

NICARAGUA CANAL

Bill to be Introduced and Pushed Through, says Hepburn.

PEOPLE on the Pacific Coast, and more especially persons owning timber lands in Tillamook county, are particularly interested in everything that pertains to the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, and what Congressman W. H. Hepburn has to say on the subject is doubly interesting to them. He was chairman in the last house of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce—the committee that has charge of the Nicaragua canal, and what conclusions he has arrived at and what he intends doing is of national importance. Here it is in a nutshell: "I shall introduce a Nicaraguan canal bill on the first day of the session and will push it to action." That looks as though the congressman intends fighting those who have opposed its construction with a vim, and then he goes on to explain the situation by saying: "The opponents of the canal gained something in the way of postponement when they succeeded in interpolating in the last river and harbor bill a provision for a new commission to investigate all the proposed routes across the isthmus. The Nicaragua route has been recently investigated by a careful commission, which had made most elaborate provision, and submitted a most satisfactory report, but by contending that the Panama route has been neglected the postponement of the whole matter was secured. The new reports inform us that the committee will not be able to report at this session. The friends of Panama will, of course, throw all possible obstacles in the way of the United States building the Nicaragua canal, as the construction of one canal will preclude the building of others. The Panama commission says that \$100,000,000 will be required to finish the canal. It is certain that they can never raise any considerable part of this sum if it is known that the United States government intends to build the Nicaragua canal. Other companies, such as the Maritime Canal Company, the Cragin-Erie syndicate and another whose name I forget, but which operated a steamboat and railway line across the isthmus in the '50s, also claim interests. The Cragin people claim that they hold a right to a concession that took effect on October 10, when the Maritime company's rights expired. Just what value this alleged concession has I am not prepared to say. For my part, I do not think the United States need bother about any of these concessions." Congressman Hepburn further states that the canal question is of overwhelming importance, but how much the opposition can delay matters he is not able to make any predictions.

Commenting upon the above, the Oregonian offers this sarcastic lampoon: "Hepburn professes great interest in the Nicaragua canal bill. Then let him prove it by acts. He had part in the conspiracy that defeated the bill last spring. Congress is full of railroad strikers who are red hot for the canal but secretly beat it session after session. Faith without works is dead."

Smokeless Powder Deteriorates.

THE vastly increased expense of a military establishment under the more scientific methods now employed is sharply illustrated in the discovery that about half a million dollars' worth of smokeless powder for sea-coast guns turned out to be worthless, through an unexpected deterioration in its quality. Military experts have supposed that the smokeless powder manufactured for the United States army was the best ever made, and a contract was not long ago signed which involved the expenditure of about \$1,000,000 for a supply of it. But it is stated that recent experiments at Sandy Hook showed that the smokeless powder now on hands is worse than valueless. A ten-inch gun was being fired with charges from a supply that had been stored for about two years and a delayed detonation occurred, which burst the gun, a new one, valued at \$30,000. An examination of the powder revealed the fact that it had undergone chemical changes of some sort and all of the supply on hands is supposed to be equally affected. Experts will now try to discover the cause of the deterioration, so as to make the needed change in the formula. Meanwhile the contracts for manufacture must be suspended, and if a war should break out it might be necessary to use the old variety of black powder. Apparently large charges to the profit and loss account must be allowed for in estimating the cost of keeping up with the times in warfare.

Our Dependencies.

Congress will be amply provided with information and suggestions when it shall come to consider the question of government for dependencies. The first of these that will receive attention is Porto Rico, where there are absolute tranquillity and complete submission to American authority. The latest opinion in regard to the policy that should be pursued toward this island comes from the military governor, General Davis, who makes an earnest plea against any early attempt to convert the island into a territory. He thinks that immediate territorial autonomy would be disastrous to the best interests of the island, his idea being that if

the machinery of a territorial government should be set up in Porto Rico now it would be utilized by the professional politicians to regain the ascendancy which they lost by the overthrow of Spanish rule. General Davis says the capacity of the people of Porto Rico for higher and better conditions can be developed out under a system which will wisely control themselves. He thinks what is needed there is a strong government which will plant an educational system and through it lead the people up to self-government, rather than such a structure as an illiterate suffrage would leave the territory to form.

