

CANAL COSTS MUCH MONEY

More Than \$48,000,000 Has Been Spent By Commission.

Style and Number of Gates Decided On—Hired Instead of Contract Labor Believed to Be Best for Construction Work on the Great Waterway.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Full details of the work done on the Panama canal during the fiscal year 1907, with a showing of what has been accomplished since the project has been in American hands, are disclosed in the annual report of the Isthmian Canal commission. It is the first report made of the operations on the isthmus since construction work has been in charge of army engineers.

Aside from the \$50,000,000 paid to the French company and to Panama, an aggregate of \$48,285,110 has been expended by the government on the project adopted by congress and which it was estimated by the board of consulting engineers would ultimately cost \$39,075,200. This estimate, however, did not include sanitation and expenditures of the zone government, waterworks, sewers and paving in Panama and Colon and the re-equipment of the Panama railroad.

There is no reference in the report to the proposition which has been brought forward to extend the width of the locks to 110 feet, so as to accommodate without difficulty the extreme breadth in the development of shipbuilding, and this will be made the subject of a special report from the commission. A strong position is taken favorable to the policy of doing the work by hired instead of by contract labor, a step at one time seriously considered by the administration, and many arguments are presented to justify the commission in its conclusion that the canal can be built better, cheaper and more quickly by the government.

The commission has fully decided upon the method of filling and emptying the locks and the number and type of gates. The gates are in duplicate and of the miter type, except that the rolling gate similar to that now in use on the Ohio river will be substituted for the duplicate set at the lower end of each summit-level lock.

WILL MEET AT ST. LOUIS.

Populist Party Sets Date for Next Convention April 2.

St. Louis, Nov. 28.—After protracted balloting and consideration of the merits of all cities, the national committee of the People's party late last night selected St. Louis as the place for the national nominating convention and set April 2 as the date for the gathering. Kansas City, Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Oklahoma City were discussed.

Besides disposing of the convention matter the committee prepared an address to the voters of the country, which was issued and in which the leading figures of the older parties are complimented for taking up "Populist teachings."

READY TO PAY CASH AGAIN.

Western Banks Encourage Chicago to Begin Movement.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Direct reports to the Chicago clearing house from hundreds of Western cities encouraged the local bankers yesterday to believe a resumption of cash payments will be possible within a fortnight. When the clearing house committee met the members had before them more than 500 letters in reply to their circular letter sent out last week asking for statements of conditions throughout the West.

Practically all of the letters, it was announced, expressed a willingness to co-operate with the Chicago bankers in resuming a cash basis.

Imitates Early Day Rush.

Helena, Nov. 28.—No little excitement exists in the vicinity of Bozeman over the discovery of considerable gold in the placer diggings of the West Galatin basin. For nine miles on either side of the river claims have been staked out and prospectors have panned out quite a quantity of gold. Frank Bliss, of Livingston, is reported to have panned \$9 in a half a dozen pans, and others have had equally good luck. Many prominent residents of Bozeman have left for the diggings, which in the early days were noted as gold producers.

Big Storm on Black Sea.

Constantinople, Nov. 28.—According to reports received here, the recent storms on the Black sea have resulted in terrible suffering and great loss of life. Among the disasters to shipping is the foundering off Eregli, Asia Minor, of the steamship Kaplan. The 110 persons on board perished. Numerous smaller craft have been overwhelmed and these disasters, together with the loss of the Kaplan, bring the number of casualties to more than 200.

Japan Makes Promise to Canada.

Tokio, Nov. 28.—Rodolphe Lemieux, Canadian postmaster general and labor commissioner, had a conference lasting four hours yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi, at which the emigration problem was discussed. It is understood he received assurances that the Japanese government is now engaged in planning the limiting of emigration to Canada.

COURT SUSPENDS LAW.

Railroads Again Attack State Rights in Alabama.

