Frecal Message of Chief Executive Tells of Observations on the Isthmus.

President Says There Are Some Honest Critics, but Standerers Have Been at Work in Matter.

(Continued from Page One.)

rest of the work depended, was the problem of sanitation. This was from the outs furnished to the people early in March system of construction camps always to set under the direction of Dr. W. C. Gorgas, who is to be made a full member of the proved to be of insufficient capacity before as the commission intend later to give. commission, if the law as to the composition of the commission remains unchanged. was made up by hauling water over the French house with a leak in the roof, I It must be remembered that his work was Panama railroad, so that there was at all did not think the accommodations were not mere sanitation as the term is under-stood in our ordinary municipal work, water. Since that time the new reservoir of houses I entered at random, the ac-Throughout the zone and in the two cities back of Mount Hope has been practically commodations were good; every room was of Panama and Colon, in addition to the sanitation work proper, he has had to do lake over a mile long and half a mile broad, azines, and small ornaments; and in short all the work that the marine hospital serv- It now carries some 500,000,000 gallons of just such a room as a self-respecting health department officers do in the various tograph of this lake together with certain ple were even better. Doubtless there must states and cities, and that Colonel Waring other photographs of what I saw while I be here and there a married couple who, did in New York when he cleaned its was on the isthmus. Nothing but a cataunhealthfulness. Now, after two years of our occupation the conditions as regards sickness and the death rate compare favorably with reasonably healthy localities in was in connection with this reservoir. The the United States.

I inspected the large hospitals at Ancon of what tropical hospitals should be, also inspected the receiving hospitals in various settlements. I went through a number of the wards in which the colored men are treated, a number of those in which the white men are treated-Amerblack men are treated exactly alike, and could be obtained in our first class hospitals at home. All the patients that I saw, with rallways, most of them being colored men the reservoir's existence, of the ordinary laborer stamp. Not only are the men carefully cared for whenever they apply for care, but so far as practicable a watch is kept to see that if whether they desire to go or not. From no responsible source did any complaint come to me as to the management of the hospital service, although occasionally a very ignorant West Ludia negro when he is first brought into the hospital becomes frightened by the ordinary hospital routine.

Just at present the health showing on the isthmus is remarkably good-so much better than in most sections of the United States that I do not believe that it can possibly continue at quite its present av-There has been for the last six months a well-nigh steady decline in the death rate for the population of the zone, this being largely due to the decrease in deaths from pneumonia, which has been the most fatal disease on the isthmus. In October there were ninety-nine deaths of every kind among the employes on the 5,500 whites, seven-eighths of them being of disease, and as it happened neither children, not a single death has occurred in the last three months, whereas in an average city in the United States the number of deaths for a similar number of people in that time would have been about thirty from disease. This very remarkable showing cannot of course permanently obtain, but it certainly goes to prove that if good care is taken the isthmus is not a particularly unhealthy place. In October, of the 19,000 negroes on the roll, eighty-six died from disease, pneumonia being the most destructive disease and malarial fever coming second. The difficulty of exercising a thorough supervision over the colored laborers is, of course, greater than is the case among the whites, and they are also less competent to take care of themselves, which accounts for the fact that their death rate is so much higher than that of the whites, in spite of the fact that they have been used to similar climatic condiit will be seen that the death rates is not

In Panama and Colon the death rate has were taking in their work and their pupils, also been greatly reduced, this being di- There seemed to me to be too many sarectly due to the vigorous work of the loons in the zone; but the new high license special brigade of employes who have been law which goes into effect on January 1 inspecting houses where the stegornyla next will probably close four-fifths of mosquito is to be found and destroying its them. Resolute and successful efforts are tar work in exterminating the majarial sale of liquor. were found.

Coroxal, some four miles from La Boca time to time have written about the commission's work.

Colon Water Supply.

having just been completed. minte a general plan for the proper sanita- with Mr. Stevens, the comparative wages good. But thousands of those who are their tremendous power and efficiency were brought to me for which there seemed to the prosecution of the work was begun in committee of the two houses. good earnest. The results are already visthis in the sewering, draining, guttering

PRESIDENT ON THE CANAL be completed but the progress already as machinists in the great repair shops, as work and what, if any changes, they SANITARY CORPS HAS DONE GOOD WORK they are probably the chief cause of the cisely as the American small boy and girl individual was himself a West India man being constructed

Improvements in Colon and Panama. were then laid in the lown and water was is not possible in what is really a vast

