

GRAFTING ON CANAL

High Time to Make a Change in Isthmian Commission.

ENGINEERS LEAVE IN DISGUST

Trouble is Said to Be Lack of Efficient Organization—Payrolls Already Padded.

Chicago, March 18.—Walter Wellman, wiring from Washington to the Record-Herald, says that graft has already made its appearance among the employees of the United States on the Panama canal, according to an American engineer who was on the isthmus only three weeks ago. It is evidently high time President Roosevelt was carrying out his plan for a complete reorganization of the canal commission.

This engineer, who had exceptional opportunities to gather information as to conditions on the isthmus, declares it is within his personal knowledge that payrolls are already being padded and that various forms of petty graft are practiced. The trouble is said to be lack of efficient organization. Chief Engineer Wallace is working like a Trojan in the field and has almost worn himself out trying to push the work at Culebra Hill and to bring order out of chaos in the organization.

The present canal commission is declared to be a failure by every man who has visited the isthmus during the last six months. The commission remained at Panama just long enough to establish certain iron-clad rules whose literal enforcement has been a great detriment to the chief engineer and the other officials who are trying to push the work. Then the members of the commission, with the exception of General Davis, returned to the United States and are here yet. Evidently they do not care to live on the isthmus and prefer the climate of New York and Washington.

On account of the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the isthmus, many engineers and other employees of the commission are giving up their jobs in disgust and returning home.

Reports say that the commissioner who looks after the medicine supplies refuses to allow such medicines as are required and in many cases such as are given out are badly adulterated.

CASTRO SHUNS FOREIGNERS

is Arming for Defense—Talks of Attack on New Orleans.

Wilmington, Curacao, March 18.—According to trustworthy advices received here, the situation in Venezuela is unchanged, both internally and as to foreign affairs, except that the relations between President Castro and the various legations at Caracas are a little more strained. Castro has now ceased to talk with the European representatives concerning the Venezuelan debt, and the recent recall of General Antonio Veturini, second vice president of Venezuela, who has been in Europe for some time endeavoring to arrange a settlement with the British and German bondholders, is regarded as an indication that the negotiations have failed. It is said that no diplomat has been able to secure an interview with Castro concerning disputed international questions for months. Castro maintains his belligerent attitude and continues to make military preparations. He apparently regards an attack on Port Cabello and La Guayra as probable, and has mounted six new French six-inch guns and a number of small guns on the heights overlooking these ports, and has available three small coast defense vessels.

Castro's attitude is reflected in a pamphlet just issued through one of his advisers, Colonel Juan Bautista Lamedo, in which plans for sending 30,000 Venezuelans against New Orleans are disclosed. The pamphlet urges the public to avenge the insults to Venezuela offered by the Americans, and declares the invasion of the Mississippi valley would be the most effective means of curbing the action of the United States.

Stock Certificates Forged.

Denver, March 18.—Forged stock certificates of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company have been unearthed by the presentation of a counterfeit certificate for 100 shares of stock, par value \$1,000, at the Denver office of the company for transfer. The certificate came from a lawyer at Davenport, Ia. Appearing on the certificate as president of the company is the name of James A. Kehlo. Mr. Kehlo was never president of the company. There is also a certificate with the forged signature of Secretary D. C. Beaman.

Flood Bursts Kentucky Dike.

Winchester, Ky., March 18.—The break in the Kentucky river dike near Ford grows wider, and a channel fully 100 yards wide is filled with a rushing torrent that is eating into the south bank of the government lock. Giant trees of a century's growth have been torn loose and carried away. One of the government's buildings at the locks fell into the river today and the others are in danger. Conservative estimates place the damage thus far at \$250,000.

Engine Blows Up, Injuring Three.

Echo, Utah, March 18.—A Union Pacific engine pulling eastbound freight No. 52 blew up while passing the station today, injuring Engineer H. L. Purdy, Fireman C. N. Bunker and brakeman J. E. Jones.

DIVIDE THE MONEY.

Two Great Irrigation Works are Proposed for Idaho.

Washington, March 20.—Reclamation Service Engineers Ross and Powell, of Idaho, called upon Senator Dubois today in reference to the proposition now being considered by the secretary of the interior to divert about \$1,000,000 from the Minidoka irrigation project and use it in inaugurating what is known as the Boise-Payette project. Senator Dubois endorses the views of the reclamation service engineers and will call upon Secretary Hitchcock and urge him to approve the proposition to have both projects carried to completion.

