

MESSAGE ON CANAL

President Roosevelt Further Refutes Charges of Crookedness.

FALSE IN EVERY PARTICULAR

Action of Government Uninfluenced by Any Ulterior Motives.

MONEY DISTRIBUTED IN FRANCE

United States Had Nothing to Do with that Matter.

DEMANDS FEDERAL PROSECUTION

Submits List of Stockholders of the French Company and Scores Mr. Pulitzer as Villain of People.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Repeated peals of laughter greeted the reading of the opening paragraph of President Roosevelt's message to congress on the Panama Canal, which closed today. As the secretary read the statement that the charges were "false in every particular," Senator Bailey laughed outright as he passed along the rear of the chamber in his seat. Other senators on both sides of the chamber joined with him, and when the reader reached the statement that a statement in a newspaper which he mentioned would not be believed, there was general merriment from both sides of the chamber.

The message elicited the greatest interest in the house. The members gave close attention during the reading of the document and there was a ripple of laughter over the president's characterization of Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World.

Calls Charles False.

President Roosevelt sent to the senate a statement concerning the purchase of the Panama canal property by the United States, denouncing in strong language charges that there was anything wrong in the acquisition of the canal property.

"These stories," he continues, "were first brought to my attention as published in a paper in Indianapolis called the News, edited by Mr. Delavan Smith. The stories were sourious and libelous in character and false in every essential particular. Mr. Smith shelters himself behind the excuse that he merely accepted the statements which had appeared in a paper published in New York, the World, owned by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer. It is idle to say that the known character of Mr. Pulitzer and his newspaper are such that the statements in that paper will be believed by nobody; unfortunately, thousands of persons are ill-informed in this respect and believe the statements they see in print, even though they appear in a newspaper published by Mr. Pulitzer."

Offense Against Nation.

After pointing out mistakes and alleged misrepresentations on the part of the authors of the stories the president continues:

"The real offender is Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, editor and proprietor of the World. While the criminal offense of which Mr. Pulitzer has been guilty is in form a libel upon individuals, the great injury done is in blackening the good name of the American people. It should not be left to a private citizen to sue Mr. Pulitzer for libel. He should be prosecuted for libel by the governmental authorities."

"It is, therefore, a high national duty to bring to justice this villain of the American people, this man who wantonly and wickedly, and without one shadow of justification, seeks to blacken the character of reputable private citizens and to convict the government of his own country in the eyes of the civilized world of wrong-doing of the basest and foulest kind, when he has not one shadow of justification of any sort or description for the charge he has made. The attorney general has under consideration the form in which the proceedings against Mr. Pulitzer shall be brought."

Roosevelt Assumes Authority.

The president refers to various papers which he transmits with his message. Explaining the method of concluding the purchase, the president takes upon himself the responsibility for all that was done to carry out the will of congress.

The action of the government, he says, was wholly uninfluenced by any question of who were or were not stockholders either in the new or the old company.

"Our concern," he says, "was to get the canal property which was owned by the French company, and to see that the title was clear. Our transactions were carried on openly, and were published in detail."

The president says that the United States government did not have anything to do with the distribution of a dollar of the money paid out except in following out the instructions of the French court, and that under the circumstances there was not the slightest need for Mr. Cromwell to give any information.

List of Stockholders Submitted.

"Nevertheless," he continues, "Mr. Cromwell, at his own accord, has submitted to me, together with a copy of his statement published on the 13th instant, and which I transmit herewith, a full list of the stockholders of the New Panama Canal company of France on January 15, 1906, numbering over 600 and a list of all stockholders who were present at a special meeting of the company held February 28, 1906, immediately after the cable offer of the company was made to the United States (January 8-11, 1906) to accept the appointment of \$40,000 made by the Belgian Canal commission.

"So far as this government is concerned," continues the president, "every word of the slightest importance has been made public in its service, and every step taken in France has there been made public by the proper officials."

NEW QUARANTINE REGULATION

Secretary of Agriculture Amends Rules Governing Transportation of Cattle from South.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Amending the rules to prevent the spread of equine fever in cattle. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson today issued an order effective immediately, covering changes in feeding stations for quarantined cattle in transit. Cattle from outside transported interstate by rail through the quarantined area may be unloaded within quarantine limits for rest, feed and water into certain property equipped notifications pens set apart for them at Fort Worth, Tex.; Dodge, Tex.; Denver, Colo.; Laredo, Tex.; Los Angeles, Calif.; San Jose, Calif., and other points from time to time authorized.

SUMMARY OF THE BEE

Wednesday, December 16, 1908.

1908 ~ DECEMBER ~ 1908

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				

THE WEATHER

FOR CANADA, QUEBEC AND VICTORIA County, with yesterday rain or snow Wednesday; not much change in temperature.

