

## WORK ON THE CANAL

**President Sends Special Message to Congress.**

**PRAISES PROGRESS BEING MADE**

**Health on Isthmus Good and Much Headway Has Been Made on Canal.**

Washington, Dec. 18. — President Roosevelt yesterday sent a special message to congress on the Panama canal in which he reviewed his trip across the isthmus and made many important recommendations: Among other things he said:

"An inspection on the ground at the height of the rainy season served to convince me of the wisdom of congress in refusing to adopt either a high level or a sea level canal. There seems to be a universal agreement among all people competent to judge that the Panama route, the one actually chosen, is much superior to both the Nicaragua and Darien routes.

"The wisdom of the canal management has been shown in nothing more clearly than in the way in which the foundations of the work have been laid.

"The first great problem to be solved, upon the solution of which the success of the work depended, was the problem of sanitation. This was from the outset under the direction of Dr. W. C. Gorgas, who is to be made a full member of the commission, if the law as to the composition of the commission remains unchanged. The isthmus had been a byword for deadly unhealthfulness. Now, after two years of our occupation, the conditions as regards sickness and the death rate compare favorably with reasonably healthy localities in the United States.

"It is curious to note the fact that many of the most severe critics of the commission criticize them for precisely opposite reasons, some complaining bitterly that the work is not in a more advanced condition, while the others complain that it has been rushed with such haste that there has been insufficient preparation for the hygiene and comfort of the employees. As a matter of fact, neither criticism is just. It would have been impossible to go quicker than the commission has gone, for such quickness would have meant insufficient preparation. On the other hand, to refuse to do anything until every possible future contingency had been met would have caused wholly unwarranted delay. The right course

to follow was exactly the course which has been followed."

The president goes into details on the work of exterminating mosquitoes and then tells of the improvements made in Colon. The city has been drained, a reservoir to supply water has been built with a capacity of 50,000,000 gallons.

**PRESIDENT'S EYE ON RAILROAD.**  
**Suggestion That Government Operate Railroads in Emergencies.**

Washington, Dec. 18. — President Roosevelt is taking a deep interest in the situation as to car shortage, complaints regarding which have come from many sections of the United States. Some time ago a partial statement bearing on the car shortage was submitted to the president by the Interstate Commerce commission, and when the more complete report, which

state and local activity and make the enthusiasm of the people contagious in its effect on local bodies, thus inducing greater efforts for the child and a more glorious future for the republic.

Addresses by Miss Jane Adams, of Hull house, Chicago, and United States Senator Beveridge followed. A resolution was adopted emphasizing the belief that it is the duty of the several states to correct evils of child labor in local manifestations, but indorsing cordially the principle of the Beveridge-Parsons bill for a national child labor law.

Miss Adams urged the desirability of uniform legislation against the evils of child labor, and declared that the census reports show America behind every European country except Russia in so far as child labor and its effects are concerned.

**Oil Pipe Filled With Salt**  
Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—Cablegrams

Despatch from Grand Forks, N. D., says that the fuel situation today presents the most critical condition that has existed in the history of the state. Careful inquiry in every portion of the northern half of the state shows that there is not a town in which coal could be had to supply immediate needs and in dozens of places there is not a pound to be bought, the dealers having been out of fuel for days and weeks.

**Freight Congestion in Los Angeles.**  
Los Angeles, Dec. 15.—The Times will print a story tomorrow morning to the effect that Los Angeles is suffering from the worst freight congestion ever experienced by the transcontinental railroads running into the city. According to the Times hundreds of cars consigned to local merchants are either delayed or lost in the congestion of coal cars in the yards. Railway officials say that the situation is of a serious nature and ascribe the freight

## BUILD MORE SHIPS.

**Dewey Says Present Policy of Congress is Retrograde Move.**

Washington, Dec. 17. — Admiral Dewey believes that the authorization by congress of at least three large battleships a year is essential for keeping the American navy in a state of efficiency and that the policy of one battleship a year now being urged by a certain element, would be a positive retrograde movement.

He was asked if the policy suggested by some persons of only providing one battleship during an entire congress would result in an actual increase in the navy or in a virtual decrease in fighting strength.

"Such a policy would be retrograde in its character," said the admiral. "It would not take up the waste or supply the places of the ships that are bound to deteriorate and which should be placed out of commission. We have

