

OBSTRUCTIONISTS FIGHT THE NICARAGUA CANAL

Commission Will Not Report This Winter, But Action Will Be Pushed In Congress.

BILL TO BE INTRODUCED BY HEPEURN

He Regards Construction of the Waterway as a Matter of Most Overwhelming Importance and Says Votes Can Be Had to Pass It.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Representative W. H. Hepburn of Iowa has just returned to Washington. Mr. Hepburn was chairman in the last house of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce—the committee that has charge of the Nicaragua canal quarantine and railway anti-scalping and pooling legislation. He said in an interview:

"I shall introduce a Nicaraguan canal bill on the first day of the session and will push it to action. The opponents of the canal gained something in the way of postponement when they succeeded in interpolating in the last river and harbor bill a provision for a new commission to investigate all the proposed routes across the isthmus. The Nicaraguan route has been recently investigated by a careful commission which had made most elaborate provision, and submitted a most satisfactory report, but by contending that the Panama route had been neglected the postponement of the whole matter was secured.

The new reports inform us that the committee will not be able to report at this session. The friends of Panama will, of course, throw all possible obstacles in the way of the United States building the Nicaraguan canal, as the construction of the canal will preclude the building of others. The Panama commission say that \$150,000,000 will be required to finish their canal. It is certain that they can never raise any considerable part of this sum if it is known that the United States government intends to build the Nicaragua canal.

Other companies, such as the Maritime Canal Company, the Cragin-Erie syndicate and another whose name I forget, but which operated a steamboat and railway line across the isthmus in the early 60s, also claim interests. The Cragin people claim that they hold a right to a concession that took effect on October 19 when the Maritime Company's rights expired. Just what value the alleged concession has, I am not prepared to say. For my part, I do not think the United States need bother about any of these concessions.

"I have no doubt that Costa Rica and Nicaragua will be glad to give the United States any territory and any rights it may need to prosecute and complete the canal. The canal question is of overwhelming importance in the development of both countries and they are anxious to have it built. There is no doubt that the house would have acted at the last session if it could have come to vote and there is no doubt that both branches of congress favor the enterprise. How much the opposition can delay matters I cannot say.

"Are you in favor of the proposed new demand of congress?" "That matter was gone into at the last session. A number of men were heard on it, and I hope they will renew their efforts at the coming session; but I am not prepared to say how the matter is regarded by the committee."

"Are you in favor of an extension of the quarantine laws?" "I am, but there is a great diversity of opinion in the committee on this point. The southern members generally are willing that the government should pay the money for a national system, but they want to select the men to spend it. The large cities also object. Some of them collect large sums of money for the inspection of vessels, and spend it in salaries much larger than the United States government pays. New York, for instance, collects some \$50,000 or \$60,000 annually and pays its health officers \$12,000 a year.

"In my judgment all this work should be done by the United States government alone, but as long as the states,

fearing invasion of their rights by the government, unite with the large cities it is not likely that any efficient law will be enacted."

"What do you think of the Philippines?"

"I think congress should take no action at present, and that the president should continue to control the islands by military law. Our original colonists were men far superior to the Filipinos; they were skilled and trained in self-government and yet it took them fourteen years and much trouble before they could work out a constitution and a government. Yet the Filipinos want to accomplish all this in fourteen months. No, no; they should wait and congress should wait until we all know each other better. We do not know enough about the islands yet to act wisely regarding them. Meanwhile they should have as liberal a government as possible."

"How about currency legislation?" "In Iowa we fought the last campaign on the gold standard and the result was a majority greater by 15,000 than the state ever gave in all its previous history. Yes, I am in favor of action."

"What railway legislation do you recommend?" "The house has three times passed the anti-scalping law and the senate has killed it. Now, I think that we had better wait for awhile and see whether the senate will pass any such legislation. If it will, the house will speedily follow suit. I am sure."

AS JONES SEES IT.

Thinks Bryan has Obtained a Splendid Endorsement and is Stronger Than Ever.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—"In my opinion," says Senator J. P. Jones, of Nevada, "William J. Bryan is a much stronger man today before the people than he was three years ago. His own state, Nebraska, has given him a wonderful endorsement. The republicans and the gold bugs sent an immense lot of money to defeat him, but principle won against boodles."

"Are you confident Bryan will be re-nominated?" "Nothing can stop his re-nomination and he will be elected."

"Is not the country prosperous?"

"Suppose we do have these little revivals of prosperity there is not enough money in circulation and every wave of monetary prosperity is followed by a crater in the money market. The single gold standard people want a contracted currency."

LAWLESSNESS IN CHINA.

Bands of Outlaws Capture a Boy and Return his Body to His Father Pickled in Brine.

