

ment, only to take the canal out of their hands and turn it over to contractors? The widespread belief that Thomas F. Ryan is the financial power behind the contractors who seek this work makes the duty of the government to avoid entanglement with any such combination all the more obvious. Mr. Ryan denies that he is connected with the Oliver company. So long, however, as John B. McDonald is put forward to head the contractors, and so long as Ryan himself is so busy in the foreground, visiting the president and showing his hand in other ways, it will take more than his diplomatic denial to convince. But if it is not Ryan it will be somebody else. It is the principle that is wrong. No private individual or corporation should be entrusted with this great undertaking. It is a public service that should be divorced from every suspicion of jobbery."

**DR. WILLIAM H. RUSSELL**, the famous Crimean war correspondent, died last week, aged 87. Dr. Russell was familiarly known in this country as "Bull Run" Russell, and was the London Times' war correspondent during the Crimean war. His Crimean letters were remarkable for their interest and they were widely copied in the papers of the United States. When the civil war became inevitable the Times sent Dr. Russell to the United States, and he witnessed the first battle of Bull Run. His sympathies were with the south and his description of that battle and his prophecies of the outcome of the war made him odious in the camps of the Union armies. He was derisively called "Bull Run" Russell, and soon was recalled to England by the Times. But Dr. Russell's work in the Crimea was such that he will always be remembered with gratitude. It was his description of the dread work of filth and disease in the camps that aroused action which resulted in materially mitigating the hardships of the soldiers. It was after reading his letters that Florence Nightingale gathered about her the thirty or forty earnest young women and proceeded to the Crimea to do the magnificent work that has since resulted in the organization of the Red Cross.

**THE UNITED MINE WORKERS' JOURNAL**, representing 300,000 organized mine workers, opposes the ship subsidy steal in the name of organized labor. The Journal says: "This sugar-steamship syndicate has virtually given our Pacific islands to Japan under the cry of cheap labor. They are endeavoring to do the same thing to our Pacific coast. At the time they are working this foul scheme they are also demanding a high tariff on sugar and tobacco, ostensibly to 'protect American labor.' The employers of coolies championing the cause of American labor. Bah! If the American workmen were all of the same mind as the editor of the Journal the employers of cheap and coolie labor would also have to compete. It would be laid down in unmistakable terms that if the American workmen had to compete with coolie labor there would also be universal free trade with the world. The hypocrisy of protection to American labor would be done away with, and speedily at that. Let no man deceive himself with this talk of protection while the interests that are profiting by it are determined to flood the country with coolies. Every steamship brings tangible evidence of this. Already in San Antonio, Tex., the negroes are being driven from employment by Japanese. The white laborer and mechanic in the Pacific coast states have reached the alternative of working at coolie wages or become criminals or hoboes. This is no time for theorizing or speculative pamphleteering. It is a time to act, to let the 'interests' know that this thing must cease or there will be more of it than they will like to confront."

**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT**, like thousands of other men, is disgusted with the disposition to go into details shown by newspapers in reporting the Thaw murder trial. On February 11, the president gave to the Associated Press this statement: "The president has communicated with the postmaster general to know whether it is feasible to bar from the mails the papers that give the full and disgusting particulars of the Thaw case. He does not know whether or not it is feasible but if it is he wishes it done."

**CANDIDATES** for positions in the new state of Oklahoma are flocking to Washington. The Washington correspondent to the Houston, Texas, Post says: "The federal judgeships are regarded as the best plums and the fight for them is shaping faster than for other places. Oklahoma will have two district judges. John R. Buford, a judge of one of the existing districts, wants to be made the presiding judge of the western district of the new state and his friends are putting up a fight. Charles Watson, a brother of Representative Watson of Indiana, is seeking to become clerk of one

of the courts and is lining up his friends. The president has given all inquirers to understand that he will pay no attention to patronage until the state has been admitted. He will then listen to the appeals to be made. The president is also non-committal as to his action when the new Oklahoma constitution reaches him in case it contains the proposed "Jim Crow" provisions. It is believed, however, that he would refuse to issue the proclamation required by the enabling act passed by congress on the theory that such a distinction between the races is repugnant to the federal constitution."

**REPRESENTATIVE POLLARD** of Nebraska, republican, announces that he is in favor of the ship subsidy bill. The Lincoln News, a republican paper, calls Mr. Pollard to task and says: "The ship subsidy scheme is based upon graft. It means that in return for benefits of a doubtful value we shall tax ourselves two or three times that value. It is a poor business proposition, it is not proper function of government, and it is wrong in principle. Mr. Pollard ought to get in closer touch with the sentiment of his people. The state legislature undoubtedly expressed the ideas of the great majority of the people of Nebraska in its resolution of condemnation. We feel sure that it at least expressed the sentiment in Mr. Pollard's district. While it is true that the bill now pending before congress appropriates but a small amount, yet everybody recognizes that this is but the entering wedge for the installation of what we believe to be a vicious system."

**HEALTH OFFICER SOMERS** of Atlantic City says that kissing causes la grippe. An Atlantic City dispatch to the New York American says: "In order to prevent the spread of influenza here Dr. Somers has issued a statement warning the public against osculation. Dr. Somers holds that 9 per cent of all kisses are laden with germs, particularly grip germs, and that it is not possible to sterilize kisses, therefore he issues the following public statement: 'In view of the rapid spread of grip throughout the city, and in view of the known fact that osculation, commonly described as kissing, is the most fruitful agent of the propagation of the grip germ, it is advised that temperance and moderation in respect to said practice be more generally observed.' Chief Inspector Beck and the board of health is backing Dr. Somers up in his attack on kissing, and the council will be asked for an appropriation to have the warning printed and displayed in railroad stations and public places in general."

