

SIGNS FOR A CANAL

UNITED STATES TREATY APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA.

Its Ratification Was Joyfully Received Throughout the Isthmus—No Amendments Were Made—Members of Provisional Government Glad Matter is Now Off Their Hands.

Panama, Dec. 4.—In the grand salon of the government palace, the treaty between the United States and the government of Panama was signed at 11:33 this morning by the members of the junta and by all the ministers of the republic. No amendments were made. Senator Arrango, president of the senate, was the first to sign. A number of prominent persons were present, including Senor Bridi, president of the municipality of Panama, and General Huertas, commander-in-chief of the forces of the republic.

The ceremony was performed in public, a number of the citizens of Panama crowding the doors of the salon. A big flag of the new republic was draped behind the table on which the document was signed. Photographs were taken of the principal signers as they attached their signatures to the treaty.

Senor Arrango announced that the treaty would not only be signed, but the fact of its ratification would be published this afternoon, which was done. This announcement was greeted with great applause by the assemblage. Immediately before attaching his signature to the treaty Senor Arrango read a decree in which was recited the fact that an agreement had been entered into between Philippe Bunau-Varilla, representing the republic of Panama, and Secretary of State Hay, representing the United States. This was followed by the text of the treaty.

The members of the provisional government are pleased and gratified that the matter is now off their hands.

CUBA MUST MAKE BIG LOAN.

Claims of the Army for Back Pay is Growing Rapidly.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Herbert C. Squiers, United States minister to Cuba, called at the state department today to discuss the Cuban situation with Secretary Hay. President Palma is striving to adjust the claims of the veterans of the Cuban army for back pay, but is confronted with an enormous increase in the amount of these claims. Originally these claims were about \$10,000,000, but now increased to \$52,000,000. In addition, the revolutionaries who were employed by the revolutionary government before Cuban independence was achieved have united to present their claims for compensation, the allowance of which would increase the total amount which the Cuban government must borrow to at least \$75,000,000.

The committee which was appointed to float a loan of \$35,000,000 has returned to Havana, and is now seeking to modify the conditions of the loan to make it acceptable to New York and European financiers, mainly in the direction of increasing the interest from 5 per cent to about 6 or 7 per cent or lowering below the 90 per cent the proposed amount for which the bonds were to be placed on the market.

SHARP CHINESE SMUGGLER.

Chin Bow Hing Has Railroaded Many Orientals in.

Vancouver, Dec. 4.—What immigration officials consider to be one of the largest smuggling operations carried on for some time across the boundary has been exposed by the interception of a letter to Chin Bow Hing, of Portland. The letter bears the stamp of the firm of Sam Lee Wo, of Vancouver.

Chin Bow Hing is believed to be the cleverest Chinese in the business of getting Orientals across the line and was here a month or so ago. His schemes of railroaded them through at Cloverdale and sometimes by launch or fishing boat are known, but once they are on the American side and in possession of certificates it is a difficult matter to obtain evidence sufficient to warrant their deportation.

Treaty Will Go to the Setate Soon.

Washington, Dec. 4.—It is expected by the president that the treaty with Panama providing for the construction of the isthmian canal will be returned to Washington within two weeks. The indications now are that the treaty will be transmitted to the senate before the adjournment of congress for the Christmas holidays. Senator Cullom, chairman of the foreign relations committee, believes that serious opposition to its ratification would be developed, but expressed no doubt of its ultimate ratification.

Forty-Six Days Without Food.

Winnemucca, Nev., Dec. 4.—David Crisman, a pioneer miner in this state, was instantly killed by a premature blast in a quartz mine near Golda last night. He had a record of thrilling experiences. Eight years ago he was imprisoned in a mine near Winnemucca by a cave-in, and was forty-six days without food and without water except a small quantity of melted snow. When rescued he weighed about fifty-six pounds.

Believed Japan Bought Ships.

Santiago de Chile, Dec. 4.—The battleship Libertad, now undergoing speed trials on the Clyde, and the battleship Constitution, now in course of construction there, have been sold by the Chilean government for \$9,000,000. It is believed that both ships have been purchased for Japan.

WAR CLOUD GONE.

Russia and Japan Effect an Agreement in Korea and Manchuria.

