

CANAL BILL PASSES THE SENATE.

IT WILL BE NEUTRAL.

President Given Exceptional Power—United States Will Purchase 4,000,000 Shares at \$100 Each—New Board of Directors.

The Senate last Saturday passed the Nicaragua Canal bill by a vote of 48 to 6.

The Nicaragua Canal bill, as it passed, continues the name of the Maritime Canal Company. It provides for the issuance of 4,000,000 shares of stock of \$100 each.

The Canal company is required to call in all the stock issued except that held by the Nicaragua and Costa Rican governments. The company is also required to redeem and cancel all bonds and scrip heretofore issued by the company and to satisfy all cash liabilities.

To enable the company to comply with these requirements, Treasury warrants to the amount of \$5,000,000 are authorized, with a proviso that only so much of the amount shall be paid as shall be required to pay the actual cash value of the rights, privileges, franchises and property at the time of the payment, the value to be determined by commissioners to be appointed by the president. This being done, the secretary of the Treasury is authorized to subscribe for 25,000 shares of the company's stock for the government of the United States. The present members of the Board of Directors are then to resign and a board of seven is to be appointed in their stead, consisting of five on behalf of the United States and one each on behalf of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

The directors on behalf of the United States are to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. No two of them are to be residents of any one State, and no person who has heretofore been interested in the canal company is to be appointed to this office. They are also prohibited from being interested in contracts on the canal. Each of the directors, except the president, is to receive a salary of \$5,000 a year, and the president is to have \$10,000. All other expenses are to be paid. Annual reports are required.

There is a provision against declaring a dividend except upon the net earnings. The company is authorized to contract for the completion of the canal within six years. The payments are to be made in annual installments. The canal is to be large enough for the use of the largest sea-going vessels at a cost not to exceed the estimate of the engineers and not to exceed \$15,000,000. This amount is made a permanent appropriation for the work, to be used as occasion may require.

The bill gives the government a lien upon the property to secure the repayment of the moneys advanced, and the President is empowered to declare forfeiture of the property to the United States without the necessity of judicial or other ascertainment. Thereafter, full title is to rest in the government of the United States.

The President is authorized to suspend payment at any time. The President is also authorized to change in or modification of the terms of the concession, either from the concessionaire or from Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

In case of failure in such negotiations, the President is also empowered to negotiate for another route across the isthmus. The neutrality of the canal is guaranteed, but the right to protect it against interruption of business between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States is reserved.

CORPSE KNOCKED OVERBOARD.

Storm at Sea Suddenly Terminates a Funeral Service.

The Cunarder Campania, which docked at New York a few days ago passed through a series of gales in the voyage across from Liverpool. The seas during the trip rose mountains high and swept the big steamer from stem to stern.

When the vessel was two days out an old woman named Ingerborg Anderson, who was on her way to her non-in-law at Galenburgh, Ill., died suddenly from apoplexy. Purser Graham was assigned to the solemn duty of officiating at the mid-ocean funeral.

The ship was brought to a standstill while the purser was ending the burial service. Before he had finished a huge sea broke over the vessel, which knocked Purser Graham across the coffin and carried the corpse overboard with it. The purser had a narrow escape.

While the liner was tossing during a storm a little girl named Helma Maria Juliana was knocked down by a sea in the steerage doorway and her skull was fractured at the base. Surgeon Francis Vernon was unable to give the child's life and the injured girl died three days later. Her body was also buried at sea.

Pleasure Seekers Drowned.

The government steamer Pansy reported at Mobile, Ala., finding on Breton Island a part of the stern of the naphtha launch Paul Jones; also a yawl boat with bow smashed and other small articles from the launch. The condition of the wreckage tended to show that the naphtha tank blew up and tore the boat to pieces. No bodies were found.

The launch had the following pleasure-seekers on board: Joseph Brinkman, Louisa, Miss Florence, Taggart, daughter of Major Taggart, of Indianapolis; Miss Margerie Woodland, daughter of George Woodland, vice-president Prairie State bank, Chicago; Col. Harry Youm, St. Louis; Miss Florence Youm, his daughter. The crew consisted of three men whose names are unknown.

Health Conditions in London.

Judging from the official returns London just now might be successfully beset as a winter health resort. Influenza has relaxed its grip and the total number of deaths last week was only 1,568, being over 100 daily below the average rate of mortality and being 10 per thousand below the normal rate of the past decade.

Revenues Pay Expenses.

