

sold a single share of stock in America for the French concern."

ACCORDING to Captain Appleton, from 1889 to 1903, or, in other words, until the United States stepped in and declared that Panama should be a nation, J. P. Morgan & Co. held aloof from the Canal company. Captain Appleton adds: "When an attempt was made to put the concern on its feet again in 1894 each director of the old company was asked to subscribe for \$20,000 of stock in the new company, and each of the financial houses which had been paid for the use of their names was asked to subscribe to the new stock. J. P. Morgan & Co. did not subscribe. The Morgan banking house, as far as I can find out, was never heard of again in connection with Panama until a few months ago, when they appeared as the fiscal agents of the new republic of Panama. The congressional committee which was appointed to investigate what was called 'the American end' of the Panama canal stated in their report that Drexel, Morgan & Co., J. W. Seligman & Co., and Winslow, Lanier & Co. had received, apparently for the loan of their names and for nothing else, the immense sum of 6,000,000 francs, or \$1,200,000."

WHEN in London, England, in 1894, Captain Appleton wrote to John Harjes the following letter: "Dear Sir: I write to inquire, first, if your house has paid anything to the liquidation of the old Panama Canal company, or subscribed anything to the stock of the new Panama Canal company in return for the \$400,000 which your New York house received as a member of the American committee of the Panama Canal company. Second, if you personally have paid to the liquidation of the old company or subscribed to the stock of the new the 100,000 francs which I understand all who have at any time been directors of the old company have been called upon to pay or subscribe. Third, if your New York house received, as I have been told by one in a position likely to know, the sum of \$400,000 as commission for the sale of the Panama railroad to the old Panama Canal company. Any answer you can send to 66 Beacon street, Boston, Mass., will greatly oblige, yours, etc." Not receiving any reply the captain wrote to Drexel, Morgan & Co. of New York from Boston inclosing a copy of his London letter: "Sir: I enclose you copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Harjes, of your Paris house, more than a month ago. Not having received an answer, I would request you to give me any information you can about the questions contained in the letter. Yours, etc." Captain Appleton says that he has never received a line concerning this inquiry.

CONCERNING the actual work of finishing the canal itself, Captain Appleton says that no one has the slightest conception of what it will cost, and adds: "If there was money wasted by the old concern when M. De Lesseps had only \$250,000,000 at his command, what will the leakage with the fabulous credit of the United States at the back of the new company be? If the sea level canal which De Lesseps planned is not finished, and if they build an interior fresh-water lake with locks, it will be simply waste of time, work and money, and in the next twenty, fifty or a hundred years it will have to be undone, for no lock canal can come up to the demands of great navigation—that is to say, ships of 800 or 1000 feet long, as doubtless they will be. J. W. Seligman & Co. received the same sum as J. P. Morgan & Co., but they subscribed for 36,250 shares in the new Panama Canal company in 1894, representing about \$725,000." When a World reporter called upon J. P. Morgan & Co., he received this answer with regard to Captain Appleton's statement: "These matters, if they ever happened at all, took place ten years ago, and I have no recollection of them whatever. It is rather peculiar that Captain Appleton should talk of them now. I do not understand his purpose."

WHAT is known as "the poison squad" in the department of agriculture at Washington has disbanded. Dr. Wiley, chief chemist of the department of agriculture, persuaded twelve young men to try an experience with adulterated food products. These young men have been eating nothing but adulterated food since January, 1904. Everything that has been placed before them in the food line has been tinctured with salicylic, sulphuric or benzoic acid. The Washington correspondent for the New York World says: "The experiments were a continuation of those begun a year ago to determine exactly the actual effect

of food preservatives on the human system. Such acids were used as are employed by domestic and foreign packers in preparing meats, butter and other products for shipment. The acids were at first placed in the food, but subsequently given in capsules. The most accurate record was kept of the men's condition. It is said some of the men have materially deteriorated in health as a result of the acids administered to them. All are said to have been affected by the drugs used as food preservatives. No details as to results will be given out until a formal report is submitted to congress. An official of the chemistry bureau said: "What we tried to learn and did learn was the effect of food preservatives upon the system. This effect was mildly injurious or deadly, according to the amount and character of the preservatives absorbed. The average person has no idea of the amount of the acids he is liable to eat. He is liable to sit down to tinned meat, canned vegetables, preserved game and fruits and other things. While there may not be preservative enough in one dish to work an injury, there is liable to be enough in the whole dinner to put him in bed."

THE renomination by the republicans of Congressman Young of Ishpening, Mich., directs attention to the enormous size of Mr. Young's congressional district, which is known as the Twelfth. The Nagaunee correspondent for the New York World, referring to this district, says: "Embracing the entire upper peninsula of Michigan, its length is 340 miles and its greatest width 165 miles. The coast line, following the sinuities of the shore, is over 1,000 miles long. Its area of 16,669 square miles is 70 per cent greater than that of the state of Maryland, greater than that of New Hampshire and New Jersey combined, and greater than that of Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut and Massachusetts combined. It is twice as great as Saxony, which supports over 4,000,000 of people, and 30 per cent greater than the Netherlands, which have over 5,000,000 people. It is greater than Denmark, and 50 per cent greater than Belgium, which supports 7,000,000 of people. In population the district exceeds 381 of the 385 other congressional divisions of the United States, being exceeded in population by four districts only. Its population is greater than either that of Delaware, Idaho or New Mexico, nearly as great as that of Utah and greater than that of the state of Wyoming, with Alaska and the Nevadas thrown in."

