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HEADLIGHT PIRATE Does Out Gems of Current Topics.

ONCE more the co-ordinate branches of the government is in entire political harmony. The president is republican, the house republican and the senate is republican. Upon the republican party, therefore, will rest the responsibility of both the enactment and the execution of new laws. No party in years has had such complete power, such undivided responsibility. During Grant's last two years as president and in Hayes' administration the house of representatives was democratic and in the last two years of the latter the senate also. During the first two years of the Garfield-Arthur term the house was republican, but the senate was equally divided, while in the last two the house was democratic and senate republican. During Cleveland's first administration the house was democratic, but the senate was republican, but the silver men of the party had already begun to exhibit the spirit that later led them to abandon their organization upon the adoption of the gold standard plank in the St. Louis platform, and in the second half of that administration the house became democratic. The first half of Cleveland's second administration both branches of congress were democratic, but even then the differences in the monetary question that split the party in 1896 began to be felt. In the second half of that administration the house again became republican and has remained so up to this time. During the first half of this administration the house was republican, but in the senate neither party had a majority, though the republicans had a plurality and succeeded by the help of protection democrats in passing the Dingley tariff bill through that body. The power and responsibility now devolving upon the republican party are greater than at any previous time in a century. The party has retained its hold upon the house and regains full control of the senate at the elections in an off year and with the most flattering prospects of closing the century in as full control.

It would be gratifying to Americans, irrespective of their political affiliations, that foreign opinion of the president's message, so far as it refers to our international relations, is so generally favorable. The cultivation by the United States of friendly relations with all the rest of the world is a policy which every true American citizen will approve. While we should make no alliance with any European power, nor enter into an understanding with any nation that might involve us in its international contentions and controversies, we should always seek to be on good terms with all countries. Washington counseled the cultivation of peace and harmony with all nations and the advice is as good now as it was a century ago. We shall best conserve our interests and exert a larger influence in the affairs of the world by continuing to follow that admonition. The favorable impression made in Germany by the reference of the president to the cordial relations subsisting between that nation and the United States is peculiarly gratifying, because there has been a considerable sentiment in Germany unfriendly to this country not merely for commercial reasons. Many Germans have felt that the friendship between England and the United States was detrimental to friendly relations between their country and ours and this idea will, it may reasonably be hoped, be dissipated by the assurance given in the president's message in respect to the friendly relations which should exist between Germany and this country.

relations between the two countries. The spirit in which the president refers to these ought to convince the German government and people that our government is sincerely anxious to improve these relations and to place them on a basis of mutual benefit. That this is practicable there can be no doubt and it will be the fault of Germany if a way shall not be found to its accomplishment.

In an address before the National grange, recently in session at Springfield, by Mr. Alexander R. Smith of New York, a member of the New York commerce commission, the farmer's interest in an American merchant marine was ably presented. He stated that over \$200,000,000 had been paid to foreign ships in the last thirty years and that 75 per cent of the products thus carried from our shores were raised on a farm had a vital interest in any movement calculated to engender competition, reduce cost of transportation and thereby secure additional markets abroad. The future markets for our growing surplus products and especially those of the farm, he said, promised to be larger west of the Pacific than anywhere else in the world; therefore the control of such an immense carrying trade should be in American hands, and our government should legislate in such a way as to meet the expansive possibilities presenting themselves. The proposed shipping bill should be passed by the present congress and to enable our own ships to carry our own products to foreign markets. A strong point to be considered in this connection is that it means the expending of hundreds of millions of dollars in our own country and in the employment of our own people. The subsidy bill is one that has been carefully framed so as to be satisfactory to all the commercial interests of the country and as one that should have the hearty commendation of farmers as a class. It has been reported favorably upon by committees of both houses. It is true, as stated by the opponents of the bill, that the result will be a heavy tax upon the industries of the people for the next twenty years. It is questionable if the farmers, for instance, will be called upon to pay one dollar additional tax on account of subsidies proposed to be paid to native-built and native-navigated ships. American labor would be greatly in demand, from the mine and forest to the finished ships, which is one more reason why American farmers should be very slow to deny that they had no interest in an American-built merchant marine.

