

TELEGRAPHIC RESUME

Events of the Day in a Condensed Form.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

Items of Importance From Domestic and Foreign Sources—Cream of the Dispatches.

The Piser, a negro, was lynched in Shreveport, La., for attempting to assault two young ladies.

The negotiations between France and Great Britain, however, promise a satisfactory settlement.

A dispatch from Bombay reports a tremendous fire in the native quarter of Calcutta, as the result of which many persons were killed.

Governor McGraw, of Washington, has offered \$500 reward for the apprehension, arrest and conviction of the murderers of Dr. J. H. Lyon, of Roanoke.

Thomas Hughes, Q. C., the author of "Tom Brown's School Days," "Tom Brown at Oxford," etc., and the founder of the British settlement at Rugby, Tenn., died in London, aged 76.

It is asserted in Paris that more powers besides France and Russia will seize the occasion of the British-Egyptian expedition up the Nile to demand a guarantee for the evacuation of Egypt.

Rebels recently attacked the Japanese near Fusan. After several days fighting the rebels were repulsed. Many Japanese have been murdered, and Japanese warships have been sent to the scene of the disturbance.

The athletic team of the university of California has received a telegram from the Harvard team accepting a challenge to meet May 23. The California team will meet the athletes of several other colleges on their Eastern tour.

Louis Melberg, a car repairer on the Great Northern railroad, was fatally injured in Seattle by being caught between the drawheads of two flatcars. A coupling link was driven through his body, tearing his intestines in a horrible manner.

A prominent butcher and one of the stockholders of the American Dressed Meat Company of Walla Walla, and W. A. Montgomery, who was employed as a butcher at the company's slaughter-yards, have been arrested on a charge of stealing cattle.

Bicycle tourists from the United States and other countries will this year be required to deposit, at the Canadian custom-house, the retail price of their wheels on entering Canada, and when they are exported back the money will be refunded to the owners.

The American Electric-Heating Corporation, which includes all the companies of importance engaged in the manufacture of electric-heating apparatus, has been formed, with headquarters in Boston. The new corporation is controlled by a syndicate of Boston, New York and Western capitalists.

The Mexican government is making preparations for the abolition of all interstate and inter-municipal duties in July, and taxes will be apportioned scientifically. The reform is of the greatest importance and far-reaching, and will greatly facilitate international trade.

Hiram H. Morrison, arrested in Boston after his wife had been found dead in their home, with finger marks upon her throat, has confessed that he choked the woman to death in a fit of jealous rage at her having a crowd of neighbors in the house drinking. He alleges he was also drunk.

The trans-Missouri roads have not been as liberal with the Grand Army as the roads in the Western Passenger Association. They have decided upon a rate of one fare for the round trip for the annual encampment in St. Paul, instead of a rate of 1 cent per mile, as authorized by the roads of the Western Passenger Association.

A New York paper says the revolution in Nicaragua, according to intelligence received through private channels, is more serious than the dispatches from that country would indicate. The strict press censorship established by President Zelaya renders it impossible for news of any character except what is favorable to the government to be made public.

The Spanish government has officially disclaimed responsibility for the fiery views expressed in the columns of the Madrid newspaper El Epoca, demanding that the United States cease talking about the Cuban insurrection or else declare war at once upon Spain. The government felt that it might be harmful because it was intimated that the article was inspired by it.

At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, held in London, a resolution expressing appreciation of the friendly feeling displayed by the chamber of commerce of New York and the national board of trade of Philadelphia and representing their strong desire that a method be found for settling in a conciliatory spirit any differences which may arise, was adopted.

A dispatch from Athens reports the renewal of the murders of Christians in the island of Crete, and the existence of a panic there owing to the belief prevailing among the Cretan deputies that the Turkish troops are waiting for the Christians to retaliate for outrages, when they will seize the occasion to begin a general massacre. The deputies have invoked the protection of Greece.

The most important opinion handed down by the court of appeals from a public standpoint was that the state of Missouri has complete jurisdiction over

the Missouri and Mississippi rivers where these rivers form the boundary line of the state, so that the state would have jurisdiction over gambling or illegal whisky on a boat in these rivers or any other illegal act done on the river.

