

The Bondman

A....
Continued
Story.

By HALL CAINE.

CHAPTER XIII.—(Continued.)

Before Thurstan was awake next morning Reykjavik was all astir. It had become known that a special sitting of Althing had been summoned for that night, and because nothing was known was said concerning the business afoot. People had gathered in groups where the snow of the heavy drifts had been banked up at the street corners, and gossiped and guessed. Such little work as the great winter left to any man was done in haste or not at all, that men might meet in the stores, the drinking-shops and on the Cheapstead and ask: "Why?" "Wherefore?" and "What does it mean?" That some event of great moment was pending seemed to be the common opinion everywhere, though what ground it rested on no more general, or nearer right; that the President himself was at the root and center of whatever was coming. Only on one point was the feeling

Before nightfall this vague sentiment, which ever hovers, like a dark cloud over a nation when a storm is near to breaking upon it, had filled every house in the capital, so that when the hour was come for the gathering of Althing the streets were thronged. Tow-headed children in goat-skin caps ran here and there, women stood at the doors of houses, young girls leaned out of windows in spite of the cold, sailors and fishermen with pipes between their lips and their hands deep in their pockets lounged in grave silence outside the taverns, and old men stood under the open lamps by the street corners and chewed and snuffed to keep themselves warm.

In the neighborhood of the wooden senate-house on the High Street the throng was densest, and such of the members as came afoot had to crush their ways to door. All the space within that had been allotted to the public was filled as soon as stammering Jon opened the side door. When no more room was left the side door was closed again and locked, and it was afterwards remembered, when people had time to put their heads together, that long Jon was there and then seen to the key of this side door to one of the six English strangers who had lately come to the town. That stranger was Thurstan Fairbrother.

The time of waiting before the proceedings commenced was passed by those within the Senate House in snuff-taking and sneezing and coughing, and a low buzz of conversation, full of solemn conjecture.

The members came in twos and threes, and every fresh comer was quizzed for a hint of the secret of the night. But grave and silent, when taken together, with the gravity and solemnity of so many oxen, and some of the oxen's sullen stupidity, were the faces both of members and spectators. Yet among both were faces that told of amused disbelief; calculating spirits that seemed to say that all this excitement was a bubble and would presently burst like one; sapient souls who, when the world is dead, will believe in no judgment until they hear the last trumpet.

There were two parties in the Senate—the Church party, that wanted religion to be the basis of the reformed government; and the Levellers, who wished the distinction of clergy and laity to be abolished so far as secular power could go. The Church party was led by the Bishop, who was a member of the higher chamber, the Council, by virtue of his office; the Levellers were led by the little man with piercing eyes and the square brush of iron-gray hair who had acted as spokesman to the Court at the trial of Red Jason. As each of these arrived there was a faint commotion through the house.

Presently the Speaker came shuffling in, wiping his brow with his red handkerchief, and at the same moment the thud of a horse's hoofs on the hard snow outside, followed by a deep buzz of many voices—not cheering nor yet groaning—told of the coming of the President.

Then, amid suppressed excitement, Michael Sunlocks entered the house, looking weary, pale, much older, stooping slightly under his flaxen hair, as if conscious of the gaze of many eyes fixed steadfastly upon him. After the Speaker had taken his chair, Michael Sunlocks rose in his place amid dead stillness.

"Er, and gentlemen," he said in a tense voice, speaking slowly, calmly and well, "you are met here at my instance to receive a message of some gravity. It is scarcely more than half a year since it was declared and enacted by this present Council of Althing that the people of Iceland were, and should be constituted, established and confirmed to be a Republic or Free State, governed by the Supreme Authority of the Nation, the people's representatives. You were then pleased to do me the honor of electing me to be your first President, and though I will not that no man had less cause to put himself forward in the cause of his country than I, being the youngest among you, yet I undertook the place I am now in because I had taken a chief hand in pulling down the old order, and ought, therefore, to lend the best help I could towards putting up the new. Other reasons influenced me, such as the desire to keep the nation from falling amid many internal dissensions into extreme disorder and becoming open to the common enemy. I will not say that I had no personal motives, no private aims, no selfish ambitions in stepping in where your confidence opened the way, but you will bear me witness that in the employment to which the nation called me, though there may have been passion and mistakes, I have endeavored to discharge the duty of an honest man."

