

# NICARAGUA CANAL BILL PASSED.

U. S. Government Takes  
925,000 Shares at  
\$100 Each.

A final vote on the Nicaragua Canal bill resulted in its passage 48 to 6. The votes against the bill were cast by Bate, Caffery, Cockrell, Mantle, Martin and Smith.

## MAIN FEATURES OF THE BILL.

The Nicaragua canal bill, as it passed, continues the name of the Maritime Canal Company. It provides for the issuance of 1,000,000 shares of stock at \$100 each. The canal company is required to call in all the stock issued, except that held by the Nicaragua and Costa Rican governments. The company is also required to redeem and cancel bonds and scrip heretofore issued by the company. To comply with these requirements treasury warrants to the amount of \$5,000,000 are authorized, with a proviso to the effect that only so much of the amount shall be paid as shall be required to pay the actual cash value of the right, privileges, franchises and property at the time of the payment, the value to be determined by commissioners to be appointed by the president. This being done, the secretary of the treasury is authorized to subscribe for 925,000 shares of the company's stock for the government of the United States. The present members of the board of directors are then to resign, and a board of seven is to be appointed, consisting of five in behalf of the United States, and one each in behalf of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The directors on behalf of the United States are to be appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate. No two of them are to be residents of any one state, and no person who has heretofore been interested in the canal company is to be appointed to this office.

The company is authorized to contract for the completion of the canal within six years. The payments are restricted to \$20,000,000 annually. The canal is to be large enough "for the use of the largest sea-going vessels, at a cost not exceeding the estimate of the engineers, and not to exceed \$110,000,000." This amount is made a permanent appropriation for the work, to be used as occasion may require. The bill gives the government a lien upon the property to secure the prepayment of the moneys advanced, and the president is empowered to declare forfeiture of the property to the United States without the necessity of judicial or other ascertainment.

The neutrality of the canal is guaranteed, but the right to protect it against the interruptions of business between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States is reserved.

At Washington Tuesday Congressmen Clark, of Iowa, introduced a bill providing that no person living in or practicing polygamy shall be eligible to be a member of either house of congress, nor shall such person be permitted to hold a seat therein. It is provided that the evidence of polygamy shall be of whatever nature that establishes the fact.

The government at Washington has been notified that Aguinaldo took a decisive step and publicly proclaimed the republic of the Philippines. The ceremony took place at Malolos, and was witnessed by the members of his cabinet. All is not plain sailing for the insurgents, as it is said the rival authorities at Cebu are fighting. The northern provinces have recently given indications that they are not in accord with Aguinaldo, and should his proclamation lead to hostilities with the Americans, he may have a revolution as well as a war of conquest on his hands. The interior of Luzon is also in a ferment. Native officers have been murdered, and no effort made to punish the criminals.

## TEETH OF SOLDIERS.

The Kaiser is Going to Have Those of His Troopers Put in Good Order.

Toothache has been lately a great source of annoyance to the Kaiser. Not that the imperial molar is, so far as I know, threatened with premature decay. Were this the case, nobody would risk the penalties of lese majesty by openly asserting it. The case is, however, from a public point of view, far more serious. It appears that the entire German army suffers from dental troubles to such an extent that it has been found difficult to find non-commissioned officers capable of giving the word of command. When they attempt to utter familiar formulae like "Attention!" "Stand at ease!" "Shoulder arms!" and so forth, mere confused and inarticulate sounds issue from their toothless gums. Things are bad enough on the parade ground, but what would happen on a battlefield one hardly ventures to conjecture. Worse still, the boys in the training school for "non-coms." seem to be in no better plight than their elders. Nearly all of them, after inspection, seemed to have one or more hopeless tusks, while a large proportion can only be rendered fit for service by strict submission to the dentist's orders, and many are beyond the reach of art. His majesty has resolved to spend at once 11,000 marks on stopping the teeth of his Christian warriors or in providing them with false sets. This applies only to the Prussian contingent. Several of the subject states have not made up their minds to incur the expense.

## PECULIAR CHICAGO HABIT.

A Great Many Citizens Always Go to the Left in Entering or Leaving Buildings.

