The country generally will approve President Roosevelt's decision not to call the fifty-ninth congress in extraordinary session for the consideration of the railroad rate bill. It is believed that sentiment in favor of the legislation is growing rapidly and that by the time congress meets in regular session it will be prepared to heed public opinion. The original proposition to call the session in October was later discouraged no doubt by the fact that many congressmen would be detained at home by pressing political engagements, and that interest in any subject brought to the attention of congress would be divided. With the beginning of the regular session, the elections will be over and there will be nothing to hinfer congress giving careful consideration to the subject. That the Esch-Townsend bill will never become a taw is now certain, and curiosity centers in the possible features of the substitute measure. It is believed that the administration forces will fight for government supervision in a modifled form and will prove their ability to get such a measure enacted. With the information gathered by the senate committee and that picked up by congressmen through personal investigation, it is thought that congress can arrive at a satisfactory conclusion of the railway rate question without devoting months to it,

When some newspaper correspondents asked the Secretary of the Navy for permission to go on a battle-ship during the recent maneuvers in Chesapeake Bay, he declined, saying that the department had learned something from the Japanese. It had decided that if the war game disclosed any weak points in the coast defense, it was better not to have the world know them, for if such a discovery were made and discussed in America it would surely travel across the sea. Secret-keeping is one of the most diffigult tasks of a free government in dealing with an alert newspaper press, and with a public that "wants to know" what is going on. Japan has been astonishingly successful during the war in keeping its secrets. The destruction of a great battle-ship was not known till months afterward. Togo's whereabouts were quite unknown until he pounced on the Russian fleet. No wonder that nearly every correspondent who went to Japan to report the war returned disgusted because of the small chances open to him for news-getting. Japan could not afford to conduct war for the sake of furnishing a spectacular exhibit to the world. It is often the part of patriotism to help the nation keep its secrets. American newspapers have sometimes recognized this; more frequently they have not done so.

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Government crop reports have always been regarded as valuable because they form a basis for an estimate of the size of the crop of wheat or corn or cotton, or whatever other -crop might be reported upon. Striking tribute to the financial value of early knowledge of the government's figures is contained in the demand of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association that the Secretary of Agriculture discover and punish the man said to be guilty of giving out the figures in advance of their official publication. Men acting on advance information are said to have made money in speculation in cotton futures, that is, in cotton for future delivery. The investigation will show whether any employe of the department has been guilty of giving out information, and if he is proved guilty he will be punished. The crop reports are not the private property of any citizen. They belong to the whole people. The attempt usually is made to secure their simultaneous publication in all parts of the country.

President Roosevelt's appointment of a committee to investigate all the executive branches of the government with a view to placing them on a modern business basis promises to create a revolution at the capital where rec tape has been supreme and precedent unchallenged from time immemorial. The committee consists of representatives of the various departments and its instruction is to "find out." It is evident that the President has learned enough about the running of the government machinery to convince him that there is an abundance of waste and extravagance. It is current talk that there are thousands of people on Uncle Sam's pay roll who do little else than draw their breath as a warrant for drawing their salaries. The President could take up no subject that is nearer the people than this one, and the time is especially opportune when our expenditures are exceeding the receipts by several millions.

Uncle Sam is gradually weeding out foreigners in all branches of the naval service. Applications of enlistment since the Spanish-American war have been almost equally divided between enatives and foreigners, but the former are always given preference. The result is that all the newer war vessels have a very large percentage of native Americans in their equipment. On the new armored cruiser Pennsylvania 90 per cent of the 800 men on board are Americans

SLOW PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE PANAMA ISTHMUS.

to the Dissatisfaction of Americans with Conditions-The Rains, Yellow Fever and Malaria.