The Constantinople correspondent of the London Times says the Turkish minister and first secretary of the Turkish legation at Washington have been recalled, owing to the sympathy for the Armenians manifested in the United States. This has been denied at the legation, however. It is also said that the sultan has promised Abraham Pasha \$10,000 if he succeeds in inducing the Armenian patriarch to retire.

Judge Piper, of Moscow, Idaho, has fixed the date of the execution of Frank Smith for the murder of Emmett Fox. Smith will be hanged May 1. A judgment for \$83,649,380 was filed against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, in favor of the Union Trust Company as trustee for the holders of first mortgage bonds. The amount is for the deficiency judgment obtained in February last against the railroad company in Kansas.

The state department has received a cablegram from United States Minister Smythe, at Port au Prince, Hayti, confirming the Paris report of the death of President Hippolyte.

A terrible explosion of fire damp took place in a mine at Brynorton, N. Z. Sixty persons were killed outright, and fifty more were entombed, with no hope of being rescued.

The Iron Horse group of mines, among the best known in the Trail Creek district in British Columbia, has been sold for \$75,000 to Peter Porter. The Iron Horse is a gold producer, and has a defined ledge, and is shipping ore.

The Vose block, one of the finest in Mochila, Me., was burned and several business firms renting offices in the building, as well as lodge-rooms, lost all their effects. The total damage is estimated at \$250,000; insurance, \$50,000.

An attempt was made to derail the Oregon express between Tehama and Vista Cal., by placing ties on the track. The engineer saw the obstruction in time to avert a smashup. No motive can be given for the attempted derailment.

The London Standard's Berlin correspondent says that China has granted a concession to Russia to build a railroad from the Chita, in the trans-Baikal district of Siberia, through Manchuria to Port Arthur, the latter port being ceded to Russia in exchange for certain important concessions.

The resignation of John I. Hall as assistant attorney-general of the Interior department, has been presented to the president to take effect May 1. Judge Hall resigns to accept the general counselship of the Georgia Southern & Florida Railway Company. His successor as assistant attorney-general will be W. A. Little, of Columbus, Ga.

A new play is being written in San Francisco, in which Mattie Overman and Mrs. Tunnell are to have star parts. The play will follow closely the dramatic incidents of the recent careers of the Rev. C. O. Brown and Mrs. Mary Davidson. Richard C. White is the author of the play. He says it will eclipse the famous Durrant play.

The two three-story warehouses of the Pleasure Ridge Park Distillery Company were destroyed by fire in Louisville, Ky., with all their contents, including upwards of 30,000 barrels of whisky. The total loss is about \$450,000, of which \$390,000 is on bonded whisky, \$10,000 on free whisky and the remainder on the buildings.

Three hundred Chinese were blown to atoms by the explosion of a magazine attached to the fort at Kiangyin, China. The disaster, according to mail advices received by steamer, was the work of mutinous soldiers, who were preparing to join the secret society rebels in an attack on an adjacent town, but whether through carelessness or by intention is not known.

In the last week of mild weather, Grand Valley, Colo., throughout its length and breadth, is riddled with holes dug for fruit trees. It is estimated that between 750,000 and 1,000,000 fruit trees, apples, peaches, plums and pears, chiefly, will be planted as soon as water is turned into the irrigating ditches. This is far the largest planting the valley has ever known.

A desperate fight took place in the village of Berry, Ill. James and Charles Horning, two prominent young farmers, and James Housick were shot in the fight. One of the Hornings received a wound in the leg, and the other had his hand and his arm shattered by a ball. Housick was shot in the neck, and his injury is regarded as serious. The trouble grew out of the sending of a valentine.

Consecration was thrown into the camp of the numerous heirs and claimants to the Davis millions, when Attorney M. J. Gavanagh filed a petition in the district court in Butte, Mont., in behalf of Mrs. Holdah Queen Davis, otherwise known as Holdah Snell, of Kern county, Cal., laying claim to the whole of the estate, worth many millions, alleging she is the surviving wife of the dead millionaire.

