

appears on this page. This race was for a trophy given by the erstwhile German Emperor. During the war the trophy, supposed to be of solid gold, was given as a contribution to the Red Cross. When it was broken up, it was discovered that, instead of being of solid gold, it was only plated.

This characteristic sham, however, detracts in no way from the splendid record made by the Atlantic. She sailed from Sandy Hook to Bishop's Rock, Scilly Islands, a distance of just over three thousand miles, in eleven days sixteen hours and twenty-two minutes. She reached the Lizard, on the coast of Cornwall, in twelve days four hours and one minute.

Even in the days of the clipper ships such a passage would have been phenomenal. The fastest similar trip of a sailing vessel was made by the Red Jacket in 1854. The voyage between America and England was made by this vessel in thirteen days and one hour.

THE RED WOLF IN RUSSIA

IT is refreshing to find that our new Secretary of State has a clear-headed view of the Russian situation. Mr. Hughes's note to the Soviet leaders is free from that distorted vision which has had too much vogue in England. Those obsessed by that deplorable idea seem to hug the illusion that if friendly trade relations are established between Russia as it is and the other nations the result will be moral and political regeneration in the hearts of the Bolshevik terrorists.

"Feed and pet the wolf," say the advocates of this view, "and he will grow so kind and gentle that all your lambs will be safe." That is not the nature of a wolf; and it is not the nature of the despotism now existing in Russia—a despotism that hardly pretends to have the support of a majority of the Russian people and which has no democratic or constitutional base whatever. Let us not reward Lenine for strangling democracy nor substitute the despotism of a Ulianov for that of a Romanov. If the Reds of Russia are tame, let their leaders show their conversion to humane and honest political principles by calling for such a Constitutional Assembly as that which they threw out of doors (literally) when they overcame the Kerensky Government. That, and only that, will satisfy the world that representative government—call it what you will, democracy or Socialism—and not autocracy, is to govern in Russia.

Secretary Hughes accords perfectly

with Secretary Hoover in the latter's recent statement. Mr. Hoover had pointed out that America cannot trade with Red Russia because the latter has nothing to offer in exchange. Mr. Hughes declares much the same thing when he says:

"There is no assurance for the development of trade, as the supplies which Russia might now be able to obtain would be wholly inadequate to meet her needs, and no lasting good can result so long as the present causes of progressive impoverishment continue to operate."

Even better than this is Mr. Hughes's direct declaration that "production is conditioned upon the safety of life, the recognition of firm guaranties of private property, the sanctity of contract, and the rights of free labor."

If any one should doubt the application of this positive utterance, he will find it in Mr. Hughes's further statement to the effect that our Government will welcome convincing evidence of such changes, but that such evidence has not yet been supplied, and until we have it we cannot see any proper basis for establishing trade relations with Russia.

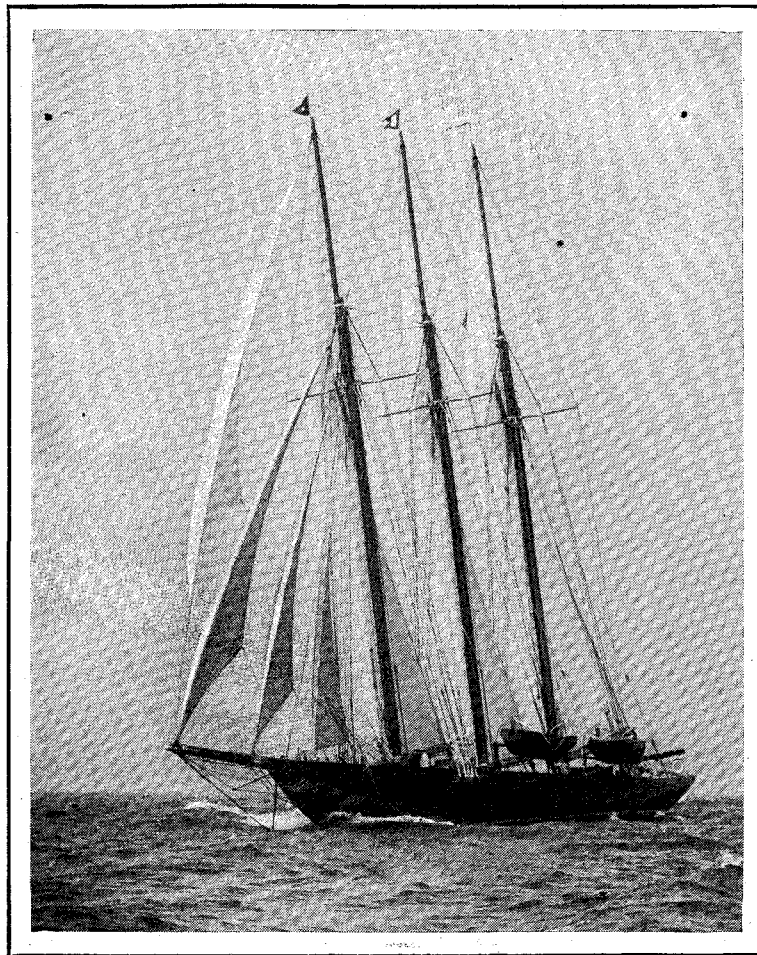
The Red Wolf of Russia is not just yet to be recommended as a friendly

playmate for the American business man.