Chicago enjoys the exceptional distinction of being the only left-handed city in the union. That is, the good people of this bustling metropolis violate all the "rules of the road," so far as the matter of keeping to the right is concerned when entering or leaving public buildings. A man, for instance, approaches a building where the entrance consists of two swinging doors, he will invariably reach out with his left hand, pull open the left-hand door and make a wild dash to get outside, running the risk of collision with anybody who remembers that to go to the right is the first law of navigation on land, says the Chicago Chronicle.

The habit of doing things the wrong way has taken such firm hold on the people that the man who uses the left-hand door and is run into glares in amazement at the "offender," utterly oblivious of the fact that he himself is the one who should be blamed. It makes no difference that there are two doors of equal width, one for entrance and one for exit. He, if going in, will seize on the exit door and reverse the proceeding if coming out. Half an hour's observation anywhere in the business district will demonstrate the truth of this assertion.

## MANNERS OUTSIDE THE NAVY.

An Instance Showing That Old Sea Dogs Have Little Respect for Land Lubbers' Ways.

The ordinary seaman's respect for rank and station when not connected with his beloved vessel is decidedly meager, says a writer in an article entitled "On a Man-of-War." When the president of the United States visits one of our men-of-war he is received at the gangway by the admiral, commanding officer, and all of the officers of the ship in full uniform, the crew at quarters for inspection, the marine guard drawn up with the band on the quarter deck, the national flag is displayed at the main, the drummer gives four duffles, the band plays the national air and a salute of 21 guns is fired. The same ceremony also takes place on his leaving.

On one occasion the president visited one of the ships informally, dispensing with the salute and ceremony, when one of the men rather indignantly asked another who that lubber was on the quarterdeck that didn't "douse his peak" to the commodore.

"Choke your luff, will you," was the reply; "that's the president of the United States."

"Well! Ain't he got manners enough to salute the quarterdeck if he is?"

"Manners! What does he know about manners? I don't suppose he was ever out of sight of land in his life."

## RED CROSS IN A GREAT WAR.

The French Show Their Gratitude for Aid Extended in the Trouble of 1870-71.

According to the Figaro of Paris the French Red Cross has recently opened a subscription for the benefit of the future wounded of the Spanish-American war and has headed it with a contribution of 50,000 francs. "To speak frankly," says the writer of the article, "we owe this action to foreign nations, for they all showed an admirable generosity toward our wounded during the war of 1870-71. The United States sent us at that time 600,000 francs; Canada, 300,000; Spain, 20,000; Italy, 19,000; little Denmark, 160,000; the Argentine Republic, 250,000; Chili, 100,000; Peru, 60,000; Russia, 50,000; in all about 3,000,000. Our Red Cross, having spent more than 12,500,000 francs for our wounded during the fatal year, had still remaining in its treasury more than 2,000,000 francs. At present the society has on hand 8,000,000 francs. It sent to Spain 30,000 francs for the wounded in the Carlist war, 297,000 in the Turco-Russian war, 90,000 for the wounded in Tunis, 530,000 for Tonquin, 316,000 for Madagascar—in all 3,000,000 francs since the war with Germany. The president of the society is now Gen. Ferville."

# MUCH ALARM IS FELT.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: It can no longer be denied that considerable alarm is felt in administration circles over the situation at Manila and Ilo Ilo, and the latest advices are not of a reassuring character. General Otis is of the belief that the insurgents are about to force the issue, and if this should occur the result cannot be predicted further than that the Americans will be victorious in the end.

There are two serious contingencies confronting the troops near Ilo Ilo, one being a conflict with the natives and the other a fear that smallpox may break out among the troops.

Besides this, the situation at Manila is considered much more grave than that at Ilo Ilo, and it is feared the insurgents may commit an overt act which will bring on a conflict.

While the warlike attitude of Aguinaldo excites alarm at the war department, that is not considered the most serious feature of the situation. Those in a position to know the facts say the diplomatic situation is even more grave. Either Germany or Spain or both may recognize Aguinaldo's little republic for interested motives, Germany to secure a foothold and Spain to accomplish the release of its prisoners of war. This action is imminent, and government officials say they would not be surprised if it took place within 24 hours.