One of the most amusing (as well as dishonest) attacks made upon the commission to vague general mendacity, but in this they could have done otherwise, no water in the vicinity fit for a reservoir room, sitting room, plazza and bed rooms water anyway. Accompanying this mes- tress of the home was evidently a good sage, as I have said above, is a photo- American housewife and helpmate, who graph of the reservoir as I myself saw it, had given to the home life that touch of leans and Spaniards. Both white men and and as it has been in existence ever since attractiveness which, of course, the bachethe article in question was published. With lor quarters neither had nor could have. their treatment is as good as that which typical American humor, the engineering corps still at work at the reservoir have one or two exceptions, were laborers or on the reservoir by the name of the Indiother employes on the canal works and vidual who thus denied the possibility of All to whom I spoke agreed that the sup-

wery ignorant West India negro when he is worst. Taken as a whole, they were unthey need it they are sent to the hospitals doubtedly very bad, as bad as Pennsylvania avenue in Washington before Grant's

Police and Schools. longed to the best type of American seldier. using them indiscriminately.

families with them, schools have been established, the school service being under Mr. O'Connor. For the white pupils white American teachers are employed; for the been on the isthmus several days informed American teachers, one Spanish teacher and one colored American teacher, most of them being colored teachers from Jations. Even among the colored employes maica, Barbadoes and St. Lucia. The school rooms were good, and it was a pleasant thing to see the pride that the teachers

were colored first-class passengers.

Care of Employes.

conditions than did those who called to make complaint.

Nearly 5.000 of the white employes had come from the United States. No man can The manitation work in the cities of see these young, vigorous men energetically Panama and Coion has been just as im- doing their duty without a thrill of pride ing progress has been made in both cities, congress the wages paid them will seem In Panama so per cent of the streets that high, but as a matter of fact the only genare to be paved at all are already paved eral complaint which I found had any real with an excellent brick pavement laid in basis among the complaints made to me heavy concrete, a few of the streets being upon the isthmus was that, owing to the still in process of paving. The sewer and peculiar surroundings, the cost of living. water services in the city are of the most and the distance from home, the wages modern hygienic type some of the service were really not as high as they should be. In fact, almost every man I spoke to felt in Colon the conditions are peculiar, and that he ought to be receiving more moneyit is as regards Colon that most of the a view, however, which the average man is built on a low coral island, covered at probably likewise holds as regards himself. more or less shallow depths with vegetable I append figures of the wages paid, so that

> Quarters Good and Satisfactory. The white Americans are employed, some

nosquitoes. More ditches of the kind are employes live, sometimes in small separate houses, sometimes in large houses; quarters being furnished free to all the It was not practicable, with the force at pachelors sleep two in a room, as they the commission's disposal, and in view of would do in this country. I found a few the need that the force should be used in cases where three were in a room; and I the larger town of Panama, to begin this was told of, although I did not see, large work before early last winter. Water mains rooms in which four were sleeping; for it from a temporary reservoir. This reservoir provide in advance as ample house room the end of the dry season and the shortage In one case, where the house was an old completed. I visited this reservoir. It is a nent and clean, usually having books, mag-The wives of the steam-shovel men, engineers, machinists and carpenters into whose houses I went, all with one accord exthis particular reservoir would never hold house which I happened to enter the mis-