All the expenses of the island of Cuba for January, provincial and municipal, will be met out of the customs receipts. There will be no attempt to collect other taxes to meet the first month's pay roll. It is possible that the expenses for February will be provided for in the same way.

Injured at a Bryan Meeting.

William J. Bryan spoke at Denver last Wednesday night to an audience that numbered 5,000 people and densely crowded the auditorium, while a vast throng struggled to get inside. In the crush a panic was started. A dozen women fainted, five persons sustained fractures of limbs and a score were severely bruised.

A Mexican bank clerk has been arrested at New Orleans. He is charged with forging checks to the amount of \$75,000.

TERSE TELEGRAMS.

The Massachusetts legislature has returned Henry Cabot Lodge to the Senate.

A rush to the Atlin gold fields in Northern British Columbia has commenced.

The store of A. J. Cannemeyer at New York was burned last Wednesday. Loss, \$760,000.

Gen. Shafter has taken command at San Francisco, and Gen. Merriam goes to Denver.

The Holiday Dry Goods Co. of Baltimore has failed. Assets, \$42,000; liabilities, \$27,000.

Five small boys were drowned at Scranton, Pa., last Wednesday. Their sled went through the ice.

Frank Eagan, of New Castle, Pa., returned from the Klondike with \$250,000, as a result of two year's work.

Martha Hughes Cannon, member of the Utah legislature received a vote last week for United States senator.

Detroit is arranging for an exposition in 1901. An association with a capital of \$1,000,000 has been formed.

In the week of Erie flyer No. 8 at South Bend, Pa., last week, fireman John J. J. Fely, of Oswego, was killed.

Illinois legislature has thanked Miss Helen Gould for the part she took in the war in the way of aiding sick soldiers.

The bank of Arthur, Ill., was dynamited and burglarized of \$4,000 or \$5,000 by six masked men, who escaped on a handcar.

Laboring men in the United States are warned to give the Philippines a wide berth as they could not possibly compete with the natives.

Speaker Wright of the California legislature is accused of selling his seat for \$100,000. He now sues the San Francisco Call for \$250,000.

Jonas Hatfield was sentenced to the penitentiary for life at Prestonburg, Ky., last Tuesday. He had murdered the children of Randolph McCoy.

Three soldiers of the Ninth Ohio (colored) regiment were before a Charleston, S. C., police judge for starting a row in a dive in that city.

Three years ago Mrs. Robert Davis of Martinsville, Ind., lost her voice. A severe attack of the grip a few days ago restored to her the power of speech.

Several men were killed in a battle between the Eddy family, of Virginia, and the Ramsey family, of Tennessee, which have long been engaged in a feud.

Gov. Roosevelt has refused to reinstate to citizenship a man who served a term in prison in connection with the Gravesend election frauds of John Y. McKean.

The whitened Rapids of Niagara Falls may be utilized in the near future as a power station. It is expected to develop 25,000 horse power and will cost \$2,000,000.

The Canadian government has decided not to interfere in the case of Henderson and the three Indians under sentence of death at Dawson. They will be hanged in March.

Miners and operators in convention at Pittsburgh have agreed the 8 hours shift constitute a day's work in the mines of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana next year.

The illuminating and natural gas and electric lighting plants of Southern Indiana and Ohio are to be consolidated under the laws of New Jersey, with a capital of \$60,000,000.

It was stated that ex-Governor Hastings of Pennsylvania is to be given the directorship of the bureau of American republics, made vacant by the death of Joseph P. Smith.

Gov. Dan W. Jones, Attorney-General Jeff Davis, Secretary of State A. C. Hull, State Treasurer Thomas E. Little and State Auditor Clayton were inaugurated at Little Rock, Ark.

Gov. Roosevelt of New York recently said something about the impurities of beef furnished American soldiers. He has now in his possession a letter from Gen. Eagan in which he is called a liar and scoundrel.

Rear Admiral Schley was presented with a jeweled sword in Carnegie Hall, New York, last week by brother members of the Royal Army and Navy. Supreme Regent Edson M. Chryver of Baltimore made the presentation.

An analysis by Prof. F. W. Clarke, chemist of the United States geological survey, supported the testimony of Major W. H. Daly, of Pittsburgh, as to the presence of borax and salicylic acids in the preserved meat on the transport Panama.

The first assistant postmaster-general has issued an order increasing the salaries of all the regular free delivery carriers who provide their own horses, to \$300 to \$400 per annum, beginning January 1st.

Bills were introduced in the Illinois legislature to repeal the fifty-year street railway franchise law and limit the franchises to twenty-year terms, charging at a fair valuation at the expiration of the franchise.

