# THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Scenes Along the Proposed Waterway to Divide North and South America.



rage now.
Dividing North and South America

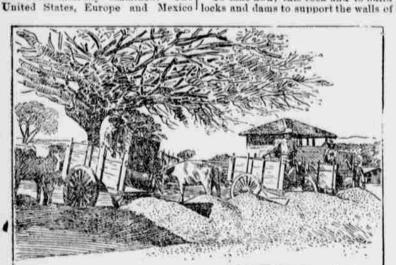
by means of the Nicaragua Canal great engineering

and ability will planit, American contractors will execute it with the aid of American machinery. It is now universally admitted that a short cut must be made

for ships between the Atlantic and the Since 1826, when the first party of American engineers penetrated the

ANAL building coasters, and can go to a point where seems to be the you can reach the Pacific Ocean by walking three hours at a moderate gait. It is but twelve miles distant. If your steamer has a mast fifty feet high, by climbing to the top of this Nicaragua Canal mast you can see the blue line of the will be the next Pacific in the distance.

The natural part of the formed by the San Juan Americans will Lake Nicaragua, of which it is and out-oit, American let. The lake is a basin in the Central American Plain, filled with fresh water ranging from ten to 240 feet in depth, and is 110 miles in length. Its outlet is not less than 400 feet wide at any point, and varies from twelve to fifty and sixty feet in depth. But at one point of the river, and only a few miles from the Atlantic coast, an earthquake or some other convulsion, possibly a thousand years back, threw up a barrier of rock, which must be tropical wilderness of Nicaragua, every cut or rather blown out in order to alpart of the country south of Mexico low the passage of large steamships, has been carefully examined. The To take away this rock and to build

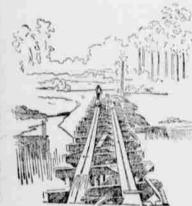


A COFFEE PLANTATION BORDERING ON THE CANAL.

have been interested. Elaborate maps have been made, volumes of scientific data compiled and every engineering problem has been studied and dis-

The scheme has been a diplomatic question for over three-quarters of a century. Several times the United States and England have been on the verge of declaring war over the pos-session of Nicaragua. Each realized the importance of that country if a canal were built.

The Nicaragua Canal may be briefly described as a summit level of navigation in fresh water, 153; miles long. 110 feet above the sea level, reaching within three and one-half miles of the Pacific and twelve and three-quarter



TYPICAL SCENE ALONG THE CANAL BOUTE

reiles of the Atlantic Ocean. The total leugth of navigation is 169; miles; there will be three lift locks at each end of the summit level.

For miles huge machines must dig away loose rock, sand and mud and force it through pipes some two or three miles away. For many miles machines must scrape out the bed of the river and lakes along the line of the canal. Some of these great dredges would dig out from 6000 to 8000 cubic yards of material every twenty-four hours. Thousands of men must work with picks and shovels where the machines cannot stretch out their giant arms and dig away at the canal bed.

water to the required depth are the great engineering feats of the Nicaragua Canal. Tons of the most powerful explosives must be used. Holes must be drilled in such a manner that the force of the explosives with which they are loaded will work directly on the portion of the channel to be exca-vated. Some of the blasts will contain fully 50,000 pounds of explosive.

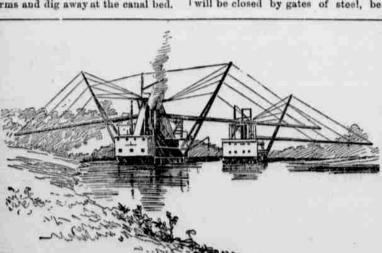
If a ship passes through this cut the summit of the rock will be higher than the top of her mainmast. An excavation over 125 feet wide must be made, for the minimum width of the canal will be 100 feet.

Two great dams will be needed to maintain the water ways at a proper These are termed the Ochon and Tola. The rock taken from the channel described will be used in building them, mixed with cement. It is calculated that they will prove strong enough to retain the tremendous water presture.

On the Pacific side is what is known as the Tola Basin, which will be filled with water to the depth of thirty to seventy feet, by another dam 1800 proval or disapproval of the king, feet long and seventy feet high. From the Ochoa dam to the Tola dam a vessel will travel a waterway over 150 miles long, on which the fall is but four feet of the entire length. To reach the summit level, as this is termed, that is, the highest point of the canal, involves another engineering problem, on which many years of study have been spent by some of the most noted experts in the world.

