compromise is practicable and will probably be effected. At all events the next congress will undoubtedly legislate upon this very important subject in a way that will conserve the best interests of the country.

### SHOWER OF STARS. Meteoric Display of November 14th to Surpass Any Seen This Century.

The Leonids are coming. On the night of the 14th of this month there will pour from the heavens, astronomers predict, the most remarkable and spectacular stream of shooting stars seen since the century began. In Washington the scientists of the United States Naval observatory are making elaborate preparations for observing the appearance of the Leonids, while throughout the colleges, universities and astronomical observatories of the United States and of the world thousands of men are awaiting with eager interest an opportunity to observe the grandest of celestial phenomena.

Once every thirty-three years the spectacle of millions of stars falling out of the heavens is witnessed by the human race—a seemingly long time, but only a second in the eternity of the heavens. The assertion is safe that none who behold the cataclysm of living fire which will pour from the sky when the orbit of the Leonids intersects that of the earth will fail to bear forever in mind the memory of the spectacle. Every year a few scattered fragments of the shattered heavenly body are seen, but the appearance of the main groups is relatively rare.

Questions naturally present themselves as to what in reality are the Leonids, where do they come from, and how is it possible to predict the fall of shooting stars. These questions have been answered in part by calculations and observations, and in part by well-founded theories of astronomers.

In the first place the single meteor or meteorite which makes, when it strikes the atmosphere of the earth, the so-called shooting star is often a mere trampled of the heavens—the detached fragment of some burst planet, too small for observation with the finest telescope, that wanders around in space until it comes within the circle of attraction of some larger body, when gravity causes it to fall. Generally in the course of its descent through the atmosphere of the larger body the meteorite generates so much heat that it is entirely consumed, but if large enough a part remains solid and strikes the earth. But neither the single meteor, nor meteorite can be observed except in the brilliant fashion of its death.

The comet, on the contrary, is a creature of the skies more to be reckoned with. Erratic as its wanderings may seem to the unsophisticated, in reality it pursues a most definite course among the stars. The lengths of the orbit which comets travel vary from a few hundred millions of miles to thousands of billions. The time which different comets take in completing their orbits varies from three and a half to a hundred thousand years. The preciseness of astronomical knowledge is such that the exact distance one of these bodies moves in a second can be determined. Hence the time at which it will arrive at any given point in its orbit can be predicted to the second.

When the statement is made, then, that the Leonids are but the fragments of a former comet and that those fragments are following the course pursued in bygone ages by that comet, it will be seen readily that there is nothing remarkable in the farther statement that modern astronomers can predict the time at which the November meteoric showers will appear. The swarm of particles which formed the once glorious orb known as Tempel's comet now pursue in the outer darkness of space the identical path which they followed when parts of a composite whole.

Reckoned by the figures of the heavens the Leonids are but infants. According to Professor Simon Newcomb, Tempel's comet has been dead only 3,300 years. The cause of explosion was probably the intense heat generated by the terrific rate at which the comet revolved. But for the fragments of the burning body there could be no rest. The forces which compelled the larger body to follow through countless ages a certain path were at work as well among the flying particles, falling in behind for a million miles and more, and the unending journey, interrupted for a while, was taken up again along the old path.

subsequent parties completely encircle the orbit of the earth, touching it only at one point on its outer edge. Continuing it crosses the orbit of Jupiter and Saturn and extends a few millions of miles beyond that of Uranus. Its orbit is elliptical and twenty times as long as that of the earth.

"One of the most interesting questions that will be brought up for determination during the coming visit of the November meteors is connected with their first presence in the solar system," said Professor William A. Harkness at the Naval observatory recently. "There is a well founded theory to the effect that Tempel's comet was originally drawn into the solar system by the planet Uranus, and this year the exact date of its coming probably will be proven by actual observation."

"We are unable to predict the exact hour at which the November meteoric showers will begin. Although these meteoroids revolve around the sun in a definite orbit, the point of that orbit's intersection with the orbit of the earth moves forward at the rate of a degree and a half a year, thus throwing the advent of the meteors a few hours later at each succeeding fall. For example, the fall of 1833 occurred on the night of November 13th; the fall of 1899 will take place on the evening of November 14th and probably will be of some hours' duration. It will be visible throughout the whole of the North American continent and in Europe and Asia."

"The November meteors receive the name of Leonids from the fact that they seem to pour out from that part of the heavens, wherein is located the constellation of Leo. In weight these meteors vary from a few grains to many pounds. On striking the earth's atmosphere they begin to burn at the height of seventy-four miles and are generally entirely consumed at a height of fifty miles."

