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THE TITLE TO THE PANAMA CANAL

Senator Morgan's Report Attacks the French Company.

BOLD CHARGES OF FRAUD MADE.

The Minority of the Senate Committee Says Every Link in the Chain of Its Title and Every Step in the Course by Which It Became in a Position to Sell Its Property Free and Clear Is Plain and Satisfactory.

Washington, D. C., (Special).—Senator Morgan, from the Committee on Isthmian Canals, presented to the Senate the majority and minority reports of that committee on the question of the validity of the title of the new Panama Canal Company and its right to transfer the Panama Canal property to the United States for \$40,000,000.

The objections of the majority to the title held by that company are based largely on the relations of the canal company to the Governments of France and Colombia, but the committee also discusses at length many other phases of the question. Among these is the relation of the shareholders, who subscribed \$260,000,000 to the old Panama Company, whose interests, the report holds, cannot be lightly regarded. On this point the report says:

"The spectacle of the United States Congress authorizing the President, as the agent of our government, to conduct a trade with such a corporation (the new Panama Company) without consulting France as to the claim of independence, the Panama Company asserts will be entirely new in the history of nations, and its consequences cannot be lightly disregarded.

"Among these is the serious danger of the United States being drawn into disagreeable relations with a large and influential body of the worthy people of France, whose friendship for us has been cherished during the entire life of our republic. Unfortunately the report of the Isthmian Canal Commission reveals the fact that the men who make up this offer are chief among those who defrauded these 600,000 or 800,000 Frenchmen of \$250,000,000."

Speaking further of the obligations of the new company to the old, the majority says:

"If Mr. Eiffel and his associates get \$40,000,000 from the American people, it is well that they are sheltered from the claims of these defrauded and despoiled bondholders and stockholders by the alleged despotism of French courts. They would never escape justice in American courts and would be compelled to account for every dollar of the money to the bondholders and to the stocks bearing interest before applying any of it to the profits of their speculation.

The minority report, which was prepared by Senator Kittredge, upholds the title of the new Panama Company, as will be seen from the following extract from the opening paragraph:

"The title of the new Panama Company to its concessions and other property appears from the facts and documents which have been laid before the sub-committee, and is clear and free from any complications. For a transfer of its concessions to the United States the consent of Colombia is requisite, but this consent has been given by the government of that country as fully as it can be now given."

Clerk Embezzled \$100,000?

New York, (Special).—Max C. Mayer, an employe of Rathbone & Sons, brokers, of this city, was arrested, charged with the embezzlement of \$100,000. Mayer was confidential manager for the firm, and as such had access to all accounts and made out checks which he submitted for signature. A month ago, it is alleged, an irregularity was discovered and Mayer left his place. An examination of the books was made, which resulted in the discovery of alleged defalcations stretching over a period of two years. Mayer was at one time a partner in the firm of Rathbone, Mayer & Rathbone.

"Red Album" for Hens.

The Postoffice Department issued a fraud order against the United States Salyx Company, of New Concord, O., to prevent that concern using the mails in connection with an alleged scheme to defraud farmers and others in the sale to them of a mixture "guaranteed to make hens lay more eggs in the winter." The company advertised a "red album," which, it was alleged, would do the work. Samples of the stuff were analyzed by the Department of Agriculture. The egg food, it is said, proved to be nothing more than oxide of iron or ordinary red paint.

Automatic River Gauge.

Chattanooga, Tenn., (Special).—Cable and other supplies have arrived in this city for the construction of the test automatic river gauge, which is to be placed in the Tennessee river here by Observer W. M. Fulton, of the Knoxville station. It will be the first gauge of the kind ever constructed, and the workings will be tested for a year before attempting general introduction by the government.

THE NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD.

Domestic.

The Supreme Court of California has decided that the property of ex-Senator Fair, valued at \$20,000,000, must be distributed among the children.

W. G. Besler has been made general manager of the Jersey Central Railroad Company.

Henry Nye shot and killed his wife at Stephentown, N. Y. Jealousy was the cause.

Robert Johnson, an actor, aged 75 years, died at Bath, N. Y.

Paderewski is writing another opera. An indictment was returned in Louisville against the Louisville and Nashville Railroad by the federal grand jury on the charge of violating the Interstate Commerce Law.

James Walker, a negro driver, put arsenic in the coffee and hash which were served to the family of Dr. T. Tayloe, in Washington, N. C.

John Young was hanged at Mount Holly, N. J., for complicity in the murder of Washington Hunter, the aged farmer, of Riverside.

There was a fight between soldiers and civilians at Fort Morgan, Ala., in which one man was killed and a number wounded.

Peter Lintz, a farmer living near Berkeley Springs, W. Va., committed suicide.

Seven members of the crew of the Monomoy Life-Saving Station, including the captain, were drowned while trying to reach a distressed barge in a terrific sea off Chatham, Mass.

Strychnine was found in the stomach of Mrs. Nannie Bell Wilkerson, and her husband was arrested on suspicion of having poisoned her.

An attempt was made in Elizabeth, N. J., to kill Rev. Dr. Houst, of the German Lutheran Church, who denounced the anarchists.

All the textile plants in Fall River, Mass., resumed, an advance of 10 per cent. having been granted to the operatives.

The Sunday night fire will prove a serious blow to Bryn Mawr College, as Denbigh Hall, its finest building, was destroyed.

The National City Bank of New York paid out \$21,500,000 dividends of the Standard Oil and Consolidated Gas Companies.

Mrs. Brooks, in a New York court, testified that Florence Burns said she would shoot Walter Brooks if he did not marry her.

