

# GRAFT BY RAILROADS

## Interstate Commerce Commission Summons Pennsylvania Men.

### SOFT COAL OPERATORS CRUSHED

Independents Promise Worse Revelations Than Have Yet Been Made Public at Former Hearings.

Philadelphia, May 22.—Railroad circles are agitated by the well-based report that, beginning on Wednesday, when the Interstate Commerce commission will resume its sittings in this city, independent soft coal operators will go upon the stand and tell of the business wrongs they suffered at the hands of the railroads. A big independent operator who has been subpoenaed by the commission said today: "Worse revelations than have yet been made public are to come out. It will be shown through independent operators how the small operator was pressed to the wall by the favored coal companies, which used the railroads as a weapon. In some cases they were driven out of business. Before we are through, the public will know that the acceptance of stock and gifts by railroad officers was the least of this wretched business."

William A. Glasgow Jr., counsel for the commission, said that he would not hazard a guess as to when the hearings would be completed. "They will certainly continue," he said, "until the railroads have had every opportunity to explain, if any such a thing is possible, the most astonishing evidence of graft that has ever been made public. The commission will insist upon explanations, if any can be made, so that its final report to congress will be based upon not only these reports, but the railroad companies' explanation of them."

A large number of subpoenas were issued today, not only for a number of independent operators, but for a surprisingly large number of high officials of the Pennsylvania railroad.

### TWO NEW RESERVES.

Forest Service Recommends Action in Southern Oregon.

Washington, May 22.—Senator Fulton was today notified that the forest service contemplates recommending the creation of two new forest reserves in Southern Oregon, at an early day to be known as the Fremont and Goose Lake reserves. They will embrace land withdrawn several years ago under the name of the Warner mountain withdrawal. The aggregate area, according to present plans, will be nearly 3,000,000 acres, about two-thirds of the area being in the northern part of Klamath and Lake counties and the southwest corner of Crook county. The Goose Lake reserve will embrace the southeast portion of Klamath and the southwest part of Lake counties.

Plans showing the outline of the proposed reserves have been submitted to Mr. Fulton, with a request that he make any suggestions which he may deem proper. The senator will consult residents of Klamath, Lake and Crook counties and promptly lay their views before the department. If good reasons are produced, showing why any land included within the proposed reserves should not be reserved it is probable that such land will be eliminated.

The irregularity of the outline of these two reserves, following in many instances quarter section lines, indicates the care that has been exercised to include only such land as is believed to be adapted to forestry purposes. Large areas of agricultural land have been eliminated and it is the opinion of the department that what remains is chiefly important for its timber, or because it serves to protect the water supply of Southern Oregon. The construction of the Klamath irrigation project makes it highly important that the water supply of that region should be protected. The reserve is to be created at this time partially on that account.

### Must Go To Jail.

Washington, May 22.—The Supreme court of the United States today rendered a decision in the case of United States vs. Senator Ralph Burton, of Kansas. The decision was against Burton, affirming the decision of the United States circuit court for the eastern district of Missouri, by which Burton was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the jail of Iron county, Missouri, required to pay a fine of \$2,500, and deprived of the right to hereafter hold office under the government. This is the second trial.

### Burton Will Not Discuss Decision.

Washington, May 22.—Senator Burton received the first news of the court's decision by telephone at his room in the Raleigh hotel, where he is stopping. To the newspaper men who called to see him Senator Burton said: "I shall adhere to my original policy of saying nothing until my case is finally determined." He would not say in reply to a question that he intended to take further legal steps, but he said that he does not regard his case as finally decided, it is inferred that he will do so.

### Report of Chinese Persecution.

San Francisco, May 22.—Mayor Schmitt has received a cablegram from the American consul at Chefoo intimating that there has been an attempt to create a sentiment against Americans by the circulation of false reports alleging the maltreatment of the Chinese in San Francisco. The cablegram reads: "Mail statement of Chinese consul on persecution." Mayor Schmitt handed it to Colonel A. E. Bigger, with a request that he reply at once.

