

## GREATEST OCEAN FORTS PLANNED AT CANAL ZONE

Strongest Defenses in World May Be Erected on Both Sides

### HINGES UPON TREATY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The United States is preparing to take steps that will safeguard its rights in the event of any "foreign power" obtaining concessions that might threaten the Panama Canal. And if the negotiations that have been initiated for a new treaty with Panama are consummated, the strongest defenses in the world can be erected on the ocean sides of the big waterway.

The proposal to negotiate a new treaty with the Isthmian Republic follows the exposure of the \$15,000,000 land scandal recently explained to the House Interstate Commerce Committee by Major General George W. Goethals, Governor of the Canal Zone. At the request of the administration, legislation proposing to put an end to the mauling of the United States by land claimants at Panama has been held up in the House pending negotiations for a new treaty.

#### MAY INCREASE ZONE

In addition to covering the acquisition of land in the present 10-mile canal strip, the new treaty probably will include plans for turning over to the United States lands outside of the present zone. These lands, military authorities contend, are absolutely necessary to protect the canal from aggressive action by a "foreign nation" which might get control of one of the islands in the Caribbean Sea and from such an island as a base menace the canal. Extensive defensive fortifications outside of the present zone are absolutely imperative, the military advisers of the Administration declare, if the zone is to be properly protected.

The new treaty also is expected to provide for the absolute police control by the United States of the cities of Panama and Colon, at the eastern and western extremities of the canal.

These two cities, military authorities say, offer a constant opportunity to any foreign power to obtain a secret foothold which in time of war would enable them to ruin the usefulness of the canal.

When Major General Goethals laid before the House Interstate Commerce Committee evidence that the United States was being "robbed" under the present treaty, Representative Adamson, of Georgia, chairman of the committee, took a hand in the matter. He introduced a bill providing that the activities of the Panama Canal Company should cease at the end of six months. He laid his bill, with the information that he had acquired as to general conditions in Panama, before President Wilson. The President suggested that the entire matter be referred to the State Department to determine whether any pending diplomatic negotiations might be disturbed by such legislation. Today Representative Adamson was requested by Secretary of State Lansing to defer any action on his bill temporarily at least.

### BALLARD FINDS ELECTRIC LIGHT COST PADDED

Continued from Page One

plant on the Cleveland basis of rates; that is, 3 cents per kilowatt hour instead of 10 and 12 cents, charged here. He also said that if the Philadelphia Electric Company adopted the Cleveland scale of charges it would not lose by it, as after about two years, the increased number of consumers attracted by the lower rates would more than make up for the loss involved in lowering the rates.

In 1914, Mr. Ballard said, the company earned \$1,337,171, above a fair rate of return on its investment. His figures were based on a table which he submitted yesterday in which he appraised the company at \$21,583,754, which he gave as the sum at which the company's property could be reproduced new, as against \$15,562,045 given by Prof. C. D. Jackson, expert for the company.

Mr. Ballard explained why he had struck out several big items in Professor Jackson's appraisal.

**STRIKES OUT COST OF PATENTS.** The patents and copyrights which Professor Jackson had included to the amount of \$4,609,473, Mr. Ballard said he had struck out because the patents had for the most part expired and the surplus to which the company was not entitled under a fair rate of return had been sufficient in recent years to write off these patent and copyright charges.

He also struck out an item of \$5,000,000 listed in Jackson's appraisal as "going concern value and cost of establishing the business." He assigned the same reason for that cancellation. He said that the selling price of a commodity increased the cost of selling it, in that the cost of the price it was usually included in the charge for the commodity.

Items approximating \$10,000,000 could fairly be canceled from the company's appraisal, said Mr. Ballard, because in two or three years the surplus earnings had more than canceled them as fair charges.

