

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.
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It has been thought that a serious problem in the canal work would be labor, but this will probably not be found to be the case. It is expected that for a period of several years 40,000 day laborers will be necessary and a majority of these can be obtained from the West Indies, principally from Jamaica. There may be some opposition in this country to employing this foreign labor, but those familiar with conditions on the isthmus say that American labor cannot be used. The construction of the Panama railroad was attended with great mortality, although the labor employed was native or coolie, and the work on the canal will be much more arduous. Workers from the temperate zone, and especially from the United States, cannot resist the fatal influences of the Panama climate. The climate of Hawaii is much more favorable than that of the isthmus, but Americans cannot work in the cane fields nor elsewhere in that territory. So many experiments have been made from the Darien scheme until recent times, that no one need go astray as to the physical conditions under which the canal must be dug. It is very doubtful if sufficient American labor could be induced to go there to complete the enterprise.

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