

ON NEUTRAL BASIS

DRAFT OF CANAL TREATY SHOWN PAUNCEFOTE.

At Washington It Is Stated by the Authorities That the Memorandum as Presented, Embodying the Views of Different Senators, Is Merely Tentative—Will Not Divulge Contents of the Document.

London, May 8.—The Associated Press has been officially notified that Lord Pauncefoot has received from Secretary Hay the draft of a new Nicaragua canal treaty. It is understood that it advises neutrality.

Negotiations for Canal Treaty.

Washington, May 8.—It is learned from an authoritative source that before Secretary Hay left here for the West he had several conferences with Lord Pauncefoot relative to the basis for another isthmian canal treaty, and that an unofficial written memorandum also was submitted to Lord Pauncefoot on the subject. The ambassador has made known the general results of these conversations and of the memorandum to the authorities in London, and it is doubtless to this that allusion is made in the London dispatches. The negotiations, however, are so tentative and informal that they are not regarded as an official exchange or proposition. What they embody is not made known, though it is understood they are chiefly an exposition of the views held by the United States senators as to the essential features which should be included in a treaty. While this is not a proffer of a treaty, it conveys to the British authorities what is considered essential by the senators who control the ratification of any treaty which will be made. It also is learned indirectly from senators who have been consulted that among the chief features of the negotiations are a neutralizing of the canal, the United States alone undertaking to guarantee this neutrality, and the admission of all shipping on an equal basis with that of the United States. Although, as stated, these conferences and these written memoranda have been exchanged, it is not expected that there will be any further negotiations prior to Lord Pauncefoot's departure for London, which occurs June 5, or during his absence. The British embassy will remove to Newport as soon as the ambassador leaves.

SEVEN BURNED TO DEATH.

Many Other People Burned and Injured in a Chicago Fire.

Chicago, May 8.—Seven people were burned to death, three fatally injured, and several others slightly burned and otherwise injured in a fire that destroyed a three story apartment building at 816 Marquette avenue, South Chicago.

While the occupants of the burning building were struggling with the smoke and flames in hopes of forcing their way to safety, the firemen who were responding to the alarm were vainly waiting for a freight train, which blocked the way of the fire engines, to move away from the crossing and give an open road to the fire. Marshall Driscoll, in charge of the firemen, called to the conductor and brakemen to move the train, but they refused to comply with his request. The police were sent for and the train crew arrested. Then, under orders of the fire marshal, the train was backed from the crossing, but by the time the firemen reached the burning building the structure had been destroyed. Scattered among the embers were found the charred remains of the victims. The bodies were burned beyond recognition, and were identified in various ways.

The train crew are being held awaiting an investigation by the coroner. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building was an old one, built of wood, and burned so rapidly that all avenues of escape by stairways were cut off before the occupants were aware of the fire.

Germans Fired on British.

Tien Tsin, May 8.—Some German soldiers who were guarding a German bridge across the Pei Ho river at the south end of the British concession here, fired on the British tug The Ego this morning, wounding two of her crew. The bridge impedes river traffic and the tug touched it.

Japanese Monument to Perry.

Berkeley, Cal., May 8.—Baron Kentaro Kaneko, president of the Bei Yu Kyo Kai, the American association of Japan, has asked the assistance of the University of California in raising public interest in the movement to erect at Kurihama a monument commemorative of the landing of Commodore Perry half a century ago. A considerable fund has already been raised, and it is expected that the monument will be unveiled on the coming anniversary of the landing of the American envoy.

Marion Ignacio Prado Dead.

Paris, May 8.—Marion Ignacio Prado is dead, aged 74 years. Prado participated in General Castilla's revolution against the Echeague government in 1854. He marched against Lima in 1865 and entered the capital November 6, at the head of a victorious army. November 26 he declared himself dictator and was subsequently elected constitutional president by the Peruvian congress. He was again elected president in 1876.

FOREIGNERS TO BLAME.

