

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C. Mar. 23, 1907.

While the Waterways Commission appointed by the President last week is not yet even organized, Chairman Burton of Ohio is expected back in Washington within a few days, and then the commission will meet to see what it can do.

People in many parts of the country may not realize what an enormous task the commission has before it and how much good it will be able to do if it plans wisely, and if its wise plans are carried out.

The scheme is nothing less than mapping out an efficient system of internal water transportation for all of the country that can be now reached by water, and in fact putting in canals where they will do the most good.

To merely map out this much of the work seems like a stupendous task. It is almost as though the whole railroad system of the country were lacking and a few scattered horsecar lines doing all the hauling and someone in authority suddenly proposed to extend the scattered horse car lines into the present steam road system and equip it for business with the latest improvements of engineering skill.

Of course what the Waterways Commission can do is only to make a start and prepare a comprehensive plan for the approval of Congress. But one of the things it is to do in a general way is to map out an efficient auxiliary system of water transportation for slow freight that will take off the shoulders of the railroads the burden of moving the immense crops which they now frankly confess they are unable to handle.

The people of the middle west realize the need of water transportation perhaps more keenly than any other part of the country. St. Louis is one of the greatest jobbing cities of the country, and a member of the commission said this week that he was assured by the big merchants there that they had not shipped a bill of goods in the past year without a proviso that they were not to be held responsible for delay in delivery.

Advertisement for Scott's Emulsion. Text: 'Don't neglect your cough. Statistics show that in New York City alone over 200 people die every week from consumption. And most of these consumptives might be living now if they had not neglected the warning cough. You know how quickly Scott's Emulsion enables you to throw off a cough or cold.'

on the headwaters of the streams. The same was true of the "dead fields" of the cotton belt where washing by rains destroyed tens of thousands of acres of land before a partial stop was put to it by "contour cultivation".

The problem of erosion presents itself to the commission in a different form in the arid west where the North Platte, the Missouri and a dozen other streams all carry down annually millions of tons of the richest soil to choke the channel of the Mississippi and put the sediment where it will do the most harm.

The problem of light and power from water flow will also be considered by the Commission. It is estimated by the members that from this source, the coal consumption of the country can be reduced a third, lengthening by just that much the producing life of the coal mines.

It is a great vision, and one in which a scientific imagination can revel. Just what the mine members of the commission will be able to accomplish in the way of outlining a plan before Congress meets again is uncertain. The mere working out of the details will be the work of years for experts and the turning of the plan into an accomplished act will be the work of more years still and will mean the expenditure of vast sums of money.

Advertisement for Castoria. Text: 'CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Hathaway.'

Where Humor, Love, and Mystery Prevail. Pleasant Spring Reading. Is there a more independent position in this world than that of a childless widow left with just enough money for her not to have to think about it? "Love's Undertow," the complete novelette in Lippincott's April number, by Anna A. Rogers, tells the story of such a woman.

The April Woman's Home Companion. A distinct contribution to contemporary literature is the epic poem, "At Pilate's Judgment Seat," by Thomas Nelson Page, in the April Woman's Home Companion. In this poem, which occupies two full pages of the magazine, Mr. Page depicts the usual procedure and describes the Judgment from Pilate's point of view.

Two papers of extraordinary interest are "Easter-Time in Rome," by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton, and "Ibsen and His Ism," by Joseph M. Rogers. A good deal of curiosity is expressed by both readers and writers about the new Department, "Ways of the Hour," which is introduced in the April Lippincott. This must be seen to be appreciated.

We are prepared to furnish the Woman's Home Companion for 50 cents a year when taken with THE COLUMBIAN. The two for only \$1.50. Send in your name while the offer lasts.

Advertisement for Humphreys' Witch Hazel Oil. Text: 'HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL. FOR PILES, ONE APPLICATION BRINGS RELIEF. SAMPLE MAILED FREE.'

Advertisement for Nervous Debility. Text: 'NERVOUS DEBILITY, Vital Weakness and Prostration from overwork and other causes. Humphreys' Homeopathic Specific No. 28, in use over 40 years, the only successful remedy. \$1 per vial, or special package for serious cases, \$5.'

Table: PENNSYLVANIA Railroad. Schedule in Effect. Includes stations like Northumberland, Cambridge, Danville, etc.

Table: PHILADELPHIA & READING RAILWAY. Schedule in Effect. Includes stations like Scranton, Taylor, East Forge, etc.

Table: Columbia & Montour El. Ry. TIME TABLE IN EFFECT. Includes stations like Bloomberg, P. R., Paper Mill, etc.

Advertisement for The Postal Typewriter. Text: 'THE POSTAL TYPEWRITER \$25.00. A Few Excelling Features. First-class in material and workmanship.'

Advertisement for Parker's Hair Balsam. Text: 'PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM. Cleanses and beautifies the hair, promotes its growth, etc.'

Table: LACKAWANNA Railroad. Bloomberg Division. Includes stations like Northumberland, Cambridge, etc.

Table: Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad. Taking Effect May 1st 1906. Includes stations like Bloomsburg, P. R., Paper Mill, etc.

Advertisement for Patents. Text: 'TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS & C. ANYONE sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion on whether an invention is probably patentable.'

Advertisement for Scientific American. Text: 'A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms: \$3 a year in advance.'

Advertisement for Beautiful Face. Text: 'A BEAUTIFUL FACE. Send stamp for Particulars and Testimonials of the remedy that clears the complexion, removes skin imperfections, makes new blood and improves the health. It's true.'