

AT THE CANAL

Work at Panama Progressing Satisfactorily.

COMMISSION REVIEWS WORK ON

Cost of Excavating Material Has Been Reduced Nearly 30 Cents Per Cubic Yard.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Members of the Panama canal commission now in Washington called today by appointment on President Roosevelt. A short time afterward, John Barrett, American minister to Panama, had a conference with the president. The commission remained with the president about half an hour. As they left the executive office they said the visit was a "purely complimentary call" on the president and was without special significance. It is known, however, that they discussed with him the conditions on the isthmus of Panama which have arisen since the acquisition by this country of an American zone, and the differences between the commission and the government of Panama. What, if any, conclusions were reached was not disclosed.

The commissioners left with the president a memorandum giving in detail the work accomplished on the isthmus. Surveying parties are at work in the vicinity of Colon, making plans and estimates for an inner harbor; also at Gutan, surveying and boring at the various proposed dam sites in that neighborhood, and for a cut-off between Gutan and Tiger Hill. At Bohio the surveyors are making detailed surveys and estimates and investigating the various dam sites that have been proposed in that locality.

An engineering corps along the main line of the canal in the vicinity of Culebra is making surveys to determine the feasibility of straightening the lines of the French company and to determine the amount of material removed and to be removed in accordance with the different canal plans under consideration. Another engineering force is constructing a reservoir in the valley of the upper Rio Grande, which will furnish a minimum supply of 2,000,000 gallons of water a day for the City of Panama; also a distributing reservoir for the City of Panama at Ancon. It is also making surveys and estimates for a sewerage system for Colon and plans are being prepared for the construction of a harbor there.

The average amount of material taken out of the Culbreacut has been from 1,000 to 1,500 cubic yards a day. This is with the use of old French machinery available. Three modern steam shovels, which are to be put at work on Culebra Hill, will increase the cut five feet.

In August, the unit cost of excavating material was cut to 50½ cents a cubic yard, while during the time Major Black was in charge of the canal work the cost, according to the French methods of excavation, was 79 cents a cubic yard.

EXCHANGE IDEAS ON WARSHIPS.

Important Conference Attended by British Expert.

Washington, Oct. 14.—An important conference was held at the White House this evening by the president, Admiral Dewey, Secretary of the Navy Morton, Sir William White, formerly naval chief of the British navy, Admiral Capps, chief naval constructor of the United States navy, Rear Admiral Converse, chief of bureau of navigation, Rear Admiral Frederick Rodgers, Rear Admiral R. D. Evans and Commander Sims, inspector of target practice of the United States navy. The general subject of battleship construction was considered at the conference, views being exchanged between Sir William White and the American naval officers.

The conference was called by the president, Sir William White being asked to attend. Sir William favored the construction of fighting ships and not those that could run away. This met with the president's approval. The idea found favor to have sold many of the gunboats and cruisers, purchased during the recent war, which are maintained at great expense, and whose complement of officers could be used advantageously on the new battleships.

Dewey Offers to Assume Command.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Admiral Dewey has again offered to assume command of the combined fleet in the Caribbean sea and direct the winter maneuvers. If his services can be spared from the presidency of the general board at that time Secretary Morton will certainly accept the admiral's offer. It is probable the admiral will leave in the Mayflower early in the new year and assume command of the fleet at Guantanamo. The fleet will reach Guantanamo between January 8 and 10.

Snow Falls in New York.

New York, Oct. 14.—The first snow of the season fell at Albany, Schenectady and a number of other places up the state today. It melted as fast as it fell.

REGARD DEFEAT AS COMPLETE.

London Papers Agree That Kuropatkin Has Shot His Bolt.

London, Oct. 15.—The London papers have to rely mainly on official reports for news from the Far East, but the dispatches thus far received regard a complete Japanese victory assured, and editorialize from this point of view. Says the Daily Telegraph:

"General Kuropatkin has shot his bolt. It seemed to be speeding well toward the mark, yet missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse but a disastrous defeat, while Japan's incomparable soldiers under incomparable generals have added another glorious page to the chronicle of war and proved that Oyama is still Kuropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes General Kuropatkin's move as a "gambler's throw," and considers the frank bluntness of his report to the emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency.

The Standard finds General Kuropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than by Viceroy Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant.

Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations.

"Telegrams," he says, "do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scale turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves ready to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted."

COST OF FEEDING THE ARMY.