Mr. Ballard then showed exhibits to demonstrate why the cost of lighting could be reduced to consumers, supposing the same methods used by the Cleveland electric lighting plant were followed here. By these methods the lighting rate in Cleveland had been reduced from 10 to 6 cents per kilowatt hour. His table of figures, based on what he thought could be allowed on the basis of the Cleveland standard, is as follows:

Reproduction cost of property, \$23,583,754	
15 per cent. allowance for depreciation, 3,537,544	
Present fair value, \$20,046,209	
7 per cent. return on investment, \$1,403,235	
3 per cent. for depreciation, 707,612	
Excess, \$1,695,628	
Total, \$21,583,754	
Unit cost of operation in Cleveland plant, \$0.01072	
Cost here, \$0.012	
Total, \$0.011772	
Unit cost allowed in estimate for Philadelphia Standard, \$0.012	
KWHS output in 1914 in Philadelphia, 267,231,661	
Allowance for total operating cost on above output (as given above), \$2,886,779	
Fixed costs (as given above), \$2,336,047	
Total allowance, \$5,222,826	
Total revenue for 1914, \$7,360,000	
Total allowance as above, \$5,222,826	
Surplus revenue over allowance for fair rate of return on investment, \$1,937,174	

#### HOW RATES COULD BE CUT

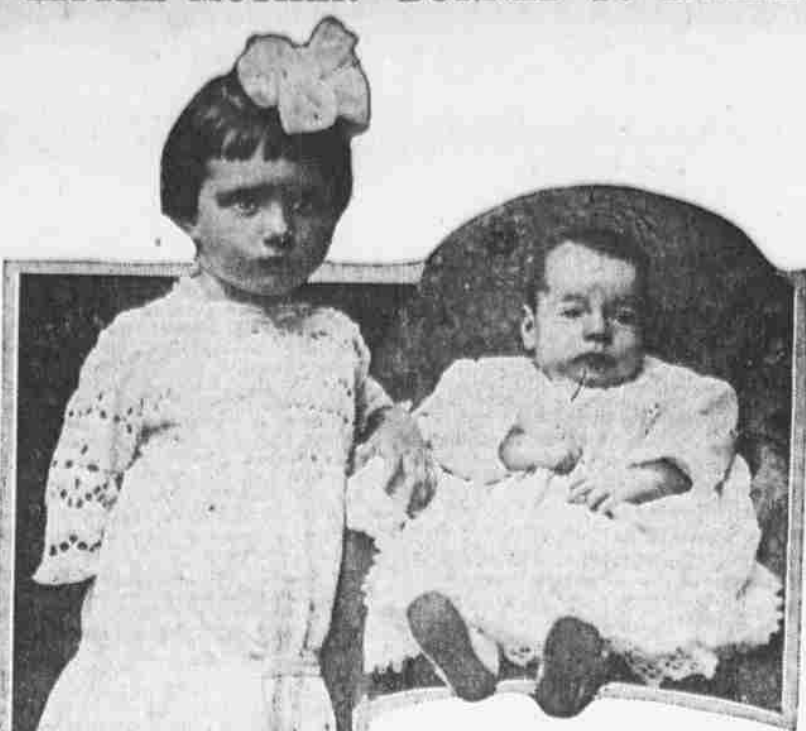
Explaining the reduction of 18 1/3 per cent. for municipal arc lighting and 23 per cent. for residence lighting and commercial lighting and power, Mr. Ballard said the average rates would be as follows in this city, on the basis of cents per kilowatt hour:

For municipal arc lighting, 2.4
For commercial arc lighting, 4.5
For commercial power, 2.36
For residential lighting, 4.5
For residential power, 4.5

The average for these was 3.56, which would be the average here, said the expert, if the Cleveland methods were adopted and only a fair rate of return on investment taken by the company. The company would have earned on this basis \$5,000,000 in 1914. The hearing today is before Commissioner Monaghan.

**REQUIREMENT FOR PER CENT. CUTS** In reference to the rates proposed in the above table, Mr. Ballard said that was

## "LITTLE MOTHER" BURNED TO DEATH



Ellen May Brown, 5 years old, was so seriously burned while filling a milk bottle for her baby sister Margaret that she died soon after.