Trusts Don't Always Succeed.

THE daily newspapers and many of the trade papers have devoted untold columns of late to the trusts, and the general consensus of opinion has been decidedly against this latter form of commercial concentration, says the Pacific Lumber Trade Journal. Recent developments, however, have shown the trust demon of some of its dreaded power, as it has been shown that such combinations are often top heavy, unwieldy and topple over of their own accord. Take the case of the American Wood-working Machine Co., with its eleven factories. It has recently passed into the hands of a receiver, and the papers of record in the court proceedings show that from a business standpoint this trust company had been anything but a business success. This, too, in face of the fact that it was a combination of old established concerns, each doing a large business, some of which had enormous sums of money invested in plants that would be a credit to any country, and yet the trust failed to make favorable returns, indeed paid no dividends. It is more than likely that if each member of that company had continued operations independently the result would have been vastly different. The improved condition of the country at large justify this.

FALSE ANTIQUES.

How Bogus Curios Are Manufactured and Sold.

The making of false antiques has become a regular business, reports the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Many people who like to have picturesque old furniture and curios around them cannot afford to pay the high rate of prices charged for originals and they are content to take imitations, which can be had at comparatively little expense. One dealer, who, owing to the difference in price, sell a dozen reproductions to one antique now, says that the business is perfectly legitimate; if the reproduction is made like the original and sold as such, no harm is done and the purchaser gets what he wants at a low price. Reproductions of rare pieces of antique furniture can be honestly made and sold just as copies of favorite oil paintings are reproduced and sold. The dishonesty is when a dealer tries to sell the reproduction as an original. Poplar, bass and white maple are the woods ordinarily used for the manufacture of false antiques, but veneers of these woods are too soft for the completion of certain classes of goods. It is a common practice to make the base or core or the work of some light wood such as pine, over which is laid a veneer of oak, birch or mahogany wood. This gives an article which, while being to all intents and purposes a piece of hardwood furniture, weighs much less than the original and will not warp or twist. Still another style is made from the waste products of the sawmill. The stuff is reduced to a pulp and pressed into sheets under such an enormous pressure that warping is effectually prevented. From one base may be made all kinds of furniture, mahogany, oak, rosewood, walnut or even ebony. A great deal of the "aging" is done in the rear of the dusty, dingy shop in which curios of this class are usually sold. A regular apparatus is employed for the purpose, the object of which is the alternate application of steam and hot air. The sides and back of the apparatus are of brick, the top is of sheet iron and the base is of wood. There is a second slatted bottom, on which to stand the piece of furniture. Pipes are used to carry steam or hot air, as the case may be, into the chamber. After the furniture has been steamed for, say, twenty minutes, hot air is let in and this treatment is repeated until the preparation of the wood for sizing, filling or priming is completed. After the article has been removed from the oven it receives its finishing touches. What these are to be depends upon circumstances. The metal work is soon tarnished by exposure to dampness and the woodwork rapidly collects dust.

A Startling Contrast.

"The sultan of Sulu isn't such a bad looking fellow after all."
"Does that surprise you?"
"Yes. Think of all the wives he has!"
"It wouldn't do me any good to think of them. What of it?"
"Why, he's so young looking, so fresh, so debonnaire—and with all those wives!"
"It's the contrast that gets me."
"What contrast?"
"Why, when I look at you, with only one wife, and—"
"That'll do."

It Pays to Be Cheerful.

A manufacturer of Kensington tells this true story in the Philadelphia Press: "Fifteen years ago I was very rich, but ten years ago there came a time when it seemed that I'd surely fail. One day when a smash appeared a certainty I walked down Chestnut street toward the wool warehouses, blue, blue as indigo. On a corner I went in and hit one. It was a big drink to take, but I needed it. It cheered me up. Just then a man I knew came in and said: 'Say, Bill, what makes you always look so cheerful? Don't you ever have any trouble at all?' 'Oh, yes,' said I, jollying a little, 'but to look blue doesn't do any good,' etc. 'Well,' this fellow said, 'I tell you what I'm going to do. I've got \$25,000 lying idle and I'm going to get you to invest it for me. You're so well off, so lucky in business always and so blamed cheerful, I'm sure nothing ever fails with you and I want you to invest this money any way you please and I won't even ask you how you invest it.' Well, I took this man's money. It was just the amount my tottering business needed. A year later times and prices were vastly better and I paid the \$25,000 back with interest at—what do you think?—9 per cent."