Commissary General Reports the Expenses Reduced to a Minimum.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The annual report of Brigadier General J. F. Weston, commissary general of the army, says the total cost of feeding the army during the past fiscal year was \$8,821,750. During the year the losses were \$418,650 in the Philippines; \$7,467 on the transports and \$129,853 in the United States, Alaska, Porto Rico and elsewhere.

General Weston says it is difficult and often impossible to prevent losses of perishable stores. General Weston urgently recommends the passage of a bill by congress to give authority to all officers entrusted with the disbursement of subsistence funds to hold restricted amounts of such funds in their personal possession. He says the exigencies of the public service require an open disregard of the restriction of the existing laws in cities where the treasurer or an assistant treasurer is located. He urges legislation authorizing the same at public auction of accumulated subsistence stores in good condition.

General Weston says the problem of feeding the army in the Philippines was a difficult one, but "it has been successfully solved, and subsistence affairs in the archipelago are now run with system and economy."

The subsistence department, it is stated, was able to make a contract for fresh beef for the fiscal year, 1905, by which an annual saving of over \$140,000 was effected. The running expenses gradually have been reduced to a minimum, the report says, and a saving of more than \$40,000 made in wages of civilian employes alone.

Wreckage From Troopship.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The schooner Gotama, which arrived here early this morning from Kurile Island, reports that on August 4, when 40 miles south southwest of Cape Curat, she sighted a mass of floating wreckage. She made out parts of a mast. Captain Macomber later succeeded in getting closer to the wreckage, and established that it was from the Japanese troopship Kinshu Ma u, which was sunk by the Russians last April, when 200 perished. Entangled in the wreckage were a number of headless trunks.

Great Dockworkers' Strike Ends.

Marseilles, Oct. 15.—The coal heavers who have been on strike for nearly two months have agreed to resume work on the employers' conditions. This brings the great dockworkers' strike to an end.

DEATH LIST BIG

Twenty-Eight Killed in Missouri Train Collision.

SIXTY OTHERS ARE INJURED

Sleeping Passengers Hurled in Every Direction—Scene of Wreck on Down Grade.

Washington, Oct. 12.—Twenty-nine persons were killed and 60 injured by a collision of Missouri Pacific trains, three miles west of Warrensburg, at 4 o'clock this morning. The trains were the second section of passenger train No. 30, which left Wichita, Kan., for St. Louis last night and an extra freight train. Twenty-seven of the dead are in undertaking rooms in this city and the seriously wounded are in the railroad hospital in Sedalia.

The passenger train, consisting of two day coaches, a Pullman car and a caboose, was loaded with world's fair excursionists, from Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. The regular passenger train, No. 30, had been cut in two at Pleasant Hill on account of the heavy load and an engine attached to the front car without a baggage car as a buffer.

The extra freight had sidetracked at Montserrat for the first section of No. 30, which carried signals that a second section was following. This was followed by passenger train No. 50, which the freight crew took for the second section of No. 30. The freight pulled out of the sidetrack, and three miles west met the second section. The impact telescoped the tender of the passenger engine into the front car, which was loaded with passengers, and it was here that the sacrifice of life took place.

The passenger conductor, E. L. Barnes, ran all the way to Warrensburg and broke the news of the wreck. Every physician in the town responded, and hundreds of citizens hastened to the wreck and assisted the wounded from beneath the timbers of the broken cars. Twenty people were killed outright and seven died before 8 o'clock. The dead were placed upon flatcars and brought to this city, and Dr. Bills, the coroner, immediately impaneled a jury and started an inquiry which is still in session. The afternoon was taken up in identifying the dead.

WORK ON TREATY.

New Chinese Exclusion Act Is Now Being Considered.

Washington, Oct. 12.—Secretary Hay and Sir Cheng Tung Liang Cheng have at last begun to lay the foundation for a new Chinese exclusion treaty and it is expected the convention will be ready for submission to the senate at the approaching session. The treaty will, it is understood, replace all existing laws on the subject. It is the intention to continue in full force in the treaty the principle of the exclusion of Chinese coolies and the Chinese government itself is perfectly willing that this should be done. But the treaty will contain provisions regarded as much needed and earnestly sought by the Chinese government for many years, looking to a more considerate, liberal and kindly treatment of the higher class of Chinese seeking to enter our ports.

WILL DO OR DIE.

