

The government engaged in running Spain's ship of State have rocked the boat once too often.

The cost of railroads all over the world thus far has been \$36,685,000,000, and it is estimated that the street railways cost \$2,500,000,000.

It is said the Cuban insurgents are half-naked. Go back to history and compare that information with the condition of the American patriots.

Canada and the United Kingdom are to have a two-cent post. Perhaps we, too, shall some day communicate with our Anglo-Saxon brothers in England at the same domestic rate.

The women of LaGrange, Mo., deserve something better in the shape of men than they seem to possess. While their husbands were sitting around on dry goods boxes telling each other how the war should be conducted they organized a battalion, appointed officers and cut down the weeds in the principal residence streets of the city.

The Washington correspondent of the London Daily Mail reports an interview with a distinguished American officer, who is represented as dilating upon the immense superiority of American warships over British, especially in armor and armament. The officer is said to have declared that the United States battleship Alabama could blow the British battleship Majestic out of water, and to have predicted that in the next century America will be building warships for everybody. "Even now," he says, "the United States is able to build much cheaper than Germany or England." The Daily Mail, commenting editorially upon this startling statement, says: "We have verified the data and are compelled to acknowledge the correctness of the statement. We know also that there is a distinct uneasiness in the highest ranks of the British Navy at the under armament of our ships."

The coming textile fibre, according to Textile America, is that of the ramie plant. Already, it appears, manufacturers of hosiery and fancy goods are using the fibre on a large scale, and the facilities for washing such textures have contributed to their increasing manufacture for table linen, bed sheets, etc. The fact is also important that the different tests made with this and other vegetable fibres, such as flax, hemp, cotton, etc., have been in favor of the ramie, and for this reason it is gradually gaining favor in another branch, namely, the production of sailcloth, awnings and coverings for carriages, on account of its being less sensitive to atmospheric influences, acids and septic. Knitted underwear made of ramie—this industry, it may be remarked, being one in which the material has been most successfully introduced—is not only one that has acquired quite a liking from the public because of its extreme durability and silky finish, but also for its estimated hygienic advantages; these latter are based on the substance admitting of normal perspiration without generating or retaining the disagreeable heat caused by textures made of other fibres, while hot water and soap will also cleanse it without any exposure to strong friction.

The report on railways in India for 1897-8 has just been published by the Indian Office in London. The following is a summary of some of the results pointed out: The total length of railways open on March 31, 1898, was 25,454 miles, being a net increase of 926 miles over the preceding year; of this mileage 21,156 miles were in full operation on that date, being an increase of 766. The mean mileage worked during the year was 20,531, being an increase of 748 miles. The gross earnings for 1897-8 amounted to \$51,190,339, which is an increase of nearly \$5,000,000 over the previous year. In the same period the working expenses amounted to \$31,200,000, which was a little more than last year. The net earnings amounted to \$32,710,000, being a decrease of \$210,872. Of the total gross earnings, 73.87 per cent. was earned by the standard gauge lines, 25.52 per cent. by the meter gauge, and the balance, .61 per cent., by the special gauge lines. The total number of passengers booked in the year showed a decrease of 5.94 per cent. The passenger earnings decreased by 7.31 per cent. What is termed "other coaching" traffic showed an increase of 26.01 per cent. The report explains this seeming paradox by stating that the falling off in "passenger traffic" in 1897 was chiefly due to the prevalence of the plague and the famine, while the increase under "other coaching traffic" was principally due to the abnormal receipts on account of the northwest frontier military expedition.

THE LADRONES AND CAROLINES.

Value and Beauty of These Much-Discussed Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

A QUEER PEOPLE WITH QUEERER CUSTOMS.

Far out in the Pacific, where the map looks as if a charge of bird shot had peppered a spot no larger than your thumb, the American flag is flying over the Ladrone Islands. They are but specks on the face of the deep. Yet there is an empire of island wealth and the rarest scenery in the world. An earthly paradise it is called.

The capture of the Ladrone by the United States with a seizure of the Carolines just to the south of the group makes them of new interest to Americans.