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 29.—Judge Thomas Jones, of the United States District court, late today granted a restraining order which has the effect of temporarily suspending all of the railroad legislation just passed by the legislature as applied to the Louisville & Nashville, the South & North Alabama, and Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis and the Central of Georgia railroads.

The court suspended the laws temporarily for an investigation of the allegations made in the bills that they are confiscatory and unequal. In the case of the Central of Georgia, the order is made returnable December 2. The order in the case of the other railroads is made returnable December 2. These orders are directed to the sheriffs, solicitors, clerks of the counties through which the roads pass, and all citizens, restraining them from attempting to enforce the laws until the court disposes of the litigation.

SHIPPERS MUST MAKE GOOD

Interstate Commission Wants Evidence to Support Complaints.

Chicago, Nov. 29.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner E. E. Clark sharply rebuked the dilatory tactics of shippers making complaint against the railroad today during the hearing on freight rates to the South Mississippi river points.

"The time will come when the commission will not tolerate such indifference," said Mr. Clark. "We are continually confronted with just such a situation. Hundreds of cases have been filed which the commission has only wasted its time on, as the complainants have failed to produce evidence. Only a few weeks ago we had a case in which there was apparently a lack of any effort to prepare for it. In this present case some of the witnesses were not ready to testify at Kansas City, and it is now the same here."

SHAW PLACES RESPONSIBILITY

Declares West Has Lost Confidence in the East.

New York, Nov. 29.—Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw, president of the Carnegie Trust company, returned to New York yesterday from Chicago, where he conferred with many bankers regarding the financial situation. In discussing conditions he said: "The West has lost confidence in the East. It will cost us here millions of dollars before we regain the prestige and cordial relationship of the past. The men of the West say that New York is responsible for the financial stringency; that when the squeeze came the banks of New York resorted to clearing house certificates first and forced the rest of the country to do the same."

"The bankers of Western cities have no love now for the bankers of New York. They had placed their money on deposit here, but when they asked for it they were refused. They say New York sought to protect only itself and tied up everything so that all the rest of the country was forced to adopt urgent measures to save itself."

DRAW WHITES TO COAST.

Panama Canal Will Bring Desirable Immigrants and Check Asiatics.

New York, Nov. 29.—William R. Wheeler, of San Francisco, one of the special commissioners appointed by President Roosevelt to study abroad the problem of immigration, said today: "The completion of the Panama canal and the consequent influx of European immigration through direct steamship routes, which will inevitably be established, will solve the Asiatic problem in California and the Pacific coast."

"Now this must not be viewed with alarm by the forces of labor on the Pacific coast. These newly-arrived aliens will be of the desirable class, and their presence will aid in the future upbuilding of California and the Pacific coast states rather than retard it."

Calling in Certificates.

Chicago, Nov. 29.—The first step towards retiring the clearing house certificates issued in this city was taken today when the executive committee of the Chicago clearing house ordered destroyed \$25,000 worth of certificates that have been paid back to the clearing house. David R. Forgan, president of the National City bank, announced this action at the weekly dinner of the Chicago Association of Commerce, and added that the procedure will be continued daily until the entire issue is paid back.

Turned Over to Uncle Sam.

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 29.—The steamer Tosa Maru arrived tonight from Yokohama, and as was done on the arrival of the Kumeric recently, local immigration officers forced all Japanese ticketed to this port with passports made out for United States points to proceed direct to Seattle. One hundred and eleven who intended to disembark here were forced to continue, the total for United States points being 222.

Train Seized by Tramps.

Fresno, Cal., Nov. 29.—Sixty tramps seized a Southern Pacific train at Mendota, where the railway crosses the river, and compelled the train crew to give them a ride to Fresno. At Fresno they seized another freight train, which was outbound, and compelled the trainmen to take them along. Word was telephoned ahead and at Visalia 20 officers were awaiting the train, and succeeded in arresting 48 of the tramps.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

STANDS UP FOR THE NAVY.

Assistant Secretary of State Says No Better One Exists.

