

CHANGE IN GRANT

TRANSPORT WILL BE MADE INTO A DREDGE AT MARE ISLAND.

Government Engineers Would Not Let a Contract for the Work Because of Strike Clause Insisted Upon - Might Have Caused Delay—Will Be Finished Late in Summer.

Washington, Feb. 26.—It will be late in the summer before the converted transport Grant will be able to commence dredging on the bar at the mouth of the Columbia river, for the engineers, after prolonged investigation and exhaustive correspondence, have decided to have the vessel overhauled at the Mare island navy yard, instead of by the Risdon iron works, San Francisco.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Risdon offered to do the work in a shorter time than the navy yard can promise, the engineers held off, as the Risdon firm insisted on a stipulation in the contract relieving it from liability if the work was not completed in the contract period, because of the strikes that might arise. The engineers wanted to be on the safe side and thought that by having the work done at the government yards there would be no danger of delay from strikes, consequently the Grant will be at the navy yard for the next six months undergoing a complete overhauling and remodeling. The pumps, now nearing completion in Baltimore, will be installed at the navy yard.

MORE HOPS PLANTED.

Three Pacific Coast States Will Increase 5,000 Acres This Year.

Portland, Feb. 26.—The high prices brought by 1902 hops will doubtless induce many growers to increase their hop acreage this year, but it will not effect the 1903 yield, as it requires two years for vines in this climate to reach the bearing stage. Many new yards were set out last spring, which will produce in the coming fall. It is estimated that 2,000 acres were set out in Oregon in 1902, but the increase in yield, supposing weather conditions are repeated, will do little more than offset the deterioration of old yards. Hops quickly drain the soil of its chemical elements, and, as the Northwest growers have been fertilizing on scientific principles, the yield of their yards has been gradually decreasing, some hopmen estimating the decrease at 10 per cent per year. Still there will be some increase over the production of last fall if the weather is satisfactory. In California the increase will be larger in proportion, as the vines bear a fairly good crop the same year they are planted. The following table shows the acreage in the three Pacific states in 1902 and the estimated acreage this year:

	1902.	1903.
Oregon.....	17,000	19,000
California.....	6,500	8,500
Washington.....	5,000	5,700

GROUND FOR PROTEST.

Canada Thought Supreme Judges Would Represent United States.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 26.—The Alaska boundary commission was discussed at a meeting of the cabinet today. In an interview a cabinet minister said that, while it might not be proper to say that a protest had been made by Canada against the nomination of Senator Turner and Senator Lodge to be representatives of the United States on the commission, a remonstrance had been made on the ground that Canada was not being fairly treated in the matter. When Canada gave way to arbitration by a tribunal as now proposed it was with the understanding that three judges of the United States supreme court would be appointed to sit on the case with British and Canadian judges of repute on the other side.

The United States, he said, had failed to carry out this clause. Instead, the United States government has appointed, particularly in Senators Lodge and Turner, men who cannot be called "impartial jurists of repute," as required by the treaty. On the contrary they are looked upon as men who are strongly antagonistic to Canada's claims. Until an answer is obtained to this remonstrance Canada will not name her commissioners.

ASKS RIGHT OF WAY.

Northern Pacific Wants to Pass Through Vancouver Barrack Grounds.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Representative Jones today introduced a bill granting a right of way 100 feet wide to the Northern Pacific railroad across the Vancouver barracks military reservation. This right of way is desired for the line of the Northern Pacific being built up the north bank of the Columbia from Kalama.

The bill provides that the secretary of the interior shall lay out the right of way so as not to interfere with the barracks or other public works on the reservation, and if it is found that the railroad across the reservation would interfere with the military establishment there will be no right of way granted.

Large Bridge Works Burned.

Pittsburg, Feb. 26.—The entire works of the Schultze plant of the American bridge company, a part of the United States steel corporation at McKee's Rocks, near here, was totally destroyed by fire early today, entailing a loss of \$200,000. The plant was composed of four buildings, the largest known as the fitting and riveting department, being 250 feet long. About 200 men are thrown out of employment. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

WHY NAVAL WORK IS SLOW.