There was a low murmur of assent, then a pause, then a hush, and then Michael Sunlocks continued: "But, gentlemen, I have come to see that I am not able for such a trust as the burden of this government, and

I now beg to be dismissed of my charge."

Then the silence was broken by many exclamations of surprise. They fell on the ear of Michael Sunlocks like the ground-swell of a distant sea. His white face quivered, but his eye was bright, and he did not flinch.

"It is no doubt your concernment to hear what events and what conditions have so suddenly influenced me, and I can only claim your indulgence in withholding that part of both that touches the interests of others. For myself, I can but say that I have mistakes and lost self-confidence; that being unable to manage my own affairs I am unwilling to undertake the affairs of the nation; that I am convinced I am unfit for the great place I hold; that any name was fitter than mine for my post, any person fitter than I am for its work; and I say this from my heart, God knows."

He was listened to in silence but amid a tumult of unheeded emotion, and as he went on his voice, though still low, was so charged with suppressed feeling that it seemed in that dead stillness to rise to a cry.

"Gentlemen," he said, "though this may come on you with surprise do not think it has been lightly resolved upon, or that it is to me a little thing to renounce the honor with the burden of government; I will deal plainly and faithfully with you and say that all my heart was in the work you gave me, and though I held my life in my hand, I was willing to adventure it in that high place where the judgment of Althing placed me. So if I beg of you to release me I sacrifice more by my resignation than you by your dismissal. If I had pride, heaven has humbled it, and that is righteous judgment of God. Young and once hopeful, I am withdrawing from all sight of hope. I am giving up my cherished ambitions and the chances of success. I am to be as nothing henceforward, for the pole-star of my life has gone out. So not without feeling, no without pain, I ask you to dismiss me and let me go my ways."

He sat down upon these words amid the stunned stupefaction of those who heard him, and when he had ceased to speak it seemed as if he were still speaking. Presently the people recovered their breath and there was the harsh grating of feet, and a murmur like a low sigh of wind.

Then rose the little man with the brush hair, the leader of the Levellers, and the chief opponent of Michael Sunlocks in the Presidency. His name was Grimmsson. Clearing his throat, raspyly, he began to speak in short, jerky sentences. This was indeed a surprise that moved the house to great astonishment. There was a suspicion of mock heroics about it that he, for his part, could not shake off, for they all knew the President for a dreamer of dreams. The President had said that it was within the concernment of Althing to know how it stood that he had so suddenly and surprising become convinced of his unfitness. Truly he was right there. Also the President had said that he had undertaken his post not so much out of hope of doing any good as out of a desire to prevent mischief and evil. Yet what was he now doing? Running them headlong into confusion and disorder.

The leader of the Levellers sat down and a dark-browed fellow from among his followers rose in his place. What did this hubbub mean? If the President had been crazy in his health they might have understood it; but the Lord was pleased to preserve him. Perhaps they had to look deeper. Whispers were broad among some who had been near to the President's person that the time had come to settle the order and prosperity of Iceland on a new basis. He made no doubt such whispers implied a Protectorate, perhaps even a Monarchy. Did the President think to hasten the crisis that would lead to that change? Did he hope to alter the name of President for Protector, or for something yet higher? Was he throwing his sprat to catch a mackerel? Let them look to it.

The dark-browed man sat down, with a grin of triumph, and his place was taken by a pert little beardless person, with a smirk on his face. They had all read the parable of how a certain man made a feast, and did his friends the honor to invite them; but first one friend for one halting reason, and then another for a reason yet more lame, excused himself from sitting at the good man's table. Well, one of these excuses was from a man who had married a wife, and therefore could not come. Now the President had married a wife—

The little man got no further, for Michael Sunlocks, whose features had flushed up, leaped to his feet again, and should be constituted, established and confirmed to be a Republic or Free State, governed by the Supreme Authority of the Nation, the people's representatives. You were then pleased to do me the honor of electing me to be your first President, and though I will not that no man had less cause to put himself forward in the cause of his country than I, being the youngest among you, yet I undertook the place I am now in because I had taken a chief hand in pulling down the old order, and ought, therefore, to lend the best help I could towards putting up the new. Other reasons influenced me, such as the desire to keep the nation from falling amid many internal dissensions into extreme disorder and becoming open to the common enemy. I will not say that I had no personal motives, no private aims, no selfish ambitions in stepping in where your confidence opened the way, but you will bear me witness that in the employment to which the nation called me, though there may have been passion and mistakes, I have endeavored to discharge the duty of an honest man."