Fond Supplies. The housewives purchase their supplies christened a large boat which is now used directly, or through their husbands, from plies were excellent, and all but two stated I rode through the streets of Colon, seeing that there was no complaint to be made; them at the height of the rainy season, those two complained that the prices were after two days of almost unexampled excessive as compared to the prices in the downpour, when they were at their very States. On investigation I did not feel that this complaint was well founded. The married men ate at home. The unmarried men sometimes ate at private boarding houses, administration. All men to whom I spoke or private messes, but more often judging were a unit in saying that the conditions by the answers of those whom I questioned, of the Colon streets were 100 per cent bet- at the government canteens or hotels where ter than a year ago. The complaints the meal costs 30 cents to each employe brought to me, either of insufficient pro- This 30-cent meal struck me as being as vision in caring for some of the laborers, good a meal as we get in the United States or of failure to finish the pavements of at the ordinary hotel in which a 50-cent Colon, or of failure to supply water, or of meal is provided. Three-fourths of the mer failure to build wooden sidewalks for the whom I questioned stated that the meals use of the laborers in the rainy season, on furnished at these government hotels were investigation proved, almost without excep- good, the remaining one-fourth that they tion, to be due merely to the utter inability were not good. I myself took dinner at the of the commission to do everything at La Boca government hotel, no warning whatever having been given of my coming. There were two rooms, as generally in In addition to attending to the health of these hotels. In one the employes were althe employes, it is of course necessary to lowed to dine without their coats, while in provide for policing the zone. This is done the other they had to put them on. The 30by a police force which at present numbers cent meal included soup, native beef Isthmus. There were then on the rolls over 200 men, under Captain Shanton. (which was good), mashed potatoes, peas, About one-fifth of the men are white and beets, chill con carne, plum pudding, tea, Americans. Of these white but two died the others are black. In different places coffee-each man having as much of each I questioned some twenty or thirty of dish as he desired. On the table there was man was an American. Of the 6,000 white these men, taking them at random. They a bottle of liquid quinine tonic which two-Americans, including some 1,200 women and were a fine set, physically and in discipline. thirds of the guests, as I was informed, With one exception all the white men I used every day. There were neat tablequestioned had served in the American cloths and napkins. The men, who were army, usually in the Philippines, and be- taking the meal at or about the same time, included railroad men, machinists, ship-Without exception the black policemen wrights and members of the office force. any emergency no hesitation is felt in American officials, the school teachers and various employes appeared, bringing their Inasmuch as so many, both of the white wives, there being dancing and singing. was informed was used for the music on these occasions. My meal was excellent,

Chinese and Other Labor. Of the 19,000 or 20,000 day laborers employed on the canal a few hundred are Spaniards. These do excellent work. Their foreman told me that they did twice as well as the West India laborers. They keep healthy and no difficulty is experienced with them in any way. Some Italian laborers are also employed in connection with larvae and breeding places, and doing simi- being made to minimize and control the the drilling. As might be expected, with labor as high priced as at present in the mosquitoes-in short, in performing all The cars on the passenger trains on the United States, it has not so far proved kinds of hygienic labor. A little over a isthmus are divided into first and second- practicable to get any ordinary laborers year ago all kinds of mosquitoes, including class, the difference being marked in the from the United States. The American the two fatal species, were numerous about price of tickets. As a rule second-class wage workers on the isthmus are the the Culebra cut. In this cut during last passengers are colored and first-class pas- highly paid skilled mechanics of the types October every room of every house was sengers white; but in every train which I mentioned previously. A steady effort is carefully examined, and only two mos- saw there were a number of white second- being made to secure Italians, and espequitoes, neither of them of the fatal species, class passengers, and on two of them there cially to produce more Spaniards, because of the very satisfactory results that have come from their employment, and their was formerly one of the most unsanitary Next in importance to the problem of numbers will be increased as far as possi-places on the isthmus, probably the most sanitation, and, indeed, now of equal imunsanitary. There was a marsh with a portance, is the problem of securing and to get them in anything like the numbers pond in the middly. Dr. Gorgas had both caring for the mechanics, laborers and needed for the work, and from present apthe marsh and pond drained and the brush other employes who actually do the work pearances we shall in the main have to cleared off, so that now, when I went over on the canal and the railroad. This great rely, for the ordinary unskilled work, partly the ground, it appeared like a smooth task has been under the control of Mr. upon colored laborers from the West Indies. meadow intersected by drainage ditches. Jackson Smith, and on the whole has been partly upon Chinese labor. It certainly The breeding places and sheltering spots well done. At present there are some ought to be unnecessary to point out that of the dangerous mosquitoes had been com- 6,000 white employes and some 19,000 col- the American workingman in the United pletely destroyed. The result is that Corozal ored employes on the isthmus. I went States has no concern whatever in the for the last six months (like La Boca, over the different places where the differ- question as to whether the rough work on which formerly also had a very unsanitary ent kinds of employes were working; I the isthmus, which is performed by allens record) shows one of the best sick rates think I saw representatives of every type in any event, is done by allens from one in the gone, having less than 1 per cent a both at their work and in their homes; country with a black skin or by allens week admitted to the hospital. At Corozal and I conversed with probably a couple of from another country with a yellow skin. there is a big hotel filled with employes of hundred of them all told, choosing them Our business is to dig the canal as efthe Isthmian Canal commission, some of at random from every class and including ficiently and as quickly as possible, prothem with their wives and families. Yet those who came especially to present cer-vided always that nothing is done that is this healthy and attractive spot was stig-matized as a "hog wallow" by one of the did not come specifically to present griev-that interferes with the wages of or lowers ton, look like the veriest toys when comleast scrupulous and most feelish of the ances almost invariably expressed far the standard of living of our own work- pared with these new steam shovels, just continually be tried in housing, in bygiene, professional scandalmongers who from greater content and satisfaction with the men. Having in view this principle, I have as the French dumping cars seem like toy in street repairing, in dredging and in portant as in the zone itself, and in many in them as Americans. They represent on ent the great bulk of the unskilled labor hence this new machinery, of which we will be uncovered, but as to this, I have

ment hotels.