Wise Precaution.

"I am thinking of going into politics," he said thoughtfully.
"What?" exclaimed his wife.
"Yes; some of the party leaders have been to me and they assure me that I would be a very strong man and almost certain to be elected."
"John Henry," she said, "you're worth \$2,000,000, aren't you?"
"Easily that."
"Well, you just assign everything over to me and then go to the party leaders and tell them you've done it, and then if they still consider you a strong man and want you to run for office I won't say a word. It is just as well for you to find out at the start in what your strength lies."

Quaint Features of Life.

Mrs. Kena Rutz, a Chicago woman, appeared in court charged with spanking her husband. The man, very dejected, told her twice a day his wife overpowered him and, taking him over her knee, spanked him.
"Yes, I spanked him before breakfast and before supper each day," admitted the defendant.
"But why do you spank him?" inquired His Honor.
"Oh, he deserves it, and it is good for his health. He eats much better after I give him a good spanking."
She was lectured and cautioned.
A dispatch from St. Louis reports a sauer kraut famine in that city. What such a famine means is not understood by those who are not aware that sauer kraut is the great popular dish of St. Louis and occupies the place taken by beans in Boston. There were heavy frosts at the beginning of the season which killed many plants, and consequently the cabbage crop was light. When the sauerkraut makers came into market this fall for their raw material they discovered that state of things. Prices went up at a jump. Cabbage sold by the ton a year ago at from \$6 to \$8. Now they bring \$15 to \$18 a ton by the carload and are hard to get at that.

Miss Frances L. Wood of Greenwich, Conn., has resigned her position as teacher in the North Street district school on account of the gossip which arose among the residents of that neighborhood when it became known that she rode a man's bicycle and wore divided skirts. The parents of the children feared lest the example of the teacher in this garb should have a bad influence. There were other complaints made but when the town officers sifted them down all there was left was that she wore the offensive divided skirts in school and out of school. The town officers decided to let the teacher select her own apparel. Then it became a local issue in the district and Miss Wood resigned.

An odd error made by the clerk of the common pleas court of Schuylkill county, Pa., in 1888 was corrected in the United States district court of Pittsburg a few days ago. Naturalization papers were issued to Conrad Fecasako of Duquesne. In his petition Fecasako says that he went to Shenandoah to take out his first papers in 1888. When the clerk asked him his name he says he said it was "Kondria," the Greek for "Conrad." The clerk did not understand, and again asked him his name. It is claimed that a witty Irishman who was present, to relieve the embarrassment, told the clerk to put it down as "Mike," and "Mike" it went. This mistake was not discovered until 1896, when Conrad alleges, he applied for his second papers. Ever since, he says, he has tried to have the mistake corrected at a great loss of time and money, but people will insist on calling him "Mike."

"Our engagement is off again."
"What's the matter now?"
"I gave her a belt buckle with my photograph on it and she uses it to fasten her dog's collar."
When a woman calls her husband up by telephone, without his knowing who she is, she is always surprised to see how politely he addresses her at first.

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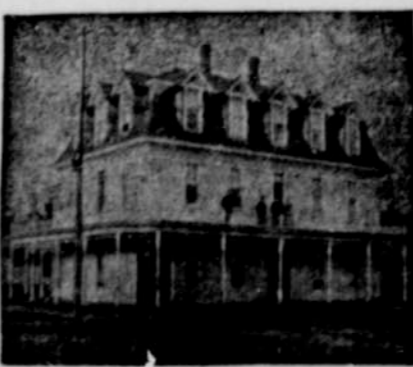
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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed executor of the estate of Josiah Biggs, deceased, and that all persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same to me, duly verified, at the office of A. W. Severance in Tillamook City, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. The first publication being on the 26th day of Oct., 1899.
JOHN A. BIGGS,
Executor of the estate of Josiah Biggs, deceased.
Dated Tillamook, Oregon, Oct. 26, 1899.