Slowly and unwillingly the American length of time. government is awakening to the imganization of a working force.

have impeded the work. Situations sent down from the United States to which could not be foreseen on paper or learn the work. accounted for in figured estimates have arisen. On all sides they have sprung up-varying from friction with the offi- 1. All outdoor work until the season as a whole is in a fairly good state of cials at Washington over problems of closes, in November, is now carried on cultivation and is largely laid by except policy to squabbles with negro laborers under difficulties which are unknown in in the more northerly districts. over the necessity of coffee with every a temperate climate. One or more showmeal. But the problem which is of most ers-cloudbursts they would be called in interest to the general public, and which this country—are of practically daily ochas made it almost impossible to form an currence. Sometimes they continue for effective working organization from its hours, or even days, but the usual proshifting personnel, is the dissatisfaction gram is a shower of about an hour's of the American employes.

Panama is distasteful to the person noon. In the intervals when the sun

DIGGING THE CANAL. receive each year, and that part of the living expenses will be borne by the gov-

ernment. That much of the picture is apparent, and he probably adds a little dark coloring on account of current reports of fever and disease. However, not until one sees Panama does he appreciate the dull monotony and the emptiness of life in Vexatious Delay Seems Owing Chiefly that section of the tropics. This is the reason why so many return to the States on the next steamer; others wait only long enough to earn their passage home; and so few have any sincere interest in Dakotas excessive rain fell, greatly hin-

That something is wrong with the mensity of the task of digging the Pan- general conditions is shown by the fact ama canal, writes Junius B. Wood in that defections are not confined to the the Chicago Inter Ocean. A year has ranks of subordinate clerks and ordinary elapsed since the starting of the actual workingmen, but that men holding superwork on the isthmus and all that has vising and executive positions are leavbeen accomplished of permanent value is ing and returning to the States. With tions of Oregon and Washington intense the excavation of a comparatively triffing such conditions, work has necessarily amount of material and the partial or- lagged. A man often does not take time the week. to become more than partially familiar Unexpected and serious obstacles both with the duties of his position before he in the field of work and in this country resigns or quits and a new man must be

Rain and Fever. duration every morning and every after-



THE PANAMA CANAL, FROM TELEGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION. -Chicago Tribune.

from a northern clime. Just as an artis- shines things dry quickly, but when it tic photograph brings out the beauty and does not appear the atmosphere is painstriking features of the scenery, so do the fully depressing. official reports and interviews describe Under this downpour the ground be-Panama. Souvenir postals show it to be comes moist and unstable, the beds of importance until rumors of his intention a land of pleasant sunshine, waving dry creeks become boiling mountain torpalms and picturesque houses, gorgeous rents, and for weeks, and sometimes present black buzzards, the all covering cept by way of the oceans. pall of dirt, the damp, depressing, feverladen atmosphere, the dusky man and the rainy season and is most active durwoman and dozen children that eat, live ing July. No precautions thus far found and sleep on the dirt floor of the pretty have availed to prevent it. It strikes

from the United States knows from his feeling in the best of health in the eventitled to. He can be assured that it ache and with chills and pains in his enemies. He was created a count in will be carried out to the letter, if not joints in the morning. Before noon his 1901. in the spirit. He knows the amount of temperature will have risen above 100 his salary, his hours of work, how many degrees, and a quick trip to the hospital the far eastern question in all its bearweeks of vacation and sick leave he will I is the only chance of saving his life.

EQUITABLE EVIDENCE IS AMPLE.

Criminal Actions.

which the money of the people is depos-

longer for Mr. Depew's connection with

A strong demand is being made by

Yale men that Depew resign from the

Yale corporation, the university govern-

ing body, because of the scandal involv-

ed in his connection with the Equitable

The Supreme Court of Canada at Ot

tawa has decided in the case of Gaynor

and Greene that there is no appeal from

the decision of the courts of king's

bench at Quebec, which holds that they

should be handed over to the United

States government under extradition pro-

John R. McLean's resignation as na-

tional committeeman from Ohio is to

be followed by a change in the policy of

per, according to his old associates.

the society.

Life Society.

ceedings.