Due to Seven Different Causes—We are Not Behind Other Nations.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The president has been in correspondence with Secretary Moody respecting the matter of delay in the construction of naval vessels, and the secretary in turn has called upon the chief constructor for a statement of conditions in various shipbuilding yards where naval work is going on. The secretary has submitted a letter in the nature of a report to the president, including with it the chief constructor's report. In substance these letters show that "while through a number of causes the building of warships has been delayed, and the dates of their completion have been and will be considerably beyond the dates originally set, the naval construction in the United States is not materially behind the naval construction of England and Germany in the matter of time."

Secretary Moody argues that it would be a mistake to offer a bonus for the completion of vessels ahead of contract time, and adds that two months ago he directed that no further extension of time be permitted, except by his own personal order.

The chief constructor's report shows there are seven causes for delay in naval work, namely, inadequate plans; changes in armor or armament or design; delays in delivery of armor and ordnance; delays in government inspection; delays in structural steel; delays due to inadequate facilities, and delays due to inadequate supply of skilled labor. All of these subjects are treated in detail in the report, and the point is made that after all the apparent greater speed in English shipyards is due to the fact that the vessels are delivered by the contractors in very incomplete condition to the government, which spends several years in many instances in equipping the ship for commission.

GERMANY ASKS FOR CASH.

But Bowen Politely Replies That She Must Wait Till It is Due.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Having failed in an effort to obtain from Mr. Bowen the immediate payment in cash of 5,500 pounds which it was provided in the protocol of February 13 should be paid to Germany 30 days from date, Germany today requested Mr. Bowen to give a draft for the amount, payable in Caracas on the latter date. This latter request was made on behalf of the German embassy by Herr Baltazzi, formerly charge d'affaires at Caracas, but who has since come to Washington, and has been assisting the embassy in the pending negotiations.

Mr. Bowen was again forced to decline this request, which he did politely, at the same time reminding Herr Baltazzi that he was bound by the terms of the protocol, which provided that the 5,500 pounds should be paid at Caracas on the 15th of March to the diplomatic representative of Germany. Just what reason was given by the German representatives for making the request is not known. Such a draft, however, it is presumed, would be negotiable, and the result would be that the Germans could immediately obtain the money it called for.

The whole matter is presumed to hinge on the question of the return of the ships, national and private, which were taken by the German warships during the blockade, and regarding which there appears to be a hitch.

The Italian ambassador made a call upon Mr. Bowen today and explained that he had been informed by his government that orders had been issued by the admiralty on February 14 for the surrender of the ships taken by the Italian vessels.

Mr. Bowen today prepared and handed to the representatives of the blockading powers the drafts of the protocols for the submission of the question of the determination of preferential treatment to The Hague tribunal. The unaltered powers will be invited to join in this issue after the protocols with the allies are signed.

EX-SECRETARY OF STATE SHORT.

His Accounts Show Discrepancy of \$533—Will Make it Good.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 25.—Chairman Jenkins, of the legislative investigating committee, reports the discovery of a discrepancy of over \$533 in the accounts of ex-Secretary of State Bassett, representing a difference between the fees turned into the treasury and the amount of filings as revealed by the work of the committee's clerk.

Mr. Bassett has informed Chairman Jenkins that he will deposit the amount with the secretary of state. He says he has no idea how the discrepancy occurred, adding that the greatest care was taken in the work of recording instruments, etc., and keeping check on the fees.

Russia Secretly Prepared.

London, Feb. 25.—The correspondent of the Times at Moscow telegraphs a confirmation of the reports of extensive military operations in South Russia. He declares that special oaths binding them to secrecy have been administered to all the superior army officers. All absent officers have been recalled to their regiments, and arrangements have been completed for 100,000 first class and 160,000 second class reserves to rejoin the colors on emergency call.

To Refund Island Duties.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The senate committee on Pacific islands and Porto Rico has favorably reported the house bill to refund the amount of duties paid on merchandise brought into the United States between April 1, 1899, and May 1, 1900, and also on merchandise brought into the United States from the Philippines between April 1, 1898, and March 1, 1902.

BAD WRECK IN OHIO

FOUR MAIL CLERKS ARE BURNED TO DEATH IN THE RUINS.