The Ladrone Islands are a chain of volcanic islands extending north and south from latitude thirteen degrees twenty minutes north to latitude twenty degrees thirty-two minutes south and in longitude about 146 east. They were discovered by Magellan, March 6, 1521, and named Ladrone from the supposed stealing propensities of the natives. Later, in 1668, the islands were named Mariana, in honor of Maria Anne, of Austria, the widow of Phillip IV., King of Spain. The inhabited islands are Agrigan, Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. On the other islands are volcanoes spouting fire and steam. The mountains range from 1000 to 3000 feet high, about the altitude of the highest of the Catskills.

The Spaniards have controlled the islands without interference or serious trouble from the natives. There is a small garrison at Agaña, the capital, where the Governor-General has resided. Many natives of the Caroline Islands have been imported into the Ladrone Islands and the races are interestingly mixed. The blending of the tall, copper-colored, curly-haired, long-bearded and mustached Carolinians with the Philippine-looking Ladrone, with their dark Malay skin,



A LADRONE BELLE.

has given a new tint to a large number of young men and women.

The chief products for sustaining life are coconuts and bread fruit. They grow spontaneously everywhere. It is said that one coconut tree will feed a man. A grove of the fruit trees to the island is what a herd of cows is to the Pennsylvania farmer.

These, with the tons of fish in the lagoons, which are natural fish ponds, are responsible for the profound indolence of the natives. They can support life without laboring. Some of the bread fruit trees are ten or twelve feet in diameter. A single tree is considered equal in life-supporting capacity to two acres of wheat. Then there are other products—guava, corn, ordinary wheat, bananas, figs and arrowroot.

The islands forming the Ladrone,

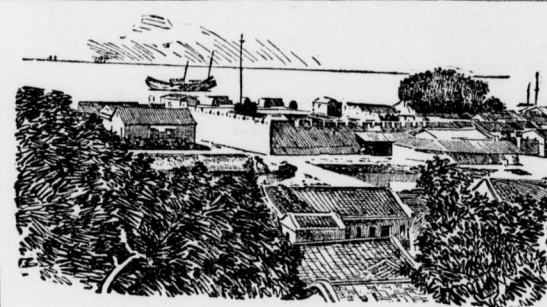


THE BUSINESS SECTION OF AGANA, PRINCIPAL TOWN OF THE LADRONES.

beginning at the northernmost, are Farallon de Pajaros, an active volcano 1000 feet in height; a group of three rocky islets known as the Urracas; Assumption, a partially active volcano peak 2848 feet in height; Agrigan, seven miles in length, mountainous, and the northernmost uninhabited island; Pagan, having three active cones, and peopled by a few natives; the uninhabited islands of Alamagan, Guguan, Sariguan, Anataxan and Farallon de Medinilla; Saipan, fifteen miles long, fertile, and having about 1000 inhabitants; Tinian, originally

possessing 30,000 inhabitants, and now a place of segregation for lepers, with a population of 300; Aguijan, of no importance; Rota, with 500 inhabitants, and Guam.

Guam, or Gnjagan, the southernmost and largest of the islands, is thirty-two miles long and has a population of about 9000, two-thirds of whom are in Agaña, and nearly all the rest upon the seaboard, the country inland being almost without inhabitant. Agaña,



BAHLDONAP, A TYPICAL TOWN IN THE CAROLINES.

the capital, is also a convict settlement. It is beautifully clean, and possesses good government officials, a hospital, schools and a church. The Spanish residents have usually numbered about twenty, and the regular soldiery about 200, all quartered here. The militia, comprising about all the male population, is commanded by native officers. The civil government is similar to that of the Philippines. Postal communication has been quarterly.

When first discovered the Ladrone had a population of about 60,000. Not one of the original race survives, and the islands are peopled chiefly by Tagals and Bisayans from the Philippines, mixed descendants of South American Indians, a colony of Caroline Islanders who founded Garapan in the Island of Saipan, and numerous Chamorro-Spanish half-breeds. The census of 1888 reports a population of 6476 in Agaña, and a total of 10,172 in all the islands, 5034 being males and 5138 females. There are eighteen schools in the Island of Guam. Only ten per cent. of the Ladrone Islanders are unable to read and write. Spanish is the recognized language; but many of the natives speak a little English. The climate is good and equable; seventy degrees to eighty degrees Fahrenheit is the range of the thermometer.