Chauncey M. Depew, United States

present Legislature

fruits, and bubbling rivers. All these months, interior towns are cut off from exist, but the countless odors, the ever all communication with one another, ex-

The dread yellow fever accompanies the victim is either on the road to re-

PUT IN 67 GRAFT BILLS. Regarded Sufficient to Begin Civil and Grand Jury Charges 25 Milwaukeeans

with Interest in Bribes.

Sixty-seven indictments against twen-The one thing that the Equitable Assurance Society testimony before Francis ty-five persons have been returned by the Hendricks, superintendent of insurance, Milwaukee grand jury, based upon the Marquis Ito, president of the Japanese does is to furnish At- confession of Edward F. Strauss as to torney General Mayer graft in connection with alterations in statesmen of Japan. Practically it was and District Attorney the county buildings. Capiases were is- Witte's disapproval of Russia's far east-Jerome ample evi- sued and the men were brought into ern policy and the creation of a vicedence on which to be- court. Passing over the indictments royalty in the far East which caused gin criminal and civil seriatim, Judge Tarrant briefly stated in his downfall as minister of finance. prosecutions against each instance the amount of bail to be many individuals. exacted. In almost every case he made Chairman Odell has the sum \$500. In a few exceptional

announced that the cases the bond was fixed at \$1,000. The payment of a bribe to an Assemblyman for his vote on the primary elecmust enact remedial laws doing away with tion law recalls this charge by the Gov-

Wall street control of great companies in ernor: "Opponents of the measure used every possible means to defeat it. That women of questionable character were in Senator, will, a correspondent says, have the capital that winter, employed as stento resign from the board of directors of ographers and clerks through their efthe Equitable society. He will be given forts, is one of the allegations against an opportunity to dever his resignathem. It was charged that certain Astion from Europe, where he now is mak- semblymen got other members drunk so ing his annual rounds. If it is not forth- that they could not be present to vote coming in reasonable time he will be for the bill. On the occasion of the allforced out by the trustees. It is said night session one Assemblyman was that Grover Cleveland will not stand brought in dead drunk.

"Stories that railroad mileage books and passes were distributed freely have purposes, but lately it has been found been common. Members favoring the bill were allowed to win at cards in the hope of getting their good will. Charges that money was used in outright bribery were less frequent than charges of corruption in other ways."

Notes of Current Events.

Four policemen rescued four men and three women who were stranded and in great peril on the rocks of the Bronx Kills, New York.

Edward Burke, a prominent resident of North Scranton, Pa., was killed on the Delaware and Hudson railroad. His body was cut in two.

Many buildings in the business district of White Sulphur Springs, Mont., were his newspaper, the Cincinnati Enquirer, destroyed by fire, and one man burned to from a Democratic to a Republican pa- death. Loss \$25,000, with little insurWHEAT AND CORN THRIVING.

Crops Generally in Promising Condition-Corn Suffers from Rain. The weather bureau's weekly bulletin

ummarizes crop conditions as follows:

In the district east of the Rocky Mountains temperature conditions were generally favorable, though rather cool in the Missouri valley. Over much the greater part of the country from the South Atlantic and gulf coasts northward to the lake region, Minnesota and the their work or expect to remain for any lered the cultivation of crops, caused rapid growth of weeds and in places injured hay and harvest grain. There was practically no rain in New England, only light showers on the immediate midile Atlantic coast, and none in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific coast regions. In central and northern California and porneat prevailed during the latter part of

The corn crop has had a week of very avorable conditions for growth, except n the upper Missouri valley, where its progress has been rather slow on account of insufficient heat and lack of sunshine. While rains have interfered The rainy season started about April | with cultivation to some extent, the crop

> Winter wheat harvest continues in the northerly districts and is largely finished elsewhere. Rainy weather has extensively interfered with thrashing and has caused damage to grain in shock in parts of the middle Atlantic States and central valleys. The abnormal heat on the north Pacific coast during the latter part of the week probably caused damage to the wheat crop in Washington.