terms to us. tion of the city; in February last temporary paid on the zone and at home; and I may brought over under contract (at our ex- most impressive. relief measures were taken, while in July then communicate my findings to the canal pense) go off into the jungle to live or loaf around Colon, or work so badly after the As soon as the type of canal was decided first three or four days as to cause a this work began in good earnest. The the complaints proved absolutely baseless serious diminution of the amount of labor rainy season will shortly be over and then for the complaint, and that the methods of and paying of the streets. Some four of them in office work, but the melority performed on Friday and Saturday of each there will be an immense increase in the the commission in the respect complained

of sewerage and street improvement will engineers and conductors on the dirt trains, makes laborers as to the conductors of their made is very marked. Ditches have been carpenters and timekeepers, sup-rinten- wished. I received many complaints from dug through the town, connecting the sait dents, and foremen of divisions and of them, but as regards most of these comwater on both sides, and into these the gangs, and so on and so on. Many of plaints they themselves contradicted one ponds, which have served as breeding places, them have brought down their wives and another. In all cases where the complaint for the musquitoes, are drained. These families, and the children, when not in was as to their treatment by any indiditches have answered their purpose, for school are running about and behaving pre- vidual it proved on examination that this astonishing diminution in the number of behave at home. The bachelors among the of color, either a policeman, a storekeeper or an assistant storekeeper. Doubtless there must be many complaints against Americans, but those to whom I spoke men, married and unmarried. Usually the did not happen to make any such complaint to me. There was no complaint of the housing, but I saw one set of quarters for colored laborers which I thought poor, and this was in an old French house, The barracks for unmarried men are roomy, well ventilated and clean, with canvabunks for each man, and a kind of false attic at the top, where the trunks and other belongings of the different men are kept. The clothes are hung on clotheslines nothing being allowed to be kept on the floor. In each of these big rooms there were tables and lamps, and usually a few books or papers, and in almost every room there was a Bible, the books being the property of the laborers themselves The cleaniness of the quarters is secured all the work that the marine nospital servhealth department officers do in the various tograph of this lake together with certain were neatly kept and in almost every case the men living in them, whose wives or did in New York when he cleaned its was on the isthmus. Nothing but a streets. The results have been astounding, in the dry season to had water for the use never happened to strike such a couple. The results have been astounding in the dry season to had water for the use never happened to strike such a couple. only were the quarters in which these negro abovers were living much superior to those in which I am informed they live at home pressed their pleasure in their home life but they were much superior to the huts with the rest of the pleasure in their nome in the but they were much superior to the note writer in question usually confined bimself and surroundings. Indeed, I do not think to be seen in the jungles of Panama itself, The beside the railroad tracks, in which the I inspected the large hospitals at Ancon to vakue general metally stated that there was houses themselves were excellent—bath lower class of native Panamans live, as well as the negro workmen when they leave (I drank it and it was excellent), and that being all that could be desired. In every the employ of the canal and go into the jungles. A single glance at the two sets of buildings is enough to show the great superiority in point of comfort, cleanliness and healthfulness of the government houses as compared with the native

Peptol

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First National

Bank Building

I enclose herewith \$1.00 for which send me the fir

nage haul of individual locomotives.

Railway Improvements.

The most advanced methods, not only in

onstruction, but in railroad management,

have been applied in the zone, with corre-

and cost, has been noteworthy. My ex-

reduced or subordinated without Impair

be continually necessary to put up build-

the great lakes at the ends of the canal.

Critics and Doubting Thomases.

the mental development to protect them-

nection with it.

be any shadow of foundation. In two or

Recreation and Amusement.