The present population are described as "wanting in energy, of indolent moral character, and miserably poor." They are descended in part from the original inhabitants, called Chamorros, and from the Mestizos, a mixed race formed by the union of Spaniards with these natives.

On the island called Surpan a colony from the Caroline Islands, which lie to the south of the Ladrone, was established some years ago. These people are the most active and enterprising inhabitants of the Ladrone.

Spain has derived no revenue from these islands, and has done little to civilize the people. At one time a few small schools were started, but they were soon abandoned.

In 1856 an epidemic destroyed one-third of the population.

August and September are the hottest months, and the rain-fall in the summer months is very heavy. Agaña, the capital, is well built of timber, and many of the houses have tiled roofs. There are twenty small villages on the islands.

So little has been done to civilize the people that they live in about the same primitive fashion as characterized them when Europeans first visited them.



A CAROLINE WARRIOR.

groups, making a total of four or five hundred islands.

Among the products of the country are rice, corn, wheat, sugar, cotton, tobacco, indigo, bread fruit, castor oil and kindred necessities of life. Among the curious natural features are the palm trees, that produce vegetable ivory; banyan trees that grow downward, the seeds being planted by birds high up in other trees, deposited in bark and crevices, sending down rootlets to gather sustenance and moisture from the soil.

Another tree bears a fruit so offensive in odor that no man not in practice can endure it, but once in a month the fruit tastes so deliciously that he cannot stop eating until it is devoured.

The women of the Carolines are neat and attractive at home or among their coconut trees. The men are industrious—everywhere displaying ingenuity and gentle thrift.

The Caroline Archipelago consists of thirty-six minor groups, of which the nine following are the principal: The Palaos or Pelews, Yap, Ulithi, Ulea, Namonito, Hagoien or Ruk, the East and West Mortlocks, Bonabe or Ponape, and Kusaie, otherwise called Ulaian or Strong's Island.

The Pelew group contains some 200 islands and islets. The principal island is Bad-el-Thaob, which in area is equal to all the rest put together. The most important of the others are Korror, Uruk, Tapel, Malk, Pelelen and Angaur. The population of the Pelews is estimated at some 3000, but is probably much more. The language is a very peculiar and bizarre Malay dialect, somewhat akin to that of Sulu

can lie closer to the wind than any other sailing craft known. Customs, superstitions, dress, re-



NATIVES AND HUT IN THE LADRONES.

ligion, etc., prove that the people of the Ladrone have a common origin with the other races of Polynesia, but they have lived so long by themselves that they have a distinct language. Some writers have argued that the race is of American origin, while

others hold that they are an offshoot of the Japanese. Gobien, the French writer, who studies the people on the spot, says of them: "The natives are not so dark as those of the Philippines, and are larger of body than the average European. They lived on roots, fish and fruits, and were extremely active and quick. Many of them lived over 100 years."

Another French writer says that he saw them dive and swim so well that they caught fish in their hands under water.

In character the Ladrone are gay and amiable, loving pleasure, and spending much of their time in outdoor amusements.

The women are usually lighter in color than the men, and many of them are extremely beautiful, with luxuriant hair reaching almost to the ground. The Carolines are like the Ladrone, only more extensive in number and area, and densely populated. The islands are widely scattered into three great groups, the eastern, western and central. Spain originally claimed all the groups, but Germany recently took the Marshall Islands. The central or main group, now belonging to Spain, comprises forty-eight smaller

feats which seem almost supernatural. However, it remained for Mr. Will H. Barnes, of Sioux City, Iowa, to train an animal which was generally considered to be the dullest of quadrupeds, namely, the elk. His efforts have proved beyond a doubt that the elk is by no means lacking in intelligence, and his famous diving elks elicit admiration and wonder from all who see them perform.

Mr. Barnes secured the elks when they were young, and though it required unlimited patience, he finally succeeded in breaking them in harness. While training the elks, the owner noticed that they seemed utterly indifferent to what height they jumped from, and he then conceived the idea of teaching them to dive.