The decision of the supreme court of the United States against the combination of pipe manufacturers, on the ground that it was in restraint of interstate commerce, is a victory for the act of 1890 that gives it fresh vitality and encourages the hope that it may be found effective against other trusts whose operations put a restraint upon trade between the states. The pipe combination was peculiar and we do not know that there is another one like it in the country, but unquestionably there are others which, while not conducting business on the plan of the pipe trust, are none the less restricting and restraining commerce between the states and therefore amenable to the court in this case seems to be broad enough to apply to a number of existing combinations of which it can certainly be shown that they are destructive of competition and thereby restrain trade and obtain increased prices for themselves. If we understand the language of the decision most of the trusts and combinations are violating the anti-trust law. At all events, the decision gives a vitality to existing legislation which it was thought to have been deprived of by the decisions of some of the lower courts and this is a matter of no small significance. It warrants the hope that the federal authorities will now take steps to further test the application of the act of 1890, which it is possible may yet be found sufficient for the suppression of the more dangerous combinations.

GREAT BRITAIN appears to be getting the worst of it in the war with the Boers thus far. So many repulses coming in rapid succession only shows what difficulties the Boers will have to encounter.

magnitude of the struggle is now fully demonstrated to the English government and the English people realize the gravity of the situation, so there remains nothing for that country to do but concentrate a vast army in South Africa with plenty of munitions of war and prepare for a sanguinary war. Whatever it may cost, and at whatever sacrifice it may entail, England must subdue the Boers, or her prestige as a great power will wane immediately. But with England's vast wealth and resources, there is every reason to believe that the people of that country are aroused and demand that these resources be used to prosecute the war to the bitter end. No soldiers in the world could fight with more bravery and determination than the British in South Africa, yet with all this the sturdy Boers have been able to repulse the advance of the British army. The reason for this is the entire Boer and Free State armies are on the fighting line, and which developed more strength than the English anticipated. To overcome this England will have to put at least 150,000 men in the field, for in fighting in a country like South Africa it is so decidedly in favor of the Boers that it will take a vast army to overcome these difficulties and defeat them.

Perhaps no other president in the history of this nation has had so much fruitful material for an annual message to the nation's congress as had President McKinley in the preparation of his message which was delivered to congress. The last year has been pregnant with epoch-making events in which this country has taken part and from these have arisen questions and problems fraught with deepest interest to every citizen. Under the conservative, yet forceful, guidance of the president and his cabinet advisers every issue has been met with wise consideration and prudent action and the president renders to the congress an accounting of Republican stewardship. The accounting must needs meet with most enthusiastic commendation from right-thinking people who feel an interest in the nation's welfare.

The slovenly wife is a very unattractive personality. A man would infinitely prefer to be disappointed in his wife's intellect than in her personal appearance, if he has to be disillusioned on either one point or the other after marriage, and yet how many women take chances with marital happiness by drifting into slovenly or careless ways, which are sure to disgust a man, no matter how much in love he may be. Do we not all of us know some such instance in our own circle of acquaintances where a pretty attractive girl has degenerated into an unattractive woman within a few short years of the time when she stood at the altar, radiant in the freshness of her youthful beauty, the delight of her husband's eye and the joy of his heart?

The recent manifestations of German friendship for the United States are very gratifying, but it cannot be said that it is favorable form and thus becoming of substantial value by the removal or modification of the discrimination against American meats and fruits. According to a dispatch from Berlin, the representative of the German government who was a short time ago in Washington on a special mission relating to the trade relations to the two countries in an interview spoke cautiously with reference to commercial issues, especially the meat and fruit questions. He remarked, says the dispatch, that there was a considerable difference of opinion regarding these matters and that Germany was still justly complaining of discrimination against German sugar.

In view of the fact that our government, as stated in the president's message, is maintaining an attitude of neutrality toward the conflict in South Africa, it would obviously be most ill-advised for congress formally to express sympathy with either party to the war. Unquestionably a very large majority of the American people sympathize with the Boers and hope that they will succeed and it is entirely proper for them to declare their sentiments in public meetings or otherwise, but an expression of the part of congress or either branch of that body in a different man-

ner, because it carries an authority and significance that do not attach to a popular declaration of sentiment.