Paris, Dec. 3.—The Associated Press learns that Japan and Russia are on the verge of a settlement of the Far Eastern controversy, which promises to dissipate the war cloud that has been hanging over both countries. This settlement will be the result of the negotiations which have been impending for some time past, and which were assisted by the friendly representations of France to Russia and of Great Britain to Japan. The two nations have practically agreed upon the basis of a treaty, the signing of which can be prevented only by some unexpected development. The basis of this forthcoming agreement follows:

Russia will accept the two agreements entered into by Japan and Korea, dated 1896 and 1898, respectively, under which Japan secured various rights in Korea, including the maintenance of a garrison at Seoul. In exchange for this concession, Japan will accept Russia's treaty with China respecting Manchuria. It is believed, though this cannot be stated positively, that Japan and Russia will reiterate their support of the principles of the "open door" and the integrity of China and Korea.

In diplomatic and official circles here much gratification is expressed at the satisfactory stage upon which the negotiations between Russia and Japan have now entered. Information has been received here to the effect that Japan is constructing at Seoul barracks for 1,000 men, though she now maintains only 500 in the Korean capital. This is accepted as an indication that Japan contemplates the strengthening of her garrison at Seoul.

CRUISER SEARCHES FOR BOGOTA.

Pirate Ship Much Wanted by Both Americas and Panama.

San Francisco, Dec. 3.—The little gunboat Bogota, which left here October 7 of last year for Panama to sweep the seas of all enemies of the Colombian government, has become the object of search of the United States men of war. A letter received yesterday from an officer of the cruiser Boston, dated at Panama, states that the cruiser had just returned from a three days' search for the Bogota, which has been declared a pirate, and is much wanted by the new republic of Panama and the American warships.

When the new isthmian republic hoisted its flag, the Bogota, controlled by the Colombians, hastily weighed her anchor, and after firing upon the city, put for the open sea with the Padilla, her erstwhile enemy in the former rebellion, in hot pursuit. The Padilla is not the equal of the Bogota, and soon was distanced.

The Bogota was at last accounts believed to be hovering somewhere in the vicinity of Panama by, for reports were received at the isthmus that the vessel had captured two English merchant vessels. A reward of \$50,000 for the capture of the Bogota was immediately offered by the English government. The gunboat is disowned by the Colombian government, which sees in her acts of piracy no end of trouble.

MAN'S FINGER IS SENT BELL.

Letter Says Ears and Head Will Follow if Troops Remain.

Denver, Dec. 3.—Adjutant General Bell today received from Telluride a letter wrapped around a human finger. The letter stated the finger belonged to a man who disappeared from Telluride some time ago, and stated if the troops were not withdrawn from Telluride the man's ears and then his head would follow in a few days. The letter was signed "S. N."

A physician who examined the finger said it was evidently cut off shortly before the letter was mailed.

It develops tonight that the bloody finger came from the office of a local surgeon, and it is charged that it was sent to General Bell as a joke by certain newspaper reporters. General Bell tonight issued a statement, in which he declares he has placed the matter in the hands of the postal authorities, and no effort will be spared to secure the apprehension and punishment of the parties responsible for the hoax.

Panama Commissioners Start Home.

New York, Dec. 3.—Dr. M. Amador and Frederico Boyd, special commissioners from the republic of Panama, sailed for Colon today on the steamer Segurana, having completed their treaty mission to this country in two weeks. It is expected that as soon as they reach the isthmus a constitution will be framed and arrangements made for the early election of a president and other permanent officials for the republic. Carlos Arosemena remains at Washington as secretary of the new legation.

Washington Wants Money.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Senator Foster is after more money for public buildings in Washington. He has introduced bills increasing the limit of cost of the Tacoma building from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000; increasing the limit at Seattle from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000, and increasing the limit at Spokane from \$400,000 to \$900,000. He also introduced a bill appropriating \$50,000 for testing American timbers, 25 per cent to be expended on the Pacific coast.

To Prolong Presidential Term.

Mexico City, Dec. 3.—An important bill is before the chamber of deputies looking to the amendment of the constitution, so as to prolong the presidential term to eight years. This measure has some influential supporters.

NINE GREAT CANALS

THE ARTIFICIAL SHIP CHANNELS OF WORLD IMPORTANCE.

Interest Therein is Particularly Keen at the Present Time Because of the Panama Agitation—Enormous Sum of Money Expended in Their Construction—Suez the Most Important.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The renewed attention being given to the proposed isthmian canal at this time lends especial interest to a discussion of the great canals of the world, presented by the department of commerce and labor through its bureau of statistics.