One of the greatest needs at present is provide amusements both for the white hope to see the growth of a healthy spirit en and the black. The Young Men's Christian association is trying to do good and locomotive crews, just such a spirit work and should be in every way encoumain work. I have specifically called the marksmanship. Passing through the cut attention of the commission to this matter, and something has been accomplished already. Anything done for the welfare of the men adds to their efficiency and money devoted to that purpose is therefore properly to be considered as spent in building the canal. It is imperatively necessary to provide ample recreation and amusement if the men are to be kept well and healthy. I call the special attention of congress to

I have now dealt with the hygienic condiions which make it possible to employ a blasting, shoveling and hauling are going gathering, housing and feeding these actual work which has to be done, the likely looking places, where they eat their tage, work because of which these laborers are way into the hillsides. gathered together-the work of constructing the canal. This is under the direct control of the chief engineer, Mr. Stevens, who has already shown admirable results, and whom we can safely trust to achieve similar results in the future.

Our people found on the isthmus a certain amount of old French material and equipment which could be used. Some of , in addition, could be sold as scrap iron. Some could be used for furnishing the foundation for filling in. For much no possible use could be devised that would not cost more than it would bring in.

Work of Construction.

whom I questioned had served either in The rooms were clean, comfortable and and efficiency pleasant to witness. The the British army or in the Jamaica or miry, with mosquito screens around the three big problems of the canal are the Mr. Shonts, has all matters of this kind contractor at the expense of the govern-Barbodoes police. They were evidently con- outer plazza. I was informed by some of La Boca dams, the Gatun dam and the tented and were doing their work well those present that this hotel, and also the Culebra cut. The Culebra cut must be ing the government of the zone, so as to already promulgated by the secretary of Where possible the policemen are used to other similar hotels, were every Saturday made, anyhow; but of course changes as control people of their own color, but in night turned into club houses where the to the dams, or at least as to the locks adjacent to the dams, may still occur. The La Boca dams offer no particular problem, the bottom material being so good that and colored employes, have brought their There was a plane in the room, which I there is a practical certainty, not merely as to what can be achieved, but as to the time of achievement. The Gatun dam offers the most serious problem which we and two newspaper correspondents who had have to solve, and yet the ablest men on me that it was precisely like the meals they the isthmus believe that this problem is had been getting elsewhere at other governcertain of solution along the lines proposed: although, of course, it necessitates great toll, energy and intelligence, and although equally, of course, there will be some little risk in connection with the work. If the huge earth dam now contemplated is thrown across from one foothill to the low, broad mountain ridge behind which undertaken on the isthmus should arouse Root. My conclusion is that it combines that is, will have greater restraining ca- and the work so vast, that it would be pacity than the average natural mountain absolutely out of the question that misbeing determined. In April next Secretary From time to time seemingly well settled Taft, with three of the ablest engineers plans will have to be changed At present of the country-Mesers. Noble, Stearns and 25,000 men are engaged on the task. After Ripley-will visit the isthmus, and the a while the number will be doubled. In three engineers will make the final and such a multitude it is inevitable that there conclusive examinations as to the exact should be here and there a scoundrel. Very site for each lock. Meanwhile the work many of the poorer class of laborers lack

is going ahead without a break. The Culebra cut does not offer such great selves against either the rascality of others | gressing steadily and without any let-up. risks; that is, the damage liable to occur or their own folly, and it is not possible for from occasional land slips will not represent human wisdom to devise a plan by which what may be called major disasters. The they can invariably be protected. In a work will merely call for intelligence, per- place which has been for ages a byword severance and executive capacity. It is, for unhealthfulness, and with so large a however, the work upon which most labor congregation of strangers suddenly put will have to be spent. The dams will be down and set to hard work there will composed of the earth taken out of the cut now and then be outbreaks of disease. and very possibly the building of the locks There will now and then be shortcomings and dams will take even longer than the in administration; there will be unlocked

