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When the stately bird of promise is yet a toothsome dream
As in the noonday sunshine he moves with radiant gleam.



THANKSGIVING IN THE SOUTHLAND.

The gold is on the pumpkin, and the gay nasturtium vine
Is aglow with yellow glory in the sunny southern clime.

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PHILIPPINE RAILROADS.

Lines Planned by Government—Needs
of the Tropics.

By far the most important move thus far made in the Philippines by the American government has been the awarding of concessions for the construction of certain railway lines on the principal islands of the archipelago.

The islands as a whole are extremely fertile. It is estimated that the amount of timber in the archipelago is more than double that amount in the States of Oregon and Washington together but adequate means of transportation were entirely lacking. The government plans to provide for railroads on four of the principal islands.

There is only one steam railway now in operation in the Philippines, running from Manila to Baguio on the island of Luzon. Reports from this road show that about 60 per cent of the total revenue is derived from passengers and 40 per cent from freight. The freight, however,

is always operated very economically in the present state of affairs. The low cost of labor and the small expenses for the existing lines are the main reasons for this.

The rates for passengers are very low, and the service is excellent. The roads are well suited to the needs of the island traffic. They are built on the lowlands wherever possible, and the grades are very easy. It is believed that in the future the grades exceed 1 1/2 per cent and that only for considerable portions of the line.

Probably the greatest difficulty which will have to be met is the excessive heavy rainfall during certain portions of the year. As much as ten inches of rain has been known to fall within a day and the average rainfall for the year is about 100 inches. This necessitates an abnormal provision for flood openings of all kinds.

It is estimated that certain lines will require fully 3 per cent of the total length to be allowed for these openings in the way of culverts, bridges and trestles. The construction of these will not be difficult, as there are no any portion of the line in which steam shovels cannot be used.

Statesmen and Marriage
There are people here who believe in a man's usefulness as a politician. They are not married. There have been so many great men in the world who have never been married. It was responsible for most of the great things that have been done for the world.

On the other hand the doubters of the experience of Lord Melbourn, Charles James Fox to Mr. Balfour as proof of the fact that a man who is a statesman, certainly takes a man's home life more than is true with men who live a less exciting and exacting life. Men who never wash home until the midnight hour as long since gone, and the gray hair is turning out the street lights, cannot expect to lead a carpet slipper life unless mayhap they intend to neglect their duties.

Beautiful Japanese Woods
Japanese woods are as beautiful as Japanese lacquers. The oak trees of northern Japan grow to a large size, but on account of the nature of the ground it is difficult to get out large ones. The usual sizes are from 12 to 35 inches square and from 8 to 30 feet long and the timber is of excellent quality.

The next wood of importance is ash, of which there are about 12 varieties, of which specially are sought for at the present time, one a beautiful ash and another with a wavy grain. Both are used by Japanese carpenters for panels.

There are some ten varieties of maple. One is a beautiful bird's-eye, another has a flowery grain. The best is used for making furniture, for which it is well adapted, since it gives a good finish, does not warp and is hard and lasts well. This wood is found in logs up to 20 inches square.

Senator Depew and Senator [Name] are pathetically described as old men, but they aren't too old or weak to hang on.—Pittsburg Press

A Joyous Thanksgiving Day

With the advent of Fall comes Thanksgiving, the first of the Holidays, when everyone is looking forward to pleasant times. We therefore extend to our old Friends and Customers

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