Big Four Passenger and Freight Trains Collide and are Demolished—Several Trainmen Were Injured—Passenger Train Loaded with School Teachers En Route to Cincinnati.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 25.—As the result of a head-on collision between a westbound passenger train and an east-bound freight train a mile or so east of Berea, O., on the Big Four railroad last night, four mail clerks were burned to death and several trainmen were more or less seriously hurt.

All the injured are in a hospital in Cleveland. It is reported that no passengers were hurt.

The passenger train was quite heavily loaded, and many of the passengers were school superintendents and teachers on their way to Cincinnati to attend a meeting of school directors and teachers in that city.

The unfortunate mail clerks were caught like rats in a trap within their car, which immediately caught fire, and being locked in, they were unable to release themselves.

The scene of the wreck is but a few miles west of the city of Cleveland, and relief was started out immediately on hearing of the wreck. The injuries to the train crews consisted mostly of cuts and bruises, and are not considered serious. All but two of the cars of the passenger train were destroyed by fire, which probably started from the overturning of oil lamps in the express car.

AGAIN UP IN ARMS.

Ladrones of Luzon Province Capture a Force of Constabulary.

Manila, Feb. 25.—A force of ladrones under General San Miguel reappeared in Rizal province yesterday. They avoided an engagement with the main force in the south, but captured three small detachments of constabulary. The enemy surrounded the towns of Cainta and Taytay, 11 miles east of Manila, and captured 40 scouts and 10 men of the constabulary, whom they afterward set free.

Today Inspector McIlwaine, at the head of the constabulary, was surprised and captured near Montalban, 16 miles northeast of Manila. The ladrones promised to release them if the constabulary would surrender their arms. While they were conferring on this point, McIlwaine made a dash for liberty, and he and all of the constabulary effected their escape.

When the news of the reappearance of General San Miguel's force reached Manila, reinforcements of scouts and constabulary were hurried into the Rizal province. General Allen and Colonel Scott went to Antipolo and assumed command of the force there. They met with small detachments of the enemy, and a few skirmishes took place. They were, however, unable to locate the main body of ladrones. General Allen and Colonel Scott are continuing the pursuit, and hope to overtake the released prisoners.

It is supposed that San Miguel's force consists of 300 men, armed and uniformed. The scene of ladrone activity extends from Calocan, four miles north of Manila, eastward to the mountains and skirting the north.

NORTHWEST IN CONGRESS.

McNeill's Island Prison Receives \$75,000—Klamath Indian Bill Reported.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The senate today passed Senator Gibson's bill providing that any or all lands heretofore included within reservations for reservoir purposes may, in the discretion of the secretary of the interior, be thrown open to entry and settlement when such tracts are not needed for reservoir purposes, and cannot again be selected in the future.

Favorable report was made today on Senator Foster's amendment to the sundry civil bill appropriating \$75,000 for extending and modernizing the prison at McNeill's island, near Tacoma.

The general deficiency bill, reported today, carries \$15,000 additional for the courthouse and jail at Juneau, Alaska; \$17,486 to pay the Alaska commercial company for cordwood furnished the government in Alaska, and \$5,000 for one year's salary for the widow of Representative Tongue.

Representative Moody today favorably reported his bill providing for opening to settlement a large part of the Klamath reservation. He will, if time is granted, call up the bill passed by the senate last session, making a direct appropriation to the Indians, and move to substitute his bill which calls for the sale of the lands before the Indians are paid.

Fighting Plague Hard.

Mazatlan, Mex., Feb. 25.—There was only one death from the plague today, and that at the observation station. There are 35 patients at the lazaretto. Two hundred persons are now isolated. The bull ring is now being used as a prison, as the jail is undergoing disinfection. Governor Canedo is active in all preventive measures, and shows great personal courage. He refuses to leave the city and go back to the state capital, until plague is stamped out.

Ohio Valley is a Sea.

Evansville, Ind., Feb. 25.—Floods from tributary streams have converted the Ohio river into a sea. In some places between here and Paducah, Ky., the river is 15 miles wide. Thousands of acres of wheat are under water. On the Indiana side, opposite Owensboro, Ky., the land is covered for a distance of seven miles.

COALING STATIONS IN CUBA.