cutting in Culebra itself. for accidents to delay the excavation of the The main work is now being done in the cut or the building of dams and locks. Culebra cut. It was striking and impres- Each such incident will be entirely natural, sive to see the huge steam shovels in full and even though serious, no one of them play, the dumping trains carrying away the will mean more than a little extra delay rock and earth they dislodged. The imple- or trouble. Yet each, when discovered by ments of French excavating machinery sensation mongers and retailed to timid which often stand a little way from the folk of little faith, will serve as an extion, look like the veriest toys when com- is being badly managed. Experiments will arranged to try several thousand Chinese cars when compared with the long trains digging earth and rock. Now and then an taborers. This is desirable both because of huge cars, dumped by steam plows, experiment will be a failure, and among we must try to find out what laborers are which are now in use. This represents the those who hear of it, a certain proportion most efficient, and, furthermore, because enormous advance that has been made in of doubting Thomases will at once believe we should not leave ourselves at the mercy machinery during the past quarter of a that the whole work is a failure. Doubtof any one type of foreign labor. At pres- century. No doubt a quarter of a century less here and there some minor rascality on the isthmus is done by West India are now so proud, will similarly seem out to say that after the most painstaking innegroes, chiefly from Jamaics, Barbadoes of date, but it is certainly serving its pur- quiry I have been unable to find a single and the other English possessions. One of pose well now. The old French cars had to reputable person who had so much as the governors of the lands in question has be entirely discarded. We still have in use heard of any serious accusations affectshown an unfriendly disposition to our a few of the more modern, but not most ing the honesty of the commission or of work, and has thrown obstacles in the way modern, cars, which hold but twelve yards any responsible officer under it. I append of our getting the labor needed, and it is of earth. They can be employed on certain a letter dealing with the most serious highly undesirable to give any outsiders lines with sharp curves. But the recent charge, that of the ownership of lots in the impression, however ill founded, that cars hold from twenty-five to thirty yards they are indispensable and can dictate apiece, and instead of the old clumsy metheds of unloading them, a steam plow is is not too much to say that the whole atvery bitter complaint has been made. Colon who stays at home in the United States Negro Laborers and Their Quarters. drawn from end to end of the whole vesti-The West India laborers are fairly, but build train, thus immensely economising esty as it breathes efficiency and energy only fairly, satisfactory. Some of the men labor. In the rathy season the steam show Above all, the work has been kept absoaccumulations or mold, which affords sus- the congress can judge the matter for it- do very well indeed; the better class, who wis can do but little in dirt, but they work even a suggestion of spoils politics in conbecause and strength to many varieties of self. Later I shall confer on the subject are to be found as foremen, as skilled steadily in rock and in the harder ground. low-lying tropical plants. In September, with certain representative labor men here mechanics, as policemen, are good men; and There were some twenty-five at work dur-1906, a systematic effort was begun to form. In the United States, as well as going over many of the ordinary day laborers are also ing the time I was on the isthmus, and

New Records for Excavation. months will be required before the work in handling the great steam shower, as week. I questioned many of these Ja- amount taken out; but even during the of could be bettered. In the other instances

not three months, in the rainy sense save in two or three instances where they steady progress is shown by the figures; referred to mistakes which the commission In August, 242,000 cubic yards; in September, 291,000 cubic yards, and in October, had already itself found out and cor-325,000 cubic yards. In Outober new rec- rected. ords were established for the output of individual shovels as well as for the ton-

So much for honest criticism. There re mains an immense amount of as reckless slander as has ever been published. Where of emulation between the different shovel the slanderers are of foreign origin I have no concern with them. Where they are as has grown on our battleships between Americans, I feel for them the heartlest raged. But the government should do the the different gun crews in matters of contempt and indignation; because, in a spirit of wanton dishonesty and malice, they are trying to interfere with, and hamthe amount of new work can be seen at a glance. In one place the entire side of per the execution of, the greatest work of a hill had been taken out recently by the kind ever attempted, and are seeking to bring to naught the efforts of their twenty-seven tons of dynamite, which were countrymen to put to the credit of America exploded at one blast. At another place was given a presidential salute of twentyne of the giant feats of the ages. The ne charges of dynamite. On the top notch outrageous accusations of these slanderers onstitute a gross libel upon a body of of the Culebra cut the prism is now as public servants who, for trained Intelliwide as it will be; all told, the canal bed at this point has now been sunk about gence, expert ability, high character and devotion to duty, have never been ex-200 feet below what it originally was. It will have to be sunk about 130 feet far. celled anywhere. There is not a man ther. Throughout the cut the drilling. among those directing the work on the isthmus who has obtained his position on great force of laborers, and with the task on with constantly increasing energy, the any other basis than merit alone, and not huge shovels being pressed up, as if they one who has used his position in any way laborers. There remains to consider the were mountain howlitzers, into the most for his own personal or pecuniary advan-