Allied Armies Responsible for Much of the Anarchy Existing in China.

New York, May 8.—The latest mail from China brought to the state department new proofs of the terrible and perhaps irremediable conditions which exist under the foreign military rule in North China, involving a situation not heretofore fully realized even in Washington, and utterly unappreciated in the United States generally. The character of the information which has now come into the administration's possession is summarized in the following extracts from a communication written by one of the most trusted officials in the service abroad and mailed from Peking a month ago:

"The question of raising the indemnity, though one of the most serious of the Chinese government, is not paramount. All the people who are likely to know declare that the Chinese peasant can stand no greater burden of taxation than in the past, so the question resolves itself largely to reducing the expense of collection, which in China involves radical reforms. Another proposition for meeting the indemnity is to grant lucrative mining and industrial concessions to foreigners, but that means bartering their independence, and laying up endless trouble for the Chinese, who are quick to recognize the fact.

"If the whole horror of the murder and pillage done between Tien Tsin and Peking comes to be understood in the United States and in Europe, the sum of it is so great as compared to the number of Christians who have suffered at the hands of the Chinese that, rightly or wrongly, the Chinese are likely to be held the injured party. Lancers wantonly impaling little children by the wayside in the streets of Peking are some of the least of the well authenticated horrors, and to some foreign soldiers a dead Chinese Christian is just as satisfactory an evidence of no quarter as a dead Boxer—they neither know nor care for the trifling distinctions.

"The allies, even if they could agree, could not set up an administrative machinery of their own for the empire. They must restore the power to some native party, and the quicker they do it the better for China. The Chinese estimate that 1,000,000 of their people have lost their lives by violent deaths or starvation about Peking and Tien Tsin since the allies came."

MUSTERED OUT.

Thirty Ninth Infantry and Others Just Returned from the Philippines.

San Francisco, May 8.—The Thirty-ninth infantry was mustered out of the service today. The Thirty-second, Twenty-ninth and Twenty-sixth will all follow in a few days. Nearly all the officers of the Twenty-sixth infantry have been ordered to appear before the examining board for commissions in the regular army. The reduction of the size of the army in the Philippines will bring home immediately after the return of all the volunteers the regiments of the regular army who have been longest in the Philippines, the Fourth cavalry, the Fourteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third infantry.

The transport Egbert, which has just arrived from the Philippines will be detained in quarantine for a week or more, a soldier having died of small pox during the voyage. The cabin passengers, however, will be fumigated and allowed to land.

LAUNCH OF THE DEFENDER.

Yacht Constitution Lowered into the Water at Bristol.

Bristol, R. I., May 8.—With her hull gaily decorated with flags and her deck well filled with sailors, the yacht Constitution was christened this evening by Mrs. Butler Dunoon, who broke the traditional bottle of wine on her glistening bow, just as she started slowly down the ways into the sea. The scene was a brilliant one, as the Constitution was slowly lowered into the water, the cheering from the boats outside being loud and vigorous, while the searchlight from the steam yacht Colona, just outside the dock, illuminated the stern of the Constitution. Rockets and other fireworks added to the gaiety of the situation. As the stern of the craft emerged from the shops, the private signals of the members of the syndicate were displayed on small flagstaffs upon her deck.

Torquoise for McKinley.

Santa Fe, N. M., May 8.—Four beautiful and valuable turquoise from the Porterfield mines in the Burro mountains were presented to President McKinley by Governor Otero. The largest stone weighs 20 carats, and was a superb specimen.

Sheet Music Trust.

Chicago, May 8.—Arrangements have been completed for the formation of a combination of the eight leading publishers of popular sheet music in the United States.

Smallpox on Ocean Liners.

New York, May 8.—The ocean liners arriving of late are averaging 1,000 immigrants each, and the health officers of the port are kept busy. Steerage passengers with sore eyes are rejected, as a case of small pox was discovered on a German steamer. A steamer from Marseilles had three cases of smallpox among her 1,173 steerage passengers.

