

HIS COMPANY CAN SELL.

Panama Agent Declares France Is Not Connected with Deal.

M. Bocufve Informs Senate Committee That Offer of \$40,000,000 Is Made Independently.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—M. Edouard Lampre, representing the Panama Canal company, appeared before the senate committee on oceanic canals in obedience to the summons of that committee to testify concerning the affairs of its committee and its offer to sell its property and franchises to the United States. M. Jules Hocufve of the French embassy, also was present at the hearing. The meeting was held behind closed doors, representatives of the press being excluded.

M. Lampre was questioned at great length by the committee. He said his mission to the United States had been to ascertain to whom the proposition for the sales of the Panama property should be made. Having informed himself upon this point he had conferred with Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission as to the form of the offer. He had then cabled his principles, the result being that the offer to sell for \$40,000,000 had been made directly from Paris and not by him.

He said that it was his understanding that the proposal included both the franchises and the property of the Panama company, but not the money in its treasury, of which there is about 18,000,000 francs.

M. Lampre was questioned especially concerning the title of the present Panama company, several members of the committee expressing doubt as to whether those now claiming ownership had secured unquestionable title. He replied that they had made their purchase through the liquidator of the old company and that the transfer was regular.

In response to other questions, he said that in case the transaction should be consummated the money would be distributed among the members of the original company and those of the present organization by arbitration. He said the offer of his company had been made in good faith and that the company was able to "deliver the goods."

In response to inquiries, M. Lampre contended that the new company had a perfect right to sell the property, and that to do so would not infringe upon the rights of anyone. Senator Morgan asked what the corporation had been organized for, and the witness replied that the purpose was to build a canal. The senator then asked whether an attempt to sell the canal was not a proceeding in bad faith. M. Lampre maintained that it was not. He also said that the American Panama Canal company had been organized in New Jersey for the purpose of disposing of the property in this country.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Morgan, "you appear to have had the canal on the bargain counter ever since the company was organized."

The witness protested to the contrary. He also said that the old lottery scheme was still in existence. The company had abandoned all idea of a sea-level canal. The French law, he said, could not prevent the transfer of the canal to the United States, as the canal company was a perfectly independent concern.

The fact was developed at the hearing that the bonded indebtedness of the old company was \$80,000,000 francs and also that since the new company had come into control it had paid 12,666,999 francs to the Colombian government for concessions. It was also shown that the lease from that government was for ninety-nine years and that at the end of that time the property would revert to Colombia.

M. Lampre was questioned at length about the Panama railroad, but said he knew little or nothing about its affairs.

M. Bocufve was asked whether the proposition to sell the canal for \$40,000,000 had been made with the authority of the French government. He replied in the negative, saying that the government had no connection whatever with the transaction.

QUAIL AS PLOVER AT SHAW BANQUET.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 14.—Four hundred quail are alleged to have been served as plover at the Shaw banquet last Thursday night, and as a result J. J. Myers, from whom the game was purchased, is under arrest, charged with having violated the game law by having the birds in his possession out of season. Twenty-one quail were found in Myers' possession, and if convicted he will be compelled to pay a fine of \$20 for each. Governor Shaw and other notables who partook of the game are greatly embarrassed by the affair.

Boy Saves Two Lives.

Indianapolis, Jan. 13.—Palmer Nobles, the 7-year-old son of Colonel Charles Nobles of the recruiting station, is entitled to the credit of saving the lives of Theresa Webber and Mattie McCarty, two little girls who broke through the ice in the pond in Military park. The boy heard the little girls scream when they broke through and without hesitation went to their assistance. The ice broke with him and he managed to hold himself and the two girls above water.

PRESIDENT KNOX STILL HAS HOPE!

Berlin, Jan. 15.—President Kruger is reported to be deeply moved by the utterance of American sympathy, as well as the substantial aid given to the Boer cause by Americans. British reports of Kruger's decrepitude are not well founded, according to an American who recently visited him.

While he shows the effect of advanced age, his mind is clear and alert, and he is well informed as to conditions in the field.

He still hopes for Boer independence, having a fervent belief in Providential interference.

"You can see," he said, "what the English would have done to America if they had succeeded in putting down the revolution. They would have tried to wipe the Americans out of existence as they are doing with the Boers in South Africa."

"You see England has not changed, and is as cruel as ever when she has the power; but South Africa will shake her off just as America shook her off. She can kill and imprison the Boers and starve their wives and children, but there will be children and grandchildren to carry on the struggle at some future date."

BOERS TO ASK FOR PEACE.