Agreement Gives Us Control of Caribbean Sea—Isle of Pines Given Up.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Roosevelt has signed the agreement drawn up, under the terms of the Platt amendment, providing for the acquisition by the United States of a naval station at Guantanamo and a coaling station at Bahia Honda, both in Cuba. The document had been previously signed by President Palma, and was brought to Washington by Minister Squiers. It does not specify the price of the properties to be acquired by the United States, and this detail is left to be settled by the usual legal condemnation proceedings after the navy department has decided exactly the amount of land it wishes at each place. With these two places properly fortified as naval bases, the Gulf of Mexico would not be possible of occupation by a hostile fleet, and the Caribbean sea would be unsafe for an enemy. At Guantanamo there will be erected extensive coal docks and perhaps a short line of railroad to connect the port with the backbone railroad already finished by private enterprise. Bahia Honda will, for some time, probably be used simply as a place for the storage of coal.

When Mr. Squiers returns to Havana he will take up for settlement the question of the possession of the Isle of Pines. The indications are now that the United States government will not press strongly in this matter. The reason for the inference is, first, the unavailability of the island as a naval base, owing to the shallow water surrounding it, and second, the really strong sentimental attachment of the Cubans for the place, which would cause a feeling of resentment toward the United States in the event that the island was taken away.

STOP IMPORTATION OF ARMS.

Russia Asks United States and Others to Join in Intervention.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Representations have been made to the state department by the Russian ambassador, Count Cassini, regarding the increasing seriousness of the situation in China, in the hope that the United States will co-operate with the other powers to stop the illegal importation of arms, which has reached an alarming stage of activity. Similar representations have been made through the Russian representatives to Belgium, Germany and Great Britain. The Chinese officials claim they are powerless to stop the practice, and the Russian government, in the interest of peace, has called the attention of the powers to the matter.

Secretary Hay and the Russian ambassador had several conferences, but it has not been decided just what course the United States, under the constitution, can take toward preventing the exportation of arms. It is probable that the only relief lies in special legislation by congress, which is deemed impossible at this session.

The Belgians are the chief offenders in this illegal practice, though it is said many arms are entering China from the United States, Germany and Great Britain. Ambassador Cassini, who has spent many years in China, and is responsible in many degrees for the success of the Russian policy there, regards the Chinese situation as deserving of the serious and immediate consideration of the powers. Reports received at the state department also indicate that mischief is being wrought by the importation of arms into China.

CONSIDERING KNOX'S OFFER.

Canal Company's Lawyer Says Correspondence is in Progress.

Washington, Feb. 24.—William Nelson Cromwell, representative of the Panama canal company, stated tonight that no reply has been made as yet to the president's acceptance of the canal company's offer to sell its property. "The Panama canal company," he said, "is still considering the proposition made to it by the president through the attorney general several days ago, but it is not true that it has already made a definite reply. Of course I have had numerous conferences with the attorney general regarding the matter, and the question is in correspondence between the officials here and the Panama canal company. I cannot say when we shall make an answer to the proposition."

Mr. Cromwell said also that no agreement had been reached between the United States government and the canal company extending the time limit of the option.

Toledo Hotel Fire.

Toledo, O., Feb. 25.—The Hotel Devenaux was almost completely destroyed by fire this evening. The fire was discovered by one of the guests on the third floor, and had gained quite a little headway. An alarm was turned in at once, but by the time the department had arrived the flames had spread to the second and fourth floors. The guests and help were notified and all left the building in safety, many taking their personal effects with them. The loss will amount to \$60,000, with \$50,000 insurance.

Will Become Receiving Ship.

New York, Feb. 24.—The United States transport Hancock arrived in port today from San Francisco by way of Valparaiso, Montevideo and Bahai. The Hancock was formerly the Guion line steamer Arizona, and in her best days a noted greyhound of the ocean. She was recently turned over to the navy department and comes here to be converted into a receiving ship at the Brooklyn navy yard.

DON'T FORGET THE OLD FOLKS.

Nay, don't forget the old folks, boys—they've not forgotten you; though years have passed since you were home, the old hearts still are true; and not an evening passes by they haven't the desire
To see your faces once again and hear your footsteps nigher.