In portions of South Dakota and Minnesota spring wheat on lowlands has suffered from overflows, but elsewhere in the spring wheat region the crop is in promising condition. Rust continues in South Dakota and Minnesota, though not materially increasing, and is beginning to appear in North Dakota. Spring heat conditions during the latter part of the week.

Both standing and harvested oats have suffered considerably from wet weather, which has caused lodging, hindered harvesting and injured oats in stack or shock. A fine crop, however, is generally indicated.

In Illinois frequent showers were unfavorable for harvesting, thrashing and haying. Oats are ripening. Many meadows are overripe, but the ground is too wet for reapers and mowers. The condition of corn is exceptionally favorable, thur was justifiable. The Japanese some tasseling. Oats generally are have thought so all along.-New York standing up well, but some badly lodged.

WITTE FOR ENVOY.

Czar Appoints Him Chief Plenipotentiary of Russia.

Emperor Nicholas has appointed M. Witte, president of the committee of ministers, to be chief plenipotentiary representing the Russian government in the peace negotiations to be conducted next month in Washington.

Sergius Witte, the Russian plenipotentiary, may be regarded as the leading Liberal statesman of Russia. For the last thirteen, years he has been one of the strongest personalities in the Russian bureaucracy, although his political fortunes suffered a setback when he was compelled to resign the portfolio of minister of finance in August, 1903, and again when, after being appointed president of the council of ministers in the same month, his office gradually lost its to resign and go abroad had been persistently circulated.

Witte is about 56 years old and has worked his way up from the position of an underpaid railroad clerk, who occasionally acted as porter, to that of the leading statesman of Russia, in spite of the fact that his enemies are numerous and include some of the most powerful thatched huts, do not show on the postal suddenly and hard, and within five days men in Russia. A man of large stature, and muscular, standing over six feet The person who goes to the isthmus covery or is dead. A person may be high, Witte has the reputation of being harsh to his subordinates, but his ability appointment papers just what he is en- ing, but wake up with a splitting head- has never been doubted even by his worst

M. Witte is thoroughly familiar with ings. He understands the Japanese position and fully realized before the war that the aggressive policy pursued under the lead of Viceroy Alexieff and M. Bezobrazoff, president of the Yalu Timber Company, and the coterie of adventurers connected with them would drive Japan to take up the sword. At one time Witte talked over the situation with privy council and one of the leading around waiting for a dilatory and un-

COLONIZE THE SOUTHWEST

Farming Lands There to Be Settled by European Immigrants.

Prominent among the enterprises for the settlement of the great West and Southwest are the various colonization projects being pushed forward by the railroads and even by the foreign gov-

The Rock Island passenger department, after considerable effort, has succeeded in locating a colony of Menonites in Seward county, Kansas. The colony than the other Roosevelt achievehas purchased eighty-four quarter sections of land, one quarter section for each family. This land, until a short time ago was regarded as arid and utterly worthless. For a long time the land proved utterly unfit for agricultural well adapted to the growth of Durham wheat, and this is the use to which it will be put by the new colonists. Artificial irrigation in that section is not necessary. The colony has every chance for prosperity.

News of Minor Note.

The strike among the Montevideo harbor hands is declining. Disturbances have occurred at Villa Cerro, Uruguay, but order is re-established.

The Liberals were defeated at the Rome election owing to party dissensions. The Clericals voted for the first time since 1870, uniting with the Moderates.

George Rowe and Stephen Bedner. mine workers of Wilkesbarre, Pa., were killed by a water car breaking loose and dashing them against the side of the

mine.



We notice a decided improvement in the market for "tainted money."-Wall Street Journal.

The wizard that we are looking for is the man who will invent the bangless fire cracker.-New York Mail.

How can the Czar pay an indemnity to Japan when he has to spend all his money in building new jails to hold his people?-New York Mail.

