

PANAMA CANAL DUET

MARKEL COACHED ON THE STAND BY SENATOR MILLARD.

Questions and Answers Regarding Contract to Feed Employes on the Isthmus Were Rehearsed Prior to Examination by Senate Committee.

Washington, D. C.—The Markel contract for feeding canal employes, which Hudgins & Dumas, of New York, alleged was obtained through favoritism, was taken up by the senate canal committee last week. The result placed Senator Millard, the chairman, in a rather awkward position, as he admitted having arranged the questions and answers with the witness, J. E. Markel, of Omaha, before he went on the stand. It developed that a son of Senator Millard is clerk to Mr. Markel at \$250 a month.

Repeating His Lesson

Senator Millard, examining the witness, asked if there were any influences, personal or otherwise, which assisted him in securing the contract, which was subsequently cancelled.

"Absolutely none," Mr. Markel said. The witness said he purchased the Millard hotel in Omaha, buying Mr. Millard's interest in 1886.

"Mr. Markel said he had no previous knowledge of the bids submitted by his competitors. He declared the menu prepared by Hudgins & Dumas, which is identical with that filed by him, was not given him in advance.

Mr. Markel said he went to the isthmus at the request of Chief Engineer Wallace, with the expectation of bidding on the commissary contract. Senator Talliaferro asked about an item of \$250 in Mr. Markel's bill which was paid to W. B. Millard.

The witness said the money was paid to the son of Senator Millard, whom he had known twenty years.

"Was Senator Millard a member of this committee at that time?" asked Mr. Talliaferro.

Young Millard His Lieutenant

"I do not know. I did not inquire," was the answer. "Young Millard came to my office just before I left for the isthmus and told me that he had got to the end of his string up in the mining camps and was looking for a job. I engaged him at \$250 a month to act as my chief clerk on the isthmus, and I was very glad to get so able a man for the place."

"When did you employ him?"

"On September 18, eleven days after I had got the contract."

Mr. Markel said he had carefully estimated the per capita cost of feeding the railroad employes on the isthmus and thought it was about \$40 a month. The railroad officers estimated it at \$27 a month. Only \$25 was being paid at that time. The negro laborers, he said, were fed much like hogs, except that the food was served them on tin plates instead of in a trough. Their food was cooked,

kel bid for the first year. The figures for the Markel statement had been based on the prospect of feeding 300 men on the gold roll and one thousand on the silver roll.

Mr. Talliaferro asked Mr. Markel to state how it was that he had received the contract in the face of the showing made. The witness said he had no knowledge of Hudgins and Dumas, and Mr. Talliaferro read the names of several persons given by the firm as references. Among these was the president of the United States.

Some Lively Sparring

"Do you not think this indicates the firm to be a reputable one?" asked Mr. Talliaferro.

"It indicates that it was after political influence, anyway," retorted the witness.

Mr. Talliaferro asked Mr. Markel if he meant to imply that because a firm gave as reference the president of the United States, it was seeking "political influence."

"I was asked what political influence had aided me, and I replied 'absolutely none,' said the witness.

Mr. Talliaferro did not pursue the inquiry on that line.

"Do you not desire to change your

esting lecture on "Newspaper Libel Laws." Secretary Maupin read the paper of Russel Smith, editor of the

Other interesting and instructive addresses were: H. M. Wells, of Crete, "The Press of Twenty-five Years Ago"; F. A. Abbott, Columbus, "The Press of Twenty-five Years Hence"; Joseph C. Seacrest, Lincoln, "Railway Advertising From the Standpoint of the Business Office"; R. L. Metcalfe, Lincoln, "Railway Advertising From the Standpoint of the Editorial Department"; Lafe Young, Des Moines, "Advertising in the Orient."

The editors enjoyed several trips to state institutions, the most important of which was the trip on Thursday to the State farm, where luncheon was served and speeches made. Free tickets to the theatre were furnished on Wednesday night and free tickets to the lecture of John R. McCutcheon, the noted cartoonist, on Thursday night. The Lyric entertained the association Monday night.

The election of officers resulted in the selection of the following: President, Frank Reed of the Shelton Chipper; vice president, L. A. Varner of the Sterling Sun; secretary and treasurer, W. M. Maupin of Lincoln; corresponding secretary, A. B. Wood of the Gering Courier.

Shot By a Highwayman

Frank N. Clark, cashier of the Bank of Brandies & Son, Omaha, Neb., was shot three times by a highwayman, but will recover. He was stopped by a man and ordered to put up his hands.

Immediately afterward three shots were fired, all of which struck Clark in the breast and stomach. People living nearby, attracted by the voice of the highwayman and the shots found Clark unconscious and notified the police.

Clark is a son of the president of the First National bank of Hastings, Neb. He is thirty-five years old and has a family. He will live.

Son Dead, Father in Trance

Last Saturday evening, at Stella, Neb., Roy Myers went to bed with his brother apparently in good health and when his brother awoke in the morning he found that Roy had died during the night. Roy Myers was subject to heart trouble and had apparently died without a struggle. Next day his father, Charles Myers, was taken with a fainting spell and went into a trance, being apparently dead till a few hours later when he came to himself again and soon fell into another trance, and his life is despaired of.

Rockefeller's Secret Exit

The process servers who are hunting for John D. Rockefeller have just made what is to them a most disagreeable discovery. They have learned, to their astonishment and chagrin, that there is a private passageway between the home of the oil king at No. 4 West Fifty-fourth street, New York City, and the residence of his son-in-law, E. Parmelee Prentice, at No. 5 West Fifty-third street.

meat and vegetables together, in a big iron pot in the open air. But these people, he said, were satisfied and happy.

Talliaferro "Catches On"

Senator Talliaferro then caused the chairman a bad quarter of an hour by referring to the fact that in examining the witness Senator Millard had read from a paper and that in answering the witness also had referred to a paper. He demanded to know whether any understanding or agreement existed between them.

Chairman Millard said he had previously submitted his questions to Mr. Markel. Senator Talliaferro demanded that the written paper containing the replies of the witness be inserted in the record. Mr. Markel objected because, he said, there were interlineations and errors in spelling.

"I'll take it just as it is," exclaimed Mr. Talliaferro. The examination of Mr. Markel was not concluded.

Again a Witness

Mr. Markel was again a witness last Monday.

Mr. Markel admitted that he had seen Chairman Shonts of the canal committee and William Nelson Cromwell, counsel for the Panama Railroad company, and had discussed his testimony with the gentlemen, but only in a general way.

Mr. Talliaferro put into the record a statement prepared by his clerk showing that under the Hudgins & Dumas contract the receipts for the first year would have been \$39,600 less than under the Markel contract, and in five years \$691,200 less. It was shown further by Mr. Talliaferro that if all the canal employes came under the commissary contracts the receipts under Hudgins and Dumas' bid would be \$552,000 less than under the Mar-

testimony where you say the men on the isthmus were 'fed like hogs, the only difference being that the food was passed out on tin plates?" asked Mr. Talliaferro.

The witness said he was willing to let his statement stand as made on Friday. The witness was then excused.

EDITORS ENJOYED THEMSELVES.

Record Meeting of the Nebraska Press Association.

The largest annual meeting of the Nebraska Press association was held in Lincoln on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Over three hundred editors were in the city, many of them accompanied by their wives.

On Tuesday afternoon E. Rosewater of the Omaha Bee delivered an inter-



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