It is stated that the Rev. C. O. Brown, of San Francisco, will be tried by the Bay conference on the charge of ministerial conduct. The charges, it is said, will be presented by either Dr. Rader or Dr. Williams, and among the items alleged against the accused minister are said to be his attempted deception of the press; the discrepancy in his testimony in the Davidson trial, where he is alleged to have testified one way in the police court and directly opposite in the superior court.

NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

All the Cities and Towns of the Pacific States and Territories—Washington.

Port Townsend is to have a bicycle track.

Diphtheria has entirely disappeared from Ellensburg, and the schools were re-opened.

Potatoes are very cheap this spring at Ellensburg. A hundred pound sack can be bought for 85 cents.

The Pacific county papers are informed that the surveys of townships 12-5 and 12-6 have been accepted.

Lieutenant J. H. Hetherington, United States army, has taken charge of the branch hydrographic office at Port Townsend.

The board of state land commissioners has decided to stock Skamania county bonds to the amount of \$5,000, subject to approval of the attorney-general.

One thousand acres of winter wheat belonging to Miles C. Moore, at Enreka Flat, Walla Walla county, was killed by the cold spell, and the ground is being reseeded.

Monday was squirrel day with the Spokane county commissioners, and the day netted a total of 9,171 squirrel tails, for which the county paid \$91.71. Just an even twenty persons brought in this number.

The Pullman Palace Car Company has paid the tax on its cars operated on the O. R. & N. railway in Spokane county. This was brought about through the seizure of one of the sleeping-cars in use on the Northern Pacific.

Councilman Hill, of North Yakima, is in favor of the appointment of an inspector of weights and measures. He says that many of the scales used in the city are not true, owing to the springs losing their strength, and in consequence full value is not received by purchasers.

New York capitalists are negotiating for the purchase of the Andrew Chambers prairie, near Rainier, with the intention of setting out the entire tract in fruit. It is estimated that 50,000 trees, about seventy-five per cent of which will be prunes, will be put out in the vicinity of Rainier this season.

Robert Scott has 1,000 peach and apple trees, which he is setting out on his Natches ranch, twelve miles from North Yakima—plowing up eight acres of hops to accommodate the orchard. For eight consecutive years this ranch has had a splendid peach crop, and its owner alleges that he has never lost a single bud or blossom in all that time, from frost.

If the Whitman county board of commissioners is contemplating the appropriation of county funds toward the destruction of the squirrel pests, the Garfield Enterprise protests against its being expended in scalp bonanzas. It declares that if any appropriations are made it should be by way of assisting the actual wheat raisers to buy poison.

A gentleman from Goldendale tells a Dalles paper that the mining excitement that was so high in Kikotkat county a few weeks ago has subsided, and those who left their farms expecting to make their fortunes in the mines have settled down to agricultural pursuits, satisfied with the slower but surer way of accumulating wealth by raising grain.

James O'Neill, deputy clerk of the United States court at Spokane, received a request from the agent of the secret service at San Francisco asking him to pack up and send all the counterfeit coins and implements used in making such coins that have been used as evidence in cases that have already been disposed of. The collection is rather an odd one, and will be used by the secret service department in other cases of like kind.

At Orchard prairie, in Spokane county, the farmers have formed an anti-squirrel club of forty-four members. There are two captains, who choose sides from the membership, and with their respective bands, have entered into active competition for the destruction of the pests. At the end of the squirrel season the two sides will meet and count the squirrel tails. The winning side is to have a picnic dinner furnished by the losers.

Two of the most prominent orchardists of Oroca Island, George W. Meyer and George Gibbs, have cut down and uprooted their prune orchards this spring, which were among the finest in that county and just coming into bearing. Mr. Meyer is setting out pear trees instead, in which he thinks there is more money. His action in destroying his prune trees just as they were coming nicely into bearing has occasioned considerable comment among fruitgrowers, and will be likely to discourage many from going into prune-raising extensively.

Kern & Church have awarded a contract for a cannery building on the Siletz river.

The battle between the fruitgrowers and the fruitpests is now on in dead earnest in Jackson county.

of the \$100,000 fund created by the sale of the Oregon Pacific.