The Suez canal is usually considered the most important example of ship canals, though the number of vessels passing through it annually does not equal that passing through the canals connecting Lake Superior with the chain of great lakes at the south. In length, however, it exceeds any of the other great ship canals, its total length being 90 miles. The original cost was \$95,000,000, and for the canal in its present form slightly in excess of \$100,000,000. The revenue of the canal is apparently large in proportion to its cost, the Statesman's Yearbook for 1901 giving the net profits of 1899 at \$4,153,660 francs, and the total amount distributed among the shareholders 51,538,028 francs, or about 10 per cent of the estimated cost of \$100,000,000.

The canal connecting the Bay of Cronstadt with St. Petersburg is described as a work of great strategic and commercial importance to Russia. The canal and sailing course in the Bay of Cronstadt are about 16 miles long, the canal proper being about six miles and the bay channel about ten miles, and they together extend from Cronstadt, on the gulf of Finland, to St. Petersburg. The canal was opened in 1890. The total cost is estimated at about \$10,000,000.

The next of the great ship canals connecting bodies of salt water in the order of date of construction is the Corinth canal, which connects the gulf of Corinth with the gulf of Aegina. The canal reduces the distance from adriatic ports about 175 miles and from Mediterranean ports about 100 miles. Its length is about four miles. There are no locks, as is also the case in both the Suez and Cronstadt canals. The work was begun in 1884 and completed in 1893 at a cost of about \$5,000,000.

The Manchester ship canal, which connects Manchester, England, with the Mersey river, Liverpool, and the Atlantic ocean was opened for traffic January 1, 1894. The length of the canal is 35 1/2 miles, the total rise from the water level to Manchester being 60 feet, which is divided between four sets of locks. The total cost of the canal is given at \$75,000,000. The revenue in 1901, according to the Statesman's Yearbook, was 621,128 pounds, and the working expenses, 483,267 pounds.

Two canals connect the Baltic and North seas through Germany, the first, known as the Kaiser Wilhelm canal, and having been completed in 1895 and constructed largely for military and naval purposes, but proving also of great value to general mercantile traffic. Work upon the Kaiser Wilhelm canal was begun in 1887, and completed as above indicated, in 1895. The length of the canal is 61 miles, the terminus in the Baltic sea being at Kiel. The total excavation amounted to about 100,000,000 cubic yards, and the cost to about \$40,000,000.

The Welland canal connects Lake Ontario and Lake Erie on the Canadian side of the river. It was constructed in 1883 and enlarged in 1871 and again in 1900. The length of the canal is 27 miles, the number of locks 25, the total rise of lockage 327 feet, and the total cost about \$25,000,000. The annual collection of tolls on freight, passengers and vessels averages about \$225,000, and the canal is open on an average about 240 days in a year.

The canals of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Ontario, are located adjacent to the falls of the St. Mary's river, which connects Lake Superior with Lake Huron and lower or raise vessels from one level to the other, a height of 17 to 20 feet. The canal belonging to the United States was begun in 1853 by the state of Michigan and opened in 1855, the length of the canal being 5,674 feet, and provided with two tandem locks, the original cost being \$1,000,000. The United States government, by consent of the state, began in 1870 to enlarge the canal, and by 1881 had increased its length to 1.6 miles. The state relinquished all control of the canal in March, 1882. In 1887 the government further enlarged the canal. The Canadian canal, 1 1/2 miles long, was built on the north side of the river during the years 1888 to 1895.

Another Macedonian Rising Coming.

Vienna, Dec. 2.—It is again reported that the Macedonian insurgents are planning to renew their revolt next spring, and as the first step along this line M. Dratarschiff has been selected to head a new revolutionary central committee. Serbia is reported to be arming for war, and it is believed Bulgaria will be compelled to take the field against Turkey early in the year, and that Serbia will aid her in consideration of being granted old Serbia.

Dakota Divorces Null and Void.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 2.—Judge James A. Howe, of the district court, held today that a decree granted under the Dakota divorce statutes, if it is proven the non resident litigant resides there merely for the purpose of securing a divorce, is null and void.

DROPS WAR PLAN.

General Reyes Finds Such Talk Don't Affect America.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Dr. Herran, the Colombian minister, has silenced all the members of the Reyes party and the Bolivar commission. The Colombians are now holding warm conferences, in which they are attempting to find out just what steps should be taken to bring the South American republic out of the present squabble in the best form. General Reyes is known to have undergone a change of mind as to the best method of looking after his country's interests here. War talk did not make any impression upon the United States. It is now presumed that Dr. Herran's advice is to be taken, and an attempt will now probably be made to bring Colombia out of the muddle with all the money possible.