You're young and buoyant, and for you Hope beckons with her hands,
And life spreads out a waveless sea that laps but tropic strands;
The world is all before your face, but let your memories turn
To where fond hearts still cherish you and loving bosoms yearn.

No matter what your duties are nor what your place in life,
There's never been a time they'd not assume your load of strife;
And shrunken shoulders, trembling hands, and forms racked by disease,
Would bravely dare the grave to bring to you the pearl of peace.

So don't forget the old folks, boys—they've not forgotten you;
Though years have passed since you were home, the old hearts still are true; and write them now and then to bring the light into their eyes,
And make the world glow once again and bluer gleam the skies.
—Tennessee Farmer.

The Golden Blue-Jay.

ON ENE blustering March night, in 1852, three men were playing cards in a cabin near the Manzanita Diggings. Billy Price and Dick Hurtle, in whose cabin the game was progressing, were miners. Foxy Smith made up the trio. He kept a little store, where hard-tack biscuits and dried fruits, gum-boots and overalls, were jumbled together.

The door opened and in walked a man, bold and free. He hardly looked at the other men, but went directly to the fire, took a pack from his back, and began busying himself with it.
"Where the devil did you come from?" asked Dick, throwing his cards upon the table and staring at the man.
"The devil probably knows. Ask him," answered the stranger.

"My dear and no doubt illustrious young man," began Billy, winking at Dick, "I'm sure you'll excuse our showing some degree of curiosity concerning you. May we not have the exquisite pleasure of learning your name? Will you not give us some information regarding your last place of residence, et cetera? You have no idea how we would treasure any little—"
"Get out!" squeaked a sharp, high-pitched voice, breaking into Billy's harangue.

Billy turned on the stranger—he was not the man to stand nonsense of that sort from anybody.
"If you want satisfaction, my high-frown friend," said the stranger, "here's your provocator." The man stooped over, and a blue-jay hopped up on his shoulder. The bird first fired off a volley of shrieks, and then began to laugh. "Haw, haw, haw!" laughed the jay, and "Haw, haw, haw!" they answered him, till the cabin shook.

When they had quieted down, the stranger turned to them and said: "Now I'll tell you as much of my history as I think necessary. My name is Jim Carter. I've been in this confounded country more than a year, and I haven't made a blasted cent. My money is very near gone, but as long as I stay among you I'll pay my way. One thing certain: I'll never go back East unless I make a pile, and I've got to make it pretty soon or I'll starve."

"What'll you do?" asked Dick.
"My bird and I'll take something to eat—if we can get it," answered Carter.
The men set out some cold bacon and beans, hard-tack, and dried apple-sauce. Carter ate ravenously.
In the meantime Foxy Smith had been attending the feeding of the jay. Sometimes he would hold a piece of biscuit up and make the bird talk for it; and sometimes he would point to a card or stick, or something else, and make the bird bring it to him before he would give him a bit of the food. The jay showed quick intelligence, and it was not long before he had caught the idea.

After Carter had finished eating, he joined in the game, and they played until midnight.
Foxy arose to go. "Bring your jay down to the store, Carter," he said. "He's a fine bird. I'd like to teach him."
Foxy left. Carter spread his blankets on the floor; Dick and Billy crawled into their bunks; the blue-jay perched upon a rafter. So Carter and his bird became domiciled at Camp Manzanita.

As the days went by, the men became attached to the bird. He had a pert, lively way that they liked. He would cock his eyes at them and laugh in the most knowing manner. Then he sang a song or two, in a queer, rasping little voice, that made him fine company, and he liked to go to the diggings with the men; it was wonderful the way he made the dirt fly—imitating them.

But smart though he was, the men soon discovered that he had one fault—he stole, stole like a pirate; there was nothing that he would not appropriate if he got his claws on it. They looked high and low for the stolen articles, but could find them nowhere.
"What does he do with them, I wonder?" asked Dick, one evening, after hunting vainly for something he had lost.