MADE GOOD REPORT

CUBAN DELEGATION LIKED THEIR RECEPTION.

Reported Fully Upon Their Treatment While in Washington, Both Social and Official—Report Made a Good Impression on the Cuban Constitutional Convention—A Few Radicals Oppose Its Acceptance.

Havana, May 9.—The special commission of the Cuban constitutional convention, which returned here from Washington May 5 at the secret session presented an extensive report of its conferences with President McKinley and Secretary Root and a glowing account of the banquets and receptions tendered the members. Signor Giberga objected to incorporating an account of the social programme in the report, but the commission insisted upon this point. In reference to the third clause of the Platt amendment, the report stated that the United States would not intervene unless Cuba is attacked by a foreign power and there exists in Cuba a condition of affairs similar to that which existed under Spain at the time of American intervention. Regarding coaling stations, the report set forth that the places so desired by the United States were Capes Maysi and San Antonio and another point commanding the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. These would be definitely determined when drawing up the treaty. The object of these stations would be the maintenance of the independence of Cuba as well as the protection of the United States. The report also said that the United States would in no way interfere with the local government and that President McKinley had promised to appoint a commission to meet a Cuban commission to discuss the economic question and to draw up a commercial treaty as soon as the republic is established, and that he advised the Cubans in the meantime to study the situation in this respect. The representatives announced that Secretary Root had said that there was nothing in the Platt amendment to prevent Cuba from having diplomatic representatives in foreign countries.

TRAIN WRECK IN IOWA.

Engineer Killed and a Score of Passengers Hurt.

Ottumwa, Ia., May 9.—Burlington passenger train No. 3 was wrecked today while passing Thayer, a small town 18 miles east of Creston, causing the death of the engineer and injuring over a score of passengers, none fatally. The locomotive hauling the passenger train struck an engine attached to a freight train that was backing onto a sidetrack. The passenger engine and all but two cars of the passenger train left the rails, and rolled down a 20 foot embankment.

Thayer is situated in the bed of a deep ravine, and on either side of the station the track curves sharply. Neither engineer could see the other's train until within 25 feet of each other. The passenger train was running at a high rate of speed. The engineer of the freight train heard the passenger train coming, and made the utmost endeavor to back his heavy train onto the sidetrack. He succeeded in getting all but the engine on the siding when the crash came. As the passenger train rounded the curve, the engineer saw his peril, but stuck to his post, reversing his engine, threw on the air brake to the emergency notch, applied the sand, and awaited the crash. At the last moment the men on the freight train jumped, escaping serious injury. The freight engine was thrown across the tracks and the passenger engine hurled down a 20 foot embankment.

CHIEF OBSTACLE GONE.

Salmon-Canners' Trust Almost an Assured Fact.

New York, May 9.—The Journal of Commerce says: It was learned from a reliable source last night that the Alaska Packers' Association, which has been the chief obstacle to the proposed consolidation of the salmon packers, had given options on its various plants to the syndicate which has been seeking to effect such a combine.

It is learned that the Alaska Packers' Association had placed a valuation of \$12,000,000 on its outfit. The indications are that the matter of consolidation will be brought to a head at once. The plants extend from Chilkoot, in Alaska, south to Seattle, 900 miles along the coast. Some of the best known financiers in the United States are behind the deal, and are understood to be actually pledged.

The proposed capital of the combination is to be \$32,000,000. The capital will be in common and preferred stock and debenture bonds.

No Strained Relations.

London, May 9.—The rumor that the relations between Germany and Russia are strained on account of slights on the part of Count Von Waldersee are discredited at the foreign office, though it is admitted that a majority of the powers are considerably irritated by the field marshal's numerous expeditions. It is not believed that this has led to any definite misunderstanding.

SHELTER FOR HOMELESS.