The decision reached by most of the engineers has been a system of locks. The plans provide for three on one side of the summit level and three on the other. The highest will raise a vessel Torty-five feet, and the lowest will raise her between twenty and twenty-five feet. They are to be 650 feet long, eighty feet wide and thirty feet deep. The St. Louis or St. Paul, for instance,

could easily be accommodated in them. The caual will be less than thirty feet deep and 100 feet wide on the bot The locks will be constructed tom. of the largest blocks of stone and concrete ever used for this purpose, and will be closed by gates of steel, be-



BIG DREDGES AT WORK ON THE ENTRANCE TO THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The reason the Nicaragua route is the best one is that a water way has been found that requires canal digging for the shortest distance. You can leave the Caribbean Sea in a steamer the size of one of our small in Nicaragua, is the want, not only of retail \$45,000,000.

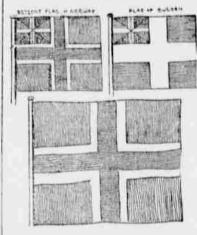
A gentleman who is engaged in the coffee industry said recently that his laborers would get drunk on Sunday. take all day Monday to sober up, come to work on Tuesday and continue working until Friday or Saturday, when they would lay off again, so that the mozo of the country labors about one-half of the time. Counting Sun-days there are 165 fiestas, or feast days in Nicaragua, during which time the mozo "toils not, neither doth he The Department of Matagalpa is destined to be a great coffee center at

labor, but of the proper kind of labor.

no far distant day when the great canal is built. There are now about 4,000,000 trees under cultivation and each month the number is largely increased. Persons who claim to have a knowledge of the subject state that whereas in other parts of Nicaragua the yield per tree is from half a pound to a pound and a half of coffee, in Matagalpa the trees produce from two to four pounds. A number of Americans are engaged in the coffee industry, some owning as high as 2000 manzanas—nearly 4000 acres. These lands can be purchased from the Goverument at the rate of \$1.50 per man-zana, being about two English acres. Though there are some large holdings, the majority do not average over twenty acres.

DOES IT MEAN SEPARATION? A Stir Caused by an Act of the Norwegian Diet.

A great stir has been caused in Norway and Sweden by the recent action of the Storthing at Christiana in the matter of the Norwegian flag. The Storthing has voted that hereafter Norway's banner shall float without a the symbol of the union with Sweden. Some say that should King Oscar veto the resolution two more diets must pass upon the matter before it can go into effect; others that the new flag will come into immediate use. Since 1844 the closest relations have been maintained between Norway and Sweden. At that time the flag of each nation was changed so that the jack in the upper left-hand corner combined the colors of the other nation. For several years past, however, there has been a growing feel-ing of discontent in Norway concerning the close relations of the two powers. This dissatisfaction King Oscar has 'striven to assuage. The two countries have entirely separate and distinct governments, but are ruled by the same king, Oscar of Sweden, Each country has its own parliament, which passes laws for its respective coun-



THE LARGE PLAG IS THE PROPOSED PLAG OF NORWAY.

try. All laws are subject to the ap-The flag of Norway, with the jack left out, will be four red corners, with blue corners, with a jack of red, blue and yellow in the upper left-hand corner and a Greek cross of vellow in the The Norwegian flag had center. formerly the jack, which contained the bar of yellow as a symbol of the union with Sweden, but this will not appear in the flag in the future.

### Very Absent-Minded Men.

A friend calling upon Peter Bur-rowes, a celebrated Irish barrister, one morning in his dressing room. found him shaving himself with his face to the wall, and asked him why he chose so strange an attitude. The chose so strange an attitude. answer was, "To look in the glass." "Why, there is no glass there," said the friend. "Bless me!" exclaimed the friend. "Bless me!" exclaimed Burrowes, "I did not notice that Then, ringing the bell, called the servant and questioned him respecting the looking-glass which had been hanging on the wall. sir," said the servant, "it was broken six weeks ago." A certain learned A certain learned professor at Cambridge is a very absent-minded man. A friend of his had been seriously ill. When he was convalescent the professor used to send him jellies and other delicacies, One day he took him a fine bunch of hothouse grapes. The old friends were very pleased to see each other, and were soon deep in a discussion. The professor, becoming interested, began absent-mindedly nicking the grapes, taking one at a time till they were all gone. On going out of the door he called back to his friend, "Now, mind you eat those grapes; they will do you all the good in the

To Dry the Hair.