London, Jan. 15.—A report which came from well informed quarters was current in the city today that the Boer chiefs had made overtures to the British government to the effect that they were prepared to lay down their arms provided they were not expelled. Wednesday next is the Boer feast day, and it was said that the surrender of the Boers would probably occur then. The war officials asserted that no proposals to surrender had been received from the Boers.

Amsterdam, Jan. 14.—The Boer delegates in Holland expect that some kind of peace overtures will shortly be made, though they are reticent as to their reasons for this belief. They maintain, however, that the demand for unconditional surrender must be abandoned.

It is privately admitted that the delegates will not reject what they call "any fair offer of terms." If the negotiations are started by a neutral power, the delegates will earnestly seek to obtain a modus vivendi, which will reconcile Mr. Kruger's desire for complete independence with the terms offered by Great Britain.

PASSES FOR ALL LEGISLATORS.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 14.—For the first time in the history of the Minnesota legislature the 189 members of the house and senate have been supplied with passes on three transcontinental roads during an off year.

It has been the regular thing with most roads to supply the legislators with free transportation just before the regular sessions of the legislature. The present distribution is attributed by many to the coming extra session.

Contrary to its usual policy, the Northern Pacific is one of the moving parties this year. Heretofore it has only been upon the special request of legislators, and after going through a certain amount of red tape that the Northern Pacific has put them on the free list even in regular session years. One Minneapolis member of the senate who has been in the legislature for a decade was greatly surprised upon receiving the Northern Pacific complimentary.

It is the first pass they ever gave me," he explained. "I never asked them for a pass but once before and I was turned down on that."

TO CONNECT LAKES WITH MISSISSIPPI.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Several drainage board officials left for Washington this afternoon to make application to congress for an appropriation of \$200,000 to be used in surveying the route of the proposed waterway between the great lakes and Mississippi river and making estimates of the cost of the improvement.

They will urge the committee on rivers and harbors of the house to pass the bill recently introduced by Congressman James McAndrews of Chicago, providing for surveys and estimates on a waterway from the controlling works in the drainage canal at Lockport, to St. Louis. The delegation will appear before the committee on rivers and harbors Monday evening, to present its claims.

Two years ago the drainage trustees went to Washington and their work in the interest of the deep waterway project. The bill providing for the appropriation was passed by the house of representatives, but was lost in the senate, because the entire river and harbor bill was defeated.

Oil Find Enriches Hogg.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 14.—The discovery of oil in Texas, in an entirely new field, is said to have increased the wealth of former Governor Hogg to over \$8,000,000, he owning in fee simple 270 acres of land of the 400 acres comprising the elevation on which the oil is found. Mr. Hogg says this discovery is of much greater importance than the Beaumont strike, as the new field is only eighteen miles from the deep water port of Velasco. The well is said to be flowing at least 30,000 barrels of oil daily.

Push Work On New Road.

Pawnee, Neb., Jan. 13.—Richard Nevins, Jr., promoter of the Omaha, Kansas & Gulf Railway company, was in Pawnee completing the incorporation of the company in Nebraska. Mr. Nevins says the surveyors will be in the field in thirty days and that by May 1 the route will be located and the company will be prepared to submit a tangible proposition to the people along the proposed line of road. Pawnee is about midway between Emporia and Omaha.

HAVE FAITH IN MR. HILL.

Northwest Farmers Express Confidence in Purpose of His Plan.

Defends the Securities Company and Says Reduction in Rate and Better Service Are Coming.

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 14.—The features of the Tri-State Grain and Cattle Growers' convention here were the address of President Hill and the adoption of resolutions commending Mr. Hill for his work on behalf of the northwest. The resolutions were adopted almost unanimously by the convention prior to the arrival of Mr. Hill. An attempt was later made to have these particular resolutions stricken out, but the attempt failed, and the resolutions stand as the sense of the convention. The resolutions are as follows:

"Resolved, That we, the members of the Tri-State Grain Growers' association, express our appreciation of the executive work done by the North Dakota and Pan-American commission at Buffalo and recommend that the legislature appropriate such sum as may be deemed adequate and necessary to fully and thoroughly present at the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis in 1903 the vast resources of our state and its advantages as a place of residence.

"The natural and logical line of transportation for the products of the northwest American states is from the nearest point on the Pacific coast to the next nearest point on the great lakes, through and traversing the great basin of the upper Mississippi, the valley of the Red River of the North, the headwaters of the Missouri and the fertile lands lying between the Canadian border and the Colombian river.

BEST ROUTE FOR TRADE.