Tented Villages are Being Erected in Jacksonville.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 9.—The almost superhuman work of the different committees has somewhat relieved the situation and it is now believed that in every instance those without proper food and clothing were in a measure cared for today and that tonight there are vastly fewer people who were compelled to sleep upon the streets. Two hundred tents were erected today, and while those were very crowded tonight and while several churches and schoolhouses in the suburbs were also crowded with sleepers, this condition will also be relieved tomorrow by the arrival of 2,000 tents from the general government at Washington, which will be erected at once. The military companies have been of great assistance with their experience in rapidly erecting tents. There will also be provided several extra commissary stations in various parts of the city to relieve the situation at the two already established.

There has been no outbreak of sickness in the city. Thousands of people have left the city. Those remaining will be given some kind of labor at the bureaus which have been established. The cleaning up of the streets has been going rapidly.

Clouds of smoke still envelope the city from the smoldering embers of the conflagration, but many buildings have been sufficiently cooled off to allow the safes to be opened and books and papers of a great many concerns have been found only slightly scorched. Twelve carloads of provisions have arrived from New York.

SHIPYARDS COMBINE.

New Organization With Sixtyfive Millions Capital.

New York, May 9.—A circular has been issued by H. W. Poor & Co., regarding the organization of the United States Shipbuilding company under the laws of New Jersey to acquire the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., the Union Iron Works, San Francisco; the Bath Iron Works, Bath Me.; the Crescent Shipyards and the Samuel J. Moore & Sons Co., of Elizabethport, N. J., and the Canda Manufacturing Co., of Carteret, N. J. The total annual capacity is estimated at 380,000 tons.

The aggregate orders of the constituent companies on hand promise an estimated profit of over \$5,000,000. The committee will be authorized under its charter to issue capital stock to the amount of \$65,000,000.

ROYALTY REDUCED.

Miners Object to Rule That Non-Payment Means Confiscation of Dust.

Seattle, May 9.—Dispatches from Dawson under date of April 23 state that the royalty has been officially reduced to 5 per cent and that certificates must be presented at the boundary showing that the royalty has been paid or suffer confiscation of dust. A vigorous protest is being made by the miners.

There has been a marked advance in the price of beef and eggs but there is ample supply to last until navigation opens. A gold storage plant has been erected by Tacoma people at a cost of \$30,000.

Sluicing has already commenced on some of the creeks and conservative estimates place the clean up at \$25,000,000.

CHINA SEEKING A LOAN.

Will Request the Powers to Obtain One for Her.

Peking, May 9.—China will request the powers to obtain for her a loan sufficient to pay the indemnity as soon as the amount thereof is made known. She will also ask for an extra 20,000,000 taels to be provided annually, according to the proposition of the ministers.

The foreign ministers have decided to address a collective note to the Chinese government informing it that a joint indemnity of 450,000,000 taels would be demanded and asking what method of payment is proposed. A reply is expected by the end of the week.

Fiendish Crime in Kansas.

Leavenworth, Kan., May 9.—Miss Bonnie, an employe of the state penitentiary, while gathering mushrooms near Lansing, was struck on the back of the head by an unknown person and rendered unconscious, after which she was assaulted and then thrown into an old well. The young woman regained consciousness and after repeated attempts reached the surface and went home, where she told of the crime. She stated that she had caught a glimpse of her assailant and would be able to identify him. Miss Bonnie died soon afterward. Searching parties are scouring the country.

Several Persons Missing.

New York May 9.—Fire which started just before midnight on the ground floor of the five story apartment house at 756 Lexington avenue drove 20 or more families into the street and many people had narrow escapes. The police and firemen, aided by citizens, rescued several persons. Two were injured and several are reported missing. The fire started in a butter and egg store. It spread rapidly.