### Declare His Place Vacant.

Washington, May 22.—"If Senator Burton does not resign at once," as a prominent senator puts it, a resolution will be introduced to declare his seat vacant.

### DANGER OF QUAKE.

One of Chief Reasons for Committee Favoring Sea Level Canal.

Washington, May 18.—That the earthquake that destroyed San Francisco helped determine the vote of the senate committee on interoceanic canals in favor of a sea level type is apparent from the fact that a feature of the majority report is a discussion of the effect earthquakes might have on locks and dams. The majority report in favor of a sea level canal was submitted today by Senator Kittredge.

The report says that the canal structures would be exposed to injury by earthquakes, particularly the locks at Gatun. If the lock walls should be moved, leakage would result and the gates would be useless. In case of fracture of locks, months or years might be required for repairs, and meanwhile traffic would be interrupted. It is maintained that the dam at Gamboa proposed by the majority of the board of consulting engineers, is not liable to injury by earthquakes, for it will be built on a solid rock foundation, reinforced with strong walls and buttressed at each end with walls of rock. Nor are the side slopes of the Culebra cut likely to be disturbed, but an earth dam on an alluvial base might be cracked, draining the lock and ruining the canal. The committee says:

"At San Francisco, where the water pipes were broken, the disaster was greatly augmented by this cause, for the water could not be held in the pipes and directed on the flames. What would happen to the aqueduct, conduits, pipes and valves, buried in the concrete walls, used for filling and emptying the locks, cannot be well conjectured."

It is stated that ships of all classes could be passed through the sea level canal in 8 1/2 hours less than the time that would be consumed in passing ships through locks alone. The cost of annual maintenance is estimated at \$1,840,000 for the sea level and \$2,330,000 for the lock type. A sea level canal free from all obstacles could pass 100 warships in less than a day. Naval commanders and commercial shippers oppose locks.

The majority argues that an enemy could destroy lock canal much easier than a sea level canal with explosives. The cost of a sea level canal is estimated at \$250,000,000, while the total cost of the lock canal would be at least \$190,000,000, and the cost of transforming the latter into a sea level canal would be \$200,000,000. The conclusion of the majority is "that the sea level canal can be realized in 10 or 12 years at a cost not exceeding \$60,000,000 above that required by the construction of the multilock canal proposed by the minority."

### AIDS TO PACIFIC NAVIGATION.

Omnibus Bill in House for Lightships and Signal Stations.

Washington, May 18.—The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today authorized a favorable report on an omnibus bill carrying between 20 and 25 projects as "aids to navigation" and authorizing an appropriation of something in excess of \$1,300,000. Among the provisions are:

Light station at Makapuu Point, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, \$60,000. Light station and range lights at Honolulu harbor, \$40,000. Fog signal at entrance to harbor at Hamboildt, California, \$15,000. Lightkeeper's dwelling at Cape Mendocino, Cal., \$5,500. Light and fog signal station near Point Cabrillo, California, \$5,000. Light vessel for use off the mouth of the Columbia river, Oregon, \$130,000. Lightkeeper's dwelling at Robinson Point, Washington, \$5,000. Fog signal at Ediz Hook light station, State of Washington, \$10,000.

New tender for inspection service in the 13th lighthouse district, \$110,000, in addition to the unexpended balance of \$40,000 for the repair of the tender Manzanilla to be applied on the new tender.

### Rebuilding of Stanford.

San Francisco, May 18.—Stanford University will be reconstructed at once, and by next September every building necessary to the work of the college will be in perfect condition. The work has already commenced, and there is plenty of money on hand to assure the trustees that the repairs may be accomplished as quickly as they desire. The structures will be rendered earthquake proof. Three experts have been appointed, and their report will be the basis for whatever changes are considered necessary.

