

THE CANAL BILL PASSES.

Hepburn's Nicaraguan Measure Almost Unanimously Adopted in House.

Aggregate Cost of Canal is Fixed at One Hundred and Eighty Million Dollars.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The Hepburn canal bill passed the house by practically a unanimous vote. Only two members out of 310 voted against it. Messrs. Fletcher (rep.) of Minnesota and Lassiter (dem.) of Virginia were the two voting in the negative.

The opposition to committing the government to the Nicaraguan route attempted to secure amendments to lodge with the president the discretionary power to purchase and complete the Panama canal, if it could be purchased for \$40,000,000.

The test came on the first vote, when the advocates of an alternative route polled 162 against 173 votes. At each succeeding vote their strength dwindled until Mr. Cannon of Illinois, under whose leadership the fight was made, was unable to get the yeas and nays on a motion to recommitt.

The debate which preceded the taking of the final vote was made memorable by a clash between Mr. Hepburn, the author of the bill, and Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee. On several previous occasions they have measured swords over canal legislation.

Two years ago a similar bill was passed by a vote of 224 to 35.

The bill as passed authorized the president to secure from the states of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, in behalf of the United States, such portion of the territory belonging to said states as may be desirable and necessary to excavate, construct and prospect a canal suitable to the wants of modern navigation and commerce, an appropriation such a sum as is made necessary to secure the control of said territory.

Section 2 authorizes the president, after securing control of the needed territory, to authorize the secretary of war to construct such canal from the Caribbean sea at a point near Greytown, to a point in the Pacific ocean near Brito, and also to construct proper harbors at the termini of said canal and to make necessary provisions for the defense of the canal and harbors.

USE RIVER AND LAKE.

Sections 3 and 4 authorize the president to make such surveys and to employ such persons in constructing the canal as to him may seem necessary and directs that in the construction of the canal the river San Juan and Lake Nicaragua shall be used as far as they are available.

Section 5 authorizes the president to guarantee to the states of Costa Rica and Nicaragua the use of the canal and harbors upon terms to be agreed upon for all vessels owned by said states and by citizens thereof.

The last section makes a present appropriation of \$10,000,000 to carry on this work and authorizes the secretary of war to enter into proper contracts for material and work as may be deemed necessary therefor, such work and material to be paid for as appropriations may be made from time to time. The section fixes the aggregate cost at \$100,000,000, to be drawn from the treasury on warrants of the president.

FAVOR SENATOR NELSON'S BILL.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The senate committee has authorized a favorable report on Senator Nelson's bill for the creation of an executive department of government to be known as the department of commerce, with a new cabinet member in charge.

Besides providing for an additional member known as secretary of commerce, the bill provides for an assistant secretary and a complement of officers. Under the new department shall be the following officers and bureaus:

Life saving service, lighthouse board and lighthouse service, marine hospital service, steamboat inspection service, bureau of navigation and United States shipping commissioners, bureau of immigration, bureau of statistics, the United States coast and geodetic survey, the commissioner of railroads, the patent office, the department of labor, commissioner of fish and fisheries, bureau of foreign commerce, now in the state department, to be consolidated with the bureau of statistics.

There is also established a bureau of manufacturers and a bureau of mines and mining. The new department is designed to promote commerce and gather and furnish all information upon commerce and industries. It also will relieve the other departments, notably the treasury, of a great amount of work now performed there.

Trains Decrease Marriages

New York, N. Y.—(Special).—Rev. Albert Bruchmann, pastor of Hop Chapel, in an interview said that trains are responsible for the decrease in the number of marriages; that they make it impossible for young men who work for salaries to keep up with the church and support wives. "Young men are forced to give up the idea of marriage and turn their attention to speculating and professional trades. They make the family and the financial obligations are destroying it."

FUNSTON IS BACK FROM ISLANDS.

San Francisco, Cal.—(Special).—Brigadier General Frederick Funston arrived here from Manila on the transport Warren. While his condition has greatly improved since leaving Manila, he has not yet entirely recovered.