From investigations and preliminary surveys it has been found that part of the Minidoka project south of Snake river is not feasible at this time and cannot be built until that part of the project north of Snake river shall be completed and put into operation. It is proposed to take the funds which would be required to build south of the river and use them to build the Boise-Payette project, which is estimated to cost about \$1,000,000. If this is not done, it is believed the funds intended for the south project will be turned back into the general reclamation fund, and Idaho will lose the benefit of them, at least for the present.

MINE EXPLOSION KILLS TEN.

Men Left on Guard at Night Perish in West Virginia.

Charleston, W. Va., March 20.—An explosion occurred at the mines of the New River Smokeless Coal and Coke company at Rush Run at 10 o'clock last night, in which ten men were killed. The explosion was in the Rush mine and extended to the Red Ash mine, nearly two miles away, and great flames burst out of the mouths of both mines. About seven men stayed in each mine at night to take care of them and all were killed.

The interior of the mines is in such condition at this time that it is impossible for anyone to enter to investigate.

The Rush Run and Red Ash mines are the property of the same company and the latter is the mine in which 49 lives were lost three years ago. It is impossible at this time to ascertain the cause of the explosion.

CASTRO PREPARES TO FIGHT

Seeks Settlement with Other Nations but is Hostile to France.

Paris, March 20.—Official advices are to the effect that President Castro, of Venezuela, is seeking to settle his complications with Germany and Great Britain, probably with a view to leaving him a free hand in dealing with the complications with the United States and France. The latter awaits the decision of the court at Caracas, however.

France has not subscribed to the position of some other European governments in entrusting to the United States the enforcement of rights against South American countries. On the contrary, this government expects to enforce its own rights, although whatever action is finally determined upon will undoubtedly be communicated to Washington with the view of securing American co-operation.

Change in Asiatic Naval Command.

Washington, March 20.—Rear Admiral Stirling, commanding the Asiatic fleet, has cabled the Navy department that he has left Cavite on the flagship Wisconsin, accompanied by the battleship Oregon, the gunboats Nanshan and General Alva and the torpedo boat destroyers Bainbridge, Barry, Decatur, Chauncey and Dale, for Hong Kong, where the admiral will haul down his flag on March 23 and transfer the command of the station to Rear Admiral William Folger, now commanding the cruiser squadron of that fleet.

Insult is Offered France.

Paris, March 20.—Count de Segonzac, who was sent by the Moroccan commission to investigate the commercial condition of Morocco, has been captured by Arabs. The case resembles the Perdicar's affair. The incident causes excitement, owing to France's policy of assuming paramount control in Morocco. The secretary of the Moroccan commission in an interview said that the capture of Count de Segonzac proved the necessity for rapid French action in Morocco. The other members of the mission are safe.

Works of Art Destroyed.

New York, March 20.—Many valuable paintings and pieces of statuary and articles used in instruction were destroyed by a fire which damaged the building occupied by the National Academy of design. One fireman was buried under debris from a falling wall, but was rescued and removed to a hospital. He will recover. While an exact estimate of the damage could not be made today, it is said it will be at least \$50,000.

Vesuvius Throws Hot Stones.

Naples, March 20.—Mount Vesuvius, is again in eruption and is throwing out burning lava, red hot stones and a high column of smoke, with detonations which are heard at long distances. The eruption is attributed to an earthquake which was felt for 80 miles.

Guard for Railroad Bridges.

Warsaw, March 20.—The directors of the Vistula railroad have asked for troops to guard the bridges between Siedlec and Malkin, because of the receipt of letters threatening their destruction.

READY TO SPRING

Twenty-Two Japanese Warships In Track of Russians.

WILL WAIT FOR THE ENEMY

Great Naval Battle Seems to Be Next Scene in the Military Drama in the Far East.

London, March 16.—A dispatch to Lloyds, dated at Singapore, 6 p. m., says the British steamer Hongwan I reports having passed 22 Japanese warships off Horsburg, 20 miles east of Singapore, at the entrance to the Straits of Malacca.