### Aid to Christian Advocates.

Birmingham, Ala., May 18.—The general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church south today voted \$10,000 to be expended to assist the Pacific Coast Christian Advocate, published at Portland, Or., and authorized an enlarged building at Shanghai, China. A committee report on Sabbath observance praised Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt for refusing to travel on Sunday. A special committee presented resolutions urging speedy expulsion of Senator Reed Smoot from the senate.

### Make Money by Disaster.

Oakland, Cal., May 18.—Some very curious schemes for making money have been devised since the earthquake and fire. Two Stanford students, in the early days of the trouble, secured many views of the ruins in San Francisco and surrounding country. These they had reproduced on lantern slides, and now they are touring the small towns of California presenting stereoscopic lectures. From latest reports they are receiving heavy patronage.

### Withdraw Troops June 1.

Washington, May 18.—General Greeley has reported to the War Department from San Francisco under date of last night that the reported killing of a large number of people by the army during the San Francisco fire is incorrect. General Greeley adds that he has notified the citizens' committee and the Red Cross that the troops will be drawn from San Francisco not later than June 1.

# PROVISIONS OF BILL

## Power of Interstate Commission Over Railroads Enlarged.

### PENALTIES MADE MOST SEVERE

New Rate Bill as Passed by Senate Allows Interstate Board to Fix Rates.

Washington, May 19.—The principal purpose of the railroad rate bill passed yesterday is to permit the Interstate Commerce commission to fix rates. The provision conferring this authority is found in the fourth section, which amends section 15 of the interstate commerce law so as to accomplish this result. This section directs the commission to investigate complaints of unjust and unreasonable charges on the part of common carriers in the transportation of persons or property, or of regulations or practices affecting such charges. It also authorizes an inquiry as to whether the rates or practices are "unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential or prejudicial, or otherwise in violation of the act," and, in case any of these conditions are found to exist, the commission is empowered to determine and prescribe what will be the just and reasonable maximum rate, and what regulation or practice is just, reasonable and fair.

Further, authority is given the commission to enforce its orders, and they are to go into effect within 30 days and continue in force for two years unless suspended, modified or set aside by the commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

A penalty of \$5,000 for each offense in disobedience of the order is imposed, and the penalty is to accumulate at the rate of \$5,000 a day in case of continuous violation. Orders other than those for money payments are to be enforced by the federal courts through writs of mandamus or injunction, and, in case of appeal to the supreme court, these cases are to be given preference over all others except those of a criminal character.

The bill was amended by the senate so as to give the United States circuit courts jurisdiction to entertain suits brought to annul or change the orders of the commission and to provide against the granting of interlocutory decrees without hearing and making appeals from such orders direct to the supreme court.

There are no changes in the law relative to the reports to be required of common carriers, and a penalty of \$100 a day is imposed for failure to comply with the report requirement. The commission is given access to the accounts of the companies affected by the act, but examiners are forbidden, under penalty of heavy fine and long imprisonment, to divulge the facts ascertained. A fine of \$500 for each failure to keep proper accounts is provided.

### TRANSIT TUBES FLATTENED.

Sand and Water of East River Make Costly Work Valueless.

New York, May 19.—Mayor McClellan announced today at a meeting of the Rapid Transit commission that crushed by the weight of sand and water, the roofs of the Rapid Transit tubes under the East river, connecting the subway system in Manhattan with Brooklyn, have been flattened so seriously at various points that they must be rebuilt so that trains can pass through them.

C. M. Jacobs, chief engineer in charge of the Pennsylvania tunnels under the East and North rivers; Gustav Lindenthal and C. S. Smith, called in as experts, declares that the present conditions in the East river are sufficient to cause a delay of from 2 1/2 to three years in the work. Reconstruction is expected to be absolutely necessary for more than 1200 feet of the section from Joralemon and Hicks streets out under the Brooklyn waterfront.

### World's International Commerce.

Washington, May 19.—The world's international commerce will aggregate fully \$25,000,000,000 in the year 1906, says a bulletin issued by the department of Commerce and Labor. By the term "world's international commerce," explains the bulletin, is meant the imports plus the exports of all countries of the world from which statistical trade reports are available. The figures given indicate that the trade between nations in 1906 will be six times as much as in 1850, and twice as much as in 1870.