On arrival here General Funston immediately went to Oakland to greet his family. He stated that he would remain here about two weeks and then visit his old home and friends in Kansas for a few days, after which he would go to Washington on important business, the nature of which he would not divulge.

General Funston said his leave of absence was for two months. He thought he would have it extended and it was possible that he would not return at all. General Funston had as a fellow passenger Brigadier General Robert Hughes, who has been on duty in the Philippines for a long period.

"Regarding the progress of the war in the Philippines," said General Funston, "there is little that can be added to the news that has been sent out from Manila by telegraph. In Batangas our troops are making good progress and in Leyte the situation is very promising. Samar is a puzzle. The island is being raked from side to side by columns of scouts, but it is very difficult to locate the insurgents. The navy blockade is very effective, however, and we may be able to starve the insurgents out and compel a surrender of the armed forces there, which number about 3,500 men, in a few months. The army and navy are co-operating in an effort to force the rebels to come in and give up their arms, and good results may be looked for soon."

The work of the civil commission is progressing satisfactorily, but military rule must be preserved in those provinces where stubborn and influential leaders hold the ignorant and blood-thirsty natives in the palm of their hands and mold their opinion at will."

CALEB POWERS ASKS FOR HELP.

Indianapolis, Ind.—(Special).—William S. Taylor of Kentucky held a conference with Mayor Bookwalter and other leading republicans here with a view to starting a movement in aid of Caleb Powers, former secretary of state of Kentucky, who is now under conviction for complicity in the murder of Governor William Goebel and is trying to get into the supreme court on an appeal.

Powers wrote a pathetic letter to Taylor, in which he states that his two trials in the courts of Kentucky for a crime of which he knows nothing have stripped him of every cent he has in the world and that money furnished by his friends has also been spent in his defense. He says it will be necessary for him to have money before he can prosecute his appeal to the supreme court, and he asks that republicans be appealed to for assistance.

Nearly all the members of the conference expressed a willingness to help the condemned man. Taylor was requested to ascertain how much money Powers will need.

PHILIPPINE CIVIL GOVERNMENT BILL.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Representative Cooper of the house committee on insular affairs has drawn up his bill for civil government in the Philippines. The bill provides that the government shall consist of an upper house of five native Filipinos and a lower body of thirty members elected by the people.

Voting is confined to those who can read or write Spanish or English, and who own property. They must be over 21 years of age. Two delegates to congress are to be elected at the first session of the legislature. The government goes into effect January 1, 1904.

The provisions on citizenship, franchises, mining and land regulations and homesteads are practically the same as those in the Lodge bill.

To Fix the Responsibility.

San Francisco, Cal.—(Special).—Nothing has been heard from the missing victims of the Walla Walla disaster and it is feared that they all went down. The statement of Lookout Johnson, made to the coroner's jury at Eureka, that he saw the lights on the bark Max and warned the officers on the bridge of the Walla Walla, is denied by them. Other members of the crew of the Walla Walla corroborate Johnson's assertion that the lights on the French bark were visible. The conflicting statements will be investigated by the United States marine authorities and the responsibility for the disaster fixed.

Believes He is Able to Fly.

Kingston, Ont.—(Special).—At a meeting of Free Methodists at Verona, one of the brethren declared he could fly and proceeded to demonstrate his skill. He launched into space and his head came in contact with a large coal oil lamp. The lamp fell to the floor and the oil ignited. At one time five men and three women were on fire and five out of the eight were seriously burned. The flames spread and caused a panic. Many were injured in the stampede.

Cuban Customs.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The insular affairs department of the war department has just completed its report on Cuban customs for 1893. It shows that the collections during the year were \$14,553,550, compared with \$14,553,550 for 1892 and \$14,553,550 for 1891. During 1893 the export duties amounted to \$33,700. During 1892 these duties were abolished, but for the three months that the law was in operation the collections amounted to \$37,400.

COUNTS UP THE LOSS.

Great Britain Reviews the Cost of Operations in South Africa.