"I knew," he said, amid the silence of the wide-eyed people, "when I came to this house today, that the censure of Iceland might follow me when I left it, but its shame shall not pursue me. I also knew that there were persons not well content with the present order of things who might show their discontent as they had opportunity; but before the insinuations of base motives that have just been made I take you to witness that all that go with them are malicious figments. My capacity any man can impeach, but my honest name none shall question without challenge, for the sole pride I shall carry away with me when I leave this place shall be the pride of an upright life."

With that he put on his hat where he stood, and the people, thrilled to their hearts by his ringing voice, and his eyes full of splendid courage, broke into a great clamor of cheers.

"Peace, peace," cried a deep voice over the tumult. The old Bishop had risen to speak.

"This is a quarrelsome age," he said, "an age when there seems to be a strange itching in the spirits of men, when near every man seems to seek his brother's disquiet all he may, when wretched jealousies and the spirit of calumny turn everything to

gall and wormwood. But can we not take the President's message for what it claims to be, asking him for no reasons that concern us? When has he betrayed us? His life since his coming here has been marked by strict integrity. When has pride been his bane? His humility has ever been his praise. He has been modest with the highest power and shown how little he valued those distances he was bound to keep up. When has mammon been his god? If he leaves us now he leaves us a poor man, as Althing may well assure itself. When he was elected to the employment he holds, being so young a man, many trembled—and I among them—for the nation that has entrusted its goods and its lives to his management, but now we know that only in his merit pose. Let me be prodigal of praise before his face, but honor and honesty require this, that we say that so true a man is not to be found this day in Iceland. (To be continued.)

TRICKS OUR WATCHES PLAY.

Very Small Causes May Result in Inconvenience to the Owner.

Watches often suffer from changes of temperature. After a watch has been worn next to a warm body all day it should not be left over night on cold marble or near an open window. The cold is likely to contract the metal pivots, and however slightly, tighten up the works. The next morning, for no apparent reason, one's watch will be found to be losing time. It frequently happens that watches are slightly magnetized by static electricity given off by the human body. It has been found that dark people are more likely to exert this influence over their watches. This influence is, besides, more common among women than with men. Persons of this sort can never hope to carry the correct time unless they carry their watches in rubber or steel cases. Never lay your watch down for the night in a horizontal position. It should always be hung vertically, as it is carried during the day. If the pivot of the balance wheel be in the least worn this change of position tends to loosen the "cap jewel." Everyone has had a watch suddenly stop for no apparent reason and go on again when slightly shaken. This may not happen once a year, but all watches are liable to such an accident. This is due usually to the catching of the delicate hair spring. It is caused by some sudden movement such as jumping on or off a car. The jolt must come at the exact fraction of a second when the spring is in position to catch, so that the chances of such an accident are rare. A watch should be oiled every eight or ten months. The oil dries up in this time as a rule and if the mechanism be run with the oil dry it quickly wears out. In examining a watch all jewelers follow the same plan. They first look to see if the hands are caught. If the fault lies deeper they next take out the balance wheel and examine the pin and pivots. Next they let down the main spring and examine the wheels. It sometimes happens that a jeweler will not find the cause of the trouble for days. The most difficult disorder to locate is a slight burr on one of the wheels.—Chicago Chronicle.

MINERAL WEALTH IN SIBERIA

Vast Resources That Will Surprise the World When Developed.

The world has now to deal with a new factor. Ten years ago the name "Siberia" called up a picture of wastes of snow and ice, boundless tundras (steppes) and coasts white with icebergs. Today the same Siberia is a land filled with thriving villages of peasant farmers, producing grain and various vegetables. That great center of civilization, the railway, has broken down the bars between the world and Siberia. Besides its countless resources of the soil, besides its rivers filled with valuable fish and its forests inhabited by fur-bearing animals Siberia is now beginning to show to the world its resources of gold, iron, copper, manganese, quicksilver, platinum and coal, the yearly output of which is but a feeble index of what it will be when the deposits are developed, writes Consul Thomas Smith. In the past three years several American mining engineers have traversed various parts of Siberia and central Asia. The testimony of these gentlemen is corroborated by that of other foreign engineers who have visited the country—that the lack of exploitation of such evident mineral wealth as is found here is unparalleled in other parts of the civilized world. Of these resources gold is by far the most important, as it is, curiously enough, the least developed. Taking the product of the Russian empire approximately at \$25,000,000 in gold per year, it seems comparatively insignificant. It places Russia fifth among the gold producers and is but little more than the present annual gold output of the state of Colorado.