## IMPROVE COAL LAW

**Congress Will Endeavor to Help Situation This Session.**

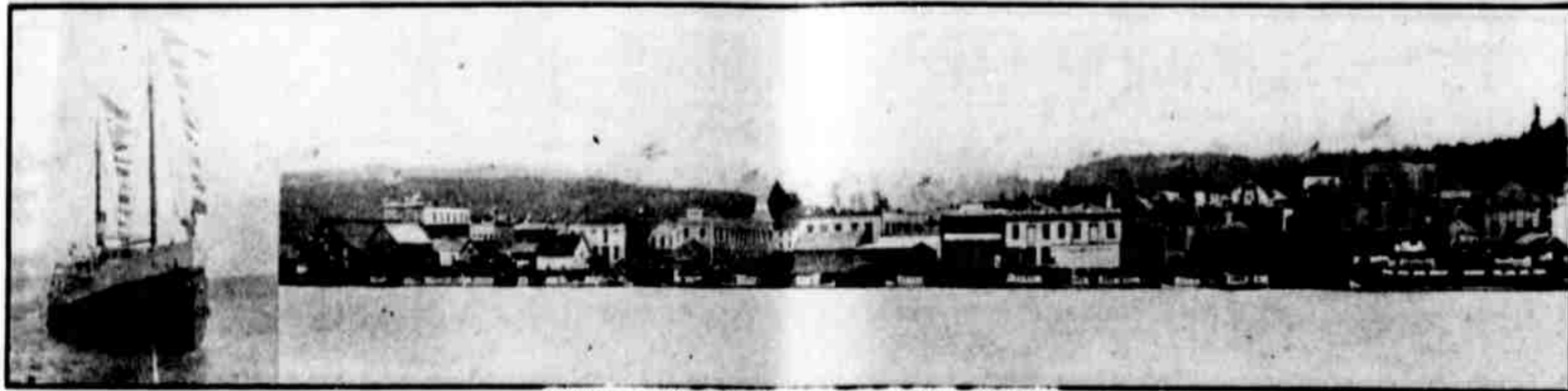
**MANY DEFECTS IN PRESENT LAW**

**Was Passed for Benefit of Individual, Who is Unable to Work Land After Taking It.**

Washington, Dec. 15. — Strenuous efforts will be made at the present session of congress to secure the repeal or modification of the coal land law along the lines recommended by President Roosevelt in his message. That something will be accomplished seems quite probable, but what form of law will be substituted for that under which gigantic frauds have been perpetrated has not yet been made apparent. The influence of the administration will be behind a bill proposing to cut off further sales of government coal land, though permitting them to be worked by individuals or companies on a royalty plan.

The president, like every other practical western man, knows that the existing coal land law is not sensibly framed. That law was built on the theory that the individual could take up and develop a quarter section of coal land, just as the homestead law gives the individual a like area of agricultural land. But no individual can develop a quarter section or a whole section of coal land. He could not afford to install the necessary machinery, or if he could, his profits on a quarter section would not recompense him for the outlay. Moreover, no railroad would think of building a spur onto an isolated quarter section of land and the owner of the land could not afford to assume that expense. So the individual with a quarter section of coal land in his possession would have a white, or rather a black, elephant on his hands. The mineral wealth might be there in abundance, but he could not get it out and could not get it to market.

How to cure this evil is a question for congress to decide, and some solution is likely to be forthcoming this winter. Some favor a change in the law increasing the area of coal land that may be purchased by individuals or by companies or corporations to such size that they can profitably invest and put the coal on the market. These men would increase the price of coal land so that the government would reap a large benefit from the sales.



WATERFRONT, MARSHFIELD, COOS BAY, OREGON  
(By courtesy of Geo. J. Schaefer, of Schaefer's Addition to Central Place—317 Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon)

the commission has under way in the Northwest, has been prepared, it will be sent to the president for his information in the event he decides to make any recommendations to congress on the subject. He has not yet taken any steps indicating his probable course.

Among suggestions that have been made to the president is that he recommend legislation by congress empowering the government to take charge of railroads and operate them under certain contingencies, especially in a case like the present.

### EVILS OF CHILD LABOR.

**Miss Adams Declares America is in Class with Russia.**

Cincinnati, Dec. 15.—Before the first session of the child labor convention here last night, Dr. Felix Adler, chairman of the national child labor committee and professor of political and social ethics in Columbia university, spoke on "The Attitude of Society Toward the Child as an Index of Civilization." Professor Adler spoke of the inadequacy and inefficiency of state laws and urged the necessity for a national law to furnish a background for effective

received at the office of the Union Oil company, in Los Angeles, say that their new pipe line across the Isthmus of Panama was filled with 25,000 barrels of salt. When ready for use the oil will be pumped from the Pacific to the Atlantic through this pipe. The opening of the line is expected to solve largely the fuel problem of the isthmus. Fourteen thousand tons of coal are now used there monthly, but it is anticipated that oil will soon be the fuel in use.

### Raise Fuel Famine.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 18.—The fuel famine in the Northwest will be broken within 24 hours as a result of the Interstate Commerce commission's inquiry in this city. The commission was represented by James S. Harlan, of Chicago, and Franklin K. Lane, of San Francisco. Mr. Lane has charge of the fuel inquiry, while Mr. Harlan is busy engaged in the car shortage inquiry. It was decided that the fuel famine was the more important, many more reports being at hand of the suffering from lack of fuel.

### North Dakota Has No Coal.

St. Paul, Dec. 18.—A special to the

congestion to unprecedented holiday shipments.

### Urges Immediate Action.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Flint, of California, talked with the president today about the break in the Colorado river, which has resulted in such a disastrous flood in Imperial valley, California. When he asked that proper representations be made to Mexico, with a view to securing financial redress for those persons whose property had been injured, the president told him that the State department had already addressed a note on the subject to the Mexican government, but that thus far no reply had been received.

### Fed Through Long pipe.

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 15.—Progress in rescuing L. B. Hicks, the man imprisoned in the mountain at the Edison company's plant, is being made at the rate of 20 feet a day. At noon the drift diggers had still 60 feet farther to go before the miner can be released. Milk is still being fed through the long pipe at three-hour intervals, under the direction of a physician. He is gaining in strength and it is believed will hold out until reached.

three battleships which were fine ships in their day, but they were laid down in 1891, about 16 years ago. They are the Indiana, the Oregon and the Massachusetts. They have the defect of not possessing balance turrets, which causes a list when their guns are all trained to one side, thus exposing the hull below the water line and laying the ships open to danger from the fire of an enemy on that side."

### AMERICANS FIRST CHANCE.

**Shonts Will Bar Foreigners From All Canal Contracts.**

Washington, Dec. 17.—Foreign contractors are to be barred from competition for the contracts for the Panama canal. Chairman Shonts of the canal commission today made the announcement. Many changes have been agreed to in the form of contract, but the most important is the limiting of proposals American firms. The right will be reserved by the commission to reject all bids, the commission will then either throw the competition open to foreign bidders or proceed with the work without contract. January 12 is the date set for opening proposals.

Portland Population  
**250,000 IN 1910**

Purchase Property Previous

Portland  
Property  
Properly  
Purchased  
Produces  
Prosperity

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