Forces Are Reduced During the Year by 18,320 Men in Killed, Wounded and Captured.

London.—(Special).—A published review of operations in South Africa during the past year, based upon official reports, gives an interesting comparison of Boer and British losses.

The review says that the total reduction of the Boer forces in killed, wounded, taken prisoners and surrendered, amounts to 18,320 men. Out of this total only 7,993 rifles were secured. The capture of Boer ammunition amounts to 2,300,000 cartridges. British columns are supposed to have taken all the Boer artillery, amounting to twenty-seven guns, exclusive of the two captured by General Dewet at Zeefontein.

The capture of Boer stock has been enormous, considering the great hardships made during the earlier years of the war. During the last year a total of 29,882 horses were captured, while of other stock, such as cattle, oxen and sheep, 366,821 head were captured.

LOSSES BY BRITISH.

The British casualties from actual fighting amount to only half of those sustained by the Boers, namely 9,113 men, of whom 1,513 were taken prisoners and have since been released. During the last year 4,999 men died of disease, fifteen officers and 342 men were accidentally killed and 25,869 men were invalided home.

Lord Kitchener, telegraphing from Johannesburg, reports the occurrence of a number of skirmishes in various parts of the field. The most serious were at Amersfort, January 3 and 4, when Major W. E. Plomer and Colonel J. Spens were in contact with Commandant Opperman's commands. They drove the Boers from their positions after considerable fighting, during which the Somerset Light Infantry suffered severely.

TWENTY-SEVEN KILLED.

Major Vallentin and eighteen men were killed and five officers and twenty-eight men were wounded. The Boers left nine men dead on the field. Colonel Colenbrander surprised Field Cornet Louw's laager at Watervale January 5, killing five men and capturing twenty-nine.

General French reports that the Boers in Cape Colony are so reduced in numbers as to require only an elaborate police system to keep them in check. The week's totals of Boer casualties are thirty-six men killed, nine wounded, 261 made prisoners and seventy-two surrendered.

KNOX REVIEWS THE SCHLEY CASE.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The Post says: The case of Rear Admiral Schley is now being considered by the attorney general for the purpose of discovering whether there was an illegality in connection with the court of inquiry. It is understood that at the recent conference and Rear Admiral Schley the latter pointed out some alleged violations of the law in regard to the court and these matters have been deemed worthy of examination.

The attorney general is not to pass upon the merits of the case, but will deal solely with its legal phase. If he shall find that the court was properly constituted, that the precept was legally drawn and that the rules of law were followed, as to the evidence, it will then be within the province of the president to consider the case on its merits. If the attorney general decides that there were illegalities, as claimed by Admiral Schley, the verdict of the court would be vitiated.

It is understood that the future course of Admiral Schley concerning a formal appeal in writing to the president will depend largely on the decision of the attorney general.

MINERAL PRODUCTS OF UNITED STATES.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The report of the geological survey shows that the value of mineral products in the United States in 1893 exceeds \$1,000,000,000, a gain of nearly \$100,000,000 over 1889.

Iron and coal alone yielded more than half the grand total, their combined value being \$566,000,000. In the production of coal the United States leads the world.

Ten most important gains in gold production were in the Seward peninsula of Alaska, in the Cripple Creek district and in Arizona. The yield for the year was valued at \$79,191,600, a gain of \$8,117,000 over 1889.

The coining value of silver was \$72,529,495, against \$70,866,025 in 1889. The copper output was \$68,117,166 pounds, a gain of 4.9 per cent.

The value of crude petroleum was \$75,757,901, against \$4,461,900 in 1889.

Try to Rob Again in East St. Louis.

St. Louis, Mo.—(Special).—An attempt was made at 12:30 this morning to loot the Southern Illinois National bank at East St. Louis. The lock on the rear door was chiselled out and the robbers were on the point of entering when Night Watchman Fells discovered them, and opened fire with his Winchester. The robbers fled. It is believed to be the same gang that plundered the National Street Yards bank.