Sunday Habits.

The average man does himself so much harm on Sunday that he does not recover until the following Wednesday. In the first place, he loafs around the house, instead of being active, as on weekdays. In the next place, he eats his breakfast later than usual, and his dinner earlier, and the result is that he is knocked out until Wednesday. The best thing to do on Sunday is to conform to your usual habits as much as possible.—Atchison Globe.

Navassa Is'and

Which lies south of Haiti in the Caribbean sea, and can be sighted from the decks of vessels passing from New York to the isthmus—was the only outstanding possession of the United States until we acquired Porto Rico and the Philippines.

CAPTIVATING SHIRTWAISTS.

There Are Many Charming and Acceptable Spring Styles.

There is no genuine shirtwaist weather yet, but womankind is evidently determined to be equipped for the pleasant season when it does come. Petticoated purchasers now stand three deep about the counters where the new cotton blouses are displayed. Shirt manufacturers have learned to cater to every taste by producing no less than a dozen varieties of this invaluable garment, ranging from the perfectly plain percale and duck to organdie and fancifully trimmed silk madras garments. There is no tendency to reinstate the use of the stiff white linen collar. Contrasting and fanciful neckties hang cheek by jowl with the shirts, and no woman can escape the hint. Sleeves, as is only natural, are inclined to the bishop shape, to wrist puffs or double cuff effects, and bosoms still pouch a little and hang in soft fullness. Last autumn, when the new flannel waists were put on the counters, the women who rushed in to buy turned away in disgust, for the manufacturers had daringly tried to force a tight fitting shirt. The sacrificial sales of tight flannel shirtwaists now forced at the retail shops have impressed the merchants with a sense of their own helplessness in choosing the mode, and among the percale and toil du nord, and brown batiste and colored French linen shirts not one basque-like model is seen.

Pretty sailor blouses are evidently going to play a part this spring, for dozens of charming white and colored cotton examples are being brought up decorated with collar, cuffs, a tiny steel blue linen blouse of this variety, opening over a vest of finely tucked white linen and decorated with big white cut pearl buttons. A rival to this is a shirt of soft toil du nord, decorated with collar, cuffs, a tiny yoke and broad front band of exceedingly coarse cream linen lace edged with a narrow cream linen braid, and a third noticeably popular model is made of gingham in blue, brown, red or green embroidered in dots of a contrasting color and made up with embroidered bands that echo the two colors in the material itself.—Boston Globe.

GUESSING AT THE "ADS."

Form of Puzzle Working Devised by a New York Young Woman.

A new game is being played on the upper west side by young people, says the New York Sun. It is an outgrowth of the immense amount of pictorial advertising which is being done in all the newspapers, magazines and street cars and elevated trains. Almost all articles which have a sale that is more than purely local, whether they be books, corsets, gloves, magazines, crackers, pickles, hair tonics, stove polishes, or liniments, have nowadays some pictures which have become identified with them in the public mind through seeing them in all sorts of public places. This led a certain young woman, who was at a loss for something new to do for an evening's entertainment to work out a game. She collected a lot of magazines and cut from the back pages all the advertising pictures, carefully removing any hint of the article advertised, which was not a part of the picture itself. Then she selected thirty-six of them and pasted them on cards, giving to each a number. These she strung around her parlors and when her guests arrived they were put to work to find out what the pictures advertised. Some of the pictures were so familiar that the task was not difficult and yet it was surprising to find how confusing it all was to the puzzle workers. Pictures that seemed familiar were mighty elusive when it came to identifying them among thirty-six others. The soap ads got dreadfully mixed up, and so did the hair restorers. If the pictures were ever published labeled the way most of the guests guessed there would have followed a whole lot of trade mark infringement suits. The girls were very much better at the work than the young men, presumably because the articles advertised were mostly household things and so of more interest to the fair sex than to their brothers. Of the thirty-six pictures the highest number guessed was twenty-five and this was by one of the young women.

Legal Clothes.