Pruning the Orchard in Summer. Besides the thinning out and shortening of fresh growth in summer, such as has been referred to several times in these columns, it would often be well done to thin out branches which are too close together, branches which should have been cut out in winter, but which were neglected. It is often a good deal easier to see when to cut in summer than it is in winter, as the requirements of the tree can be better understood. But few fruit growers keep their trees open enough. The trees are so dense that the branches cannot perfect themselves and neither flowers nor fruit can be looked for. When branches are but small one is apt to forget the future and permit too many of them to form. It is well to keep in mind that a lot of inside branches to which the sun never gets will not bear fruit. They are useless and should come out, that the sun may reach what are left. In summer time it is easy to see at once when enough has been thinned out. Besides this advantage, there is another, viz., the scars quickly heal when cut while the sap is active. Besides the thinning out and shaping of the tree, summer pruning of cherries, plums, pears and like fruits has the effect of making them fruit bearing in a short time. A young shoot of a cherry cut back within a few eyes of its base, will form fruit buds on the spur left. A pear shoot shortened one-half will often form a fruit bud at the point where cut off. Very often a tree which has not fruited well is made to do so for the first time by these means. There is always much pleasure in having a tree of good outline, and for this and the reason already given, pay attention to the pruning.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

These silos are 12 feet in diameter by 30 feet high and are set 6 feet apart and inclosed as shown. The doors of the silos face each other in the inclosed alley. They are filled from the windows shown in the gables. They are built of 2 by 4 Norway bill stuff dressed on a bevel to fit a 12 foot radius. It takes 80 pieces of 2 by 6, 12 feet long, and 80 2 by 6, 18 feet long, a total of 2,400 feet of Norway bill stuff, to build one of these silos. It also takes about 100 pounds of No. 9 steel wire, which will make about 50 hoops, put on in groups; shingled roof; the silos painted three coats on outside and a coat of raw linseed oil on the inside.—Ohio Farmer.

Liming Soil. If we thought we had soil that needed more lime in it to sweeten it, we would prefer the phosphate of lime either as an acid phosphate or in the very fine ground phosphatic rock, or basic slag, such as are usually called floats. In any strong soil, rich in humus or decaying vegetable matter, or where a green crop had been plowed under, we think either of these would dissolve quickly, while the cost is not much greater than that of sulphate of lime or common land plaster. Then we should get the benefit of the phosphoric acid as well as of the lime. But to get the full advantage of the lime we would put the field in cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, wheat or other small grains, or in grass. Lime is of little advantage for corn, and on potatoes it is said to increase the scab and decrease the value of the crops if not the quantity. With a strip of litmus paper it is easy to ascertain if the soil needs lime, as the paper put in wet soil will turn red if there is too much acid, but if it is still blue the soil is sweet or has lime enough. Wood ashes also contain lime, mixed with potash. In some soils this is the best form to apply lime, as potash is often needed, but it is not easy here to buy good wood ashes.—American Cultivator.



DOUBLE SILO.

Double silo. These silos are 12 feet in diameter by 30 feet high and are set 6 feet apart and inclosed as shown. The doors of the silos face each other in the inclosed alley. They are filled from the windows shown in the gables. They are built of 2 by 4 Norway bill stuff dressed on a bevel to fit a 12 foot radius. It takes 80 pieces of 2 by 6, 12 feet long, and 80 2 by 6, 18 feet long, a total of 2,400 feet of Norway bill stuff, to build one of these silos. It also takes about 100 pounds of No. 9 steel wire, which will make about 50 hoops, put on in groups; shingled roof; the silos painted three coats on outside and a coat of raw linseed oil on the inside.—Ohio Farmer.

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Notes from the Poultry. Salt and ashes aid digestion in swine. A clean feeding place for swine is a prime necessity. Lice rarely infest hogs that have plenty of sulphur. Rusty old straw is one of the worst materials for bedding swine. Cholera in the herd travels swiftly from one animal to another. The healthy hog's stomach is as regular as clockwork in demanding food. When feeding for fattening always watch for signs of indigestion. Obey the first sign by reducing rations. Cholera will be prevented if sulphur be mixed with the salt and ashes. The sulphur may be mixed with slop also. When a pig refuses to eat and thumps and has his hair turned the wrong way, trot him out and give him a dose of ax. Make the dose a big one. Remember that stuffing and cramming and jamming food into a pig to fatten it in a short time is a wholly abnormal, unnatural performance. We must expect it to wreck some of the forced animals.—Rural World.