SHAW AND PAYNE ARE CONFIRMED.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The senate in executive session confirmed the nomination of L. M. Shaw to be secretary of the treasury and of Hon. Henry C. Payne to be postmaster general. The confirmation of Mr. Shaw was accomplished without comment, but there was some controversy over the action of the committee on post-offices in reporting Mr. Payne's nomination without going through the formality of a meeting. Senator Rawlins desired to appear before the committee for the purpose of requesting that an inquiry be instituted into the charge that Mr. Payne had been interested in the efforts to secure lands for the purpose of prospecting for minerals on the Indian reservations in Utah, having been president of the Lawrence Mining company. In this connection extracts from letters to the senate were read. Senator Spooner as a representative of Mr. Payne's own state replied to this statement by reading a letter addressed to himself by Mr. Payne and dated several weeks back, in which Mr. Payne said that his connection with the Lawrence company had terminated two years ago and at present he had no interest in that corporation. Mr. Rawlins thereupon said that the explanation was satisfactory and after some further criticism of the committee for the manner in which the report was made the nomination was unanimously confirmed. Senator Mason defended the action of the committee as in harmony with numerous precedents and spoke eulogistically of Mr. Payne.

GREETINGS OF IOWA TO SHAW.

Des Moines, Ia.—(Special).—Governor Leslie M. Shaw was highly honored by the people of Iowa on his return from Washington. He arrived at his office early in the day and devoted himself to business for a short time, and then turned to his callers, of which he had many. The hundreds of legislators and others in the city kept him busy with their attentions. At 11 o'clock he received ex-Congressman George D. Perkins of Sioux City and a number of other notables. Before departing for lunch he received a personal message from Washington apprising him of confirmation of his appointment by the senate. He was pleased, but not surprised by the quick return.

Governor Shaw refused to discuss his plans any further than in times past, but talked freely of the pleasure of his trip to Washington and said he was delighted with his interviews with the president and others of his official family. He said that he would be back in Washington in time to take his office about January 25 and that he and Mrs. Shaw will take rooms at one of the leading hotels for the present.

Governor Shaw was given a complimentary banquet and reception under the auspices of the Grant club in the Savery hotel. It was one of the finest events of the kind in the history of the state. Most of the members of the legislature were here to attend the opening, also a large number of prominent republicans of the state. The reception to the governor was informal and hundreds of friends greeted him. Fine music was furnished by a local orchestra and the Grant Glee club. The dining room of the Savery was packed to the doors and many who had desired to attend could not secure seats. It was one of the most distinguished assemblages in the history of the state. Covers were laid for 520 or more.

COMMISSION EXAMINING GRAIN RATES.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special).—The interstate commerce commission began another hearing concerning the alleged manipulation of grain rates by the railroads running from Kansas City. W. P. Trickett, chairman of the transportation bureau of the Kansas City Commercial club, testified that Kansas City grain men suffered in competition with Chicago, St. Louis, and even Atchison and Leavenworth, because the roads discriminated in favor of certain big firms at the places named. The junior member of the firm of Hall & Robinson, an unwilling witness, stated that he had a private arrangement with W. P. Stilwell, freight and traffic manager of the Missouri Pacific, giving him a through rate, by which his firm was enabled to control the bulk of the export trade. The rebate amounted to from 3 to 6c.

NEBRASKA RAILROAD LAW SUSTAINED.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—In the United States supreme court a decision was rendered by Justice McKenna in the case of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway against Bertha Zerncke, administratrix of Ernest Zerncke, and also in the case of the same company against Webster Eaton, administrator of the estate of J. H. Matthews. These cases involved the constitutionality of the state law of Nebraska, providing that persons injured on a railroad of that state should be awarded damages in cases not caused by the criminal negligence of the passenger. The court sustained the law.

Traffic Managers Violate Law.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special).—A startling turn was given to the examination of the traffic managers of various railroads before the interstate commerce commission yesterday, when they freely acknowledged that they have been continually violating the interstate-commerce law against rebates in their dealings with the packers.