Dr. Wiley has gone into executive

session to pursue an investigation of limburger cheese. Science also has its martyrs.-Milwaukee Sentinel. Of what statesman before Mr. Hay has it been said with such significant

unanimity in all parts of the world, 'We trusted him?"-Providence Journal. Still there were some fairly capable men in the early day cabinets, al-

jobs when they retired.—Kansas City Journal. It may be said of the late Secretary of State Hay that he never belittled

his position by holding it as a stepladder by which to climb to a party nomination.-Boston Post. President Hadley's idea that a man

may be "too good" is not an original discovery. Several Equitable celebrities have been acting upon it for some time.-New York Mail.

Mr. Justice Brewer's remark that in wheat continues promising on the north | in the future Philippine government Pacific coast, though exposed to trying there is danger of too little Taft and too much graft, is as suggestive as it is epigrammatic.—Boston Herald.

> A Massachusetts man of 35 is engaged to marry a woman of \$4. Through an oversight, perhaps, the oress reports neglected to state the size of her fortune.-Colorado Springs Ga-

It is said that the commission apfound that the surrender of Port Ar-Evening Sun.

that spoils a man?" Not at all. But there's something about some men that tends to spoil Congress. - Florida Times-Union.

Engineer Wallace is frankness itself. He says he has left the Panama Canal in such excellent shape that anybody can do the engineering, the digging and the incidental details .-- St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the life of the late General Gomez is the fact that he lived almost seven years since the close of the war without being the principal of an investigation.—Des Moines News.

Notwithstanding her crime was one of the most cold-blooded and revolting murders in recent years, it now appears almost certain that sentimentalists have won and Mrs. Rogers will not hang.—Wheeling (W. Va.) Register.

James J. Hill has refused to rush to the defense of his chauffeur who ran over and killed a woman in New York. If the rich owners of automobiles follow Mr. Hill's example the scorching will be materially diminished at once. -Chicago Record-Herald.

Three and a half million eggs from York County, Pennsylvania, alone are in cold storage until prices advance. As improved machinery knocked out the laboring man, so cold storage is designing against the American hen and farmer's wife.—Irvington (Va.) Citizen.

It would have been more pleasant if Mr. Loomis could have avoided going abroad under a cloud, but distinguished men with important business awaiting attention in Europe cannot sit certain weather bureau.-Butte Inter-Mountain.

The resident administrators of the Philippines, having heard of Secretary Taft's ability as an offhand letter | Wilson, as a result of the investigation writer, will probably be careful during his presence in the islands to avoid saying or doing anything calculated to invite the attention of his typewriter. -Chicago Inter Ocean.

If President Roosevelt can establish something like a real business system in the performance of government work in Washington, and if this reform, once established, is made permanent, then this will be even greater ments.—Kansas City Times.

There is one very important obstacle in the way of government regulation of insurance companies. The United States Supreme Court has declared at least five times that insurance is not commerce in any meaning of the term. Hence, it cannot be interstate commerce and Congress cannot make laws to govern it .- Buffalo Express.

Carnegie's difficulty as to which flag to fly from the turrets of Skibo, the Stars and Stripes or the Union Jack, might better have been compromised by the adoption of on entirely new emblem; embroidered oats and thistles. on a ground of first mortgage steel bonds, for instance.-Puck.

When it is remembered that more than 9,000 men are employed on the Panama Canal and the yellow fever has claimed only six, it can be seen that the plague is not seriously hampering the work .- Pittsburg Dispatch.

GRAFT IS WIDESPREAD.

Reports Show that Officials Are Ac-

cused in Majority of States. How widespread is the grafting by public officials throughout the United States and the slow awakening of the public to a realization of the extent to which officials are profiting by the funds of the taxpayers and from the extortion of bribes and perquisites from those who would enrich themselves at the expense of the community, is revealed by dispatches from the various States in the Chicago Tribune.

From time to time within the last few months have come scattering telegrams telling of the indictment of public officials for the betrayal of their trusts, of the failure of banks through mismanagement that sometimes barely escaped criminal prosecution, and the league of supposed enforcers of the law with those who break the laws. But probably there has been little realization of such widespread extent of graft throughout the nation as is revealed by the investigation summarized in the Tribune.