Easy-Running Plows. We are not sure but that a plow would be better if it had one handle instead of two. The plow which requires a man to exert both hands to use it is tiresome to both man and the team. Even in stony ground we have guided the plow with one hand and not put out as much strength on it as we did on the reins that guided the pair of horses that were not used to working together. But to do this one must know how to

attach the team to have the line of draft just right. We remember seeing a farmer using a new plow, which he condemned as being the meanest that he ever saw. Yet a little change in the hitch from plow clevis to whiffletree, and a little adjustment of the harness, proved it to be a good plow, while the horses were doing better work and not expending one-half as much strength. Yet he had probably plowed more acres in his time than we have square rods, and with his old plow could have turned as good a furrow as any man in town.—American Cultivator.

Harvesting Kaffir-Corn.

In the recent quarterly report of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is a most excellent article on Kaffir corn, prepared by J. G. Haney of the State Agricultural College, upon request of Secretary Coburn. Concerning the harvesting of the crop he says: Kaffir corn remains green until frost and the seed does not shatter; so, if grain is the only consideration, there is no great hurry to harvest; it can stand until after frost and the stalk is dry. But generally the fodder is a consideration, as well as the grain, and then the problem is to cut when the best results from both may be obtained. The longer the fodder stands the harder and less palatable it becomes, while if cut too early the best yield of grain is not secured. After the grain is hardened so that it is difficult to mash between the thumb and finger, and there is little moisture apparently in the seed, there will be very little shrinkage in the grain. This would perhaps be called "just past the hard dough stage." If cut earlier the fodder will be better feed, but there will be considerable shrinkage in the grain.

One thing that has kept this crop from being more generally raised is the problem of harvesting. There are a number of methods and they all have their merits. If the fodder is desired for feed it is perhaps best to cut stalk and all and leave in the shock until dry. The best machine for accomplishing this is the corn binder, which leaves it in bundles of convenient size for handling, and the fodder is held together. The common method, however, is to cut with a mower, and the crop should be left to cure well before raking. Ordinarily it is put into large shocks or small ricks containing from a ton to three tons each. This is done with a hay gatherer, "buck rake," or "go-devil," and saves a great deal of handling. It keeps in excellent condition when treated this way and can be hauled when needed. It is ready to harvest in about 105 days after planting, and this should be before frost, as freezing while green is detrimental; besides, the hay will not cure as well in cool weather, and it is essential that it be as perfectly cured as possible.

Raising Young Turkeys.

There is neither luck nor tact in raising young turkeys, but simply good care and the right kind of food, says a Field and Farm writer. One of the first steps is to have good eggs from well-mated fowls. Set the eggs under a chicken hen. Be sure not to give her too many or she will wean them when too young, or as soon as they get large enough to crowd. Five or seven are enough for one hen. It takes the eggs about four weeks to hatch and everything should be in readiness for the poults. It is necessary to have a good coop. Make it without a bottom and set it on the ground. Confine the hen and let the little turkeys run in and out at their pleasure. Put the coop away from the chickens, and with planks about twelve inches wide and eight or ten long make them a small park so they cannot wander away from the mother hen. The coop should be moved to a fresh place every day and the little park every other day until the little turkeys are old enough to follow the hen mother. Young turkeys that run with old ones will grow faster and are far less trouble, but they are likely to wander away and get lost.

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The Early Bee Pollinates the Fruit.

Experiments made some time ago at the Michigan Agricultural College showed that the bees were altogether the earliest insects out; that at the time the average fruit tree is in bloom it is too early in the spring for other insects to be of any value for fruit pollination.