Prompt ratification of the treaty would have avoided this entanglement, but it is conceded now that both Spain and Germany have some grounds for action to protect their own interests.

Under proposed regulations no Chinaman can be admitted to Porto Rico without complying with the laws of the United States. Chinamen can go backward and forward between this country without restriction. They will not be allowed to go from Cuba to Porto Rico. Treasury officials ascertained that Chinese agents were preparing to flood Porto Rico with Chinamen from other countries, who hoped thereby later to get into the United States.

After a full of a couple of weeks the shipment of oranges from the southern counties has begun in earnest, and from now on will be pushed with energy. Oranges are now beginning to get ripe.

The Southern Pacific company has offered transport not exceeding 300 tons of sugar beets free from Fresno county whether the beets can be profitably grown in Fresno county.

The Santa Clara County Farmers' club has re-elected W. P. Cragin as president. At its next meeting, on January 31, it will discuss the question of organizing a farmers' insurance company for Santa Clara county.

The Crockett beet sugar factory is contracting a large acreage of beets in San Joaquin county. The price paid is \$4 per ton on cars or boat, all beets to be accepted which have 10 per cent sugar content.

Although there was a falling off of 10 per cent in the better output of the state last year the output of Humboldt county was increased by 28,594 pounds, and the cash receipts were over \$100,000 in excess of those of 1897.

James Gilmore, John Allen and Harry Howard, footpads under arrest at St. Joseph Mo., for robbery, have been identified as three of the robbers who held up a Great Northern express train near Ferguson Falls in November last.

The Valley railroad has issued a new schedule of freight rates on fruit and vegetables as follows, for a ton of 3000 pounds in straight or mixed carloads: Merced, \$2 75; Fresno \$4 05; Hanford, \$4 40; Bakersfield, \$5; Reedley, \$4 35; Visalia and Tulare, \$4 50. Between Stockton and the same points the rates are in each case 60 cents per ton lower.

Assemblyman Brooke of Sacramento wants a state board of education created for the compilation and free distribution of text books in all the public schools of the state. This is in accordance with a recommendation in Governor Gage's message.

California is well treated in the report of the rivers and harbors committee, which went to the house Monday. San Francisco harbor leads all the rest, with the removal of Arch and Shag rocks put under the continuous contract system. One hundred thousand dollars is appropriated for the first year, and the entire work is confined to an expenditure of \$638,620. San Diego and San Luis Obispo harbors are each given \$50,000, and Eureka receives \$35,000, or half the amount asked. The Sacramento river is the only stream in the state which is given recognition, and the improvement below the city of Sacramento is put under the contract system, and with the entire cost of \$184,000, is given \$30,000 for the first year.

John J. Snyder, district attorney of Calaveras county, died at San Andreas last week. A. I. McSorley has been appointed to succeed him.

Captain Henry Glass, who commanded the cruiser Charleston during the battle of Manila bay, arrived at San Francisco a few days ago from the Philippines. He is on sick leave. Glass is to have charge of the naval training stations now being erected on Goat Island.

## WANTED FLOWERS.

But the Congressman Informed Her That He Had to Draw the Line Somewhere.

A certain southern congressman was heard entertaining a company of his colleagues last week in the democratic cloak room of the house with an account of an unusual experience, says the Washington Post. "During the woman suffrage convention," said he, "several ladies from my district were present. Early in the convention one of them came to the capitol, called at my committee room, and requested an interview, which was readily granted. She stated that the woman suffrage delegates were to have some sort of a public meeting, in which she was to participate, and requested that I should provide a floral tribute to be presented to her on that occasion.

"I was naturally somewhat taken aback at the suggestion. I supposed in the course of my 12 years in congress that I had exhausted about every variety of duties that a member of the house is called upon to perform. I have always been ready and willing to run errands for my constituents, for which at home my office boy would have sufficed. I have catered to the whims of office-seekers. When my constituents have come to me hungry I have fed them, and when they have come shelterless I have given them lodging. I have taken my political supporters to the theaters by hundreds, but I was forced to inform my lady visitor that I must draw the line at bouquets."