**THE BERLIN** cafes are drawing the color line. A Berlin cablegram to the New York World says: "A few nights ago a negro was hustled out of one of the leading cafes for making eyes at a barmaid, following which a notice was posted on the door reading, 'Negroes not admitted.' Next morning two other well known cafes followed this example, and it is expected that the boycott will extend to the whole of Berlin."

**A READER** in the Philadelphia Public Ledger recently quoted General Viscount Wolsley as giving an outsider's view of our late unpleasantness. The general said: "In common with all southerners, Lee firmly believed that each of the old states had a legal and indisputable right, by its individual constitution and by its act of union, to leave at will the great union into which it had separately entered as a sovereign state. This was with him an article of faith of which he was as sure as of any divine truths he found in the Bible."

**SAMUEL TROTH** of Philadelphia, writing to the Public Ledger with reference to the above quotation says that in a letter to his son dated January 23, 1861, quoted by his biographer, the Rev. J. William Jones, on page 137, Robert E. Lee wrote: "Secession is nothing but revolution. The framers of our constitution never exhausted so much labor, wisdom and forbearance in its formation and surrounded it with so many guards and securities, if it was intended to be broken by every member of the confederacy at will. It was intended for perpetual union, so expressed in the preamble, and for the establishment of a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution or the consent of all the people in convention assembled. It is idle to talk of secession. Anarchy would have been established, and not a government, by Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison and the other patriots of the revolution."

**REPRESENTATIVE WHARTON** of Illinois has introduced a resolution authorizing the president to exclude from the mails any and all

publications "containing the revolting details" of the Thaw murder trial and cases of similar nature. In Lebanon county, Kentucky, the grand jury returned indictments against the Cincinnati Enquirer, Louisville Herald, Louisville Times and Evening Post for printing and circulating "offensive and indecent proceedings of the Thaw trial." The Union League club of New York has adopted a resolution commending the president and other federal officials for their efforts to suppress from public circulation the details of the Thaw case. A Dallas, Texas, dispatch carried by the Associated Press follows: "W. H. Atwell, United States district attorney for the northern district of Texas, issued a letter of warning to the newspapers of his district with reference to the publication of the Thaw trial proceedings. Mr. Atwell calls attention to that section of the federal statutes which prohibits the depositing of obscene matter for mailing and delivery in the United States, and says: 'The nauseating testimony of a witness in the Thaw case, now being tried in New York, in my opinion is superlative obscenity within the statute above mentioned and federal courts so have repeatedly held. The reproduction of further testimony giving rise to libertinous thought and forwarded through the United States mail in this district will be made the basis for presentments to the next federal grand jury convened in this district.'"

**PROFESSOR GREENHILL** asks if any one can determine how fast Hiawatha ran from the following data:

"Strong of arm was Hiawatha;  
He could shoot ten arrows upward  
And the tenth had left the bow-string  
Ere the first to earth had fallen.  
Swift of foot was Hiawatha;  
He could shoot an arrow from him  
And run forward with such swiftness  
That the arrow fell behind him."

The London Post answers: "Neglecting the resistance of the air and granting that Hiawatha could shoot one arrow a second, the solution is as follows: The time of flight of the arrows shot upward must have been nine seconds. Therefore, the velocity with which they were shot, being equal to the time multiplied into half the value of the constant of gravity, was 144 feet a second. Now, in shooting an arrow from him Hiawatha, to obtain the furthest flight, would let fly at an angle of 45 degrees, and by a simple trigonometrical calculation we therefore arrive at the fact that the horizontal velocity of the arrow would be rather less than 144 feet a second, and would in fact be 102 feet a second, or 70 miles an hour. Hiawatha would therefore have to run faster than this. Could he do it on a sprint? Again having recourse to calculation we find that an arrow shot at 144 feet a second would fly 216 yards, or nearly a furlong. Hiawatha would run that distance in about seven seconds, so that he would be able to give the present holder of the record some 145 yards start."

**WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** returned from Panama he sent to the senate a message on the canal. Referring to this the Baltimore Sun says: "Mr. Roosevelt proved that the canal was rapidly being built by producing with his message actual photographs of forty-eight scenes, among which were the following: 'President Roosevelt climbing a steamshovel.' 'President Roosevelt making four speeches at the same time to the astonished multitude.' 'President Roosevelt eating his way through a Panama dinner.' 'President Roosevelt watching at their work the three laborers who are actually digging the canal.' 'President Roosevelt's smile, walk, face, feet, ears, boots, clothes, and conversation in sundry front, rear, and profile views.' To avoid another such message, the senate agreed to let Mr. Roosevelt dig a three-story canal, with basement and cellar, and put in modern plumbing if he thinks best. Now Senator Beveridge proposes to embellish his speech on child labor with all kinds of harrowing photographs, accompanied by affidavits of the photographer that they were taken by a camera and not by a hand-organ. These photographs of the evils of child labor ought to be mighty aids to the Indiana senator's sweeping eloquence."

**GOVERNOR HUGHES' HINT**

In a Lincoln Day speech Governor Hughes of New York said that whenever it appeared that the interests of the people as a whole imperatively demands the extension of the federal power "the whole people will provide for the assumption of that power."

A very plain hint indeed to those public officials who may be tempted to assume authority never contemplated by the builders of our government.