Washington, Nov. 28.—From time to time during the last few months there have appeared in various publications comments concerning alleged defects in vessels of the navy, particularly in battleships and armored cruisers.

To answer these, Rear Admiral Capps, chief of the bureau of construction and repair, has commented in his annual report to the secretary of the navy. Admiral Capps covets responsibility for the designs, such as they are, and pays the highest tribute to his predecessors in office. He declares our battleship fleet is fully equal in all respects to that of any equal number of ships in any other navy, designed during the same period. He further quotes one of the most distinguished foreign authorities, as follows:

"Extraordinary high figures for United States ships afford food for thought, for both in ships and high power guns impervious to vital injury at long range, the United States fleet is superior to any other in the world." Recurring to the criticisms of the battleships, Admiral Capps says: "The chief constructor hopes that he has demonstrated fully and clearly that such serious faults as exist in any battleships and cruisers were not due to the arbitrary methods of the board of construction or to the bureau of construction and repair, but were almost wholly due to developments in material and the insistence of seagoing officers that certain military features should be embodied in the original design or, subsequently, that changes covering the same should be made under these last conditions. The changes obviously involved a very considerable cost."

Estimates for the next fiscal year for construction and repair on ships shows an increase of \$50,000 over the appropriations for the present year.

Keeping It Secret.

Washington, Nov. 30.—There was another land grant conference in the office of the attorney general today, but nothing has been made public as yet. So far, it is known that these conferences have been purely deliberative, and no conclusions have been reached. Even when it is decided what course shall be pursued, either to compel the railroads to comply with the terms of their grants or to forfeit their lands, it is probable no announcement will be made, as the department deems it imprudent to show its hand to the railroad companies in advance of the institution of legal proceedings. It is agreed that before a definite policy is agreed upon all members of the Oregon congressional delegation will be called in to conference, and will be consulted as to the policy to be adopted.

Some of Utes Go To Work.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The commissioner of Indian affairs has been advised of the arrival of 130 of the disaffected Ute Indians at Rapid City, S. D., where they have agreed to accept work on a railroad. The information comes from Superintendent of Indian Employment Dagnett, who has prevailed upon the Indians to work by informing them of the attitude of the government, which is opposed to indulgence to them so long as they remain in idleness. There are 240 of the malcontents who have not yielded.

Notaries to Take Evidence.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The Interstate Commerce commission today appointed C. H. Sholes, of Portland, and N. W. Bolster, of Seattle, as notaries, to begin November 30 the taking of depositions in the northwest lumber rate cases. It is said there will be a large number of witnesses whose testimony will be taken on the Coast, and it will become a part of the record in the lumber cases here when the hearings begin, December 11.

Japs to Prevent Trouble.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Evidently desiring a more conservative course on the Japanese question, Japan announces the transfer of Consul Uyeno from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia. Chozo Koik, a distinguished diplomat and consul general at New York, goes to San Francisco, on December 2, to be consul general, the post being raised from a consulate.

Proposes Large Homesteads.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Soon after congress convenes Senator Fulton will introduce a bill authorizing 640-acre homesteads in those parts of Eastern Oregon where small acreage will not sustain families. His plan has been successfully tried in Nebraska, particularly in sections which have but little rainfall and where irrigation is not possible.

End of the Old Saratoga.

Washington, Nov. 29.—The old sloop of war Saratoga, famous in history for her performance under command of Admiral Farragut as well as under Commodore Perry, is to go on the junk pile. Thomas Butter & Co., of Boston, who bought the ship for \$3,210, intend to demolish her for the sake of any old metal and scrap in the hull.

New Railway Mail Clerks.

Washington, Nov. 30.—L. C. Oslar and F. H. Twohey, of Portland; Charles A. Crocker, Cornelius Roseoe, S. Steets, Independence, and Guy N. Howell, Salem, have been appointed railway mail clerks.

SAYS RATES WERE EXCESSIVE

Lumber Firm Complains to Commission Against Harriman.