Kuropatkin Has About Faced and Will Assume Offensive.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 12.—A battle upon which the fate of this year's campaign in Manchuria depends seems only a few days ahead. Advice from the front are meager. All that is positively known officially is that General Kuropatkin has cast the die at last, about faced his army and is marching resolutely against the enemy as if resolved to do or die. According to unofficial reports, Field Marshal Oyama, at the first sign of General Kuropatkin taking the offensive, began drawing in his line and concentrating upon fortified positions north of Liao Yang. According to the latest reports, which are contained in a dispatch to the Associated Press from Mukden, the Japanese outposts are being driven in all along the line.

Scandal Over State Funds.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 12.—Governor Bailey today gave out an official report covering an examination of the state treasury and school fund accounts. The reports says: "This examination has developed shortages, irregularities and discrepancies amounting to many thousands of dollars in the 12 counties examined. In my judgment, the same conditions will be found existing in the remaining counties of the state, not only in the permanent school fund, but in the normal and agricultural fund."

Stocssel Must Have Help.

London, Oct. 12.—The morning Post's Shanghai correspondent says it is stated that Lieutenant General Stocssel has reported that unless he is relieved before December he must surrender.

LOSS IS \$300,000.

Fire Destroys Three Business Blocks in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Man., Oct. 13.—Fire tonight destroyed three of the finest business blocks in this city, entailing a loss of at least \$300,000. For a time the flames threatened to spread to adjoining buildings, and but for the splendid work of the fire brigade a much larger money damage would have been incurred.

The fire started in the new Pullman block, which was totally destroyed. The Ashdown Hardware company, on Bannatine street, one of the largest establishments of its kind in Canada, was next attacked by the flames. Many explosions were caused by powder and cartridges carried in the stock of the hardware company, but no one was injured. The Rialto block and the Great Northern telegraph office were also destroyed. There is no estimate of the amount of insurance.

The Woodbine hotel block and Dufferin block were also badly damaged. The chief sufferers in those blocks were the Slater Shoe company, the Gundy Music company, Calder's photograph supplies, and Raver's stationery stock and Connelly, drugs. The electric light and power service was cut off owing to the fire, and all newspaper offices are in darkness. The Free Press office, in the rear of the Pullman block, escaped injury.

JAPANESE GUNBOAT LOST.

Hel Yen Strikes a Mine, and Nearly 200 Persons are Drowned.

Tokio, Oct. 13.—The Japanese gunboat Hel Yen struck a mine off Pigeon bay on the night of September 18 and foundered. It is officially stated that 197 men were lost. Those rescued managed to reach Chiao Pai island, from which they were rescued. Permission was today granted by the authorities to publish the details of the disaster.

The Hel Yen, which was engaged in guard duty off Pigeon bay, was missed by the fleet, and a search for the vessel was immediately begun. The petty officers and sailors found on Chiao Pai island reported that at dusk on September 18 a storm came up, accompanied by high seas. The Hel Yen endeavored to return to her base, when she suddenly struck a floating mine, which exploded under her starboard side amidships. The vessel began to sink, and an attempt was made to lower the boats. The boats were swamped and the crew jumped into the sea, where, owing to the heavy combats, they were quickly drowned.

The Japanese fleet carefully searched the patrolled locality, but failed to find any other survivors.

"An official announcement of the disaster, issued today, says:

"It is highly regrettable that no report in any form has been received of the fate of the other survivors. The sad event was made worse on account of the weather, which must have added greatly to the already awful result caused by the explosion of the mine."

CAUGHT WITH HIS MOLDS.

Secret Service Men Swoop Down on Counterfeiter at Work.

Seattle, Oct. 13.—United States Secret Service Agent Bell, of this city, today descended upon a counterfeiter's cabin in the woods nine miles west of Tacoma and captured H. N. Stone virtually in the act of manufacturing spurious United States half dollars, quarters and dimes. Mr. Bell was assisted in the raid by a deputy United States marshal, two Tacoma detectives and a special secret service agent who has been working on the case for two weeks.

One of the most elaborate outfits ever captured in the Northwest was seized together with the molds, which were discovered in a stove, where they had been placed to dry only a few minutes before. Stone confessed his guilt when confronted with the evidence, but maintained that he was only "experimenting" and had not actually put any of the counterfeit money into circulation.

The cabin in which Stone conducted his operations is located in a dense swamp, entirely removed from human habitation. It is conceded that he would hardly have been discovered had not the secret service officers secured a clew in Seattle, where a considerable part of the layout was purchased.