### CHILD DIES LISPING PRAYER

Little Ellen May Brown Succumbs. Father's Brave Efforts to Rescue

"Papa, I want to pray. God bless papa, God bless mamma, God bless Grandma—I can't pray any more." These, the dying words of 5-year-old Ellen May Brown, are the rich heritage left today to James Brown, of 811 North Taylor street, who was badly burned yesterday in a vain effort to save his little daughter.

"She was more anxious about me than about herself," he said. "I burned my hands a little when I put out the fire on her dress, you know."

Little Ellen May's nightmare became a reality while she was "minding" her little sister Margaret in a second-story front room at her home. She was heating water in a nursing bottle for the baby when her dress caught fire from the gas stove.

### MENTAL TEST URGED FOR ALL FOREIGNERS

Feeble-Mindedness Show Speaker Says All Aliens Should Be Examined

The economic feasibility, the value in dollars and cents to the United States, of a mental test for feeble-mindedness of all immigrants before allowing them to enter the country, was emphasized at noon today by Dr. Thomas W. Salmon, of New York, of the National Mental Hygiene Committee and the Rockefeller Institute.

He spoke at the Exhibit on Feeble-Mindedness in the Widener Building, Chestnut and Juniper streets, under the auspices of the Public Charities Association.

"At present," Doctor Salmon said, "it costs the Government just eight cents for the examination of each and every immigrant. That is absolutely small, and the mental test, if added as suggested in certain provisions now before Congress, would cost but eight cents more. Life insurance companies pay 25 cents for the examination of children for a policy of only \$50. The country takes more than a \$50 risk on each immigrant. And it seems to me that we ought to be willing to spend a little more than the eight cents for risk of admitting the parents of the future citizens of the Republic."

"This idea of examining the immigrants for feeble-mindedness is only a protection for the future. For instance, in the States along the Atlantic immigration is a more important factor in the increase in population than the birth rate. Therefore it is as important to select the immigrants as to select the babies."

Doctor Salmon emphasized the fact that the proposed mental test did not refer to the literacy bill, a reading and writing test.

Placing feeble-minded children in institutions should not be looked upon as a punishment, according to Dr. J. M. Murdoch, superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania State Institution for the Feeble-minded, at Folk, who also spoke at the exhibit. He showed slides which emphasized the fact that an institution is the logical place for the protection of the feeble-minded and the community at the same time.

#### Six Weddings at Elkton

ELKTON, Md., Feb. 28.—Six out-of-town brides and grooms figured in weddings that took place in Elkton this morning. They included Frank Pointer and Helen B. Kunkel, Fred A. Ross and Mildred D. Wright, Townsend Hawkins and Mary Davis, all of Philadelphia; Charles Hooper and Estelle, who also spoke at the exhibit, John W. Frock and Emma Hulshiser, Allentown; Joel W. Howell and Hannah Kirkbride, Camden, N. J.

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## MAY SPRING SURPRISE IN SLUSH FUND PROBE

New York Witness Expected to "Tell Things" in Brewers' Investigation

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 28.—A witness from New York city, expected to make important disclosures before the Federal Grand Jury in the probe of brewery contributions to politics, was a subject of speculation around the Federal Building today.

Counsel for the brewery associations referred to the witness as "Human" New York Surprise." United States Attorney E. Lowry Humes smiled at stories of the witness.

The Federal Grand Jury reconvened at 1 o'clock, and was expected to spend much of the afternoon in hearing, in succession, George Muller, former clergyman, head of the educational bureau of the Pennsylvania Brewers' Association, who has become a witness for the Government; Charles F. Ettla, of Philadelphia, secretary of the Pennsylvania Brewers' Association, and two other Philadelphians, Miss Katharine Gallagher, stenographer in Secretary Ettla's office, and A. W. Brockmeyer, secretary to Edwin A. Schmidt, treasurer of the State Association.