The railroads ask for more time in which to equip their cars with automatic couplers. One of the reasons advanced is the cost of making the change. Against this item of expense the employes put the year's record of 600 men killed and 6,000 injured in coupling cars. Had the cars been equipped as the law provides comparatively few of these accidents would have occurred. It would appear that the lives of the men who work on the railroads should have some place in the financial account of the companies.

The United States ought to congratulate itself upon the easy manner in which it came into possession of Spanish territory in the late unpleasantness with that country when looking at the stubborn resistance the English army is meeting with in the Transvaal. Evidently it's no picnic in South Africa just now, for it is war, cruel war, with all its horrors. No matter, however, whether there is much or little fighting to be done, the Anglo-Saxon will eventually come out victorious.

The Cubans can find nothing in the president's message with which to find fault, according to the telegraph reports. It is too early to form an accurate opinion of the subject. A day or two for reflection will probably enable them to discover something not to their liking. The habit of finding fault has become too firmly grounded with the Cubans for them to break off so suddenly.

The Astorian is beginning to be known as the ranter, a bellyaching ranter, possessed of a bad spirit when writing about the commerce of Portland. It keeps nagging upon this subject week after week, and it is surprising how much nagging the citizens of Astoria can endure. If there was any possible show of the Astorian accomplishing anything by it there would be some logic in it.

About the only persons who make money out of the overcapitalized trusts and industrial combinations are the promoters and the state of New Jersey. The latter takes in from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per month in incorporation fees, while no one knows what the promoters get. The suckers who buy the watered stock and the public who buy the product foot the bills.

European engineers in this country announce that they intend to place orders for \$1,000,000 worth of electrical machinery for an electric road in Egypt. It will not be long until the people of all parts of the world will have ocular evidence of the excellence of American workmanship.

Bishop Potter says that, coming of an ecclesiastical family, he owes his love of preaching to "those grandfathers and great-grandfathers." He adds: "I began preaching before kilts gave place to trousers. My pulpit was an empty stall in the barn, my audience the chickens and the hired man."

Congressman Roberts appears to think his failure to get into congress is going to bring all kinds of disasters upon the country. To a disinterested spectator it would appear that so far Mr. Roberts is the only sufferer.

A Missouri court has held that the promise of a deputyship by a candidate for office is a bribe tendered to a voter in violation of the corrupt practices act. To be a bribe the thing offered must be something of value.

The man who raised broom corn last year and held onto his crop will be able this year to sweep away his mortgages if he has any. The price is now \$200 per ton and promises to go higher.

BRYAN thinks that the financial bill now pending before congress is a bad measure. That is just what every democrat would expect him to say, but it does not make it so, however. The United States consumes nearly one-fourth the sugar produced in the

world. Neither growers nor dentists have cause for complaint of the American appetite for sweets.

The republican national convention will meet in Philadelphia on the 19th of June.

The anti-expansionists appear as though they had lost their wind.

Danger in Sports.

Those who oppose football are finding much delight in the morality record of the season recently closed, during which eleven deaths resulted from injuries received on the gridiron. It is noticeable, however, that these fatalities occurred in small schools, where expert training was not had. Football is a severe test of physical endurance and the man who goes into the game should be in the fittest condition. No sensible horse-owner would enter for a race a horse that had not been properly trained and no courageous man of experience would send his greyhounds down for the killing courses when they had not been thoroughly hardened in muscle and worked for wind. A "soft" horse or dog not only has no chance of winning a race, but is very likely to injure himself through over-exercion, for which he is not conditioned. If we have consideration for our brutes, why should not even more attention be given to the physical development of our young men who enter into severe athletic contests?

As to the casualties in outdoor sports, it may be said that all sports are indulged in with more or less risk of life or limb. If one argues against one, he should argue against all. Otherwise, it is hardly fair to single out one particular sport and urge that it is criminally dangerous.

During the short hunting season just ended, seven men were killed in Wisconsin, while in the woods deer shooting. In Michigan nine were killed, and in the Adirondacks twenty-three hunters lost their lives in as many days. Two deer hunters were killed in Pennsylvania. Twenty-two moose and deer hunters were killed in the state of Maine.

Nine baseball players were fatally hurt on the diamond during the past season. The deaths on the polo field numbered three, while on the links two men were killed by being struck on the head with a golf ball. Eight pugilists were killed in the prize ring. Mountain climbing, tobogganing, ice-yachting, skating, fox hunting, bicycling and other kindred sports each year adds to the list of fatalities that occur in open-air sporting amusements.