A New Yorker has patented an ap-paratus for drying the hair after washng or shampooing, a metallic casing having a heating stove at the bottom with air inlet holes, the air being drawn to the top of the casing and

The children of the United States

### FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

..........

Early Maturing Hogs. Young pork is always best as well as the most cheaply produced. Un-less the animal is wanted as a breeder it is not usually kept until a year old The breeds that mature early will make more pork at less cost at six to eight months old than those that keep on growing two or three years and at-tain very heavy weights. But it is still better to keep a breeding sow ome of the coarse, large boned hogs and then grow litters of pigs from her when mated with some of the small breeds that mature earliest. The half breeds will make more pork than will the thoroughbreds.

Water Horses Frequently.

It is not natural for the horse to long without a drink of water. stomach is small and cannot hold a wat r supply for a long time. Water-ing morning, noon and night when at work in summer time is none too often. If the work is very heavy two table spoonfuls of oat meal stirred in the pail will make the horse drink better, and will also prevent so much cold water from injuring his stomach. is a mistake to suppose that a horse or any other domestic animal prefers to drink water only a few degrees above the freezing temperature. If it is lukewarm the horse will drink more freely and the water will be less apt to injure him.

Oil Meal for Pattening Hogs,

One of the best variations of the all-corn diet for fattening hogs is some old process linseed meal, or if this cannot be procured, use cottonseed meal with some outmeal not bolted. All the linseed and cottonseed means contain some oil, and to this extent are laxative. But all the cottonseed meal made now has the oil so squeezed out of it that it is unsafe to feed it young pigs, and it can only be fed to old hogs in very small quantities, and then not very safely. It will need some roots to go with it. But these should be given any way when corn is fed to hogs, as the starch of corn is hard to digest. Besides the oil the oil meal contains some nitrogenous nutrition which makes the feed a better balanced ration.

Spraying Potatoes for Blight.

The past season has thoroughly demonstrated the value of the bordeaux mixture for blight on potatoes, and it has quite as thoroughly shown that the use of paris green and london purple, alone or mixed with land plaster, has no good effect. Potato growers should bear this fact in mind next season and use the bordeaux mixture freely, not only on potato vines, but other vegetables and fruit trees where foliage diseases of any kind appear. Without question it is one of the most valuable implements for use on the farm, and the bordeaux mixture can be easily and cheaply made at home. So there seems to be no reason why the blighted, scabby potatoes that have been put on the market for the past two years should not be replaced by the fair, smooth specimens of the days when scab and blight were practically unknown, or at least not formidable.

### Straining Milk,

There are some points about straining milk that are not generally thought of and therefore the milk is not wholly cleared of its bacteria. In the first place it is important that the milk should be put through the strainer and set where its cream is to rise as a Greek cross of blue through the soon as possible after it comes from center. The Swedish flag has four the cow. It often accumulates bacteria very rapidly if left in stables exposed to foul odors, Besides, if left long some of the cream will rise and will be so mixed with the milk that what does not cling to the strainer cloth or wire will not rise as cream again. The strainer should be thoroughly washed by dipping it first in cold water and moving it rapidly through both ways, so that bacteria will not adhere to the underside, as they are apt to do if the rinsing water is merely poured on the strainer from above. Then repeat this process with water pretty near scalding heat. that way if there are any bacteria on the strainer they will be killed.

Mulching Strawberries.

The plants should be covered with some coarse material just before the severest weather comes on in the fall. It may be applied before the ground freezes or after it is frozen solid. covered before, the mutch should be dropped off at the ends of the rows and carried onto the bed with forks. After the ground is frozen, you can drive anywhere, depositing the material where most convenient to spread. The entire surface should be covered just deep enough to entirely hide the plant. When applied the straw will be about three inches deep. Rains and snow will cause it to pack down to an inch. Strawberries will not smother, no matter how deep the covering, it it is not applied too early in the fall or left on too late in the Remove the covering and spring. put it in the paths between the rows about May 1, or as soon as growth starts. Just before the berries begin to ripen, go through the fields and pull all weeds and place the straw carefully about the plants so as to cover all the surface not occupied by the plants. -Orange Judd Farmer.