George Kystra recently brought into Dallas 114 pounds of mohair sheared from forty goats, and sold it at 80 cents a pound. The coating of each animal brought him 85 cents.

The Milling & Mining Company at Elgin has sold all of its ties in the Elgin yard, 60,000, to the Oregon Lumber Company, of Baker City. The ties will be shipped East and used on the Union Pacific system.

The contracting firm of Butler, Barrett & Stewart, has about completed arrangements for opening up a brickyard on his ten-acre tract of land in Northwest Medford. He will commence making brick in a short time, and will put up a kiln of 100,000 brick.

The Astoria Box Company has purchased from Thomas Boyle all the remaining timber at its camp on Young's river. There is about 1,000,000 feet in the lot, and it is arriving daily at the mills.

The silver-tipped gray squirrels are occasionally seen once more on the oak trees in Hood River. If these beautiful animals could be protected from vandal hunters, they would soon become numerous again on the handsome shade trees of that town, says the Glacier.

The moral wave has struck Prineville. An effort will be made by the W. C. T. U. to enforce the Sunday law and see that the saloons are closed on Sunday. There is a difference of opinion as to whether or not such a law can be enforced in incorporated towns.

"Grandma" Follett, who lives at Willow Ranch, in Lake county, is reported by the Lakeview Examiner to have fallen heir to \$5,000,000 worth of property in the heart of New York city, a 99-year lease which was given by her father having expired. She is 90 years old.

A gentleman living about four miles out on the Dalles road from Hood River, says there were three hatches of the California quail in his neighborhood last summer and about twenty-five in each hatch. He recently saw a flock of them numbering about forty. These quail are from the ones imported by Captain Coe.

Mrs. Laurinda W. Reeves died at North Powder, Union county, March 19, 1896, at the age of 68. She was born in the state of New York, and removed to Illinois in 1838, and to Oregon in 1876, going to Union county in 1879. She left three children, Robert Lloyd of Union and Mrs. J. E. Carroll and T. J. Lloyd of North Powder.

The beautiful country residence of Thomas Tanner, about seven miles west of North Powder, in Union county, was totally destroyed by fire last week. The fire originated in a defective flue. An old house and some sheds standing near were also destroyed. The loss will probably aggregate not less than \$3,000. There was no insurance.

A whole mountain of asbestos has been found on Beach creek, about four miles north of Mount Vernon, near Adam Gordon's residence. The material varies from a half inch to two inches in thickness and is of excellent quality. A band of sheep had been herded over the mountain, and where their hoof had beaten the rock the threads of the mineral could be gathered up like so much wool.

A postoffice has been established at Swanlake, Bannock county, Idaho, with Floyd F. White as postmaster. This office is four miles north of Oxford.

The Northern Pacific steamer Georgia Oakes will commence regular trips between Coeur d'Alene and Mission April 1. This boat connects the narrow-gauge railroad to the Coeur d'Alene mines, and the Northern Pacific train from Spokane.

Captain S. G. Fisher, Indian agent at Lapwai, was in Lewiston recently, accompanied by Robert Stainton, who is assisting in making up the Indian pay rolls. Captain Fisher says that about May 1 there will be another payment of \$900,000 or more to the Indians.

A mining boom has struck Meeoww. People are locating claims on the mountains north of town. Quartz has been found on the surface which assays well in both gold and silver. A claim was staked on the very summit of Mount Meeoww, taking in 2,000 feet of the big ledge there.

There is a town on the upper Snake river, called New Sweden. Hans Hansen is mayor of the town, Peter Petersen is clerk and the common council is composed of Peter Hansen, Hans Petersen, Peter Hans Petersen, Hans Peter Hansen, and Peter Hansen. No relationship exists among these men.

The several papers read before the Mining and Immigration convention held at Helena last week should be printed in book form and circulated through the East.

For the week ending March 14 there were sold on the Chicago Mineral & Mining Board 780,800 shares of stock at an average value of 10 cents per share. There are at present twenty mining companies listed—among them being two from Montana.