## ..COWARDLY SPANIARDS.

The Dispicable Conduct of the Vizcaya's Crew at the Battle of Santiago.

The contrast between the two nations stands out very clearly in connection with the Vizcaya, says Ira Nelson Hollis in the Atlantic. The torpedo boat Ericsson ran close alongside of her, and sent a small boat to take off all that were alive of her crew. A few boats from the Iowa assisted. The Vizcaya was on fire fore and aft; the ammunition on board was exploding, and the guns that had been left loaded were going off one after another in the intense heat, to say nothing of the proximity of the shore. The position of the little craft has been described as perilous in the extreme. Our men risked their lives repeatedly to help their fallen enemy; but no sooner were the Spaniards transferred to the deck of the Ericsson than they urged immediate withdrawal without regard to their comrades who had been left behind. To the honor of our navy, Lieut. Ushur remained until every living being had been rescued from the burning ship. A similar scene was enacted around the two torpedo boat destroyers. It was a case of mad panic on the one side, and of perfect coolness on the other. One officer of the Vizcaya afterward stated on board the ship, to prevent the men from jumping overboard rather than face the American gun fire.

## CRIMES OF COOLIES.

The Low-Lived Mongols Are as Cunning as Foxes and as Cowardly as Wolves.

They are a queer crowd, these coolies, whether on land or sea, says the Ludgate Magazine. Cunning as foxes and cowardly as wolves, they resemble the pariah dogs of their own cities in point of inability to hunt any prey save in packs. I heard of an instance where a gang of them, employed as navvies in the cutting of a railway, killed their overseer with shovels and fled into the bush. Nobody was ever hanged for the crime, because some 40 of them were in—and that would have been rather a large consignment to condemn, even in the far east, where human life is so cheap.

There are 250,000 Chinese in Bangkok alone, and they do not appeal to one's cordial emotions—very much the contrary. And should this catch the eye of any intending visitor to the far east, I would urge upon him the wisdom of venturing to spend a night on a Chinese junk without so much as a revolver to defend himself with. Occasionally a European is discovered by the marine police floating on the water with his throat cut. In such a case it is highly probable that he had been foiled by a Chinese. But different people are born to different ends, and the Chinese contempt of the European is frequently justified by facts.

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According to the Figaro of Paris the French Red Cross has recently opened a subscription for the benefit of the future wounded of the Spanish-American war and has headed it with a contribution of 50,000 francs. "To speak frankly," says the writer of the article, "we owe this action to foreign nations, for they all showed an admirable generosity toward our wounded during the war of 1870-71. The United States sent us at that time 600,000 francs; Canada, 300,000; Spain, 20,000; Italy, 19,000; little Denmark, 160,000; the Argentine Republic, 250,000; Chili, 100,000; Peru, 60,000; Russia, 50,000; in all about 3,000,000. Our Red Cross, having spent more than 12,500,000 francs for our wounded during the fatal year, had still remaining in its treasury more than 2,000,000 francs. At present the society has on hand 8,000,000 francs. It sent to Spain 30,000 francs for the wounded in the Carlist war, 297,000 in the Turco-Russian war, 90,000 for the wounded in Tunis, 530,000 for Tonquin, 316,000 for Madagascar—in all 3,000,000 francs since the war with Germany.

## FIRE FIGHTING.

How It Was Done in the South in the Days Before the Civil War.

Old citizens are commenting on the change the Savannah fire department has undergone since the ante-bellum days. The recent fires have given rise to many recollections of former methods of checking flames, says the Savannah News.

The eyes of one man, who was posted in a glass house in the City Exchange dome, constituted the alarm system. He was a sort of sentinel, and while keeping watch over the city cried out the hours and whether things were well or no. There are a few members of the police force to-day who served in the old glass house and recall the days when fire alarms were sounded by ringing the old bell.