A MAMMOTH MOVIE BUT A TAWDRY MELODRAMA

THERE could hardly be a better example than Mr. D. W. Griffith's remarkable moving-picture play called "Way Down East" of the assertion in Mr. H. T. Pulsifer's recent article in The Outlook called "The World's Worst Failure" that the movies "have ransacked the granaries of drama and fiction and borne off more often the chaff than the wheat." It is all the better as an illustration because this play is not immoral; there is very little in it that would offend even fastidious taste; and it has a good theme in its picture of the life of plain New England people. But to the lover of the art of the drama it is in plot, incident, and substance the cheapest kind of what we used to call Bowery melodrama.

In such plays virtue always triumphs and the villain "gets his." Think of it; to produce this play hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent, months of time were consumed, the pictorial effects were worked out under the skillful di-



Levick

THE ATLANTIC, WINNER OF THE LAST TRANSATLANTIC RACE



LILLIAN GISH AS "ANNA MOORE" AND RICHARD BARTHELMLESS AS "DAVID BARTLETT" IN "WAY DOWN EAST"

rection of probably the best producer in the country. The management boasts: "This is the most expensive entertainment since Cæsar plated the arena with silver for the citizens of Rome." Yet we find in plot and incident old material utilized from time immemorial in scores of cheap appeals to audiences of the least cultivated dramatic taste. Once more stale stage incidents are put in motion; we see the mock marriage, the deluded innocent girl, the poor little baby that dies, the awakening of the mother to her undeserved shame, her efforts to get work, the evil scandal-mongers pursuing her in her honest attempt; the turning of the poor girl out in the cold, cold snowstorm, and, of course, her final rescue and happy marriage.

Perhaps this melodramatic character of the play is more evident in the moving picture than it was in the original play, and the comic part also may well be cheaper in its appeal than in the play itself.

Looked at thus baldly, apart from the scenic effects, what could be less valuable as art? One feels that there has been a tremendous expenditure of effort and skill in producing something which is worthless. It is but fair to add that from the scenic point of view alone "Way Down East" is extremely well worth seeing. There are charming pictures of New England country life, out of doors and indoors; a quite remarkable, reticent use of color in some of the pictures; while the effects of storm, of the breaking up of great ice fields, and especially of the crashing and fall of ice masses over a dam, are perhaps unequalled in the history of moving-picture production in this country.

A SOP TO COLOMBIA'S FEELINGS

WE earnestly hope that all those who are not acquainted with the history of the transactions in 1903 between the United States, Colombia, and the newly formed Republic of Panama will read with care the article in another part of this paper by Mr. O. S. Payne.

"A sop to her feelings," is the phrase used by this writer to describe the proposed payment by the United States to Colombia of twenty-five million dollars. The conclusion that the writer reaches is that to offer such a sop to Colombia would be a dishonor to the United States and also "that it would be dishonorable of Colombia to accept it, and that such action would endanger to both nations the respect and confidence, not only of the Pan-American nations, but of all the civilized nations of the world."

If this were a mere expression of opinion it would be of little value, but it is based on a thorough and exhaustive study of the history of the relations between the United States, Panama, and Colombia. This survey is historical in the fullest sense and it is written with moderation, restraint, and fair-mindedness.

It is probable that the question of ratifying the one-sided treaty which has more than once failed of consideration in the Senate will be one of the first things to be brought to the attention of the United States Senate in the special session of the new Congress. It is almost axiomatic that there should be full consideration of the history, not only of what was done and what was not done by this country in 1903, but of

the obligations and duties it assumed under previous treaties. As we have more than once pointed out, and as is made strikingly clear in Mr. Payne's article, the obligation of the United States was not to uphold Colombia in her claim of being the overlord of Panama nor to protect Colombia from internal dissension; our duty was to maintain peace and neutrality on the Isthmus, to insure safe transit across the Isthmus, and, if necessary, to protect both Panama and Colombia from attack by foreign Powers—that is, to maintain the Monroe Doctrine as we do with the other southern republics.

To carry out these obligations the United States had the right to interfere on the Isthmus or to refuse to interfere, and at different times it did both things, each with the object and purpose (and, we may add, with the complete and satisfactory result) of carrying out the obligations named above.

No more insulting and impudent attempt was ever made by one nation on another than that of Colombia to insist that the United States must uphold it against its own rebellious and oppressed revolutionists, that we should help Colombia in its planned purpose to drive the United States into paying an extortionate price for what Colombia had led this country to believe would be accepted at a fair price. A careful reading of Mr. Payne's article will bring out startlingly the fact that Colombia, after having technically refused to ratify the Hay-Herran Treaty at a juncture when it seemed to her that we would have to yield to newly formed demands for money, later showed herself perfectly willing to accept what she could get. This has been called international blackmail, and if such a phrase means anything it applies here. Mr. Payne puts the matter very quietly and moderately when he says:

Certainly this record does not give Colombia the title of having acted according to true friendship in the light of the definition given. On the other hand, it can be said with equal force as regards the United States that confidence and respect could hardly be felt for it, having the strength to defend itself, it supinely gave in to another nation when that other nation refused to live up to its agreement simply because it felt it could obtain more money by not doing so.

To pay money to a foreign country for no reason is to subject the United States to the suspicion of paying it for a bad reason. There is no evidence that the United States has received or is going to receive from Colombia twenty-five million dollars' worth of anything. The payment of such a sum would be a misuse of public funds and would be a sign of a feeble will.