Possibly the strike of the ladies' tailors and a consequent slackness in ladies' fashions, may account for the fact that Paris has lately been taking a particular interest in masculine, not feminine, attire. After the question of the frock coat has come that of the top hat. The headgear which remained pre-eminent throughout the nineteenth century is said now to be doomed, by a dictate, not of fashion, but of the authorities. It must at once be added that the top hat has not been proscribed throughout the length and breadth of the land, but only in one commune of France. The mayor of this locality has issued an edict threatening pain of fine and imprisonment, as the hat in question is undemocratic. French municipal magistrates are displaying a great zeal for regulating costume, and the present is only one of a series of edicts on dress in various towns in France. One mayor had vetoed the wearing of "bloomers" by ladies within the limits of his jurisdiction, and several others had issued, in their respective communes, enactments prohibiting priests from appearing in public in their clerical garb. before the latest local tyrant took arms against the top hat.

Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

A DISASTROUS VICTORY.

In the election of Mr. Wells as mayor of St. Louis, the reorganizers have scored a triumph. The democrats of St. Louis and Missouri will, however, find it worth their while to calculate the cost of the victory and to prepare for the struggle that awaits them.

In November, 1900, the republican national ticket received 60,608 votes in St. Louis, and the democratic national ticket, which Mr. Wells refused to support, received 59,941. At the recent city election Mr. Wells received 43,012 votes—nearly seventeen thousand less than the democratic vote of last fall, while Mr. Parker, the republican candidate for mayor, received 34,840 votes—about twenty-six thousand less than the republican vote of last fall. Mr. Merriwether, a democrat in national politics running upon a municipal ownership platform, received 30,568 votes and Mr. Filley, a republican running on an independent ticket received 2,068 votes. It will be seen that the total vote cast for mayor was large for a local contest, amounting to about ninety per cent of the vote cast last fall. If Mr. Wells and Mr. Parker had polled the same proportion of the total vote that the national candidates of their parties polled in 1900, Mr. Wells would have received about 55,000 votes and Mr. Parker about 55,500.

It is impossible to ascertain how many democrats voted for Mr. Merriwether and how many voted for Mr. Parker, just as it is impossible to say how many republicans voted for Mr. Wells and how many for Mr. Merriwether, but it is reasonable to suppose that the republican vote which left Mr. Parker went largely to Mr. Wells, while the democratic vote which left Mr. Wells went principally to Mr. Merriwether.

Mr. Wells lost at least twelve thousand democratic votes, if he gained no republican votes, and to this must be added a sum equal to the republican votes received. If, for instance, he received 10,000 republican votes the account would stand thus: For Wells, 33,000 democratic votes and 10,000 republican votes—total 43,000 votes. But this would show a loss of 22,000 democratic votes; can the reorganizers afford to trade 22,000 democratic votes, good at all elections, for 10,000 republican votes, good only in local elections and when a republican is nominated on the democratic ticket?

If Mr. Wells only received 5,000 republican votes, the account would stand: Wells 38,000 democratic votes and 5,000 republican votes—total 43,000. This would show a loss of seven thousand democratic votes, or an exchange of three democrats for one republican. Is there anything in this victory to boast of? If the democrats who voted for Mr. Merriwether had followed the example set by Mr. Wells and voted the republican ticket, Mr. Parker would have been elected by a considerable majority.

But what of the future? The Republic with commendable frankness recommends a national application of the St. Louis plan of harmonizing. It says:

"St. Louis has supplied the example of a thoroughly united democracy. With little evidence of reluctance all elements of the party joined hands in the recent campaign. They worked together harmoniously and voted without scatching. To obtain national ascendancy this unification must proceed heartily all over the country. This is a united democracy the party is certain to win the next national election. The republican party has drifted so far away from American principles that the revolt of the people will be overwhelming when the forces naturally democratic are found acting together.

"The St. Louis democracy has set its face to the future. Give us such a union of popular forces in all the states and the next national election will be from that moment won.

"This is exactly what might have been expected. Mr. Wells was not nominated because the reorganizers were especially interested in a good municipal government; he was nominated because he represents a corporate element which calls itself democratic, as a matter of habit, but gives its pecuniary and political support to the republican party. It will never be found supporting a democratic ticket unless that ticket is selected and controlled by those who have some special privileges which they desire protected by the government.

If the democracy of St. Louis had defeated Mr. Wells, the democracy of Missouri would have been spared the fight which must now be made. The contest which resulted in the Pirtle Springs convention was fought over the silver question, the fight which is now opened will be a broader one and will involve the very existence of the party.

"The Republic will lead the Francis Wells element and will be supported by the railroad attorneys and corporation agents as well as by the gold standard advocates. Every democratic newspaper in the state will be compelled to take sides and a contest which might have been settled in a day, if confined to St. Louis, will keep the state stirred up for the next four years.