Hand pumps formed the apparatus to drive water, and the effective work they did is well remembered. All firemen before the war were volunteers, and, with the exception of the chiefs of divisions, were composed entirely of colored men. They were strong, hardy, and to get to a fire was a sort of pastime which was thoroughly enjoyed by them. While working the pumps they would strike up a tune, keeping time with the movements of the pump handle and ringing out their song in such harmony and fullness as to catch even the ear of the critic. Then, too, there was fun for the negroes getting to their respective station houses. It was a standing rule that the first man to place his hand on the lock at the station received a dollar, and all were wild to earn it. It was as much an honor as a gain—a sort of trophy held until the next fire. The station houses were built of brick and located in the squares in different parts of the city.

## FEW BOOTS NOW.

They Were Once Very Common, But Their Place Has Been Almost Entirely Taken by Shoes.

"When I was a boy," said a middle-aged man, according to the New York Sun, "pretty much everybody used to wear boots—I did, I know, fine calfskin boots. Now nobody wears boots except horsemen and farmers; that is, practically nobody; you do meet a man in the city now and then that wears boots, but such men are so few that they don't count.

"We turned from boots to congress gaiters, once almost universally worn, and there's quite a lot of congress gaiters worn still. You look along the rows of feet of the men sitting in an elevated car and you are pretty likely to see one or more pairs of them, but button shoes and lace shoes finally, in very large measure, supplanted the congress gaiters, and they remain the shoes commonly worn to-day.

"And we shall stick to shoes of one sort and another. We shan't go back to boots for various reasons. In the first place we don't need them. In cities they are not necessary for protection, nor are they essential to comfort. Shoes are now more suitable to wear at centers of population, besides being more convenient and cheaper.

"So in populated regions, for the wear of the great majority of men, we have got through with boots. It is another illustration of how easily long-established customs vanish when conditions change."

## LOOKS OUT FOR RATIONS.

A Ship's Dog That Always Stores Up a Supply of Bones for a Long Sea Voyage.

Aboard the Portuguese bark Industria, there is an intelligent little mongrel dog, which always attracts attention among the people at the Point whenever the steamer comes there, says the Philadelphia Record. They call the animal "Scavenger," by reason of his peculiar trait of gathering to himself all the old bones he can find and boarding them up to serve as food on his long voyage home to Lisbon. The Industria pulled into Point Breeze lately and the dog was ashore before she touched her wharf. Scavenger was impatient to get after his bones, and when the opportunity offered he jumped from the steamer to a tug, thence to a lighter and from there to the shore. He found a good likely bone by the time his floating home had tied up to the wharf and hurried aboard to hide it. His great sagacity leads him to the most out-of-the-way parts of the ship, where he knows his treasures are not likely to be found and disturbed. All week Scavenger was found as busy laying in his stores as the men were loading the cargo of oil, and had kept this work up until the last whistle blew. One of the workmen who watched the dog expressed the opinion that Scavenger had not less than 350 bones stored away aboard ship.

A "practical" joker, well known downtown, is at present taking a good, hard dose of his own medicine. About two weeks ago he packed a dry goods box with old shoes, empty tin cans and other rubbish and sent it off to Tampa, Fla., consigned to one of the companies of the Third regiment Pennsylvania volunteers, with express charges collect. The soldier boys thought it was a box of supplies sent by some kind friends, and gladly paid the charges. Their chagrin in discovering the contents of the box may be imagined, says the Philadelphia Record.

But they have since been turning the tables with a vengeance. They learned the name of the joker, and for some time past nearly every man in the company has been writing a letter of thanks every day to the sender of the box. The letters are mailed with the soldiers' privilege of sending mail without stamps, postage to be collected from the receiver. The "joker" is paying two dollars a day in postage for the letters of thanks he is receiving, and he's wondering how much longer they will continue to come.

## TOQUES MADE AT HOME.

Good Use That May Be Made of Odd Bits of Velvet, Furbes and Tulle.

Here are a few half-season toques that, with a little ingenuity, odd bits of velvet, tulle and feathers, can be made at home, over well-shaped wire frames. A fascinating arrangement in mouse-colored velvet, all wrinkled horizontally and resting against the hair, is crossed in front by a loosely draped knot in light gray satin. The height of the knot, which puffs up above the velvet folds in front, holds down two stuffed guinea fowl feathers that circle flatly back over the smooth velvet crown. It is an exceedingly pretty design, suitable to accompany a tailor-made gown, and is, as may be imagined, very easily executed.