Washington, Nov. 28.—A complaint was filed today with the Interstate Commerce commission by the E. H. Lewis Lumber company, operating in Oregon and Washington, alleging that the Harriman roads in the Northwest in 14 different cases exacted freight charges on cars of lumber shipped from Oregon and Washington to the East in excess of the legal rates published by the roads.

All the excess charges were made subsequent to the time the new rate went into effect, and on this ground complainant asks the commission to require the roads to refund the amount of the excess and hereafter to conform to their published rates.

Indorse Plan of Aitchison

Washington, Nov. 29.—The Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana senators who are here met today and adopted a resolution favoring an amendment to the interstate commerce law in accordance with the terms of the resolution introduced by Commissioner Aitchison, of Oregon, at the recent state railway commissioners' convention here, providing that no increase shall be made in any rate when shippers object until the road can show the rate is reasonable. Today's action was taken in compliance with the wishes of the Pacific Northwest lumbermen, who are now before the Interstate Commerce commission here with several cases involving proposed increase in rates on coast lines.

Nothing As Yet Results.

Washington, Nov. 26.—E. D. Townsend, assistant United States district attorney for North Dakota, having under investigation the Oregon and California land grant cases, had a conference today at the department of justice with A. McDonald McBlair, who was the assistant of Mr. Townsend in the investigation and Tracy C. Becker, who was appointed by the attorney general to go over the report of Mr. Townsend, with the view of recommending what action, if any, should be taken. No determination has yet been reached, and it is not likely the conference will result in a report to the department of justice.

Let Bourne Get Mandate.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The Washington Post today recommends a plan to Senator Bourne to compel President Roosevelt to issue another term. The plan is to bring a mandamus suit in the Supreme court requiring Roosevelt to obey the will of the people. The Post says: "Bourne yearns for Roosevelt as a hart yearns for the water brook. Not only is he deaf to the dissuading tongue, but there is a menacing note in his overtures that is nothing short of blood curdling. If Roosevelt withstands him there will be tragedy."

American Trade With Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 28.—In the nine months ending with September, 1907, the latest period for which figures have been received by the bureau of statistics of the department of Commerce and Labor, the total value of the exports from the United States to Cuba is, in round terms, \$40,000,000, against a little less than \$35,000,000 in the same months of last year, and the total imports from the island, \$84,000,000, against \$75,000,000 last year.

Should Pay the West.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Senator Kittredge, of South Dakota, discussing the financial situation today, said: "If the East pays the West what it owes there will be no trouble. The East has our crops and live stock and will not give us a cent. What we really need is a more elastic currency."

Cannot Work Government.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The pronounced success of the 3 per cent certificates enables Secretary Cortelyou to defeat plans for the purchase of the certificates for speculative purposes. Only individuals showing that the purchase price has not been withdrawn from the banks will be favored.

Best Constitution Made.

Washington, Nov. 26.—William J. Bryan, in an address before students and others at the George Washington university last night, characterized the new Oklahoma constitution as the best constitution extant, and he added "and I don't exclude the constitution of the United States."

No Tariff Revision.

Washington, Nov. 27.—"There will be no tariff revision at the coming session," said Representative Payne, of New York, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, after a conference with the president today on tariff and currency legislation.

Navy Needs Men.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The navy department announces that it wants from 2,000 to 3,000 additional workmen for the Bremerton and Mare Island navy yards to prepare for Rear Admiral Evans' battleships when they arrive at those places.

Northwest Rural Carriers.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Charles Houtz has been appointed regular. Emma Houtz, substitute rural carrier, route No. 1, at Krupp Wash.

STUDY NEW METHODS.

Peru Sends Men to United States to Gather Information.

Lima, Peru, Nov. 27.—The government of Peru has sent to the United States two graduates of the agricultural school to study the process of cultivating sugar cane in Louisiana, and also the cultivation, fertilizers and methods pursued with cotton and rice, in the proper places for the best results, from the planted seed to the preparation for market.