"The trade destined for the north middle and western states can best reach its destination by this route and to divert to the south or encourage its transportation through the provinces of Canada would not only add to the cost of the delivered goods, but would deprive the state from which it would be deflected of their share of the tax upon the gross earnings of the roads carrying it and thereby deplete the revenues of the states through which it would be carried were the ordinary rules of commerce followed.

"It is the sense of this meeting, therefore, that in resisting the attempts of the Union Pacific railroad and its allies and the Canadian Pacific railroad and its feeders on the other hand to secure control of the Northern Pacific railroad, James J. Hill has performed a notable public and once more displayed the foresighted and business like policy that has characterized his long career as the developer of northwest resources and the most watchful guardian of northwest interests.

COMMENDS HILL'S WORK.

"Mr. Hill built a great transcontinental railroad through a wilderness that has grown through his efforts into the richest empire on earth, and never asked a bonus or subsidy. He has connected that railroad at one end with a fleet of vessels that carry American products to the Orient and bring back the oriental trade to the northwest and to the whole nation and at the other end with shipping facilities by water to the Atlantic seaboard—all this, too, without a dollar of bonus or the semblance of a subsidy.

"Trusting to the resources of the country for the traffic to justify extension, he has entered every section that needed transportation facilities and constructed, often at a loss to himself, lines into sparsely settled and unproductive communities.

"During all the years of railroad building there has been a regularly marked reduction of freight tariffs, according as the volume of traffic increased and warranted it and a uniform disposition to make temporary sacrifice for the permanent improvement of the country.

HAVE FAITH IN THE SCHEME.

"In view of this record and in recognition of the honorable and upright course of James J. Hill in his dealings with the farmers of the northwest, we congratulate the country upon his success in preventing the absorption of the Northern Pacific by Union Pacific interests on the one hand and the Canadian Pacific manipulators on the other, and express our confidence in the purpose and ability of Mr. Hill to give to the state of Minnesota and North and South Dakota the best and cheapest transportation facilities to be had by the people of any section of the country.

"Two years ago Mr. Hill came to our convention and gave us some good points on diversified farming and other matters of interest to the farmers of the northwest and stated that he would furnish free transportation to delegations of farmers from the different counties of the state to visit the

SCHWAB SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Nice, Jan. 13.—Interest in Lord Rosslyn's doings have been eclipsed by President Schwab of the steel trust. He started playing maximums at Monte Carlo yesterday, the crowd pursuing him from table to table. He won \$7,500. Resuming today, the excitement was indescribable. After losing \$10,000 at one table, he went to the next, staking the maximum, \$34,000 on number eight. Eight turned up

agricultural college and state farm, which offer many farmers have accepted to their great satisfaction and benefit.

"He also stated that he expected to build some large steam vessels, costing a number of millions of dollars, to put on the Pacific ocean trade to the Orient. We notice by the daily press that this statement is being fulfilled and that it will make a new market for the farmers of the northwest. As Mr. Hill is expected to address us again this afternoon, we should welcome him with a hearty handshake."

PLAN A RECEPTION TO SCHLEY.

Chicago, Jan. 13.—At a meeting of the Hamilton club details of the entertainment of Admiral Schley during his visit to Chicago, January 25, 26 and 27, were worked out. The features of the program arranged are a banquet on the night of the 25th, and a public reception on the afternoon of the 27th. Sunday, the 28th, the admiral will attend church and give up the remainder of the day to rest. A committee will meet the admiral on the train and escort him into the city. At the Auditorium annex he will occupy what is known as the "presidential suite." On his visits to Chicago this suite of rooms was always occupied by the late President McKinley.

The banquet will be held in the massive banquet hall of the Auditorium and it is announced that the number of guests will be limited strictly to the seating capacity of the tables.

S. A. Munger, president of the Hamilton club, will be toastmaster. The program has been made brief in order to allow for impromptu speeches.

Monday the admiral will visit the Winfield Scott Schley school and meet school children and members of the Board of Education. The public reception which follows this visit will be held in the parlors of the Auditorium. A magnificent souvenir of the banquet will be placed at each plate. It will be a bas relief showing the admiral's head and shoulders on a background of the United States flag. It will be inscribed "Follow the Flag."

A MISCELLANY OF HOUSE BILLS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 13.—The house committee on territories fixed the 23d inst. for hearings on the Oklahoma statehood bill, the 21st for the Arizona statehood bill and February 7 for the New Mexico statehood bill.

The bill to create the territory of Jefferson out of the Indian Territory was referred to a subcommittee headed by Mr. Knox of Massachusetts and including Mr. Flynn, the delegate from Oklahoma.

Representative Sherman of New York has introduced a bill continuing in force all laws prohibiting the coming of Chinese.