### Caucus on Anti-Injunction.

Washington, May 19.—Republican members of the house are being asked by letter to indicate whether they will sign a caucus call to consider the question of pending anti-injunction bills. The communication is being sent by the representatives of railway employees and in it a complaint is made that the judiciary committee of the house, which had for some time been considering the various bills to this end, has used dilatory tactics whenever a motion is made to get final action on any of the measures.

### Big Steel Rail Demand.

Pittsburg, May 19.—Since the order books were opened two weeks ago, the United States Steel Corporation, the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, the Pennsylvania Steel Company, the Maryland Steel Company and the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company have booked an aggregate of 1,000,000 tons of steel rails for delivery in 1907. This is an unprecedented amount of business for this time of the year.

### New Delegate to Rio Conference.

Washington, May 19.—Paul Samuel Reinisch, of Madison, Wis., has been appointed one of the American delegates at the Pan-American Conference in place of James S. Harlan, who has been obliged to decline the place owing to an accident to his knee. Paul Reinisch is professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin.

### SHEEP AND CATTLE MEN.

War Has Extended All Over the West, but Is Now Settling.

The situation has been duplicated so many, many times that one incident has become typical, says the Pacific Weekly. A settler who has perhaps a few acres of bottom land in which to grow a little alfalfa, runs a few dozen head of cattle on the ranch range back from the creek. He may have just come into the country. At all events, he came first. He is a resident of the county and a taxpayer. He may not own a foot of that range; but its existence is what brought him to that part of the country and made it worth his while to maintain the little homestead.

There is enough range along the creek country for all the settlers; at any rate, they do not quarrel for it, and if the range is short near at hand they drive their cattle back into the hills. One day the settler takes his family and drives off to some town, say, fifty or a hundred miles away, and is gone for several days. When he comes back he hardly knows his place. His few acres of alfalfa, perhaps, have not been touched, but for miles around the ground is barren and cut by tiny hoofs. A band of several thousand sheep passing through the country has stopped in his neighborhood for a few days. His cattle and horses have either gone back into the hills to find something to which to live or they are standing about the homestead with a downcast air.

When that settler turns and looks his family in the face he declares war. He curses "those vama" sheep. And if the destruction of range has not been so complete that he driven out of the country the next day, he looks upon the sheep as the crest of the hill finds himself met by a stern-looking man who says, "Git!" and the sheepherder "gits." Otherwise he is liable to be surprised in the middle of the night, and left bound in the sagebrush, while his sheep are shot and scattered to the prey of coyotes.

This struggle between the cattle and sheep men is an economic problem. It will know no settlement until the whole country is a fence. It began away over in Texas and in the Indian Territory, and has worked across the country, until now it is more active in Colorado. Hundreds of thousands of sheep have been shot down and driven over precipices in that State. The same thing has happened in Wyoming, but that is largely a fenced country now. The struggle also existed in Idaho, but was very bad, on account of the topography of the country. The sheep men largely control the district south of the Salmon river, while to the north of the Salmon River there are practically no sheep, and the cattle own the country. The mountains between the two sections of the State form a natural "dead line."

### SOME RECENT EARTHQUAKES.

There is Much Speculation as to the Cause of Subsequent Earthquakes.

Geologists, as a rule, explain and explain others by saying that the rock strata which are disturbed have been under a prolonged strain, to which they yield at last, says the New York Tribune. The overtopping of a large area on one side of a fault, or crevice in the earth's crust is held to be an adequate cause for the readjustment, and this may be brought about by an accumulation of siltment on the sea bottom near the mouth of a large river. Since the disturbance near the Pacific coast of Colombia, Jan. 31 and those in the Windward lands about a fortnight later, there has been much speculation as to the origin. Inasmuch as there has been no activity in both regions in recent times, it was natural to suspect that some phenomenon had attended and perhaps preceded the recent upheavals.