The appearance of Vice Admiral Togo's fleet in the track that would be used in any attempt by Vice Admiral Rojestvensky to make for Vladivostok is the most interesting news of the day. It is not known whether Vice Admiral Togo himself is with the fleet.

According to the Daily Mails' correspondent at Singapore, who visited the fleet, the officers were unusually reticent. Two Japanese officers landed and conferred with the Japanese consul, and it was understood by the correspondent that the squadron would soon sail again, as it required nothing.

The presumption is that Rojestvensky's squadron is still off the coast of Madagascar, but, as the ice in the harbor of Vladivostok is beginning to give way, the Russian admiral must soon make a decision whether to dash for Vladivostok or return to Russia.

Naval experts here believe that Togo will not come much further in quest of the Baltic squadron, on the ground that he cannot afford to run unnecessary risks.

STORM ON BRITISH COAST.

Many Shipwrecks and Serious Loss of Life Result.

London, March 16.—A storm of hurricane force burst over the Irish and English coasts during the night, and it is feared that many disasters have occurred. The telegraph lines are broken at many points. The British ship Khyber has been wrecked off the Cornish coast. Twenty-three of her crew were drowned and three were saved. The Khyber sailed from Melbourne, Australia, October 26, for Queens-town.

The storm swept over the north of Ireland early this morning, and did great damage to property. Fears are entertained for the safety of the fishing fleets.

The high winds have caused terrible havoc along the coasts of the United Kingdom. Telegraphic communication between London and many points is cut off. The lifeboat stations are busy, and shipping everywhere is seeking shelter. Numbers of minor wrecks, accompanied by loss of life, have been reported.

READY ON TIME.

Lewis and Clark Fair Will Be Complete on Day of Opening.

Portland, March 16.—With the exposition more than two months away, exhibits from all parts of the world are daily reaching the exposition grounds. There are now a hundred cars or more of exhibits stored in the various buildings and word has been received that many more shipments are en route from Eastern points and ports.

The significance of this is that the various displays can be arranged more effectively than has ever before been recorded at an exposition. Since the exhibit palaces are nearly all completed and the others will soon be done, there can be no delay in getting the exposition ready, and it is announced as the intention of the exposition management to have the fair in a state of readiness even to the slightest detail on June 1.

Japan Will Not Offer Peace.

London, March 16.—Bron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, in an interview today on the subject of peace, said that suggestions to the effect that Japan had officially or unofficially put forward feelers looking to the conclusion of peace were unfounded. "Whatever individuals may say hereafter," he added, "you may regard it as certain that Japan does not mean to put forward peace terms. When Russia acknowledges that she is beaten or expresses her willingness to discuss peace, we shall be ready."

Russian Guns Sunk in Rivers.

Ninchwang, March 16.—The military men here advance the theory that the difference in the number of guns the Japanese are reported to have captured and those General Kuropatkin is reported to have lost, is owing to the Russians, when routed, dropping their guns into the rivers through the ice and abandoning others in ravines and gullies. It is expected that, as soon as the present rush at Mukden is over, search for the lost artillery will begin.

Tie Pass Taken.

Tokio, March 16.—The Japanese occupied Tie pass at midnight, March 15. Details of the occupation of Tie pass have not yet been received at imperial army headquarters. An official bulletin reports the action and that the Japanese are in hot pursuit of the retreating Russians, but it does not mention any particulars about the fight.

ROASTED TO DEATH.

Nineteen Persons Perish in New York Tenement House Fire.

New York, March 15.—Nineteen persons were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the five-story tenement house at 105 Allen street early today. More than 40 are injured and only a few of the sleeping inmates escaped unhurt. Several of those who perished were roasted to death in plain view of the thousands in the streets.

Coroner Goldenkranz declared after an investigation that he had reason to believe the blaze was the work of an incendiary. He issued subpoenas for the fire marshal, tenement house commission and building owners and health and police officials to appear before him at the inquest Thursday.

The fire started in the basement occupied by Isaac Davis, his wife and three children. Davis had been out last night, and returned early this morning, going into his store upon the same floor just in time to see the kerosene lamp in the rear explode.

He says he woke his wife, and both tried to put out the flaming lamp, but without success, and then gave all their attention to getting their children out of the building. A policeman who heard the cry of alarm rushed to the scene, and every effort was made to rouse the sleeping persons in the house.