The return of Panama to the Colombian union, and the retraction of all the steps taken by the United States government, are so far out of the question that they will probably not be suggested.

Reports from the United States minister at Bogota and other sources that war talk in Colombia is becoming more widespread call attention to the fact that even if General Reyes' mission to the United States accomplishes no other purpose, it will serve time for the Colombian armies to mobilize and equip in case a campaign should be undertaken against the isthmus. It is now conceded that the passage of troops by land from Colombia to the isthmus is not impossible.

POSTOFFICE FRAUDS.

Figures Telling What the Government Lost by Corrupt Officials.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The amount of money secured by the corrupt officials and their confederates is small, as compared to the total loss to the government. To illustrate: There is no evidence that Louis received any compensation from Ault & Wiborg, yet during the first year of his administration the expenditures for canceling ink increased over \$10,000.

Barrett received but \$6,000 from Arnold, yet that company defrauded the people out of over \$3,000,000. Machen probably did not receive more than \$26,000 from the Groff fastener. Yet the government has paid approximately \$130,000 for that device, which represents a net loss, since the department continued, by the terms of the contract for letter boxes, to pay for the original fasteners.

Beavers and his associates received less than \$20,000 from the automatic cashier. Yet the department expended \$74,275 for this wholly unnecessary machine.

The total amount that the perpetrators of these frauds themselves received cannot be definitely learned, but it will aggregate between \$30,000 and \$400,000, while the loss to the government, considering the unnecessary supplies that have been purchased and the inferior quality of those furnished by fraudulent contractors, cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

VIRTUALLY SHUT OUT POWERS.

Russia and Austria Propose to Have Actual Control of Macedonia.

London, Dec. 2.—The Chronicle learns of a curious episode. When the appointment of European officers to the Turkish gendarmerie in Macedonia was proposed, Great Britain asked that three English officers be appointed, thinking that each of the other powers would require the appointment of a similar number. The government of Austro-Hungary, however, demanded the appointment of 180 Austrian officers, and Russia asked for an equal number of Russian officers, the obvious intention on the part of Austria and Russia being the exclusion of all other powers from any real share in the control of the gendarmerie.

The Chronicle says the directors of the Macedonian relief fund have received advices that pneumonia and pleurisy are working havoc among the refugees in the burned villages as the results of exposure and destitution.

Russia Branching Out.

London, Dec. 2.—The Times' Pekin correspondent says that small bodies of Russian troops are patrolling the country around Hsinmintun, the termination of a branch line of the railway between the great wall and Niu Chwang, on the pretext of suppressing brigands, although the region is perfectly quiet and peaceful. The Chinese are daily expecting to hear that the Russians have occupied the railroad there and have resumed military occupation of the country down to the great wall.

Hobson's Plan for Big Navy.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Ex-Commander Richmond P. Hobson, of the navy, has prepared a bill which he has requested Representative Wiley, of Alabama, to introduce in the house on the convening of the regular session, for the purpose, as he says, of making the United States the first naval power of the world during the next 18 years. The bill makes a total appropriation of \$2,750,000,000, a portion is to be used each year.

China Will Retaliate.

London, Dec. 2.—The Morning Post says it has reason to believe the Chinese government has prohibited the recruiting of laborers for South Africa in any part of China. "This decision," says the Morning Post, "is mainly due to legislation by the Dominion of Canada excluding the Chinese from Canadian territory."

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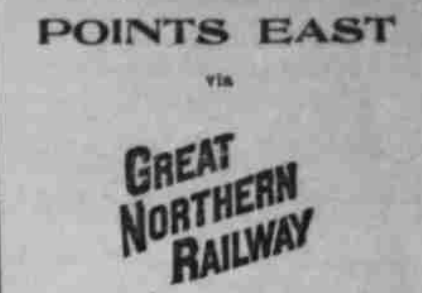
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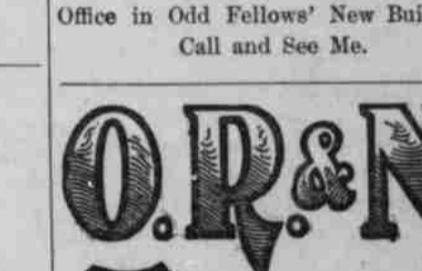
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