What is the use, it may be asked, of opposing the Republic-Francis-Wells combination? Why not allow it to control the party organization? The answer is found in the election of 1894. Such a slump in the democratic vote as

that which occurred in that year or in St. Louis a few days ago would give the state to the republicans. There is no room in this country for two parties representing republican principles; unless the democratic party faithfully and courageously opposes plutocracy all along the line, it has neither chance nor reason for existence.

If the St. Louis contest had been purely a local one, the Commoner would have taken no part in it, but as it was a link in the chain—a part of a plan, national in extent, to republi-canize the democratic organization, this paper called attention to the facts and pointed out the purpose of the reorganizers. The daily papers outside of St. Louis openly discussed the scheme and since the election the rejoicing has been general among those self-styled democrats who have twice aided in electing a republican president. The election of Mr. Wells was a disastrous victory for the democracy of St. Louis, Missouri and the nation.

TWO INCIDENTS.

In Santiago Bay Admiral Sampson was nominally in command, but the battle that resulted in victory for the Americans was commanded by Admiral Schley. Because Sampson was nominally in command, it was held by the administration with which he is a prime favorite that Sampson was entitled to all the honors of the great victory, and to all the material favors resulting therefrom.

General MacArthur is in command in the Philippines, and when Funston went out to capture Aguinaldo he was under MacArthur's orders. Strange to say, however, Funston is actually given the credit for Aguinaldo's capture, and is rewarded with a position as brigadier general in the regular army.

It may be, however, that the character of the reports from the commander of the administration's attitude. Although Sampson was at least 10 miles away when the battle was raging he wired to Washington: "The fleet under my command offers the nation as a Fourth of July present the destruction of the whole of Cervera's fleet."

General MacArthur cabled Washington in these words: "Splendid co-operation ravy through Commander Barry, officers, men, Vicksburg indispensable to success. Funston loudly praises my. Entire army joins in thanks sea service. "The transaction was brilliant in conception and faultless in execution. All credit must go to Funston, who, under supervision General Wheaton, organized and conducted expedition from start to finish. His reward should be signal and immediate. Agree with General Wheaton, who recommends Funston's retention volunteers until he can be appointed brigadier general again.

There is a marked difference here in the attitude assumed by the commanding officers toward their subordinates. The two dispatches speak for themselves, and all to the great credit of MacArthur.

THE YOUNG MAN'S CHANCES.

The million dollar salary voted to Mr. Schwab by the steel trust caused numerous republican editors to write enthusiastic articles on the opportunities offered to young men by the great corporations. The subject has now been taken up by debating societies and the school boys are investigating the matter for themselves. That Mr. Schwab's rise to fame and fortune has been rapid there is no doubt, neither is there any doubt that his present position is attractive to many, but the very fact that his case has attracted so much attention is conclusive proof that it is extraordinary. He has won the capital prize in the industrial lottery, but where a system of monopoly offers such an opportunity to one man it closes the door of opportunity to thousands of others equally able and deserving.

When all the great industries are controlled by trusts, there will be a few big salaried officials and the remainder of the employees will be condemned to perpetual clerkships with no possibility of independence in the business world.

If the present tendency toward consolidation becomes permanent it is only a question of time when the principal positions in the corporations will go to relatives and favorites, and descend from generation to generation. Competition puts a premium on brains; monopoly puts a premium on blood.

Young men, and old men for that matter, will find that industrial independence will give a sufficient opportunity to a large number of people while the trusts will give an unusual opportunity to a small number of people.

Mayor Harrison won a great victory. To be elected a third time mayor of the second city of the United States is a high compliment to him personally and officially.

If the trans-continental railroad lines can get hold of the canal across the isthmus, that waterway will be of very little value to the public, so far as the lowering of freight rates is concerned.

National lawmakers who have not pledged themselves to vote for the shipping subsidy bill need not remain away from Europe this summer on account of the expense incident to the ocean voyage.

United States, then the inhabitants to become immediately not only American subjects, but American citizens. "4. Products of the island to be admitted to the United States free of duty.

"It is supposed here that Washington will not readily accept the third and fourth conditions."

A few years ago it would not have been considered necessary for any nation to insist upon such conditions for our nation would have suggested them, but recent events have made it necessary for nations dealing with us to provide for the future welfare of their subjects.