Representative Lovering of Massachusetts introduced a bill providing a salary for ex-presidents of the United States at the rate of \$25,000 annually, from the date of retirement from the presidency. The bill is to apply to any ex-president living at the time the law is enacted.

Representative Roberts of Massachusetts introduced a bill authorizing the postmaster general to contract for pneumatic mail tube service in New York, Brooklyn, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Boston, and fixing the routes for the service and the limit of cost for each route.

MURDER OF MABEL SCOFFIELD.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 14.—Charles Thomas has been arrested here, charged with the alleged murder of Mabel Schofield two years ago. The case was a mysterious one. The young girl was last seen alive at the railway station, where she had bade goodby to her mother and a few days later her body was found in the Des Moines river. Analysis of the contents of her stomach showed that she had been given poison. Efforts have been made ever since to discover the guilty person.

The case attracted a great deal of attention and a committee of citizens raised a reward of \$2,500 for the conviction of the guilty person. Detectives have at last secured Thomas, who was the son of the woman with whom the girl was living at the time of her disappearance. When arraigned he manifested indifference and declared his innocence. His preliminary hearing is set for next Friday. The arrest was made at the instance of the citizens' committee.

PLANS FOR A NEBRASKA EXHIBIT.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 13.—The Nebraska commission for the Louisiana Purchase exposition met in the governor's office and organized by electing G. W. Wattles of Omaha chairman, and E. E. Bruce, also of that city, secretary and treasurer. Plans for a state exhibit were discussed, but most attention was devoted to the various methods of raising funds. What agreement was reached, if any, will not be made public for several days. Secretary Bruce will issue a statement to the public, and it will likely contain an appeal for donations or contributions. This statement will give the result of the meeting here. All members of the committee attended.

Serious Wreck Averted.

Mattoon, Ill., Jan. 12.—The fast westbound express of the Big Four, with eight coaches filled with sleeping passengers, had a miraculous escape from being wrecked two miles west of Mattoon. The axle on the engine broke and the drive wheel was hurled into the ditch, while the train was going fifty miles an hour. The engineer by quick work succeeded in checking the train and the engine remained on the track.

MAY NEED THE MARINES.

United States Prepares for the Downfall of Castro in Venezuela.

Entire North Atlantic Squadron in Readiness to Proceed at Once to La Guayra.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—The overthrow of Castro in Venezuela will be followed by the dispatch of the entire North Atlantic squadron to the waters of that country. A formidable American naval demonstration will then take place at La Guayra. It will consist of the battle ship Indiana, now at Curacao; the battle ships Kearsarge, Alabama and Massachusetts and the gunboat Marletta, all under the command of Rear Admiral Higginson, commander in chief.

British, French and German vessels are also gathering in the vicinity of Venezuela and these nations will be represented at La Guayra in case of trouble. Because the administration deems it advisable that the senior officer present shall be an American, it desires that Rear Admiral Higginson shall be with his flagship at the seaport of Caracas when conditions require it.

ORDERS NOT YET ISSUED.

No instructions have yet been issued to Rear Admiral Higginson to sail for La Guayra. With his squadron he is maneuvering off Culebra Island. From Culebra he will sail for Guantanamo, touching en route at a Porto Rican port. The authorities say that it is unnecessary to direct Rear Admiral Higginson to be in readiness to proceed to Venezuela. He is prepared to sail the moment he is ordered to do so.

No comprehensive advices regarding the situation have been received by the state department. Such information as has come is of a fragmentary character. It confirms the press dispatches showing that the revolution is making progress and the intimation is thrown out that Castro will not be able to maintain himself at the head of the government.

If Castro is defeated, anarchy, it is feared, will prevail for a time. American interests in Venezuela are extensive and they must have protection. The Indiana will be able to reach La Guayra in a few hours and can land a force sufficient to proceed to Caracas and protect the American legation if it is in danger.

RUMORS ARE DENIED.

Official denial is given to reports that the purpose to assemble the American men-of-war in Venezuelan ports has any connection with the proposed demonstration of Germany and the reported intention of France to carry out a programme similar to that of the Berlin government.

Germany is considerably awaiting the outcome of the revolution in Venezuela, as she promised the authorities here she would do. It is confidently expected by the administration that if Matos succeeds Castro as president it will be able to use its influence to obtain an amicable settlement of the questions pending between Venezuela and European states.

ARE OF FOR THE VENEZUELAN COAST.