The reports from correspondents show that in fully two-thirds of the States of the Union graft is prevailing on a wholesale scale and that the flagrant offenses have aroused the victims to demand and inflict punishment.

In some States it is found that legislators have been guilty of accepting though they didn't step into \$100,000 | bribes. In California they have been expelled and one has been sent to jail. In other States, as in Arkansas, they are under indictment. In many, as in New York, favors are admittedly a matter of barter and sale.

In New Orleans and other cities it is found that the police are leagued with criminals to prey upon the law-abiding citizens, and in others, as in Philadelphia, politicians have grown rich from the earnings of disreputable dives. In scores of cities the city administrations are being investigated by grand juries who are uncovering corrupt practices that were suspected but now revealed.

Prominent citizens are being brought to shame before those who had been taught to regard their probity as above reproach, and they stand before their fellow citizens as perverters of justice and instigators of violation of the laws for their private profit. In Oregon a Senator of the United States has been convicted

and Congressmen are on trial. The inquiry develops that in only eleven States is there no charge of graft or investigation threatening. But among those exempt are Colorado, which was pointed to try General Stoessel has recently the scene of tremendous ballot frauds; Delaware, whose electorate is notoriously corrupt; Kentucky, where, however, a Governor was shot not many months ago to prevent his inauguration; Mississippi, where more than half the A Kansas paper wants to know if citizens are disfranchised; Montana, there is "something about Congress where politics is a mere struggle between rival copper kings. Of those exempt only six really stand with clear skirts, viz., Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan and North Carolina.

FACTS ABOUT : : : ::: THE CENSUS. ^

Agriculture looms up as the industry employing millions and some imagine it exceeds anything else in making the country great and prosperous. This is not so. Manufacturing is the line of greatest development. Its possibilities are seemingly without end. It is the marvel of marvels. Where do the manufacturers get customers for the endless variety of productions turned out by the countless factories? In a year goods to the value of \$15,000,000,000 are made and sold. The civilized world is ransacked for a market, beside what is taken here and in the islands tributary to us. Agriculture brings to its coffers \$5,-000,000,000-one-third what manufacturing yields. In this are not counted what the mines, the forest or the fisheries contribute to business. These approximate, in order, \$1,200,000,000, \$566,000,000. \$60,000,000. The manufacturers pay out over \$8,000,000,000 for raw materials and \$3,000,000,000 in wages and employ 6,000,000 hands. Agriculture keeps almost as many busy, but the wages earned are much smaller. The first eighty years of the republic gave the farmer the supremacy. The last 45 have seen the factoryman overtake and pass the tiller of the soil. And every year will see the difference between the two enlarged in favor of the indoor workingman.

HOLMES IS OUSTED

Associate Statistician Discharged by Secretary Wilson.

Edward S. Holmes, associate statistician of the Agricultural Department, was summarily dismissed by Secretary into the charges of a leak in the cotton crop reports. Holmes is said to have received \$80,000 from New York cotton brokers for advance information which would affect the cotton market.

Secretary Wilson made public his report on the investigation made by secret service agents and it discloses a scandalous state of affairs, which will be corrected by a new method of making up the report in the future.

There seems to be every reason to believe, a correspondent says, that Holmes could have given approximately correct information anywhere from one to three days in advance of the publication of the official report. During the entire cotton reporting season of 1903 Holmes had access to the reports, his chief being in Europe.

George M. Conant and Herbert Conant of the Conant Rubber Company. Boston, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. The liabilities are given as \$136,312, of which \$17,250 is secured. The assets are not given.

"Doc" Peterson, the negro who shot and fatally wounded A. M. Watson, city marshal of Chilley, Fla., was found in a house near Cottondale. His body was riddled with bullets.

Bishop I. W. Joyce of the Methodist Episcopal church was smitten with a cerebral hemorrhage followed by an attack of paralysis at Red Rock, Minn.

Philadelphia police made a raid over twenty square miles of territory, making 2,150 arrests. All the men taken were fined \$10 each.