"I'll tell you what I think he does with 'em," said Billy. "I believe he takes them down to Foxy's store and trades them off for grub. You know Carter doesn't pay much attention to him and he probably gets hungry. It would be just like Foxy to encourage him in such tricks."
"Pooh! The jay isn't as smart as all that. He hides them in a hole somewhere. I'll wring the little beast's neck for him if he don't stop it!" Dick said. But he would not have done it. Not one of the miners would have pulled a feather out of his sleek little body. They concluded that the only thing to be done was to shut up everything portable that had been left.
By this time the jay was perfectly at home, going anywhere he chose and having a fine time of it—down at Foxy Smith's store, in and out of all the cabins, down at the mines, up in the trees, over the hills—everywhere, and always laughing and singing and chattering.

The men liked the bird, and let him impose on them dreadfully, but they were not so friendly to the man; he was too quiet, and had a half-hearted way that irritated them. "Hang the fellow," said Dick. "He doesn't seem to have any heart in anything. It's bad luck to have that kind around." And it did seem that he cast a damper on the men's spirits, though not upon their luck, for, all but Carter himself, they were doing well in the mines.
When the weather grew warmer the men saw less of Carter. He spent nearly all of his time wandering off by himself, but the jay stayed where the men were picking and panning—he was fond of company.

One fine day in May, after the trees were in leaf, Carter went out and sat in the shade near the miners. The bird was hopping about on a raised bit of ground, and keeping an eye on everything. He would claw in the earth, take a look around, and then stick his beak in the hole he had made. "I'm it! I'm it!" he yelled.
"Are you, my boy? Wish I could say the same," drawled his master.
Day by day the bird worked on that piece of ground, till the men got to calling it his "diggings." His master, having nothing better to do, idly watched him.
"The jay is twice the man that Carter is," said Dick one time. "See him dig in." It is a fact that he worked as hard as any of them, though he would fly off every once in a while and stay for a quarter of an hour or so. And that kept going on day after day, and week after week.
One evening, in August, Foxy Smith came into the cabin elaborately dressed. He wore a white top-hat, a long-tailed bottle-green coat, a pair of light tan breeches, and a blue velvet waistcoat covered with circular red figures. After the men had expressed their not altogether complimentary surprise, he said: "Well, boys, I just dropped in to tell you that I'm thinking of enlarging my store."
"That so?"
"Yes. And I shouldn't wonder if I'd take a trip back East this fall."
"Business must be looking up," said Billy.
"Y-e-s," drawled Foxy, then added glibly: "It is."
"See here, Foxy—" began Billy, but Foxy interrupted him with: "I can't stay any longer—I must be off." He threw a handful of dried cherries at the jay (he never forgot to bring him something), and started out.
"Come in to show off," said Dick, disgustfully. "Where do you suppose he got his boodle?"
"I have an idea," said Billy, "but yet I don't know."
"What is it?"
"Well, I told you once—about the jay, you know."
"Nonsense!" said Dick.
For some time the men had noticed that something ailed the jay, and as the days passed his trouble seemed to increase; he lost his fine sprits; he did not talk as much as formerly; he did not dig about as lightly as he had once done—he would make a feeble croak and go off, slowly, but would come back more used up than ever.
"Is he getting very old?" Billy asked.
"Not more than four years," said Carter. "I don't know what ails him." The poor little chap grew more and more feeble (though he seemed fatter than ever), till one day he hopped to his diggings, jerked out a few words of "Never a care—" and then lay down and died.
When Carter picked up the dead jay he found a big gold nugget clutched in one of the claws. He put his hand in one of the holes that the bird had dug, and there he found a "pocket" of nuggets—the largest pocket, filled with the biggest nuggets, that had even been found in the region.
Billy took the jay in his hand; he found the bird surprisingly heavy and his crop greatly expanded. "This accounts for it!" said Billy; "the wealth of Foxy, and all. Poor little fellow, his greed, and Foxy's have finished him."
Carter called his mine the "Golden Blue-Jay," and out of that mine he took his millions.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Charcoal Eph's Dally Thought.
"Dey am er heap ob people in de world," said Charcoal Eph, as he stabbed a biscuit, "dat spon' mo time discussin' de whencesse ob de incomprehensible wherof' dan dey does hustlin' fo' de material beefsteak, Mistah Jackson."—Baltimore News.
Although some people are continually changing their minds, they seem unable to get a decent one.