President Pardo says that for the purposes of making the best use of our ocean wealth, in the proper conduct of the fisheries and curing of fish, he has contracted with a specialist in the United States, who is now studying out islands, coast waters and rivers in all that relates to a scientific solution of methods for securing the best results both for the markets and to provide a cheap food for the people, in the hope to produce thus a new source of wealth for the republic.

This government has also sent to the United States two Peruvian sanitary engineers, who will study in the United States the branch of sanitation, in company with the sanitary engineer who was sent earlier to the isthmus of Panama to study there the sanitary system established by the North Americans.

FAMINE IN ASIA.

Sultan of Turkey Forbids Export of Barley—Crops Fail.

Constantinople, Nov. 27.—Famine threatens a great part of Asia Minor owing to the failure of crops and the greatest distress prevails. The sultan has already issued orders forbidding the export of barley, of which large amounts are annually shipped abroad to foreign firms for brewing purposes. This order, it is expected, will give rise to great complaint from foreigners who have made contracts.

The sultan has also exempted from duty all wheat imported until the end of January, and has given orders for the agricultural bank to distribute seed to the needy farmers.

Winter shows signs of beginning at an unusually early time and heavy rains are hindering autumn sowing. Added to these calamities is the high price of all necessities of life so that it may be said without exaggeration that the prospect for the coming winter is unprecedentedly gloomy.

Want Action on Notices.

Chicago, Nov. 27.—Following an agreement between Chicago banks with savings departments which are members of the Clearing House association that 30-day notices by depositors desiring of withdrawing their accounts would be met immediately, letters of notification have been sent out by some of the banks asking that the accounts be withdrawn or the notices canceled without delay. The requests have met with little response. It was learned today that one bank which had received 330 notices of intended withdrawals heard from only 12 of its letters.

Asks League to Give Up.

Chicago, Nov. 27.—The city council last night by a unanimous vote asked the Chicago Law and Order league to abandon its campaign against Sunday saloons and let the question be submitted to a vote of citizens at the next election. In the same resolution the aldermen asserted that the Sunday closing law now on the statute books is "obsolete." The resolution was adopted without debate and by a viva voce vote. Officers of the league spent the day in classifying the evidence secured by their volunteer detectives.

Oil for British Warships.

London, Nov. 27.—The sailing of the admiralty owned tank steamer Petroleum for Port Arthur, Texas, marks a new departure in the British navy, as it is the first time that the admiralty has tried the experiment of importing a cargo of oil in its own ships. It is anticipated that the Petroleum is only the forerunner of a small fleet of admiralty owned tankships which will be continually employed in meeting the increasing requirements.

Ashes Fall at Nome.

Nome, Alaska, Nov. 27.—Showers of volcanic ashes are falling in Nome, Teller and Tin City. The snow is noticeably blackened by the ashes. The place of their origin has not yet been fixed. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes have been of frequent occurrence in Alaska since last July. Violent shocks of earthquake have been felt at sea and on land snowslides have started as result of earthwakes.

Ships Nearly Ready.

New York, Nov. 27.—Notice was served this morning that 700 men would be laid off at the Brooklyn navy yard in a few days. Two hundred and fifty are to be discharged today. The work on the boats for the Pacific cruise is nearly completed.

Population of Brazil.

Rio Janeiro, Nov. 27.—According to the census, just completed, Brazil contains 19,910,646 inhabitants. The Brazilian government has resolved to establish eight naval schools, to fit officers and men for the navy.

Buy Russian Poland.

Berlin, Nov. 27.—A movement to Germanize Prussian Poland has been inaugurated. A bill asking for \$100,000,000 with which to buy out the native land owners has been introduced.

Spain Contracts for Navy.

Glasgow, Nov. 27.—It is announced that local shipbuilders have contracted to furnish Spain with a navy for \$35,000,000.