A CENSUS bureau bulletin recently issued gives the total number of employes in the executive and civil service of the United States as 150,383. These figures include only those employes who are required to take an examination. About 85,000 postmasters and employes of small postoffices are excluded, as are about 15,000 employes at small salaries in the field branches of the war department, about 16,000 employes at navy yards, who are classified, but appointed under navy yard regulations, and a few thousand in other parts of the service. Of the 150,383 given, 25,675 are employed in the District of Columbia; 137,016 are males, 135,575 are native born and 102,431 are engaged in clerical work.

THE nation's farm surplus is treated in a document issued by the department of agriculture. This document was prepared by the chief of the division of foreign markets and states that \$4,500,000,000 is a conservative estimate of value of the farm products of this country not fed to live stock in 1903. According to this report the value of the exported farm products of this country was, in 1903, \$878,479,451, and the highest value reached during the last eleven years was \$951,628,331, in 1901, due chiefly to cotton. The value of the exported farm products of this country is concentrated mostly in a few principal products. In 1903 cotton constituted 36 per cent; grain and grain products, 25 per cent; meat and meat products and live animals, 24 per cent, these products equaling over 85 per cent of the exports of farm products last year.

INCLUDING tobacco, whose exports were estimated at \$35,000,000, oil cake and oil cake meal at \$19,839,279; fruits and nuts more than \$18,000,000, and vegetable oils more than \$16,000,000; there is a total of eight classes of products, each with an export value of more than \$10,000,000 that comprise nearly 96 per cent of the entire farm products of 1903. It is stated by this report that within recent years ending with 1903, the cotton exports have been 3,000,000,000 and 4,000,000,000, and the exported fraction of the crop has been between 67 and 71 per cent for a long

period of years. The wheat crop exported in the last dozen years has been about 31 to 41 per cent, and exported wheat and wheat flour have yearly averaged somewhat more than 200,000,000 bushels since 1897, before which period, for many years, the quantity was usually 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels less. Only a small portion of the corn crop is exported as corn, the highest percentage, 11 per cent, being for 1898. Notwithstanding the small percentage, the exported bushels reach 100,000,000 to 200,000,000. The beef exports weighed 385,000,000 pounds; pork exports, 551,000,000; lard exports, 490,000,000; oleo oil exports, 126,000,000 pounds, and tobacco, 368,000,000. Butter and cheese exports have decidedly declined within two or three years.

THIS same report says that within a few years the results of an enormous extension of orchard planting will begin to appear and some of these results may be in a much increased fruit surplus for export. The exports of animal matter are losing ground relatively with a corresponding gain by vegetable matter. Taking up the destination of the surplus the report says the United Kingdom takes about one-half, Germany about one-sixth and France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Italy from 3 to 5 per cent each. China in recent years takes \$1,000,000 worth annually and they go to Russian China, Korea and Greenland and Iceland and other remote portions of the earth. From 85 to 90 per cent of the total go to Europe, 6 to 7 per cent to North America and less than 2 per cent to Asia, South America, Africa and Oceania. The report also takes up the competition of this country in foreign markets, showing that this country furnishes 32 per cent of the United Kingdom's exports of farm products, thus leading in these imports. The United States has a long lead over its competitors as a purveyor of meat and meat products and live animals and is likewise pre-eminently conspicuous in the United Kingdom's imports of cereals and cotton, but is far behind its competitors in dairy products. In German imports the United States leads with 22 per cent in all farm products, 58 per cent in cereals, furnishes barely three-quarters of 1 per cent of dairy products, contributes the principal portion of imported maize, two-fifths of the oil cake and oil cake meal, but is exceeded in wheat flour supply by Austria-Hungary and makes a bare showing in barley and only a little over 2 per cent in fruits.

IT IS proposed by representatives of Mr. Roosevelt that Joseph B. Bishop of New York be chosen secretary of the Panama canal commission. An article recently printed in the New York American indicates that there will be vigorous opposition to Mr. Bishop's appointment. The American article follows: "I shall fight the proposed appointment of Joseph B. Bishop for secretary of the Panama canal commission to the bitter end. I have so informed the members of the commission, and they thoroughly understand my views. I have warned them that if Bishop is named I shall resign my seat in the senate." Senator Platt thus avowed his determination to defeat, if he can, the reported choice of President Roosevelt and Chairman Walker of the Panama canal commission for secretary of that body. As he is chairman of the senate committee on the interoceanic canal he claims that he will be successful. When the senator's attention was called to a Washington dispatch declaring that the president was about to reward Bishop for writing articles complimentary to him and other articles attacking the late Senator Hanna and other republican leaders, he angrily exclaimed: "The president is not insisting upon Bishop. I know that to be a fact. He knows, and so do the members of the Panama canal commission know, that I oppose Bishop and that I shall fight him to the finish. I may add that I have told the Panama canal commissioners that if Bishop is named I will resign my seat in the senate." One of the pamphlets at which Senator Platt has taken umbrage was addressed by Bishop to Wall street financiers and described Senator Hanna, several months before his death, as an unsafe man, because he was too close to indicted men and the trusts.

Several years ago most of the republican organs were commiserating Kansas because she was represented in the senate by Mr. Pfeffer. But doubtless a majority of Kansas voters would prefer Pfeffer to Burton. However, the republican organs are not animadverting on that fact just now.