Among those who testified to this effect are Paul Morton, second vice president of the Santa Fe; A. C. Bird, third vice president of the St. Paul, and J. M. Johnson, third vice president of the Rock Island.

It is the expressed intention of the members of the commission to proceed at once against the packers for their acceptance of the discriminating rates.

RAISE SALARIES OF OFFICERS.

Salt Lake, Utah.—(Special).—The state supreme court has issued a peremptory writ of mandate in the test case involving the constitutionality of the law passed by the recent legislature raising the salaries of the various state officials, declaring the law constitutional. By this decision the governor will receive an annual increase of \$2,000; the secretary of state, \$1,500; auditor, treasurer and attorney general \$500 and superintendent of public instruction \$350.

ROOT SAYS RETAIN ARMY.

Secretary of War Claims Soldiers Presence Is Necessary in Philippines.

Industry Said to Be at a Standstill While Immorality Thrives Under a 16th Century Government.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Secretary Root gave an interesting exposition of the condition of affairs in the Philippines, together with the outlook for terminating military by civil rule in the court of a hearing before the house committee on military affairs in connection with the army appropriation bill. The meeting was behind closed doors and no exact statement of Mr. Root's remarks was given out, although the following is said to embody the more essential features:

The discussion of the Philippines condition was brought out by a question of Mr. Hay of Virginia as to whether civil government could be maintained in the islands without the presence of the army. In reply Mr. Root stated that the army was necessary as a moral force to maintain the civil administration now established. One of the main causes, he said, why there had not been more progress in the Philippines was that the Spooner amendment passed by congress last year and restricting the grant of franchises, had the effect of preventing the investment of capital and the consequent employment of labor. Many people were idle and many of these became conspirators simply because they were idle.

INDUSTRY AT A STANDSTILL.

The secretary instanced the fact that although rice was one of the main products of the Philippines, yet about \$5,000,000 worth of rice had to be imported last year. In this and many other branches of industries the wheels of industry were not moving, the people out of employment were encouraged in viciousness and as a result it was necessary to keep 40,000 troops in the islands. In some instances a very satisfactory civil administration had been set up.

But Mr. Root pointed out that even in provinces where civil government had been a success there were men conspiring to assist in the agitation and warfare carried on in neighboring provinces.

On the whole, however, the secretary expressed the belief that if congress enacted the bill proposed by Senator Lodge, or that of Representative Cooper providing systems of law for the Philippines, it would be possible soon thereafter to gradually reduce the military establishment in the Philippines. He did not believe it would be a rapid or complete termination of military rule, as the conditions among the natives were firmly fixed and it would take considerable time to bring about the new order of things.

Mr. Root said that better progress had been made in the last year than had been expected and he expressed the opinion that civilization, ultimately, would be extended to the people of the islands. To illustrate this point, he said the Philippine people had been in effect living under a sixteenth century government and the United States wanted to give them a twentieth century government.

The situation in Cuba was discussed only briefly, as Mr. Root remarked that we were simply trustees there, whereas our interest in the Philippines was much more definite and extended, particularly over the large sweep of public lands. Mr. Root also stated during the hearing that it was the expectation of the war department to do away with the army transport services, so that the transportation of troops thereafter would be carried on by private concerns. Some questions had been raised by members of the committee as to the propriety of an item in the bill of \$1,000,000 for emergency expenses of the war department. The secretary said this amount was unnecessary and had been estimated through oversight, so that the committee will doubtless omit this emergency fund from the bill.

TRAFFIC MANAGERS VIOLATE LAW.

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Diplomatic Dinner at White House.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The largest banquet ever given at the White House will be held this evening. It is the annual diplomatic dinner, and will outshine and outnumber any event of the kind in the history of the country. It is expected that ninety-five guests will sit around the great white board in the east room, the apartment never before used for banquet purposes. Workmen were busy all day transferring plants and decorating the room.

CHINESE EMPEROR IS SECOND IN RANK.

Peking.—(Special).—All evidences indicate that the emperor of China is now more completely under the domination of the dowager empress than he was before the Chinese court went into exile.