The process was a slow one, but now, after two years of labor, they have attained a marvelous degree of ability in this feat, as they make a headlong plunge of fifty feet into a tank of water. Herewith is presented a cut representing the elk making the dive. As will be noticed, the animal makes a headlong plunge with his feet extended.



A DARING DIVE.

Strategy in the Banks. Captain J. W. Pratt has told a mighty military story that came to him somehow from the big camp of the United States volunteers at San Francisco. An infantryman had overstayed his liberty. Detection meant a fine and perhaps some imprisonment, with the most disagreeable sort of police duty. The infantry chap was a genius. He pinned strips of white paper down the legs of his trousers. Then he made officer's shoulder straps out of banana skins. Then he boldly walked right through the line, answered "officer," and accepted the honor of the sentry.—Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

The Impossible. He—"What would you say if I were to steal a kiss from you?" She—"But that is impossible."

He—"Impossible! Why so, pray?" She—"Because you can't steal anything I haven't got, and no one has ever given me a kiss—see?"—Chicago Post.

The Old Bookkeeper at Lunch. Mrs. Wiggles—"I didn't know that Mr. Binks had a title." Mrs. Wagles—"Neither did I. What is it?" Mrs. Wiggles—"Well, his servant says that everything comes addressed 'James Binks, C. O. D.'—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

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Sanitation in the Dairy. A scientist who has devoted much attention to the subject informs us that in the average dairy the ordinary precautions are almost entirely ignored. Samples of milk taken from the ordinary dairy herds show 15,000 bacteria, while 330 were found in the same volume of milk where all of the conditions of cleanliness were met. This is a somewhat serious showing and emphasizes the need of much more care than is ordinarily exercised. The same author tells us that milk should be subjected to a temperature of 140 degrees Fahrenheit before being used as a beverage. In handling milk the care should begin with the cow. The animal ought to be thoroughly washed if there is the slightest indication to the eye that she requires it. That she should be groomed daily goes without saying, and that milking should never be done without brushing the sides of the cow, where dust is likely to adhere. These rules, however, are entirely secondary to the feeding and general care of the animal. Very few dairy herds are given the proper nutrition. Instead of clean grain and the best care, they are in many instances fed upon brewer's waste and whatever pasture they can pick up. Sometimes cows develop abnormal appetites. When this occurs they should be taken at once out of the dairy herd and fattened for beef, as they will never recover their normal condition. Kitchen slops, dish water and garbage should never be put where cows can get at them. They lead to the formation of depraved tastes and make the milk unfit for use.—New York Ledger.

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"The habits that use cloth breed."

Archipelago. The principal products are turtle shell, copra and beche de mer (Holothuria), which in the Chinese markets brings as much as \$400 gold per ton.

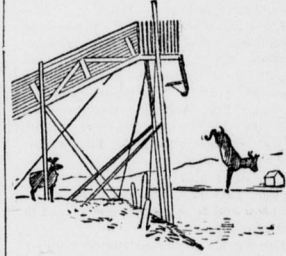
There is always civil war going on in the group between the various tribes, and a firm hand is needed to keep things in order there. Captain Butran, of the Velasco (lately sunk at Manila), who visited the group in 1885, gives these natives a good name. Captain O'Keefe, however, a wealthy trader of Yap, gives them a doubtful reputation, putting them down as a folk of piratical and turbulent character.

The enormous quartz wheels, the famous and curious stone money of Yap in this group, were quarried in the Island of Kokial. In olden time there was great commercial activity here, and the Yap and Pelew folks went on extended voyages of trading and conquest. Bab-el-Thaob is rich in good timber. Great quantities of yams, bread-fruits and coconuts are grown. Alligators are found in some of the creeks, and a peculiar kind of a horned frog. There are two kinds of snakes, which the natives called Bersiook and Nguts, both somewhat venomous. There is abundance of good pasture for horses and cattle. Goats are plentiful, probably introduced by the early Malay settlers.

The Spanish have done next to nothing to show their occupation, and everything goes on much as before. There is no Spanish garrison. The country is well worth opening up to honest and energetic trade.