FOR NEBRASKA—Rain or snow Wednesday.

FOR IOWA—Fair Wednesday.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour	Temp.	Deg.
6 A.M.	32	1
9 A.M.	34	1
12 M.	36	1
3 P.M.	38	1
6 P.M.	36	1
9 P.M.	34	1

DOMESTIC.

President Roosevelt in a special message to congress yesterday denounced Editor Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World as a villain of the nation.

Page 1

The first contest of the revision of rules in the house at Washington resulted in a victory for the speaker and a defeat of the whole proposition. Page 2

Testimony of John D. Archbold yesterday in the Standard Oil inquiry was that the company has owned stock in the Waters-Pierce company since 1878, but the Pier family has always managed the concern.

A quartermaster sergeant of the army service has resigned with \$11,000 coming to him as savings. Page 1

The body of Chief of Police Biggy, who was drowned recently in San Francisco, was recovered yesterday by Judge Kinkaid and today was introduced to Secretary Gardner.

The Bureau of agriculture has given out a revised estimate of the value of country's crops.

The decree of the circuit court in the balance case declares a number of large corporations members of the combination and forbids them from engaging in commerce until they are again in competition.

Page 2

Proposed to amend the Kinkaid home-stand act reducing the amount of improvements required and also to permit commutation of entries.

FOREIGN.

The Dutch warship captured another Venezuelan coast guard vessel yesterday and war practically exists between the two nations.

Page 2

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

Live stock markets. Page 5

Grain markets. Page 5

Stocks and bonds. Page 5

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

Arrived. Sailed.

NEW YORK. — C. W. Williams.

PLYMOUTH. — S. Williams II.

GIBRALTAR. — Roman.

GENOA. — Kurotschi.

LIVERPOOL. — Calcutta.

HAMBURG. — Cedula.

VALUe OF COUNTRY'S CROPS

Production in Present Year and Its Equivalent in Money—Revised Figures.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The production in 1908 and farm value on December 1 of important farm products according to the final revised estimates of the Department of Agriculture, announced today, are as follows:

Corn 2,666,651,000 bushels and farm value, \$1,614,161,000, against 1,825,000 bushels in 1907 and \$1,206,000 in 1906; and 1,800,000,000, against 1,647,000 and \$1,125,000 last year; spring wheat, 235,884,000 bushels and \$16,496,000, against 234,845,000 and \$16,250,000 in 1907; oats, 1,156,000 bushels and \$16,171,000, against 1,156,445,000 and \$16,158,000; barley, 358,356,000 bushels and \$16,558,000; barley, 358,356,000 bushels and \$16,422,000, against \$16,387,000 and \$16,386,000; and \$16,386,000, against \$16,386,000.

The figures for other crops include:

Rye, 316,000 bushels, against \$1,060,000 in 1907 and \$1,060,000, against \$1,060,000 in 1906; and 250,000 bushels, against \$1,060,000 and \$1,060,000, against \$1,060,000; potatos, 278,962,000 bushels, against 278,962,000 bushels, and \$16,000,000, against \$16,000,000; hay, 1,070,000 tons, against 1,070,000 tons, and \$16,000,000, against \$16,000,000.

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CHIEF BIGGY'S BODY FOUND

Recovered During Day Floating in San Francisco Bay Where He Was Drowned.

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AMENDING KINKAID BILL

Proposal to Reduce the Amount of Improvements Required.

ALSO TO ALLOW COMMUTATION

Latter Would Permit Settlers, After Fourteen Months' Residence, to Get Title by Payment of Dollar and Quarter Per Acre.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—(Special Telegram)—Judge W. W. Woolf, register of the land office at Alliance, is in Washington upon business before the Interior department.

It has been arranged that Judge Woods, taking advantage of his presence in Washington, will go before the house committee on public lands tomorrow to give his views regarding certain proposed amendments to the "Kinkaid act." One important amendment proposed to this act calls for a reduction of the improvement requirements. Under the existing law improvements must be placed upon each entry, proportionate to \$1.50 per acre to number of acres entered upon. An amendment has been considered reducing this proportion to 40 cents per acre.

Representative Kinkaid would favor the removal of the improvement clause, but as a compromise will agree to accept the 40-cent per acre proposition. The original clause in the Kinkaid act has been found to be excessive and is said to be causing considerable hardship and is also deemed unnecessary.

A second proposition which is under consideration merely tentative, however, relieves the commutation clause of the Kinkaid act. This is that an entrant may be allowed to "prove up" after four months' residence upon his homestead by payment of \$1.50 per acre.

Under the present law an entrant is enabled to live upon his farm, make improvements and cannot obtain a deed in fee simple until the expiration of five years. This proposed amendment would simply do this: An entrant who successfully worked his homestead by payment of \$1.50 per acre might within fourteen months obtain a patent.

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