Evidence that such was not the case in Martinique is supplied by Prof. Helppin of Philadelphia. Within the last few days he has ascended Mont Pelee and he declares that the crater is quiet. That fact satisfies him that the shocks in Martinique at St. Vincent recently were due to the sinking of the bed of the Caribbean sea.

Until a better theory is suggested, this may be accepted provisionally. It may prove to be applicable to the earthquakes in Colombia also. Dispatches from the country reported that the volcanic Cumbal had been in a state of eruption. A write in Nature—a scientific journal of high standing—refers, however, to the outbreak as a mere incident of the general convulsion, which it believed was produced by an extreme subsidence of strata under the Pacific off the mouth of the Esmeralda river. The shocks were violent enough to set up tidal waves of destructive violence, to rupture the submarine cable in several places and to be registered by automatic instruments in Europe 5,000 or 6,000 miles away.

Evidently, then, the volcanic eruption is to be considered an effect, rather than a cause, in certain cases, of which this one is an illustration. The present instance, according to Nature, is by no means unique. By that journal the outbreak which destroyed St. Pierre in May, 1902, is connected with the earthquakes which occurred in Guatemala only a few weeks before. The relationship between volcanic and seismic phenomena is apparently more complicated than has been popularly supposed, and if Nature is right, one may induce the other hundreds, if not thousands, of miles from the scene of the original disturbance.

### Always Willing to Forgive.

"Woman is a magnanimous creature." "So?" "Yes, sir. No matter how much in the wrong she may be she can always bring herself to forgive the man."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The time limit on every visiting girl expires before she has her "visit out."

Every man is a big fool in some way.

# HUMOR OF THE WEEK

## STORIES TOLD BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

### Odd, Curious and Laughable Phases of Human Nature Graphically Portrayed by Eminent West Artists of Our Own Day—A Budget of Fun.

Gyer—There is one time in the life of every married man when he is an advocate of free silver.

Myer—When is that?

Gyer—When he is on the verge of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day he faced the parson.—Chicago News.

### What He Wanted.

Mrs. McCall—So you like to go to dinner at your grandmother's, eh?

Willie—Yes'm.

Mrs. McCall—Because you're always sure to get enough to eat there, eh?

Willie—O! My! It's because I'm always sure to get too much.—Philadelphia Press.

### Hard to Understand.

Lawson—Here is an advertisement in the paper of a man who says he has \$100,000, and wants to go into business.

Dawson—Well?

Lawson—Well, why does a man who has \$100,000 want to go into business?—Somerville Journal.

### The Reason Why.

Landlady—Oh! my dear Mr. Nicker, you are putting Worcestershire sauce into your beer.

Star Boarder—I advocate that the strong should help the weak.

### Found His Weak Point.

"In your fortieth year," said the palmist, "you will encounter a great peril."

"Guess not," said the man who was consulting her. "I'm already fifty-six."

### Well, He Rejoined.

"Well," she rejoined, "in the least disconcerted, 'all I have to say to that is that the lines in your hand contradict those of your face.'"

Whereupon he gave her double the usual fee and went out highly pleased with himself.—Chicago Tribune.

### Doing Their Best.

"Didn't I understand you to say they keep a servant girl?"

"Certainly not. I said they try to; as soon as one goes they get another."—Philadelphia Press.

### He and Hers.

Conkley—Our friend Krafts seems to be making violent love to that homely woman. Who is she?

Jockley—She's the widow who owns that big hotel.

### Conkley—He seems very devoted.

Do you think he loves her in reality?

Jockley—Well, I think he loves her in reality.—Philadelphia Press.

### Degrees.

"She says she's saddest when she sings."

"Nonsense! She may be sadder than usual, but it's her audience that's saddest."—Philadelphia Press.

### Harry's Advantage.

Pearl—Helen married? Why, she told me that she wouldn't accept the best man that walks.

Ruby—Well, Harry don't have to walk. He owns an automobile.—Columbus Dispatch.