Football is a rough game and the men who play it take many chances of injury; but the casualties in other sports show that it is no more dangerous than the others.

Divine Humbugs.

There comes a time when religious fervor becomes criminal fanaticism. The promulgation, in the name of religion, of doctrines that tend to unsettle the mind and endanger life may reach an extremity where the law should step in and suppress the evil.

"Healers," who trifle with human life, through the ignorance or excitement of their deluded followers, are none the less criminal because they are sincere and call themselves "divine." The many who profess to have power to cure by the laying on of hands becomes a menace to society when he practices his fanaticism in cases where the disease is malignant. He is more dangerous than the ignorant quack, whom the law assumes authority to suppress. Experiments on patients suffering from certain ailments may be harmless, even if not beneficial; but in contagious or virulent diseases the practice of "divine" nonsense should be regarded as an offense and be severely dealt with by the law.

In Chicago there is a nest of these "healers," the brood of one Dowie. Their practice is not confined to that city, but is carried on over the country by what they term "assent treatment."

A few days ago a poor woman went to Lincoln park with her two little children for the purpose of drowning them and herself. She was saved by a policeman, while offering up a last prayer to her Maker. Investigation showed that her husband, who was one of Dowie's followers, had repeatedly accused her of

infidelity. He had no proofs of his accusation, falling back on the statement that the spirits had come to him in a vision and told him his wife was untrue. That was all he had on which to base his outrageous charges, which drove his wife to the edge of the grave.

A vigorous application of the law to the frauds who profane the name of Christ would have a healthful effect. There should be some legal means of ridding the country of these pestiferous humbugs, who profess to have inspiration from heaven.

Blasts from Ram's Horn.

Motives are greater than methods. It takes a good man to do good things. The biggest lights are not always the best.

The real revival is sent down, not gotten up.

Discipleship means giving up, getting down and going on.

The coward capitulates by changing front before the enemy.

When you have no aim you are not likely to make any mark.

Eternal life is the only certain way of perpetuating ourselves.

Science is a word that many use as a wrapper for ignorance.

The mud picked up by the wheels does not increase the speed.

It is poor charity to give the crust that is too hard for your own teeth.

The strengthening of life is of more importance than its lengthening.

Josh Billings' Philosophy.

We alluss dispize those whom we kant flatter.

Men flatter the imprevident, but seldom flatter the cauhus.

It is better to be kikit by a mule than to be praised by a fool.

He who knows a grate menny trades iz sure to be master ov none.

No man ever shouldered a ton yet, either by the aid of tears or prayer.

Man's pashuns make him more terrible than any beast of the deser.

You kant make a man think according to law; you may make him aakt so.

There is no labor-saving invenshun that komparets with the eye ov the master.

What a man gets unjustly is harder to hang onto than the hot end ov a poker.

There is a grate diffrence between a brave and reckless man, and the two should not be konfounded.

Children are a constant anxiety. The only time we kan consider them safe iz when they are fast asleep.

Poverty is not dishonorable enny more than sickness iz; it is only the cause of it that may be dishonorable.

One ov the most diffikult things in a man's karakter to judge ov is the actual amount of happiness he is possessed of.

Even the bees will rob a week hive ov its hunny; just so a week nation falls a victim to the neighboring strong one.

Happiness haz been defined so often and in so many different ways, that I am almost of the opinion that it doesn't exist at all.

The only way to find all about a man iz to set him on the top round of a ladder, and then stand off and take a good look at him.

The best hits that hav ever been made hav been made just as the boy hit the woodcock on the fly--bi picking up the fust stone he could find and letting drive without taking aim; and the boy and the woodcock, both, were astonished at the result.

The Usual.

The heartless landlond has come to evict the widow with eighteen children, many of whom are teething.

But at the threshold the woman waves him back imperiously.

"Not today!" she cries.

"Why not?" asks the landlord, with pardonable curiosity.

"Because," the woman replied, "no pitiless storm of rain mingled with icy sleet rages without!"

The land lord grinds his teeth in impotent rage; he may trample under foot the promptings of his better nature but not the conventionalities established by long usage.

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