DIVING ELKS. Trained to Perform Tricks That Seem Almost Supernatural.

There seems to be no limit to the ingenuity of man in devising sensations to please the public. Especially is this true in the matter of training animals to perform feats which at first seem impossible. One of the smallest of insects, the flea, and one of the largest of animals, the elephant, have been put through a course of training which has resulted in their performing



A DARING DIVE.

Queen bees that are produced in the natural way, namely, by swarming, are superior to others, that is, a much larger per cent. of them are. They are harder, more prolific, live longer and do better service generally. We can only secure such queens during the swarming season, while the cells are present. After a colony swarms their first swarm there are a lot of those cells in the hive, and three or four days after the swarm comes out is the proper time to secure these cells. The colony containing the cells may be divided out into several nuclei or small colonies, with one of these cells to each nucleus. Combs of bees and brood may be taken from any colony and a cell grafted into each one, and we can use all the cells by thus forming these small colonies for them. They will soon hatch out and become fertilized and will begin to lay eggs and are then ready to either introduce to other colonies or to build up just as they are by adding more frames of brood to them, and in short time they will be good, strong colonies. In breeding queens we should breed only from our best and choicest stock. That there is a great difference in the qualities of bees is very evident, and we can rapidly improve them by thus selecting our breeders.—Agriculture Epitomist.

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AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

When to Cut Flowers.

Flowers cut in the morning will retain their freshness twice as long as those cut in the middle of the day when the sun is shining upon them.

Hot Water For Borers.

When borers have made their way into trees, some hot water at a temperature of 140 to 160 degrees, or as hot as can well be borne by the hand, injected into the holes they have made, will destroy them. Such a temperature will not injure the tree. With a syringe and flexible rubber tube with a small nozzle, enough water should be forced up to make sure that the borer is killed. All insects can be killed by applying water to them at a temperature not high enough to be injurious to vegetation.

Melon Vines in Rows.

Most people are so used to planting melons in hills that they deem this the only way. But very successful melon growers think that making a very slight ridge and planting the seed in a row pretty closely together is a better way. So soon as the vines begin to run their tendrils clasp others, and this keeps them from being blown about by winds. By making the ridges eight or more feet apart the cultivator can be kept running through them until the vines spread out and occupy the whole of the vacant space, which they will surely do before the summer is ended. If the vines appear to be too close together in the row the poorest may be cut out without leaving a vacancy, as would be the case if they were planted in hills.

Charlock in Spring Grain.

If there appear yellow flowers scattered here and there through fields of oats or barley, when these grains have grown a few inches high, it is a sign that the field needs attention and weeding. These yellow flowers belong to charlock, a plant of the mustard family, and which is an intolerable pest in spring grain. It only grows on ground disturbed in spring. Each plant bears hundreds to thousands of seeds, and as these will lie in the ground for years, and only grow when the ground is spring plowed, they soon make the growing of spring grain impossible. Wherever this pest abounds seeding should be done with winter wheat or rye, and no spring cultivation of these grains can be allowed, as this will start the weed to growing, just as it would in spring grain. We have seen this weed grow in wheat fields in the tracks which the man made across the field in sowing the grass and clover seed, and stepping in the muddy soil. Wherever the foot disturbed the soil, there the charlock would appear, and nowhere else in the field, though all the soil was evidently full of it.—American Cultivator.

How to Raise the Best Queens.

Queen bees that are produced in the natural way, namely, by swarming, are superior to others, that is, a much larger per cent. of them are. They are harder, more prolific, live longer and do better service generally. We can only secure such queens during the swarming season, while the cells are present. After a colony swarms their first swarm there are a lot of those cells in the hive, and three or four days after the swarm comes out is the proper time to secure these cells. The colony containing the cells may be divided out into several nuclei or small colonies, with one of these cells to each nucleus. Combs of bees and brood may be taken from any colony and a cell grafted into each one, and we can use all the cells by thus forming these small colonies for them. They will soon hatch out and become fertilized and will begin to lay eggs and are then ready to either introduce to other colonies or to build up just as they are by adding more frames of brood to them, and in short time they will be good, strong colonies. In breeding queens we should breed only from our best and choicest stock. That there is a great difference in the qualities of bees is very evident, and we can rapidly improve them by thus selecting our breeders.—Agriculture Epitomist.

