

SPEAKS ON CANAL

Secretary Taft Says Isthmian Canal is Necessary.

PANAMA RAILROAD DISCUSSED

Railroad Line Crossing the Isthmus Needs Thorough Re-equipment—Another Track Will Have To Be Built Soon.

complete investigation into every statement of improper conditions of any sort on the Isthmus regardless by whom made. But after one thorough investigation has been completed and every truthful man and every liar has been heard, then let the work go on. You can't be answering questions and building a canal at the same time. You can't have the chief engineer and the other constructing officers engaged in that work both in Washington and on the Isthmus. Therefore, I say, that all those who wish to be heard ought to be heard now or ever after hold their peace."

Congressman J. Adam Bede followed Secretary Taft.

VALUE DECREASED

Estate of Yerkes Not Worth Fifteen Million.

HOSPITAL MAY NOT BE BUILT

Investigation Shows That Supposed Value of Traction Stock Has Dwindled to Less than Half of the Former Value.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20—The Chronicle today:

Startling reports have reached the ears of Chicago financiers that the reputed \$15,000,000 estate of the late Charles T. Yerkes is fictitious. That it will not aggregate more than \$6,000,000 is a report credited by Chicago bankers who have had occasion to make an investigation of the former traction promoters holdings.

Since the death of Mr. Yerkes, much of the supposed values of traction stocks in Chicago and London are declared to have dwindled to an enormous degree. This situation has placed in jeopardy the gigantic New York Hospital project, which the late traction king had provided for in his will

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as a monument to his memory.

That the estate of Mr. Yerkes could not truthfully be quoted at \$15,000,000 was admitted last night by Attorney Clarence Knight, who represented Mr. Yerkes during the closing years of his life and who drew the will disposing of his property.

"There never was any authorization for the statement that the Yerkes estate would amount to \$15,000,000," he said. "There was nothing in the will to indicate that such was the aggregate value of the estate. As to whether the estate will amount to more or less than \$15,000,000, I have nothing to say."

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