The Columbia & Red Mountain railroad has been granted right of way through the Colville reservation. The road will enter at a point near the Little Dalles on the Columbia river in Stevens county, from which point it will extend in a northerly direction to the international boundary line.

—There are twenty creeks in this country which have been dignified with the name of the Tiber.

THE PLAN IS ILLEGAL

Court Decides Against Hill's Consolidation Scheme.

LAW ON PARALLEL RAILROADS

Public Cannot Be Benefited by Joining of Competing Lines—Opinion Delivered by Justice Brown.

Washington, April 1.—Justice Brown delivered an opinion of the supreme court today in the case of Thomas Peasall vs. the Great Northern Railway Company, and the Louisville & Nashville Railway Company vs. the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as to the right of parallel competing railway lines to consolidate, holding in the case of the Great Northern that it could not under its charter, and in opposition to the act of the Minnesota legislature of 1874, be consolidated with the Northern Pacific, as was sought to be accomplished. Justices Field and Brewer dissented.

The case of Peasall vs. the Great Northern railway came to the supreme court from the United States circuit court for the district of Minnesota. It was a bill in equity, filed by Peasall, as a stockholder in the Great Northern company, against the company under the laws of the territory and the state of Minnesota to enjoin it from entering into an agreement with the Northern Pacific Railway Company, under which the property and franchises of the Northern Pacific Company were to be purchased. It appears that the Great Northern was originally incorporated under the name of the Minneapolis & St. Cloud railway. The original charter granted the company the right to connect with any railroad running in the same general direction and consolidate its stock or franchise with that of any other railway, and the question presented to the supreme court was whether the company could be deprived of this right by a subsequent act of the state legislature, inhibiting the consolidation, lease or purchase by any railway of the stock, property or franchise of any parallel or competing line, the legislature having such a law in 1874.

The court answered the question in the affirmative. The court says that it was competent for the legislature to limit the charter and to "declare that the power it had conferred upon the Minneapolis & St. Cloud Company to consolidate its interest with other similar corporations should not be exercised so far as applicable to parallel competing lines, inasmuch as it is for the interests of the people that there should be competition between parallel roads."

"The legislature," it continues, "has the right to assume in this connection that neither road would reduce its tariff to a destructive or unprofitable figure or to a point where either road would become valueless to its stockholders and the object of the act in question is to prevent such a combination between the two as would constitute a monopoly."

GOLD IN ALASKA.

Report of the Operations of the Geological Survey.

Washington, April 1.—The geological survey has reported to Secretary Smith on the operations of the survey during the field season of last year. Discussing investigations in the Alaskan gold fields, the report says that many small veins of rather rich ore occur on the southern side of the Silver Bow basin, about three miles northeast of Juneau. The old lodebeds there are successfully worked for gold by the hydraulic process.

At Seward City, fifty miles north of Juneau, there are also veins, extremely rich at some points, which are yielding gold. On Admiralty island there are promising veins, and mining there will be commenced in the summer. Near Sitka, especially along Silver bay and in the country to the southeast, there are numerous veins, some of which have yielded a little gold.

The report of Dr. Hall, the expert who investigated the coal resources of Alaska, says large fields of a fairly good quality of brown coal exist on the eastern shores of Cook's inlet, and that veins of economic value exist on the south shore of the Alaskan peninsula.

Two Suicides in Portland. Portland, Or., April 1.—Max Friendly, manager of the California wine depot, committed suicide by sending a bullet through his head, with such fatal effect that he only lived twenty minutes. Mr. Friendly was one of the old residents of Oregon, having lived in Benton county for about thirty years, and he came to Portland to make his home a little more than a year ago. He left no note telling why he committed the rash act.

John E. Bartosch, living at 346 Russell street, Albina, a dealer in boots and shoes, committed suicide yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. E. Cluth, on Government island, in the Columbia river.

Dismissed From the Service. Washington, March 30.—The result of the general court-martial in the case of Medical Inspector Edward Kerchner, U. S. N., convicted of violation of a lawful regulation issued by the secretary of the navy, and also of scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals, was made public in an order issued from the navy department today. The officer was dismissed from the service.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

Condensed Record of the Doings of the Nation's Lawmakers—Senate.