Another coquettish little headdress is of pansy blue velvet, drawn to the front in two sharp reverses. Over the flaring back reverse is a high-lifted, irregular bow, knotted from a bias piece of lavender tulle, the center of the knot being a twist of pansy blue velvet. Two fancy pearl hatpins, with filigree mounting, are stuck jauntily in the front of the bow. The arrangement of the pins is half-fashion, as though they served to tack the bow to the bonnet. An outline and twist about the small body of the toque are made of a fine ruching of lavender mousseline de sole.

Matching a street gown, out of the cloth of which it is made, is a poppy-red toque, artfully draped and raised at the left side with a knot of velvet poppies, with seedy black centers. Above the poppies is an aggressive spreading of four lively red wings. An ornament of cut jet is allowed to show vaguely among the poppies. Black tulle is effectively combined on a toque frame with a rolling twist of black velvet. The tulle has an added charm if it be first jet-spangled. The crown is filled in with loosely folded tulle, while a wide rope twist of velvet forms the rim. The roll is broken near the front by a subtly wound knot of tulle that forms a base for short jetted aigrettes. Behind the aigrettes are airy loops of tulle that are given a crisp appearance by being invisibly wired.

Circular flats of soft felt are easily draped and twisted into artistic toques. Fine violet colored felt is effectively used in a prettily crushed toque, ornamented at the left side with an enormous knot of very pale "Parma violet" velvet, into which two violet colored quills sprinkled with jet are stuck at angles. The center of the knot is a jeweled ornament. At the back two round bunches of violets rest against the hair.

Strikingly odd is a toque made entirely of ostrich tips and plumes. The foundation is a little flat, covered with short, curly ostrich trimming. Around the crown are dozens of tiny curled tips. This roll of tips curves down in front and up high at the side over a cabbage rosette of turquoise blue velvet, centered on a pearl ornament. Back from the rosette a single long black plume curves gracefully, resting half against the hair.—Chicago Times-Herald.

## Remembered Him.

"There's no use of your saying a word!" exclaimed the woman of the house, as soon as she had opened the door and glanced at the man standing outside. "I know you."

"But, ma'am—"

"I recognized you as soon as I saw you. You can't—"

"Ma'am—"

"You're the man who sold me a washing machine six months ago for \$6.50 that wasn't worth shucks. It wouldn't—"

"All I wanted to tell you, ma'am, is—"

"It wouldn't wash anything. The longer you used it the dirtier the clothes got. You couldn't sell me anything now if you was to pay me for taking it. When a man fools me once he won't ever have the chance to do it again. I can tell you that. I'll sell that washing machine back to you for 50 cents. It doesn't make any difference what you've got this time. I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole, and you can talk till you are gray. It won't do you any good."

"Madam," yelled the man, who had been dancing about impatiently, "your kitchen roof is blazing where that iron stovepipe runs up through it. That's what I stopped to—"

"Good land! Why didn't you say so? What did you want to stand there talking for when the house is burning up? Run over to that grocery store on the corner and turn in an alarm! Fire! Fire!"—Chicago Tribune.

## Schopenhauer's Disappointment.

The story is told that a friend, invited to dine with Schopenhauer at his favorite restaurant, where a number of officers were in the habit of meeting, noticed that Schopenhauer took a gold coin from his pocket before eating and laid it down beside him. When the meal was over the philosopher replaced the coin in his purse. Upon a question from his friend, Schopenhauer explained: "I have been dining with these officers for some time," he said, "and about two months ago I registered a silent vow to give this gold coin, of considerable value, to some worthy charity on the very first occasion upon which I should hear these gentlemen talk of anything but women, horses and the chances of promotion. You see I still have my money."—Chicago Chronicle.

## Metric System Adopted in Russia.

By a decree of the czar, the metric system of weights and measures has been adopted for use throughout the Russian empire, and a commission has also been organized to consider the reform of the Russian calendar so as to harmonize with that prevailing in the other civilized countries.