Washington, Jan. 13.—It is probable that Admiral Higginson, with his flagship, Kearsarge, and several other vessels of the North Atlantic squadron, will shortly repair to Venezuelan waters, making his headquarters at La Guayra. The ships which Admiral Higginson will take with him on this cruise will have an unusually large complement of marines aboard. These precautions are taken, not with any offensive intent toward Venezuela, but merely to guard against an outbreak of anarchy and rioting in the event that the revolutionists should prevail over Castro's forces in the field. Owing to Admiral Higginson's high rank, he naturally would command any joint operations that might be incident to the landing of the naval forces of various nationalities.

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FAVOR CONTROL BY GOVERNMENT.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 14.—A Washington special to the Daily News says: "The visit of Attorney General Douglas of Minnesota to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox, in regard to the Great Northern Securities company merger, has developed the fact that both the president and the attorney general are in favor of legislation which will place the railroads of this country under governmental control.

Attorney General Knox, who is supposed to be the friend, advocate and defender of trusts and combines, talks openly on the subject. He believes that unless there is some legislative action in this line the representative will continue to combine and make financial deals which will prove disastrous to the business and financial interests of the country.

President Roosevelt agrees with Mr. Knox. It was because of this firmly fixed conviction that Mr. Roosevelt, in his message to congress, made the strong recommendation that the powers of the interstate commerce commission be enlarged. The president believes that the interstate commerce law should be changed so that the commission will be answerable to the president direct for its acts.

There are several bills in congress providing for the enlargement of the commission's power, but none have been acted on so far.

RAPID PROGRESS ON THE NEW SHIPS.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—Rapid progress in the work on the battleship Missouri, at Newport News, is shown in the report made public by the naval bureau of construction and repair, which gives the degree of completion up to January 1 of the various warships building for the navy. The Missouri advanced from 51 to 54 per cent during the month of December. The battleship Georgia shows an advance from 4 to 6 per cent, while the New Jersey and the Rhode Island, building at the Fore River works, each advanced from 4 to 5 per cent.

The Ohio, at San Francisco, still stands at 43 per cent, her percentage at launching, and the work on the Virginia and Nebraska is marked at zero. The battleship Maine, at Cramps, advanced 4 points, to 78 per cent.

Fast work was also done on the armored cruisers. The Pennsylvania jumped 5 points to 13 per cent, the Colorado 3 points, to 15 per cent, the Maryland, 2 to 6 per cent, and the West Virginia, 1 to 6 per cent. The California and South Dakota, at San Francisco, stand at zero.

NEBRASKA BANKS ARE PROSPEROUS.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 14.—The annual statement of Secretary Royce of the state banking board shows unusual prosperity existing throughout Nebraska.

In spite of drought and shortage of crops in 1900, the deposits in the state banks increased during the year over \$5,000,000. The total deposits exceed \$33,000,000, a growth greater than for any single year in the history of the state.

Other figures given by the report show that the state banks have cash on hand to the amount of \$2,276,000. The capital stock is \$7,255,000; undivided profits, \$146,000; surplus, \$1,300,000.

In the comments accompanying the report the secretary lays stress on the state's present ability to withstand a partial or total crop failure and calls Nebraska one of the most prosperous states in the union.

ENORMOUS SUIT AGAINST RAILROAD.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—The Record-Herald will say tomorrow: As a result of the testimony given before the interstate commerce commission at Chicago suits aggregating \$20,000,000 probably will be brought against the railroad companies operating lines between here and the Missouri river to recover charges illegally made for the shipping of cattle.

A movement is on foot to have the various cattle growers' and shippers' associations combine with a view of bringing test cases against the railroads. The suits which are contemplated will be for a recovery of the differences between the tariff rates and the rates paid on packing house products since June 30, 1901, cattle being entitled to equal rates with packing house products. The cattlemen base their hope of recovery upon the rulings of the supreme court to the effect that the same rate must be made for the transportation of cattle that is made for dressed beef and the products made from cattle.

PREPARE FOR TROUBLE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 14.—The Argentine government is consulting with the Brazilian minister relative to the enforcement of order in Paraguay, should the revolution which overthrew President Aceval be followed by further violence.

President Aceval was overthrown by a plot among his own ministers and Vice President Carvello declared president. During the struggle among the senators, troops fired into the chamber, killing Senator Insafran, one of the leading statesmen of Paraguay.

Stove Makers Combine.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 13.—The Record-Herald says: A combination of gas, gasoline and oil stove factories is the latest. The American Stove company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, is the name the corporation bears. Nine companies, covering practically all of the important manufacturers of gasoline and oil stoves and gas stoves and appliances, figure in the new combine. The new combination will have offices in St. Louis, Chicago and Cleveland.