NO MORE DELAY IN LAND TRIALS

Attorney General Bonaparte Goaded to Order Action.

If Heney Cannot Leave San Francisco, Trials Will Proceed Without Him—Bristol to Handle Hall and Hermann Cases—Hall's Protest is Heeded.

Washington, Nov. 26.—Further postponement of the trial of the Oregon land fraud cases is not to be tolerated. Because of complaints and criticisms the department of Justice has decided to take radical steps, which will force trials at an early date, and it is expected that District Attorney Bristol will soon receive instructions to proceed.

Only recently John Hall, under indictment, wrote the president, asking for trial. His request was transmitted to the attorney general and thence to Mr. Bristol, who replied that he could not proceed, as that was one of F. J. Heney's cases.

The department says that, if Mr. Heney cannot get away from San Francisco long enough to prosecute Hall and Binger Hermann, some one else will be found who can take up this work. In fairness to those under indictment, the department believes these long delayed cases should be tried. It is probable that Mr. Bristol will be instructed to prosecute Hall and Hermann, as well as all others under indictment for land frauds.

BURNED IN REVENGE.

Thirteen Persons Roasted in New York to Gratify Malice.

New York, Nov. 26.—Thirteen persons lost their lives and several others were injured early today in a tenement house fire at 109 Eighth street and Second avenue. All the dead were Italians. Six of the 13 were children. The bodies were huddled together in rooms on the top floor of the four-story building, where the terror-stricken people had been driven by the flames, which rushed up from the lower floors. Some had been enveloped in the flames and burned alive. Others, overcome by smoke, were spared the agonies of death by the flames.

That the fatal fire was the work of incendiaries who sought revenge is the opinion of the police and firemen, who made the first hasty examination. Three weeks ago three Italians were caught in the act of trying to rob a safe in the saloon of Giuseppe Cudano, on the ground floor. The safe contained more than \$2,000 which the saloonist's friends had withdrawn from the bank during the money panic. The would-be robbers were arrested and are now awaiting trial.

The fire of today started in Cudano's saloon, and the police believe it may have been the work of friends of the prisoners, who take this means of squaring accounts with the saloonist.

OPEN MORE LAND.

Nearly Million and a Half Acres in Montana to Be Sold.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 26.—The members of the commission recently appointed to appraise the remaining government land on the Flathead Indian reservation have perfected an organization. Orders from Washington are to go into the field at once and begin work. The reservation contains approximately 1,425,000 acres, of which 175,000 acres have been allotted to the Indians, leaving 1,250,000 acres to be inspected, classified and appraised. The land will be divided into agricultural land of the first class, agricultural land of the second class, timber land, mineral land and grazing land.

Settlers under the homestead law, who shall reside upon and cultivate the land for five years, shall pay one-third of the appraised value in cash, at the time of entry, and the remainder in five equal installments, one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, with the usual homestead fees.

To Free Philippines.

Boston, Nov. 26.—Historic Faneuil hall was last night the scene of a notable meeting in support of a plan for a pledge of independence to the Philippine islands accompanied by neutralization of the territory. Among those who addressed the meeting were Congressman James L. Slayden, of Texas, James H. Blount, formerly judge of the first instance in the Philippines, and Congressman Samuel W. McCall, of Massachusetts, the mover of the resolution in congress embodying the plan for Philippine independence.

A New Source of Heat.

Virginia City, Nev. Nov. 26.—Some engineers of Virginia City, reflecting on the scarcity of fuel every winter in that rigorous climate, have hit upon an odd idea for mitigating the temperature and warming the buildings of that town. One of them has undertaken to struggle with the difficulty by utilizing the superfluous heat of the adjacent mines, which he proposes to tap with an iron tube, and so ventilate the mines while heating the houses.

Government Checks Plague.

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—The plague report issued by the board of health was as follows: One new suspect; none verified; 101 verified to date; 63 deaths; 30 discharged as cured; 8 remaining. The Federal authorities have decided to take over the work of sanitation.