Plan to Build by Contract. After most careful consideration we have

decided to let out most of the work by contract, if we can come to satisfactory terms with the contractors. The whole work sponding economics in time and cost. This is of a kind suited to the peculiar genius ias been shown in the handling of the of our people; and our people have develcars into ships on the Panama railroad, grapple with it. It is of course much better where, thanks largely to the efficiency of to do the work in large part by contract General Manager Bierd, the saving in time than to do it all by the government proamination tended to show that some of the secure to the contractor a sufficient redepartments had (doubtless necessarily) be- muneration to make it worth while for recome overdeveloped, and could now be sponsible contractors of the best kind to The work is now going on with a vigor ment of efficiency and with a saving of other hand it can be done on terms which The chairman of the commission, will not give an excessive profit to the constantly in view, and is now reorganiz- ment. After much consideration the plan make the form of administration both more | war was adopted. This plan in its essen flexible and less expensive, subordinating tial features was drafted, after careful and everything to direct efficiency with a view thorough study and consideration, by the to the work of the canal commission. From chief engineer, Mr. Stevens, who, while in time to time changes of this kind will the employment of Mr. Hill, the president undoubtedly have to be made, for it must of the Great Northern railroad, had perbe remembered that in this giant work sonal experience of this very type of conof construction, it is continually neces- tract. Mr. Stevens then submitted the plan sary to develop departments or bureaus, to the chairman of the commission, Mr. which are vital for the time being, but Shonts, who went carefully over it with which soon become useless; just as it will Mr. Rogers, the legal adviser of the commission, to see that all legal difficulties ings, and even to erect towns, which in were met. He then submitted copies of ten years will once more give place to the plan to both Secretary Taft and my-jungle, or will then be at the bottom of self. Secretary Taft submitted it to some of the best counsel at the New York bar, and afterwards I went over it very carefully It is not only natural, but inevitable, that | with Mr. Taft and Mr. Shonts, and we laid other we will have what is practically a a work so gigantic as this which has been the plan in its general features before Mr. will rise the inland lake. This artificial every species of hostility and criticism the maximum of advantage with the min mountain will probably show less seepage. The conditions are so new and so trying, imum of disadvantage. Under it a premium will be put upon the speedy and economical construction of the canal, and s range. The exact locality of the locks at takes should not be made. Checks will penalty imposed on delay and waste. The this dam-as at the other dams-is now occur. Unforeseen difficulties will arise. plan as promulgated is tentative; doubtless it will have to be changed in some respects before we can come to a satisfactory agreement with responsible contractorsperhaps even after the bids have been received; and of course it is possible that we cannot come to an agreement, in which case the government will do the work itself. Meanwhile the work on the isthmus is pro-

Single Commissioner Desired. A seven-headed commission is, of course, clumsy executive instrument. We should have but one commissioner, with heads of departments and other officers under him as we may find necessary. We should be expressly permitted to employ the best engineers in the country as con-

sulting engineers. I accompany this paper with a map showng substantially what the canal will be like when it is finished. When the Culebra cut has been made and the dams built (if they are built as at present proposed; there will then be at both the Pacific and and to clear up the complexion and purify Atlantic ends of the canal, two great freshwater lakes, connected by a broad channel running at the bottom of a ravine, across the backbone of the Western Hemisphere Those best informed believe that the work will be completed in about eight years; but it is never safe to prophesy about such a work as this, especially in the tropics.

I am informed that representatives of the nmercial clubs of four cities-Boston. Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis-the P. A. Smart Co., 56 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, nembership of which includes most of the Mich. eading business men of those cities, expect to visit the Isthmus for the purpose of examining the work of construction of the canal. I am glad to hear it, and shall direct that every facility be given them

Dr. Lyon's Colon: the charge was not advanced by a reputable man, and is utterly baseless. It lutely clear of politics. I have never heard

Cleanses and beautifies the teeth and purifies the breath. I have investigated every complaint Used by people of refinement for over a quarter of a century. Convenient for tourists. three cases, all of which I have indicated in the course of this message, I came to PREPARED BY

J. H. Lyon. D.D.S.

For years a number of the most eminent food specialists in Battle Creek began experimenting-proving-testing. The result of their discoveries is now presented in PEPTOL—the new flesh builder. PEPTOL is a concentrated vegetable fat and starch. It relieves the digestive organs of the work of assimulating starch. It presents fat in a way to be quickly taken into the system. It is the short route to flesh tissue. PEPTOL also increases the "appetite juice". makes you eat, makes you long for mealtime.

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In two cases out of every hundred there are

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conditions which cannot be overcome.

you. We cannot state just how many pounds you will gain the first month but we do positively and absolutely guarantee that you will gain in flesh; If you do not gain your money will be refunded without question or quibble--and your word alone suffices.

PEPTOL will shortly be on sale at all drug stores -- but the first supply

must be ordered direct from us. The Peptol Company., - First National Bank Building, - Chicago. (Laboratory; Battle Creek, Mich.)