The grand jury at Canton, O., has returned a true bill against Mrs. Annie E. George for murdering George D. Saxton, brother of Mrs. William McKinley, last October. The indictment is for the first degree, the penalty of which is death by electrocution.

Frank M. Dorsey, formerly cashier of the First National bank of Ponca, Neb., was found guilty in the federal court at Omaha on thirteen counts, charging him with making false reports to the comptroller, misappropriation of the bank's funds and other irregularities.

In a crowded street car at St. Louis, Tuesday, on board of which was a policeman, three men robbed W. H. Snider, resident manager of the National Fire Insurance Company, of a jewel case containing between \$3,000 and \$4,000 worth of jewelry and escaped with the booty.

Majorities in the Legislature equivalent to an election as Senator were received by Chauncey M. Depew, R. N. Y.; Francis Marion Cockrell, D. Missouri; Albert J. Beveridge, R. Indiana; Julius C. Burrows, R. Michigan; Henry Cabot Lodge, R. Massachusetts; and Cushman K. Davis, Minnesota.

The ferryboat Niagara, on the Niagara river, with 19 people on board, became imbedded in an ice floe, and was swept toward the falls. The upper decks of the craft were torn off by collision with the ice on Tuesday, but it succeeded in reaching shore before it was caught in the rapids above the falls.

Protest Against Crowded Street Cars.

The question of overcrowding street cars has become so acute in London as in American cities and the authorities have decided upon heroic measures. This week of street cars loaded with city men being held up and raided one after another by bodies of police, who also took the names and addresses of the passengers standing, with the view of taking proceedings against the company.

PROTESTS FROM PROMINENT MEN.

AGAINST EXPANSION.

A Meeting Held in New York at Which Resolutions Favoring Philippine Independence Are Adopted.

A meeting for the purpose of arousing the public sentiment against the policy of imperialism and entangling foreign alliances was held in New York city a few days ago. The meeting was attended by a great crowd. The vice-presidents included Abram S. Hewitt, William H. Hornblower, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; John M. Parsons, general master workman of the K. of L.; Daniel Harris, president of the State Federation of Labor.

Communications were read from ex-President Cleveland, Colonel William J. Bryan and Bishop Henry C. Potter regretting their inability to be present. Mr. Cleveland said: "I am so opposed to the expansionist craze now afflicting the United States that any organization formed in opposition to it has my hearty sympathy and approval."

"Mr. Bryan said that he was fully in sympathy with every effort put forth to save the nation from the dangers of imperialism."

Bishop Potter wrote: "The purposes of the meeting have my hearty approval and I should be glad if I had time to say how strongly I feel that the policy of imperialism or expansion, in any such sense as proposed at present, is entirely and utterly opposed to the interest of the nation and the condition on which its prosperity has hitherto rested."

Resolutions were adopted declaring: That the full discharge of our obligations to the inhabitants of the Philippines requires that we should without delay help them to secure in their domestic affairs, first, order and their liberty, and that we are absolutely and unqualifiedly opposed to the annexation of the Philippine Islands as a permanent portion of the National domain.

"That we are unalterably opposed to the abandonment by this Republic of the American ideal of National growth in favor of the European ideal of colonial conquest; we unreservedly subscribe to the theory that Government derives all its just powers from the consent of the governed, and to the theory that there should be no taxation without representation, and we believe, moreover, that such theories are wholly applicable to the inhabitants of all the places abandoned by Spain as the result of the late war."

"That the people of the United States have incurred any responsibility or obligation as to the result of the recent war with Spain which requires any departure from, or abandonment of, the policies and principles laid down for the guidance of the Republic by Washington in his farewell address to the American people."

"That we are opposed therefore to the idea that the peace-loving and free people of the Republic, who are engaged in the grand task, as yet uncompleted, of developing the natural resources and of establishing upon a firm basis their own theory of government by, and for the people, should now or under any conceivable circumstances enter upon any alliance with any European power, the result of which might be to embroil us in European controversies in which our interests are not concerned."

"That we place on record our high appreciation and sincere thanks for the conspicuous services rendered to the American people by Senators Hoar, Aldrich and Tamm, and by the members of the cabinet and of both houses of Congress."

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the President of the United States, to the members of the cabinet and of both houses of Congress.

VILLAGES DESTROYED.

Dwellings in Southern Greece Overturned by an Earthquake.