### After the Race.

Owner (trately)—Yes, if you hadn't stopped to take up that girl in your machine you would have won the race. You were beaten by a smile.

Chauffeur—Well, you know a mile is as good as a mile.

### Marketable.

Eva—Katherine says she likes to see a man wear high collars and Grace says she likes to see him wear stocks. Would stocks attract you, my dear?

Edna—Yes, if they were listed among the preferred.

### Great Din.

"Yes, there was a wonderful mob scene in the opera."

"Mob scene? And was there much noise?"

"I should say so. There was half as much as there was in the boxes."

### Terrible Threat.

City Sultor—Was your father alarmed when you told him I would jump down the well if you refused me?

Rural Maid—I should say so. He said your cigarettes would plzen the water so it wouldn't be fit to drink for six months after.—Chicago News.

### Has Ups and Downs.

Gunner—That elevator boy appears to be a very plain-spoken chap.

Gyer—Yes; he talks right up and down.

### Plenty of Material.

"Why is that strange blonde so popular with the college girls?"

"Sh! She assists them to arrange their 'cozy corners.'"

"Ah, she has an artistic temperament."

"No, but her father owns four junk shops."

# Bill's Game.

Gold Brick Sam—Say, Bill, are you going nutty? I notice you don't read anything these days but lynchings in the rural districts.

Green Goods Bill—Oh, that's me scheme. You always find the accounts headed with a list of the 'leading citizens' and then I send 'circulars' to them.

### His Little Claims.

Mrs. A.—Don't you know, I really have an attachment for this piano.

The Maid—Yesum, and the gentleman who was here while you were out said he had an attachment for it also.

Mrs. A.—Indeed! Who is he?

The Maid—The Sheriff, mum.

### Supply Too Limited.

"I heard you had a cow for sale," began Subbuba, "and as I'm thinking of buying one for my little place—"

"Waal, sir," interrupted the farmer, eagerly, "that's the Jersey yonder. Now, that's one good 'pint in her that you can depend on—"

"Oh, gracious! that would never do. I'd need a quart at least."—Catholic Standard and Times.

### His Fondest Memories.

A hard-headed old Pittsburg manufacturer, who made his fortune, as he expresses it, "with his coat off," was induced by his daughters to accompany them to a Wagner concert. The next day he had ever attended. The next day he happened to meet an acquaintance who had seen him the night before, who asked:

"I suppose you enjoyed the concert last night, Mr. Browne?"

"Yes; it took me back to the days of my youth," the old man said, with a reminiscent sigh.

"Ah, summer days in the country, girl in a lawn dress, birds singing, and all that?"

"No, the days when I worked in a boiler shop in Scranton."—Success Magazine.

### Modern Youth.

"Why are you not at school?" sternly inquired the parent meeting his son in the street.

The lad was not much embarrassed.

"Fact is, dad," he responded, "there's something the matter with the teacher's temper, and I'm giving it absent treatment."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

### Just Like a Woman.

Mrs. Stubb—John, I am going to write to our Congressman to send us some seed.

Mr. Stubb—Why, Maria, we live in the city. There isn't any place to plant seeds.

Mrs. Stubb—Then I will write and tell him to send us some seed for our parrot. We must get all that is coming to us.

### Love's Young Dream.

They sat on the old porch and watched the red moon climbing above the trees.

"Love," whispered the sentimental girl, "makes the world go round."

"Yes, darling," whispered the ardent suitor, "but, best of all, it makes the arm go round."

And even the frogs croaked their approval from the chilly swamps.

### Optional.

Postmaster General Cretzschmar recommended to Congress the adoption of the new postal note in denominations running from 1 cent to \$2.50 as an amplification of the present money-order system. It would afford a convenient means for transmitting small sums of money through the mail. It is proposed that notes of the denomination from 1 to 10 be sold at their face value without a fee. A fee of 1 cent would be charged for notes from 10 to 40 cents, and 2 cents for notes from 50 cents to \$2.50. To carry out the law an appropriation of \$150,000 is asked.