Washington, March 27.—The first reference to the adjournment of congress came in the senate today in the formal resolution offered by Platt, proposing an adjournment May 2. Platt said his purpose was to call attention to the desirability of an early adjournment. The resolution was referred to the appropriations committee, as any determination as to adjournment must depend upon the condition of the appropriation bills. The adoption of a resolution allowing ex-President Harrison to receive decorations from Spain and Brazil was postponed by an objection from Allen. During the day, Gallinger proposed an amendment prohibiting the United States or any state from giving any recognition or financial aid to any church or religious institution. Most of the day was passed on the legislative appropriation bill, which is not completed.

Washington, March 28.—After a session with the senate question today of less than half an hour, the house conferred to accept the senate resolutions. This action will have the effect of taking the question entirely out of the senate and transferring all further discussion to the house. The senate passed most of the day on the legislative appropriation bill, but did not complete it owing to Sherman's motion to strike out the proposition for the change from fees to salaries for United States district attorneys and marshals. The subject was debated at length. Allen introduced a resolution today declaring that congress should not adjourn without restoring free coinage and taking from the secretary of the treasury the power to issue bonds.

Washington, March 30.—The senate indulged in an acrimonious political debate today, which developed much personal and party feeling, and brought on two sharp personal exchanges between Hill and Elkins. The senate committee on public buildings and grounds today voted to recommend the passage of the bill appropriating \$3,000,000 for a new building at Indianapolis; the bill for a government building at Oakland, Cal., and the bill for the purchase of a site for a building at Salem, Or. At the close of the day the senate passed the legislative appropriation bill, carrying \$21,500,000. Aside from providing the usual appropriations, the bill is important, as effecting a reform of the system of compensation for United States district attorneys and marshals, salaries being substituted for fees.

HOUSE.

Washington, March 27.—The house today took up the naval appropriation bill and made such rapid progress that when adjournment was reached, all the paragraphs had been passed save those relating to the increase of the navy. The bill carries \$31,611,034, or \$3,468,438 more than the current law, and authorizes four new battle-ships and fifteen torpedo-boats, the cost of which complete will be almost \$85,000,000. Not a single amendment was adopted, although there was an effort to provide for a new drydock at the League Island yard. During the day, Boutelle and Wheeler continued their altercation of yesterday over the record of the Democrats on the bill to revise General Grant. The other incident of the day arose in connection with an attack by Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee, on the naval officers detailed at the naval observatory.

Washington, March 28.—The naval appropriation bill was passed today by the house without substantial amendment. An effort was made by the advocates of a larger increase of the naval strength than was authorized by the bill to increase the number of battle-ships from four to six. This increase was supported on the floor by Hanley, Cummings and Johnson, and opposed by Boutelle, Lick and Robinson. The house by a large majority stood by the recommendation of the committee, the proposition for six battle-ships mustering only 83 votes against 134. The bill as passed carries \$31,611,034 and authorizes the construction of four battle-ships and fifteen torpedo boats, the total cost of which will be in the neighborhood of \$35,000,000.

Washington, March 30.—Heppburn of Iowa, in the house, antagonized consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill, which Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee, gave notice he would call up today, by moving that the house proceed to the consideration of the private claims. Cannon opposed the motion of Heppburn, but on a rising vote he was defeated. He then demanded the yeas and noes, which were ordered. The roll call resulted 148 to 77. The house then went into committee of the whole for consideration of bills on the private calendar. Pickler, chairman of the committee on invalid pensions, moved that bills from the committee on year claims be laid aside without prejudice, and that the committee consider only bills from the committee on pensions, invalid pensions and military affairs. Some filibustering was attempted, but Pickler's motion was agreed to.

ATTACHED GOVERNOR HUGHES.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 1.—Governor L. C. Hughes was assaulted on the street this morning by P. J. Clark, correspondent at Phoenix for the Denver Times. Clark struck the governor in the face, the blow breaking the governor's spectacles and causing several facial wounds of small importance. Clark is now in the city prison awaiting trial. He was formerly agent here of the Rocky Mountain News, and was dismissed by the paper, so Clark asserts, at the governor's instigation, for sending telegrams reflecting upon the executive.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL

President Miller Before the Commerce Committee.

