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## CANAL BILL IS SIGNED BY TAFT

Does Not Consider Hay-Pauncefote Treaty Violated.

British Protest Would Lead to Absurd Conclusion—Neutrality Will Be Maintained.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft signed the Panama Canal bill at 7:10 o'clock Saturday night. Following this he sent to congress a memorandum suggesting the advisability of the passage of a resolution which would declare that this measure was not considered by this government a violation of the treaty provisions regarding the canal.

In discussing the British protest against the exemption of American shipping from the payment of tolls for the use of the canal, Mr. Taft says the irresistible conclusion to be drawn from it is that "although the United States owns, controls and has paid for the canal, it is restricted by treaty from aiding its own commerce in the way that all the other nations of the world may freely do."

"In view of the fact," Mr. Taft continues, "that the Panama canal is being constructed by the United States wholly at its own cost, upon territory ceded to it by the Republic of Panama for that purpose, and that unless it has restricted itself, the United States enjoys absolute rights of ownership and control, including the right to allow its own commerce the use of the canal upon such terms as it sees fit, the sole question is: Has the United States (by the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty) deprived itself of the exercise of the right to pass its own commerce free, or to permit tolls collected for the use of the canal?"

The president points out that the rules specified in the articles of the treaty, which is made the basis for the British protest, were adopted by the United States as the basis of neutralization of the canal and for no other purpose.

The article, he further says, "is a declaration of policy by the United States that the canal shall be neutral; that the attitude of this government towards the commerce of the world is that all nations will be treated alike and no discrimination made by the United States against any one of them observing the rules adopted by the United States. In other words, it was a conditional favored-nation treatment, the measure of which, in the absence of express stipulation to that effect, is not what the country gives to its own nationals, but the treatment it extends to other nations."

"Thus it is seen that the rules are but the basis of neutralization intended to effect the neutrality which the United States was willing should be the character of the canal and not intended to limit or hamper the United States in the exercise of its sovereign power to deal with its own commerce, using its own canal in whatsoever manner it saw fit."

### MARINES ON GUARD.

Corinto, Nicaragua, in Hands of United States Troops.

Washington, D. C.—Detachments of bluejackets from the cruiser Annapolis and the collier Justin patrolling the city at night; an armed guard of volunteers made up largely of the foreign element acting as police during the day, and all the foreign women and children sleeping on the American naval vessels, describes the situation in Corinto, according to the last report from American Consul Johnson.

The report was dated August 22. Telegraphic and rail communication between the port and Managua had been severed nearly a week by the rebels, who are believed to be in possession of the stations along the line of the railroad. The last message from American Minister Weitzel was brought down from the capital by Commander Terhune, of the Annapolis.

### Express Companies On Trial.

Washington, D. C.—The Adams and American Express companies, indicted for violations of the interstate commerce act, must face trial. That, in effect, was the decision of Federal Judge Hazel at Buffalo in an opinion in the suit begun by the Interstate Commerce commission against the two companies alleging overcharges and granting unlawful concessions. Recently Judge Hollister, in the United States District court at Cincinnati, ordered a similar indictment against the Adams company quashed.

### Astrology Is Fortune-Telling.

Olympia, Wash.—The conviction by the Spokane County Superior court of F. F. Neitzel, astrologer, has been affirmed. The Supreme court held that, although a horoscope is used and the performer says that he cannot tell fortunes, but that he may be able to forecast the future with the aid of astrology, which he terms a science, the practice constitutes fortune telling, and therefore the performer is guilty of vagrancy under the law.

### \$355,000,000 Is Allowed.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft signed the postoffice and postroads appropriation bill, which carries \$266,000,000. The president also signed the army appropriation bill, carrying \$89,000,000 and providing for reforms in the of the War department.

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Arrive Portland	10:10 A.M.	1:20 P.M.	5:10 P.M.	8:05 P.M.	11:00 P.M.
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