A strong seismic disturbance was felt a few days ago throughout the Peloponnesus, the southern part of the kingdom of Greece, especially in the southwestern departments of the peninsula. All the houses in the town of Philippi in the department of Messenia, on the Ionian coast, have been damaged, and the inhabitants are now camping out in the suburbs.

Two villages in the vicinity of Philippi were completely destroyed, many people being slightly injured. The villages of Kyparissa and Staso were also practically destroyed, though it is not known as yet whether there were any victims there.

Much damage to property was done at Naxos, a seaport six miles north of Modon, whose harbor witnessed the victory of the English, French and Russian fleets over those of the Turks and Egyptians in 1827, and considerable loss is reported from Calamata, capital of the department of Messenia.

The shock was felt severely in the district of Zante, capital of the Ionian island of that name, but there was no loss of life or property there. Many slighter shocks occurred Monday, and the people at numerous towns and villages are afraid to return to their houses.

Direct Cable to Germany.

There is a movement on foot to construct a direct cable between Germany and America. The initiative has been taken by Felton & Guillaume, of Muelheim, near the Rhine. This is one of the largest concerns of the Rhine provinces, and they have succeeded in interesting all of the Cologne bankers and the big Ludwig Loew syndicate, of Berlin. Arrangements are now being made for the forming of a German-American cable company, with a capital of \$10,000,000, and it is believed that the direct cable will be constructed before the beginning of the twentieth century.

Cubans Have Work But Complain.

Twelve sugar estates in Mantanzas province, Cuba, have resumed operations. Complaint is made that the wages of the employes is much less than before the war. The laborers refuse to accept the reduction, demanding a dollar a day in silver. There are 15,000 destitute persons in the province. Those who are able to return to agriculture find it impossible to obtain oxen and tools.

Government contractors on Goat Island, near San Francisco a few days ago unearthed 8 skeletons. None was less than six feet and a half in length.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The following bills were introduced in the House last Wednesday. By Nisbet, of Allegheny, requiring all deeds and other conveyances of real estate to be registered in the office of the County Commissioners before being recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds.

By McFarlane, of Allegheny, appropriating \$60,000 to the Western Pennsylvania Humane Association; also \$50,000 to the medical and surgical department of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital at Pittsburgh.

Among the bills introduced in the House Thursday were: By Robinson, of Allegheny, repealing the act of May 31, 1897, relating to assessments of municipal improvements; repealing the acts of June 4 and 7, 1897, relating to public improvements.

By Nisbet, of Allegheny, regulating the granting of State certificates to public school teachers.

In the House Friday Speaker Farrington appointed Henry Hahn of Philadelphia as his clerk. Also the following: Chaplain W. G. Grissinger, Dauphin; fireman on floor, Charles Hazlebarth, Allegheny; fireman in basement, William H. Jones, Dauphin; janitor of coat room, John C. Philadelphia; janitors of committee rooms, M. W. Oliver, Allegheny; Charles Klenstein, Forest; H. W. Hastings, Allegheny; E. J. Tattle, Tioga; Janitors of basements, Benjamin Adaire, Perry; Reese Evans, Allegheny; W. O. Ringeman, Northumberland.

The Senate confirmed the nomination of W. W. Greider of Lancaster, for secretary of state last Wednesday. John P. Elkin was confirmed for attorney-general, but not until some bitter remarks reflecting upon his past record had been indulged in. Senator Flinn, of Allegheny, in support of the decision of Lieut.-Gov. Goblet, who presided at the joint session, and was sustained by 135 members—a majority of both houses. The senator's action was based upon a ruling to the effect that an appeal from the decision of the chair was not in order.

The joint ballot for senator Wednesday showed no change from the figures of Tuesday. A bill was introduced in the Senate by Mitchell, of Bradford, appropriating \$150,000 for an additional hospital for the insane in the northern district of Pennsylvania.

The Senatorial deadlock was as tight Thursday as on the previous day. Senator Quay had 111 votes out of 248, one less than he had on the first joint ballot.

Senator Martin introduced a bill for ballot reform. In regard to the measure Senator Martin says: "Perhaps the most important and noticeable innovation is the abolition of party columns and the circles. All candidates for the several offices will be arranged in groups, under the designation of the office, and the voter will have to mark a cross opposite the name of every candidate of his choice. The belief is that the best interests of the people of the State at large are served by a law which permits a full ticket which must be printed upon the ballots to be voted in every county. I have provided that bodies of citizens nominated by the several offices will be arranged in groups, under the designation of the office, and the voter will have to mark a cross opposite the name of every candidate of his choice. 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