VICTORIA, B. C., Nov. 14.—An event which speaks for itself of the lawless state of the country bordering on and beyond the new territory, Kowloon, China, took place quite recently.

A gang of scoundrels kidnaped a lad of seven years of age with a view of holding him for ransom. A message was sent to the father demanding of him a ransom somewhat beyond his means and consequently the father could not pay it. The rascals, believing that he was able to raise the money if he wished, again sent to him, threatening that if the money was not sent within a specified time the boy would be returned to him in a pickle, and the money not being sent, actually put their threat into effect, the dead body of the lad being returned to the father in a jar of brine.

The perpetrators of this horrible outrage are still at large and apparently the Chinese authorities are making no effort to arrest them.

White Cloud, which foundered on the way to Manila, has just been arrested in Hong Kong for taking the vessel to sea in an unseaworthy condition.

CONSUL PETTIT DEAD.

Operated on for Appendicitis but too Late for his Recovery.

CHICAGO, Nov. 15.—A special cable to the Chicago Tribune from Dusseldorf, says:

United States Consul F. Pettit died today. His two nieces, the Misses Bean, of California, arrived here on Sunday November 6 and Mr. Pettit at that time said he was never in better spirits. He complained of feeling ill on Monday and was operated upon Wednesday for an acute attack of appendicitis. His case was however, too far advanced when the physicians were called in, and they gave no hope after the operation.

The body will be taken home after a funeral service here.

ANOTHER CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

TUSCON, Ariz., Nov. 15.—Andrew Carnegie, in a letter to M. W. Pittock, a well known newspaper writer of Arizona, offers the city of Tucson a sum of \$25,000 to pay for a public library building, provided the city furnishes a site and agrees to maintain the institution at an annual cost of \$2,000.

SAD CASE OF INSANITY.

OKLAND, Calif., Nov. 15.—Miss Amy Hill, a handsome young woman who refuses to say anything about herself, other than that she hails from Nebraska, became violently insane and attempted to kill several people before she was restrained by the police and taken to the receiving hospital.

KNIGHT'S OF LABOR OPPOSE EXPANSION

FEAR FILIPINO COMPETITION

General Secretary Hayes in His Report Finds Nothing to Commend in Improved Industrial Conditions.

BOSTON, Nov. 15.—The general Assembly of the Knights of Labor opened its session in this city today.

The annual report of John W. Hayes, the general secretary-treasurer of the Knights of Labor on the condition of the order was presented.

He said that in spite of cruelty, derision and scorn, for almost one-third of a century, the Knights of Labor had not only held their ground, but had grown and flourished. From the reports received, both from assemblies and organizers he felt that he could conscientiously congratulate the order upon the prosperous condition and hopeful outlook for the future.

A most infamous and vicious assault upon organized labor had developed in Idaho. The writ of habeas corpus had been suspended and martial law declared, without a shadow of excuse. Over 400 unfortunate men have been held in prison for months, being guilty of no crime, except that of attempting to earn a support without permission of the military autocrat, because they were members of organized labor and trial is still denied. Nothing approaching the infamy of this affair has ever occurred outside the boundaries of absolutism.

He recommended that the assembly urge upon congress the necessity of making a searching investigation in this case. He said the leading feature of the industrial commission was that it was to be strictly non-partisan, but the fact was out of the nineteen members, the entire number appointed by the president, nine in all are bitter republicans; of the ten congressional members four are republicans, three are democrats and two are populists; only one is accredited to labor and he is merely accredited. The investigations are perfunctory. The commission was entirely discredited by all who knew anything of its doings, and looked on as a mere machine, manipulated to prevent any damaging facts in relation to existing evils becoming public as far as possible.

Actual proceedings had been begun against them for blue penciling and emasculating written testimony and destroying the true and intended impression and further intimidating in the form of prosecution in the courts for libel if certain statements of facts were not withdrawn or modified.

Speaking of the expansion policy, he said: "We already realize the effect of the



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competition of European pauper labor. Should these islands be annexed in any form, it means the competition of 150 or twenty millions of unskilled Malay laborers. What this would mean to us it is useless for me to say. Imperialism means despotism, the end of free government and the return to feudalism of the dark ages. Let the Philippines go in peace to work out their own salvation with our best wishes and such assistance as we may be able to extend. Let the army scheme be crushed without mercy or pity. This recognition of the power of the government to coerce the people into submission to its arbitrary decrees is the object the plotters are aiming at. This is the meaning of imperialism and once recognized, and a standing army allowed, liberty is dead, capital is king and the empire of plutocracy rises."

He asked approval of a plan for the establishment of the headquarters of the order of a school of civic and social and political science, history, oratory and composition, in order that young men may qualify themselves at nominal cost to intelligently and ably promulgate and defend Knights of Labor principles and study the problems of the present and the future, with the aid of all that history and science can bring to their assistance.

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