"A great meteoric shower is generally perfectly noiseless. When the streak is first formed it is narrow and straight, but it soon becomes serpentine, and assumes an irregular figure as it drifts along, under the influence of the wind current in the upper region of the atmosphere. The streaks are of various colors, owing to the different compositions of the meteorites. Some are of a delicate greenish hue, while others light up the skies with a ruddy glow. Streaks of orange, red, white and bluish-white combine to form a most remarkable and beautiful spectacle."

Dr. W. F. Denning, fellow of the Royal Astronomical society of England, has found that the history of these displays goes back a thousand years. He quotes the celebrated historian, Condo, who in his Arabian history states that "on the night of the 12th of October, 902, an immense number of falling stars were seen to spread themselves over the face of the sky like rain." This particular year was known as the year of stars.

According to Dr. Denning, the most brilliant display in modern times was the November meteoric shower of 1883. In Boston alone it is estimated that 240,000 meteors were visible during the seven hours of the shower. Concerning this shower: "Compared with the splendor of this celestial exhibition the most brilliant rockets and fireworks of art bore less relation than the most tiny star to the broad glare of the sun. Stars fell until there were none left."

**Strong.**  
 Traveler [to an Irishman]—Well, Mike I see you have a small garden.  
 Mike—Yes, sorr.  
 "What are you going to set in it for next season?"  
 "Nothing, sorr, the man next door to me set his garden full of onions."  
 "Well, had that anything to do with your potatoes not growing?"  
 "Yes, sorr. Bedad, then onions was that strong that my potatoes couldn't see to grow for their eyes watering."

The demand for high bred rams is as strong as the demand for pure bred bulls. The sheepmen are not going to be behind the rnsb for good blood and the man with the high grade stuff is teaching the man with the common stuff a lesson. The sheepmen are getting into the business on scientific principles as well as the cattlemen and the result will be very noticeable within the next few years.

### Curious Condensations.

Prices in fashionable London restaurants are increasing gradually.

The cable rates between South Africa and England are to be reduced to 4 shillings a word.

The union cigarmaker of Tampa, Fla, have enforced a demand that cigar factories be scrubbed and cleaned once a month.

Two new fruit jar factories at Fairmount, Ind., now use blowing machines. Heretofore the work has been done by hand blowers.

There are no textile mills of any importance in the Transvaal, and, as a consequence, large quantities of cottons and woollens have to be imported.

All street car railway companies operating in the city of New York are required by law to run at least one closed car in every four at all seasons of the year.

The Japanese government decided some time ago to increase the price of railway tickets by one-third. The result was a loss instead of a gain in receipts.

Two-thirds of the quinine consumed is produced in the island of Java, from cultivated trees, the young plants having been procured by the Dutch government from Peru in 1852. The English government also started cinchona plantations in India, which now produce large quantities of quinine.

### Reflections of a Bachelor.

A woman can hide a secret just about as well as a sandwich-sign man can conceal his business.

Woman's real greatness consists in being able to cry over the little dissappointments of life and laugh at the big ones.

There probably never was a woman that weighed over 140 pounds that didn't just love to sit on her husband's lap.

If a woman could have all the new clothes she wanted and wasn't allowed to keep any old one she would be perfectly miserable every rainy day she stayed home.

A woman always remembers longest some little-fool thing her husband said when he was out of patience and the tender way he patted her face once when she was sick.

### Poker Chips.

American use 250,000,000 poker chips annually.

When you are ahead of the game—before it opens

A Russian electrician announces the discovery that will greatly interest poker players. He says he can restore sight to the blind.

One of the hottest poker game on record was the one where the "boy stood on the burning deck" and "called" by his father.

Tommy—Grandpa, are kings and queens always good? Grandpa—Not always, my boy; not when there are aces out against them.

Tenderfoot—Is there any big game around here? Native—There used to be, but now you can't find nuthin' but penny ante.

Sporty Tourist—Is there any chance to get into a good poker game here? Native—Wal, stranger, I reckon you'll find it easier gettin' into 'em than gettin' out of 'em.

Wife—What makes you stay at the office so late at nights? Do you gain anything by it? Hubby—No, but I have several times come—er—within an ace of gaining something.

Caddy—Have you played much golf yet? Links—Oh, dear no! I expect to be ready to play in another year. This season I am giving to a study of the names of the things you use in the game.

He who fights must march along in silence with the patient through. But he who talks and doesn't fight, May whoop things up both day and night.