To Thin People

Let the scales decide whether D,

you pay for

Do you want to increase your weight?

plump and attractive?

Do you want to look better -- healthier -- more

Are you tired of being called "skinny" by your friends-and sympathized with by your acquaint-

Do you want to add from 10 to 20 pounds of

good solid substantial permanent flesh-- do you

want to get your digestive organs in good condition and put yourself on a disease-defying basis?

We believe there are many people who would gladly give \$100.00 for a few more pounds

of this announcement-to know that they can begin

at once to add flesh without risking a cent in case

Ninety-eight persons out of every hundred will report gains if they take advantage of this latest

discovery of Battle Creek food experts.

We want every one of these people to know

the complaints proved absolutely baseless. to see all that is to be seen in the work which the government is doing. Such interest us a visit like this would indicate will have a good effect upon the men who are doing the work, on one hand, while on the other hand it will offer as witnesses of the exact conditions men whose experience as business men and whose impartiality will make the result of their observations of value to the country as a whole.

Confident of Ultimate Success. Of the success of the enterprise I am as well convinced as one can be of any enterprise that is human. It is a stupendous work upon which our fellow-countrymen are engaged down there on the 1sthnus, and while we should hold them to strict accountability for the way in which they perform it, we should yet recognize, with frank generosity, the epic nature of the task on which they are engaged and its world-wide importance. They are doing something which will redound immeasurably to the credit of America, which will benefit all the world, and which will last for ages to come. Under Mr. Shonts and Mr. Stevens and Doctor Gorgas this work has started with every omen of good fortune. They and their worthy associates, from the highest to the lowest, are entitled to the same credit that we would give to the picked men of a victorious army; for this conquest of peace will, in its great and far-reaching effect, stand as among the very greatest conquests, whether of peace or of war, which have ever been won by any of the peoples of mankind. A badge is to be given to every American citizen who for a specified time has taken part in tonnage from ships into cars, and from oped the type of contractor best fitted to this work; for participation in it will hereafter be held to reflect honor upon the man participating just as it reflects honor upon a soldier to have belonged to a vided it is possible on the one hand to mighty army in a great war for righteousness. Our fellow countrymen on the isthmus are working for our interest and for the national renown in the same spirit and with the same efficiency that the men of the army and navy work in time of war It behooves us in turn to do all we can to hold up their hands and aid them in every way to bring their great work to a triumphant conclusion THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The White House, Dec. 17 1906.

THE VALUE OF CHARCOAL.

Few People Know How Useful it is in Preserving Health and Beauty.

Costs Nothing To Try. Nearly everybody knows that charcoal is the safest and most efficient disinfect-

ant and purifier in nature, but few realise its value when taken into the human system for the same cleansing purpose. Charcosl is a remedy that the more you take of it the better; it is not a drug at all but simply absorbs the gases and impurities always present in the stomach and intestines and carries them out of the system.

Charcoal sweetens the breath after smoking, drinking or after eating onions or other odorous vegetables. Charcoal effectually clears and improves

the complexion, it whitens the teeth and further acts as a natural and eminently safe cathartic. It absorbs the injurious gases which col-

lect in the stomach and bowels, it disinfects the mouth and throat from the polson of catarrh. All druggists sell charcoal in one form

or another, but probably the best charcoal and the most for the money is in Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges; they are composed of the finest powdered Willow charcoal, and other harmless antiseptics in tablet form or rather in the form of large, pleasant tasting lozenges, the charcoal being mixed with honey.

The daily use of these lozenges will soon tell in a much improved condition of the general health, better complexion, sweeter breath and purer blood, and the beauty of it is, that no possible harm can result from their continued use, but, on the contrary, great benefit.

A Buffalo physician, in speaking of the benefits of charcoal, says: "I advise Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges to all patients suffering from gas in stomach and bowels the breath, mouth and throat; I also beto the liver is greatly benefited with the daily use of them; they cost but twentyfive cents a box at drug stores, and although in some sense a patent preparation, yet I believe a get more and better charcoal in Stuart's Charconi Lozenges than in any of the ordinary charcoal tablets."

Send your name and address today for a free trial package and see for yourself.

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A SKING moderate prices—that is, prices with no profits added to cover bad debts, is one reason why we can and do offer more tempting values -than the ordinary credit tailor.

A man inside one of our \$25 suits or overcoats gets a heap of style and comfort for his money.

Trousers \$5 to \$12, Suits \$20 to \$50