In the meantime the flames had spread with startling rapidity, and when the persons who had been asleep in the upper floors awoke they found themselves confronted by a wall of flames on every side. The panic-stricken people, fighting for their lives, rushed to the fire escapes, only to find them littered with rubbish of all descriptions and almost impassable. Down through these narrow passageways flowed a stream of humanity.

WHOLE LAW DEAD.

Congress Unintentionally Abolished Lieu Land Selections.

Washington, March 15.—Without intending to do so, congress has apparently repealed the lieu land law in its entirety. It doing so it has erased from the statute books the law which has been responsible for more fraud than any other public land statute; it has put an end forever to a system of exchanges by which the Federal government has actually been cheated out of millions of dollars' worth of valuable timber land.

In the closing hours of the last congress, the senate passed a bill that had long been on its calendar, intended to restrict lieu selections to non-timbered lands. It was a bill that had previously been passed by the house, but which had been amended by the senate committee. Because of this amendment, the bill was sent to conference, and there it was again altered until it was amended out of shape and accomplished a very different purpose from what it did as it passed the house and senate.

Although the bill retained its title, "An act prohibiting the selection of timber lands in lieu of lands in forest reserves," its text was so changed that it not only prohibited the selection of timber lands, but all lands in exchange for lands in forest reserves.

FINANCIERS MAY BRING PEACE

Refusal of French Bankers to Lend Money is a Blow to Russia.

London, March 15.—The revolt of the French bankers is considered by the London newspapers as the most hopeful and important news of the day, promising an early conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan. Apparently the proposed loan has not been absolutely refused, but only "postponed." This, however, is regarded here as being tantamount to a refusal, and is expected to speak louder to the Russian war party even than Kuropatkin's reverse at Mukden.

It is the general belief that by the death of M. Germain, the late governor of the credit Lyonnais, Russia lost her strongest financial friend in France, and that, had he been still alive, no difficulty would have been experienced. With the American and English markets closed to her, it is thought that Russia can only turn to Germany, which is not likely to be much more responsive than France, and the only alternative would seem to be to make peace.

Island Officers Get More Pay.

Washington, March 15.—Hereafter the ten per cent additional pay allowed the officers serving in the insular possessions will be computed on the basis of their regular salaries, with longevity pay added, according to a decision rendered by the supreme court of the United States. The question was involved in a suit instituted by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen C. Mills, who served two years in the Philippines. His salary was \$3,000 and his longevity allowance \$1,000. He was paid 10 per cent additional upon the \$3,000.

Price of Linoleum Will Advance.

New York, March 15.—Leading manufacturers of linoleum have agreed, says the Journal of Commerce, to advance all inland goods 10 per cent and all printed goods 20 per cent the increase to take effect on all goods manufactured from today. Present stocks will be sold at the old prices between now and May 1, after which nothing will be sold except at the new figure. This action has been prompted by radical changes in the cost of raw material.

Nebraskans Will Keep Passes.

Lincoln, Neb., March 15.—The house today, by a vote of 42 to 40, agreed to indefinitely postpone the bill making it a crime to give or accept railroad passes. Today's action disposes of all the anti-pass measures, every one being defeated.

"RELIEVING" GUARD NEAR THE SHAHO.



PUTTING A LIVING SENTRY IN A DEAD ONE'S PLACE.

Since the midwinter campaign of Napoleon in Russia almost a century ago no great war has been waged under such terrible climatic conditions as prevail in Manchuria to-day. There was suffering in the trenches before Sebastopol in the winter of 1854-55, but nothing like that of the Japanese and Russians along the Shaho River. The work of entrenching is almost impossible, and at the outposts the sentries have to be content with holes burrowed in the ground. Walking to and fro with a background of snow to throw the figure into relief as a mark for the sharp shooter means death. Even careful burrowing, says the London Illustrated News artist, who drew the graphic sketch reproduced above, cannot always protect the Japanese sentries from the Russian marksmen, and not infrequently when the relief comes a dead man has to be drawn out of the pit to make room for a living successor.

NEW FRENCH PREMIER.

M. Rouvier, Successor of Combes, Begins Life as a Book Agent.

M. Rouvier, who succeeds M. Combes as French premier, has been for more than a generation closely identified with the politics of the Republic. He has been repeatedly at the head of the department of finance, in which position he established a reputation which made his name a household one in France.