Several high officials were granted audiences today, during which the emperor filled the role of a figurehead. The empress dowager sat on his majesty's left and conducted the conversations. According to the accounts of two of the officials who were received today, the dowager empress ignored the emperor and the latter did not attempt to take any part in the affair. These officials said his majesty appeared melancholy and listless. The principal topic of conversation during these audiences was the presence in Peking of the foreign garrisons. The dowager empress seemed impressed with the necessity of a conciliatory policy.

Evidence accumulates pointing to the timidity of the dowager empress about coming back to Peking. Her first remark upon alighting at the Machiapi station was: "Where are the foreign soldiers?"

Upon seeing a number of newspaper correspondents at the station the empress bowed to them obsequiously. The dowager empress proposes to decorate the American and Japanese officers who guarded the imperial palace during the court's absence. She will also confer the decorations upon the officers and engineers who had charge of the imperial train during the railroad journey from Pao Ting Fu.

The dowager empress has signed an edict ordering the decapitation of General Tung Fuh Siang, the notorious anti-foreigner. A tartar general in Kan Su province has been ordered to carry out this sentence.

RAILROAD FOR THE BIG HORN BASIN.

Cody, Wyo.—(Special).—It is reported from Garland, a station north of Cody on the Cody-Tolusa line, that grading outfits have stored their machinery there with the understanding that the road will be extended on to the coal field near Meeteetse, owned by Senator Clark of Montana. The line has been surveyed and it is understood that work will be commenced on the grade early in the spring. The distance from Cody to the coal fields is about thirty-five miles.

It is also reported that Colonel Cody and his associates have a grant of 200,000 acres of land in the Big Horn basin which they will lose in another year unless they get water on it. It will cost upward of \$1,000,000 to water the tract, but when the canals are constructed the land will be worth \$10 per acre. Without railroads it is difficult to get farmers to settle in the basin country, and Cody and his associates are working to have a number of branches of the Burlington built, including the line to the coal fields, to tap the large agricultural section.

It is said that the coming year will witness great activity in the Big Horn basin country. The Burlington railroad, which owns thousands of acres of valuable coal lands there, is interested in the development of the country and will construct numerous branches that will open up sections now remote from railroad communication.

TO MAINTAIN THE PARITY OF MONEY.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—The first financial measure of importance to be reported to the house is that agreed upon by the committee on coinage, weights and measures providing for the maintenance of the legal tender silver dollar at a parity with gold and for an increase of the subsidiary silver coinage. The measure was introduced by Representative Hill of Connecticut. It was considered last year in congress and attracted widespread attention among bankers and financial authorities.

Mr. Hill urged immediate action in order that the bill might be brought before the house at an early day. This was opposed by the democratic members, who were against the bill on its merits and protested against what they alleged to be undue haste. Mr. Sharoth of Colorado sought to have the vote deferred one week in order that Alexander Delmar, a writer on economic subjects, might be heard. This was voted down, as were all other motions to defer action and the committee, by a hearty vote, ordered the bill reported.

It authorizes the coinage of subsidiary silver coin without regard to limit and as the public necessity may require. The most important feature of the bill for the parity of gold and silver dollars is as follows:

"The secretary of the treasury is hereby directed to maintain at all times a parity with gold the legal tender silver dollars remaining outstanding, and to that end he is hereby directed to exchange gold for legal tender silver dollars when presented to the treasury in the sum of 25 or any multiple thereof, and all provisions of the law for the use of maintenance of the reserve fund in the treasury relating to United States notes as in the discretion of the secretary of the treasury hereby made applicable to the exchange of legal tender silver dollars."

RAISE SALARIES OF OFFICERS.

Salt Lake, Utah.—(Special).—The state supreme court has issued a peremptory writ of mandate in the test case involving the constitutionality of the law passed by the recent legislature raising the salaries of the various state officials, declaring the law constitutional. By this decision the governor will receive an annual increase of \$2,000; the secretary of state, \$1,500; auditor, treasurer and attorney general \$500 and superintendent of public instruction \$350.