Etta, Brockmeyer and Miss Gallagher spent all day here yesterday without being called.

The Government is investigating a report that Muller when subpoenaed had his passage arranged for to Jamaica. A steamship ticket agent is among those for whom new subpoenas were issued today.

#### LAST MAN'S CLUB DINES

Two Members Ill, So Covers Are Laid for Only Five

Five of the seven members of the Last Man's Club held their annual dinner last night at the home of Benjamin Beecher, 1831 North Park avenue. Two members were absent because of illness. They are Franklin B. Motz, of 5513 North Marshall street, and Thomas B. Lawrence, of 1207 Butler street.

Those who attended the dinner were Benjamin Beecher, elected president; Joseph H. Fox, Evan Peters, George H. Thompson and Leander Ewing. According to the custom of many years, the living members drank to the 11 who had departed. Toasts also were given to the two members absent through illness.

A feature of the annual dinner is a bottle of wine, sealed 30 years ago, when the club was formed of 11 clothing salesmen at Oak Hall, 6th and Market streets. This bottle of wine is pledged to the man who survives the other 17 men, and from it he will drink toasts to the departed at a solitary banquet.

## \$100,000 FOR ANGORA BAPTIST CHURCH

Will of the Rev. Bernard MacMackin Makes Many Charitable Bequests

One hundred thousand dollars for the Angora Baptist Church, and many gifts for Baptist organizations were revealed today in the will of the late Rev. Bernard MacMackin, of Ridley Park, when it was admitted to probate today with the Register of Wills at Media.

The Rev. Mr. MacMackin, who died two weeks ago, was for 20 years secretary of the Baptist City Mission, was president of the Baptist Historical Society, treasurer of the Baptist Orphanage and acting pastor of the Angora Church.

The largest bequest is the \$100,000, which is for the purchase of a site and the erection of a church and parsonage for the Angora Church, which is to receive also \$100 a year for 10 years. The private bequests were not published.

Other bequests are \$5000 to the American Baptist Historical Society; \$1000 to the Crozer Seminary at Upland; \$1000 to each of the following: Baptist Training School for Christian Work, of Philadelphia; Baptist Church of Salem, N. J.; Baptist Education Society of New Jersey;

Baptist Orphanage of Philadelphia; Baptist City Mission; trustees of Baptist City Mission; First Baptist Church, of New Castle, Del.; Ridley Park Baptist Church, and the Bucknell University. After all bequests are provided for, the residue is to go to the Northern Baptist Convention and is to be known as the Bernard MacMackin Benefit Fund for Ministers and Missionaries.

It will require 21 years under the terms of the will to execute these bequests and the entire estate, except for certain personal bequests, is to be vested in the Land Title and Trust Company, executors, to carry out the terms of the will.

#### PRIMARY STIRS WINDY CITY

Bitter Aldermanic Campaign Settled at Polls Today

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—The hardest fought and bitterest aldermanic campaign in the history of Chicago ended today in the nominating primary. Police were on alert, fearing the battle for the control of the City Council might cause rioting at the polling places. Opposition to Mayor Thompson's administration, candidates stirred the Republican forces. The fight in the Democratic ranks was between the Roger Sullivan and the Governor Dunn-Carter Harrison forces.

Men and women voters began flocking to the voting places early and it was quiet, in spite of the cold, cloudy weather, a total of more than 700,000 votes were cast.

# To get the most vegetables and flowers

out of your hotbeds and cold frames, there must be a plan—an orderly arrangement of sowings and cropping—for the whole year.

The diagram above is one of twelve that illustrate an article giving you just such a plan in detail. The article tells how to make one hotbed and two cold frames provide a large, desirable assortment of vegetables and flowers.

You'll want to save this article. It's entitled "Hotbed and Cold Frame Crops," and appears in the current issue (now on sale) of

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