THE COMPANY'S GRIEVANCE

The Government Should Take the Work or Give Notice That It Intends to Do Nothing.

Washington, March 30.—The investigation of the Nicaragua canal problem by the house committee on commerce was begun today by the appearance of Warner Miller, of New York, the president of the canal company. There was a full attendance of the committee and other interested parties. Mr. Miller declared he had not come for the purpose of recommending the Mahon bill, which had been adopted by the subcommittee, for he had not even read the bill. He described at some length the history of the work on the canal, treating of the physical conditions in Nicaragua and other details. His idea was that the government should guarantee bonds of the amount of \$100,000,000, at 3 per cent, which would necessitate an annual expenditure of \$3,000,000 for interest. About \$1,000,000 a year would be needed for maintenance and improvements above the cost of operating the canal. The remainder of the receipts would be put into a sinking fund for paying off the bonded debt. The government, he declared, could pay nothing for the canal under this arrangement and have some \$70,000,000 of stock left.

As the canal company had never taken any part in legislation, never had advocated any plan for government control, and never appeared before congressional committees, except when called upon, the company had felt that it had a grievance against the government, because after the introduction of the senate bill it had been impossible to raise money. American capitalists had said the government should take charge of the enterprise and foreign houses had feared that after a few years the government would take possession and return only the money invested and no profit.

Mr. Miller said he had no doubt of the ability of the company to raise the necessary funds, notwithstanding the financial condition of the world, but for the interposition of the government.

He dealt with the report of the commission at length. It had been well understood, he declared, that the commission had been appointed by opponents of the canal for delay. He criticized the engineering attainments of the commission and said that with the money at their command they had been unable to inspect the country sufficiently. The proposition that the commission was favorable to the project, he asserted, was incorrect.

Speaking of the Pacific coast, Miller said it had been expected that a great population would settle there.

He assured the committee that vouchers for all expenditures made for the company would be placed at the disposal of the committee, and said they included no expenses for influencing legislation. The company felt the time had come when the government should take the work or give notice to the world that it intended to do nothing, so that promoters would have a clear field with other governments or capitalists. If congress decided to drop the project, Mr. Miller said, he would turn to the American people to invest in the company, and if that appeal failed, he would turn the work over to someone else.

INTERESTING TO HOPGROWERS

Sonoma Hops of Last Year's Crop Offered at a Ridiculously Low Price.

San Francisco, March 30.—Hopgrowers and hoppers have been very much disturbed by the contents of a circular sent from London to English brewers, copies of which have been received here within the last few days, sent by London men representing the Pacific coast growers and shippers. The letter is one offering what it represents as choice Sonoma hops, 1895 crop, at a price much below what the bulk of the 1895 Sonoma crop sold for, and what hops of equal quality are now bringing in the London market. It is the universally expressed belief that the hops thus offered are not choice Sonoma nor any other quality of Sonoma hops of the crop of 1895, and there is practically conclusive evidence in support of this opinion. Nevertheless the fact that an offer of hops purporting to be of that quality at such low price has a most demoralizing effect on the market and makes it practically impossible to sell through mail or telegraphic orders at prices which the quality of the article should command.

The firm sending the circular agrees to furnish choice Sonoma hops at 23 shillings per hundred weight, and offers to furnish samples. The circular says 385 bales of choice Sonoma hops, crop of 1895, have been shipped by sailing vessels from San Francisco, and that the shipment is expected to arrive soon. It is stated here that no such shipment of Sonoma hops has been made, but that a similar number of bales of Sacramento hops, worth 3 cents a pound less, were sent by sailing vessels.

To Inquire About Nansen.

Irkutsk, March 30.—Two messengers have left Irkutsk, on February 25 and one March 10, to inquire into the reports regarding Dr. Nansen's return by way of the New Siberian islands. Orders were given to these messengers to inspect and replenish the various provision stores which had been placed for Dr. Nansen's use.