Advantages of Fall Plowing. Nearly every farmer who has been caring for the farm for a series of years will have seen the benefits of fall plowing in many ways while running the farm. There may be some have proved of little avail.—Brusselv soils where the benefits are not seen Correspondence of the London Post.

so plainly as upon others, but nearly all sorts are in some way improved by being worked in the fall. If the soil is stiff and clayey, nothing seems to improve it so much as fall plowing. Let fall plowing be practised each season for a series of years, and a finer and more mellow soil will surely follow. If a good dressing of light, strawy manure, such as horse stable dressing, can be applied, spread broad-

samon for a series of years, and a season for a series of years, and a some of the property of

the hogs won't get into it will do. It you have a large number of hogs, a portable corn crib can be built on runners and drawn with a team any where you wish. We have one of this kind that holds about a bundred bushels, made of rough boards. Our man made it in a couple of hours. It is made it in a couple of hours. It is ingle box, made strong enough to a pulp. to hold a hundred bushels, with no roof over it. One end is made to take ont, so you can use a scoop from the start when you commence feeding. Then the end can be placed back again.

But how about the water in those fields with so many bogs? Yes, they must have water, and all they want of it, and water that is fresh and clean. Well, we fill barrels and draw them out to them on a stone boat, enough at one load to last a week. When the weather is warm, water ought to be drawn twice a week to keep it fresh enough. But once a week will do later on in the fall.

Ashes and salt should be kept before them all the time. Cut a hole in the side of a box or barrel and fill it with ashes and salt thoroughly mixed at one part of salt and three of ashes, and cover it over to keep the rain out. You will be surprised at the amount they will eat. It keeps them in healthy condition.

If the weather is hot, some kind of place should be fixed to shelter the hogs from the sun. Cheap affairs of some kind that will suggest themselves to the farmer can easily be arranged. -I. N. Cowdrey in Farm, Field and Fireside.

A Plague of Rats in Brussels. The Rue Berckmans, one of the most fashionable quarters of the capi tal, has just been visited by a plague of large rats. No house has been free from these unwelcome visitors, and the havor they have made is so great that most of the residents have been put to flight. Some of the rats are of an extraordinary size, and hitherto the measures which have been taken to free the neighborhood of the pes

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

A LOADED LAST.

Practical Joker Responsible for a Serious Injury to a Hazelton Shoemaker-Locklaw Fenred.

to a pulp.

te a pulp.

The Mercer County Telephone Company is expending thousands of dollars on its lines. The consolidation of the lines of Beaver, Lawrence, Eric, Crawford and Trumbull counties is a ertainty, and the connection with the New Castle lines will be made in Feb-While crossing the tracks of the Bal-

while crossing the tracks of the sal-timore and Ohlo railroad at Dawson, near Uniontown, the other day, Thos. Addis, a mason, of Vanderbilt, aged 53 years, was killed by a fast freight train, which struck and demolished his buggy, but did not injure the horse. The North Cornwall fron furnace, at Cornwall, near Lebanon, operated by the Lackawanna fron and Steel Company, of Scranton, was hadly wrecked Monday by an explosion. Several men had narrow escapes. The damage is satimated at \$20,000.

had narrow escapes. The damage is estimated at \$20,000.

Company E. Sixteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was mustered out of the service at Franklin, by Captain Edgar W. Howe, of the United States regular army. The company lost seven men while in the United States service.

Joseph Hollinger of Hummelstown was sentenced by Judge Simonton of Harrisburg to be hanged for wife murder. The record of the case will be certified to Gov. Hastings, by whom the date of execution will be fixed.

Electric cars have replaced the old train drawn by a locomotive on the railway from Wilkesbarre to Harvey's Lake.

Lake.
Falling coal killed Andrew Tree-boney in a coal mine at Dunmore, Lackawanna county.

A Westmoreland county schoolmas-ter, while attending the institute at Creensburg is reported to have nearly died through blowing out the gas on

died through blowing out the gas on retiring.

Many of the people of Greensburg want Andrew Carnegie to build an armory in that town, instead of the public library he has promised to present. Private Victor Holmes, of the Tenth Pennsylvania Regiment, wounded in the battle of Manila, has had two of his ribs taken out in a San Francisco besoutat.

hospital.

Both of Willie Robinson's legs were cut off by a car at the Leggett's Creek breaker. Lackawanna county, a few days ago, and his death resulted.