### Extenuating Circumstances.

"I'm told you play golf on the Sabbath," said the Rev. Goodman sternly.

"Yes," replied Miss Kate, "but on that day I only use the sticks I won at our church fair."—Philadelphia Press.

### One on Each.

Gunner—And if the earth was square?

Gyer—Ah, then there would be four corners.

Gunner—And who would be on the four corners?

Gyer—Why, the beef trust, the oil trust, the coal trust and the sugar trust.

### Encore.

"Yes, I stole from behind the palm and gave her two kisses."

"Were they sweet?"

"I should say so. I smacked my lips."

"And then?"

"Why, I smacked hers."

### Few Inches.

"Yes, your husband wrote me a very abusive letter," said the lawyer. "I don't think much of him."

"You don't?" retorted the caller, hotly. "I wish you to understand that my husband is every inch a gentleman."

"Ah, in that case, madam, you should place him in the museum."

"Why so?"

"Because he must be a dwarf."

### A Court of Fine Manners.

At the court of Marie Antoinette all emotions and passions were veiled by a mask of politeness. Even the children were taught to speak with wit and tact and courtesy and to bear pain in silence. The little Duc d'Angouleme, eight years old, when the d'Ansbun entered his presence unexpectedly, said, touching the book in his hand: "Ah, monsieur, I am in the company of Plutarch's men. You could not come at a moment more appropos."

### Formal Greetings were Exchanged between President Roosevelt and the Emperor of China on the occasion of the opening of the Commercial Pacific cable office at Shanghai, thus making the first direct cable connection between the United States and Asia. This is the last link of the cable which runs between San Francisco, Honolulu, Guam, and Manila, nearly 10,000 miles of cable which has been laid at an average depth of 2,649 fathoms.

The Secretary of the Interior is considering an irrigation project that will, if adopted, make the State of Washington \$50,000,000 richer. It involves the using of the waters of the Spokane River, near the city of that name, for power purposes, so that it may pump the waters of the Spokane and Columbia Rivers 100 miles away if necessary in order to irrigate the now arid lands of the State. If the project is carried out enough arid lands will be reclaimed to accommodate 3,000,000 people.



When a motion is made and carried in the United States Senate that the Senate "proceed to the consideration of executive business," the galleries are cleared, the doors are closed, and a secret session begins. "Executive business" is that in which the assent of the Senate is necessary to the acts of the President, the chief executive, such as tariffs and nominations to office. It has become customary to call a secret session of the Senate an executive session. Oddly enough, all sorts of societies and committees have adopted the phrase, and now almost any meeting behind closed doors is incorrectly called an "executive session." The wisdom of attempting secrecy in certain deliberations of the Senate is apparent. In discussing the fitness of the President's selections for office, many facts can be brought out in private conference which should not be spread on the records and sent broadcast over the country. Senators would not speak as freely as they ought if these were the conditions. Whatever "leaks" out now is unofficial. But it is in the consideration of treaties that the secret session is most necessary. A President often has reasons for the adoption of a certain policy, which would be upset if all the world knew what these were. All the sessions of the Senate in the First Congress were secret, as were those of the convention which drafted the Federal Constitution. Much of the important committee work of Congress is still done behind closed doors.

The first amendment of the national Constitution denies to Congress the right to abridge the privilege of petitioning the government for the redress of grievances. That the American people make large use of the privilege is shown by the overflowing "petition box" on the Speaker's desk in the House of Representatives, and by the records of morning business in the Senate, in which body petitions are formally presented. Congress inclines to attach less importance to petitions which seem to be "machine-made" than to those which appear to be from citizens who of their own motion ask for something. It is notorious that many, perhaps, most men and women are willing to sign almost any petition that is presented to them, and hence it is never certain that a large number of the signers really care anything about the cause they seem to advocate. Yet by far the greater number of petitions are the result of concerted movement. The leaders of an organization favoring proposed legislation ask each lodge or chapter or church or union or local group to petition for it, and usually they receive signatures in ample number.