The new premier began life as a book agent. Subsequently he engaged in the Russian grain trade, and his business journeys to Constantinople.



M. ROUVIER.

nople, Odessa, Smyrna and other ports bordering on the Mediterranean gave him a valuable and broadening training. In 1869, having acquired a competence, he engaged in politics and through his efforts Gambetta was sent to the Chamber of Deputies from Marseilles. In 1871 Rouvier himself entered the chamber and at once became prominent in French political life. He is accounted one of the strong men of France, and, with Delcasse, the foreign minister, and M. Doumer, the new president of the Chamber of Deputies, has vastly enhanced the power and prestige of the republic.

A WORLD WONDER.

Trainman Who Makes People Understand Stations Name.

"Ka-n-ka-kee!" "Kan-k-a-a-kee!" "Kan-ka-k-e-e-e!" William J. Crawford, a colored trainman, of Chicago, has reduced the calling of station names to a practical system that has won for him the praise and hearty thanks of a million of passengers. When he inflates one of the healthiest pairs of lungs in Illinois, opens his mouth, and begins to play on a station name, no man, woman or child fails to understand what it is.

Crawford has been on the fast trains of the Illinois Central between Chicago and Cairo for the last ten years. When he first became a trainman he noticed that a man or woman would look him squarely in the face while he was calling the station, and that about the time the train had got well underway from the depot at which the passenger wanted to get off, Crawford would find him sitting in his seat in blissful ignorance of his having been carried past. This did not happen often, but many times, and the observing employe began to suspect that people did not "catch" him.

In many instances trouble arose

from many different pronunciations of the name of a town. Different people put the emphasis on different syllables, and this often created confusion. The noise of the train in speeding over the rails also made it difficult to make out what was being called.

"Finally," said the trainman, "I concluded that I would first attract the attention of every passenger in the car and then call out the station, emphasizing first one syllable and then another, using all of the accents and inflections I had ever heard of. In the course of time I got what I considered the best way of impressing the mind with particular names, and we carried few people past their destination."

Nature has greatly aided this man in his work. He has a voice singularly full and resonant. When he breaks loose at the end of a car a half-awake passenger starts from his seat as if a steam calliope had started on a rag-time tune, and by the time he winds up on such names as Tuscola, Arcola, and Tolono passengers for these places are loading up with packages and grips and reaching for umbrellas.—Chicago Tribune.

Paper as Fuel.

In these days of scarcity of fuel it may be interesting to know how one thrifty housekeeper, with more leisure than money, has warmed her house for years during the two weeks or so in the fall and spring when heat is needed in the morning and evening only. She uses old newspapers and prepares them for combustion by twisting them into fagots. For the furnace she tears the paper in half, doubles each half together and twists it tightly. For the fireplace heater she separates the sheets, crumples each together and finishes by giving a slight twist, while for the small stove in her sewing room or for a grate that is sometimes used in a north room, she merely gives the paper a close crumple. She finds it better to prepare the fuel pretty near the time of using it, as it burns better if it has not been allowed to gather dampness. This fuel is prepared at odd times, usually at dusk, by the mistress and her children, and is kept in huge bags made of cast-off garments, and these forms measures for the amounts needed.

New Use for Refined Paraffine Wax.

A new and important use for refined paraffine wax seems to have been discovered by a prominent resident of Ohio, living near Lancaster, who had two trees badly damaged by storm, one being a maple and the other an apple. In each case a large limb was broken down from the trunk, but still attached to it. The limbs were propped up and fastened securely with straps, very much as a broken leg might be fastened with splints, and then melted refined wax poured into and over all the cracks. The "surgical operation" was entirely successful. The paraffine prevented the escape of the sap, kept out the rain and moisture which would have rotted the trees, prevented the depredations of insects, and the limbs seem thus far to be perfectly re-attached to the trees.

Best He Could Do.

Bachelor (disgustedly)—Huh! You're to be married, I hear. Oldham—Yes, to Miss Payne. Bachelor—Poor chump! I thought you knew better. Oldham—So I do, but none of them would have me.—Philadelphia Press.

A man never kicks if his name is misspelled in the police records of a newspaper.