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LETTERS FROM CAMP.

Takes absence to rattle a feller, an' make him understand The worth of a wifely voice, the strength of a wifely hand; An' the little old farm seems dearer, the cottage in town the same; They loom as a sacred picture with an aureole for the frame!

Takes absence to stir up a feller, an' show him mistakes he's made— Neglect of the hearts that loved him, when the sun should have driv' out the shade! An' I tell you at last, my darlin', ere the light's over an' done, It takes a few weeks in the shadders to set us a-right to the sun.

Takes absence to soften a feller an' the bone of selfness kille, In the camp when night is broodin' an' everyting is still; An' a smell of the clover blossoms an' a hint of your dear eyes' glow— But tears ain't the thing for a soldier; Good-night an' the sweetest dreams!—Will T. Hale.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

"Wibley is most happy when with his inferiors." "Unhappy man!"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Wiggs—"Was the hour late when you arrived?" Wagg—"The hour was on time. I was a trifle late, however."

She—"I'd like to take a ride on the tandem." He—"All right; I'm the man to second your motion."—New York World.

Willie—"Pa, what do they make talking machines of?" His Father—"The first one was made out of a rib, my son."—Life.

His Ma—"Tommy! Tommy! Don't you hear me calling you?" Tommy—"No, ma—not a word. Please holler a little louder."

"A man can't be in two places at once," observed his friend. "Oh, I don't know," replied the office-holder, reflectively.—Puck.

He—"Then you think kissing is not wrong?" She—"The idea! Why, I wouldn't be seen doing such a thing!"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Isabel wants to sell her grandfather's clock." "Is she in reduced circumstances?" "No; she has bought an older one."—Detroit Free Press.

Friend—"Why are you joining the audience in hissing your own play?" Author—"If I don't they'll find out I'm the author."—New York Journal.

Mother—"Dear me! The baby has swallowed that piece of worsted." Father—"That's nothing to the yarn she'll have to swallow if she lives to grow up."

Friend—"Do you raise vegetables?" Suburbanite (sadly)—"No, I only plant them; and, as you will observe, my neighbors' chickens raise them."—Judge.

Mrs. Newed (engaging cook)—"Have you had much experience?" Cook—"Yes, ma'am; I've worked for tin families in th' lasht two wakes."—Harlem Life.

"We've got to economize," said Mr. Gargyle to his wife. "Very well," replied the good woman, cheerfully. "You shavin' yourself and I'll cut your hair."—Tit-Bits.

"Is he a man whom one can trust?" asked Gazzam of Maddox, speaking of Twitters. "He is a man who is willing to be trusted with anything."—Detroit Free Press.

Mother—"What! Swinging the cat by its tail again! How often have I told you to be kind to dumb animals." Tommy—"But, ma, she ain't dumb; listen to her holler!"

"I suppose there is a great deal of interest in His Lordship since his marriage?" "Certainly. It is highly interesting to see him with visible means of support."—Puck.

"This war will do us good, I know." "In what way?" "My husband probably will come home feeling brave enough to help me discharge Bridget."—Chicago Record.

"Will you be brave and fight for your country, Henry?" "Well, I will fight for my country; but I tell you honestly, I shall be scared to death until I find myself safe home again."

Miss Spacer—"I suppose when a joke gets into an almanac it is supposed to be old." Mr. Scribbler—"Oh, no!—a joke cannot really be called old until it gets into an Englishman."—Puck.

"The subject of Alice's graduation essay, you remember, was 'Aim High.'" "Yes." "Well, she has been throwing herself at the new preacher's head, and he is six feet tall."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Here," said the ambitious boarder, "is an advertisement of bicycle clothes. Do bicycles have to wear clothes?" "Every well-enamored wheel," said the Cheerful Idiot, "has at least four coats."—Indianapolis Journal.

"I asked little Jim the difference between 'inertia' and 'momentum.'" "Did he know anything about it?" "Yes; he said 'inertia' is something that won't start and 'momentum' is something that won't stop."—Detroit Free Press.

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