

PAN AMERICA.

No my dear, that doesn't mean to put America on the pan. "Pan" is a Greek word meaning "all" and the term "Pan American" means All-America including North and South. More particularly, it refers to the Pan American Union which observes its 50th anniversary and which is a union of 21 Republics of North and South America. It was organized in 1890 and has its headquarters in a beautiful white stone building in Washington, D.C. It operates under a Governing Board on which each of the Republics is represented. The Administrator of the Union is called the Director General who is assisted with a large staff of experts in the study of problems of the Americas. It is financed by contributions from each of the 21 American Republics. This Union is in a sense the shadow of the effort of Simon Bolivar, the George Washington of South America. Back in 1823 when James Monroe was President of the United States and Bolivar was President of the Republic of Colombia, Bolivar sensed the need for offsetting the alliances in Europe by some form of American alliance and began making treaties with his neighboring countries. In 1823 came the Monroe Doctrine which was somewhat misunderstood in South America and which retarded the progress of amalgamating the countries on this hemisphere. For 75 years this effort continued but it was not until 1890 that an effective organization was really perfected. It has done much to dispel misunderstanding and bring the American republics together.

GET A HORSE!

Remember that familiar taunt! Remember those days of the first crude and archaic motorcars as they went whizzing by at the phenomenal and blood-curdling speed of 15 miles an hour and how the folks would shout "Get a Horse!" Remember, how the first sign of rain sent the early auto owners to cover for fear they might get stuck along the unpaved highways? Remember, how when one of those old chariots broke down, the difficulty in getting a repair man who could make it run again? Remember also when the first planes appeared! Wise men shook their heads ruefully and speculated on how or where the winged contraption could be repaired if it came down in some obscure field. Nope! It ain't practical. People will never come to air travel. Who would want to risk his neck flying one of the fool things? Where would you get gasoline or repair service if it broke down. No sir! It won't work! Remember all that? Well then, incline your ear for a moment as we give you the late figures from the Civil Aeronautics Authority on the progress of air operations. Today (in round numbers) we have 33,000 pilots, 32,000 student pilots, 10,000 certified plane mechanics, 12,500 certified planes, 193 certified repair stations. In the month of February, 17 operating air companies flew over 6½ million revenue miles. Did you say "Get a Horse?" I guess you meant a winged steed.

THE SPIRIT OF CHER AMI.

Perhaps pigeons don't have a spirit but anyway, this is the story of a celebrated pigeon named Cher Ami who was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal by General Pershing. When the Lost Battalion was about to be completely annihilated on the Western Front in 1917-1918, it was Cher Ami, a homing pigeon that was released by the beleaguered troops to carry back a message of their plight and which brought other troops to their rescue. For this, Cher Ami was decorated. Breeders of homing

and racing pigeons - and there are thousands of them - have pledged their homing pigeons to the Government in time of war. However, they want the birds protected against careless hunters and so there appears before Congress a bill to protect homing pigeons. Thus does the spirit of Cher Ami carry on.

W(HOOPS MY DEAR!

On April 10, 1790, George Washington, first President approved the first patent act. The first Patent Office had but three employees and operated on a budget of \$2000 per year. Today, it's annual appropriation is over 4½ million. It is one Government agency which pays it's way. In the last 103 years, it has turned into the Federal Treasury in fees more than \$5,500,000 in excess of it's expenditures. More than 40,000 patents are issued every year. The Constitutional right of a man to enjoy the fruit of his genius has made America great. One patent intrigues us. In 1860, Empress Marie Eugenie of France introduced the hoop skirt and set the style. But the hoops were made of whalebone and were expensive. This fact set Ichabod Washburn, famous wiremaker of Worcester, Mass. to wondering whether the hoops could not be made of wire. This thought caused him to explore wire processes and brought discovery of the continuous process of hardening and tempering cast steel. This made it possible to produce wire hoops at low cost and so hoop skirts became a part of every wardrobe. Believe it or not but 1500 tons of wire were used annually to make crinoline wire in the hoop skirt days. Would they be called "whoop" skirts now?

HOW ABOUT A WINTER VACATION IN ALASKA.

"East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" wrote Kipling but we're not so sure. Anyway, we're not so sure that North is North and South is South and never the twain shall have something in common. All of which brings us around to saying that the weather man has been playing tricks. This winter when the folks of Miami were shivering at 37 degrees, it was 38 in Kodiak in Alaska. When it was 21 above in New Orleans, it was 33 above in Cordova, Alaska. When it was 2 below at Memphis, it was 27 above at Juneau. When it was 5 below at Birmingham, Alabama, it was 23 above at Anchorage, Alaska. Yes, the Alaska Steamship company has taken the hint. It's already suggesting winter vacations to the land of the polar bear.