Many Greeks Assassinated.

Ahtens, Oct. 13.—The following semi-official statement has been issued: Hardly a day passes without assassinations of Greeks by Bulgarians being reported from Macedonia. This Sunday in the village of Brote, near Monastir, an orthodox priest was murdered while he was celebrating mass, and his wife was burned alive in her home. A Greek notable was also assassinated in the church. The object of these crimes is to terrorize the Greeks into declaring themselves to be members of the Bulgarian committee.

Russians Hold Railways.

Mukden, Oct. 13.—The battle commenced this morning along the line of the railroad with a terrific artillery fire on both sides. The railway line almost to Yental is in possession of the Russians.

LARGEST EVER

Battleship Nebraska Added to American Navy.

IS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

Fully 50,000 People Viewed the Ceremonies—Christened by Miss Mickey, Governor's Daughter.

Seattle, Oct. 8.—The battleship Nebraska, destined to be one of the finest fighting machines afloat and already showing in every detail that she will come up to expectations, slid gracefully into the water promptly at two minutes after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The great mass of nearly 15,000,000 pounds of steel moved down the ways as easily and noiselessly as though it were only a diminutive fishing schooner, instead of one of the largest battleships in the world.

The statement that she moved noiselessly may be difficult to prove, for bedlam broke loose almost simultaneously with the Nebraska and wild cheering from 40,000 throats drowned the music of half a dozen bands and made the roar of the big cannon on the United States monitor Wyoming seem faint and far away. Taking up the refrain, whose key was pitched under the building sheds of the yards every steam whistle between Ballard and Black river turned loose and hundreds of craft ranging in size from giant steamships down to launches and every locomotive on the water front added to the music with whistle and bell.

Fully 50,000 people viewed the ceremonies and saw the big vessel slip into the water. She created but a very small wave as she took her maiden plunge, and floated out gently and gracefully. Naval men who viewed the launching stated that it was the most successful they ever saw.

Miss Mary Nain Mickey, daughter of the governor of Nebraska, christened the vessel.

CLARK, INNOCENT PURCHASER.

Title Disputed to Land Grants Acquired Fraudulently.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The case of the United States against Senator William A. Clark, was argued today before the circuit court of appeals. It came before this bench on an appeal from the circuit court for the district of Montana.

The action is brought to annul 82 land grants under which Clark claims title to timber lands within the state of Montana, on the ground of alleged frauds committed by the grantees in securing the same.

It is charged that the patents were secured under the direction of Robert M. Cobban, who later transferred the land to Clark. Cobban is alleged to have first examined the lands and then hired persons to enter them under the stone and timber act, agreeing to pay them for their services, to defray all their expenses and furnish the purchase price of the lands.

The lower court held that, on such a state of facts, Clark, the innocent purchaser for a valuable consideration, acquired a valid title. The government took the matter on a writ of error to the circuit court of appeals.

ALASKA CABLE COMPLETED.

Acting Governor Distin Announces Event by Message.

Seattle, Oct. 10.—Telegraphic communication has now been established between the states and all parts of Alaska. At 7:47 o'clock this afternoon the following official message was received here, announcing the opening of the line:

Sitka, Alaska, Oct. 8, 1904.—The newspapers of Seattle and the Associated Press: The completion of the government cable from Valdez to Sitka, making a complete connection by an all-American line with 46 stations in Alaska, is the beginning of a new era for Alaska. Wagon roads and railways will open up the greatest mining center of the world. Other industries will quickly follow and insure this country's future prosperity. William L. Distin, acting governor of Alaska."

Blockade-Runner Captured.

Tokio, Oct. 10.—The Port Arthur blockading fleet has captured a junk laden with provisions. The junk was endeavoring to enter the harbor. The statements of the crew and evidence found aboard the junk indicate the existence of a fleet of 80 junks organized to run the blockade from the vicinity of Tsingtau. Despite the vigilance of the blockading fleet, many junks reach the Russian lines at a number of landing places on the lower end of the peninsula. The junks enter at night.

Russian Troops in Good Health.

Moscow, Oct. 10.—Professor Golovin, of the Red Cross society, who has just returned here from the front, reports the health and general condition of the troops are remarkably good. There are no epidemics, and no very serious disease, the prevailing complaints being a light form of stomach typhus and dysentery.