The factory owners at Fall River, Mass., have agreed to the 10 per cent. increase in wages demanded by the strikers.

While speaking to a miners' convention at Des Moines, Iowa, President John Mitchell was taken suddenly ill.

Gen. W. S. Smith states that the steel framework in many of Chicago's skyscrapers is corroding and the buildings may soon become dangerous.

A new volcano is reported to have burst forth near Kenal, on Cook Inlet, Alaska.

Notices were posted at the collieries of the Reading Company in the Hazleton district that the present scale would be continued for another year.

Edward Butler, a prominent St. Louis politician, was arrested on a bench warrant charging him with offering a bribe. He was released on bail.

Foreign.

The Official Messenger of St. Petersburg published the text of the Russo-French joint declaration anent the Anglo-Japanese convention.

A number of citizens were arrested and imprisoned in Hayti on the charge of conspiring against the government.

The Chinese rebels are continuing to crush the imperial troops sent against them in the southern provinces.

Santos-Dumont accepted an invitation to assist in organizing balloon contests at the St. Louis Exposition.

Achilles I, who called himself king of Patagonia and Aracania, died in a modest apartment in Paris.

There was a sharp debate in the House of Commons on the motion of the Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, for the appointment of a committee to investigate the contract system of supplying the troops in South Africa.

General Ma attacked a Chinese rebel stronghold, but was defeated by the rebels, who captured and looted Fung Cheng and seized or killed all the Mandarins.

Cheers for the Hohenzollerns in the Austrian Reichsrath created an exciting scene. The Czechs declared they stood firmly by the Austrian Emperor.

The students in St. Petersburg are circulating revolutionary tracts calling upon the people to get together and fight for freedom of speech and press.

Mr. Brodrick, the War Secretary, stated in the House of Commons that Lord Wolsley's trip to South Africa was on private business.

King Edward has made arrangements for the entertainment of half a million of the poor people of London during coronation week.

General Emmett, a brother-in-law of General Botha, was captured by Gen. Bruce Hamilton in the Southeastern Transvaal.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader in the House of Commons, moved the appointment of a committee to investigate the contracts for supplying horses and meats for the army in South Africa. Mr. Brodrick replied that the government did not fear an investigation

PIER FIRE DOES GREAT DAMAGE

Ship, Lighters and Cargoes Are Burned at Hoboken.

CHIEF ENGINEER SCOTT MISSING.

The Property Loss is About a Million Dollars—Many Bales of Cotton Burned and the Piers of the Holland-American Line and the Huge Campbell Stores Threatened.

New York, (Special).—A swift, and in many of its details picturesque, fire destroyed the pier of the Phoenix Steamship Line, on the Hoboken (N. J.) river front, with many bales of cotton and hay; burned that company's vessel, the British Queen; consumed several lighters and their cargoes, damaged a dock belonging to the Barber Steamship Line, and for a time threatened the property of the Holland-American Line and the huge Campbell stores. The loss, according to estimates, will approximate \$1,000,000.

Whether any lives were lost is most difficult to learn. While the conflagration was at its height and after it had been reduced by the firemen and fireboats, rumors were rife that several men perished. It was tolerably certain at midnight that Chief Engineer Scott, of the British Queen, was burned to death on her, and that a sailor named Jansen met the same fate. One of the men who escaped says that he saw several men leap into the water when the steamer became enveloped in fire, and he saw few if any of these rescued.

The quartermaster of the ruined ship said that the crew were in her forecabin, and he surmised that if all escaped they did so with difficulty. Nevertheless, some of the British Queen's officers said they were quite assured that all were safe save Engineer Scott, who they simply said was missing. It is not unlikely that some of the longshoremen and stevedores who swarmed about the vessel may still have to be accounted for.

The scene of the fire was Seventh and River streets, Hoboken. Together there are the docks and basins of the Phoenix Line, the Holland-American Line and the Barber Line. The Phoenix pier was a wooden structure, 300 feet long, covered with a frame shed. On this were many bales of hay and cotton, which burned with the utmost rapidity. How the fire started is not known.

The captain of the lighter Tonawanda saved himself, his wife and his child by pushing a cotton bale into the water, placing his family and himself upon it and paddling his strange life raft into the river. The stiff wind which had blown all day gave impetus to the fire.

Judge Confesses He is a Defaulter.

Utica, N. Y., (Special).—John D. F. Stone, a prominent lawyer and until a year ago judge of the City Court of this city, appeared before Supreme Court Justice Scripture, at the Justice's chambers in Rome, and announced that he was a defaulter in the sum of \$5,000 in the moneys of the Thomas L. Kingsley estate, of this city. He told the Justice that there was no way in which he could make restitution and asked to be committed to prison to expiate his crime. Justice Scripture refused to do this. He adjourned the matter for 30 days and requested that Stone make an effort to have someone indorse his note and make good the money which was due.

To Combine 230 Stores.

New York, (Special).—To prevent the dissipation in legal warfare of a large part of the wealth left by George Francis Gilman, the tea merchant, the heirs have practically agreed to an amicable settlement of their claims. The basis of settlement is the formation of a corporation to conduct the 230 tea stores which Gilman owned in the United States and Canada, and to allot to each heir stock in proportion to the amount of his or her claim. These shares form the bulk of the estate, and the residue, it is said, will be divided on the same plan if there be no interference by other claimants.

Torpedo Factory Blows Up.

Cleveland, (Special).—An explosion in the powder-mixing department of the Fairmount Manufacturing Company resulted in the death of Anna Fritz, a 17-year-old girl, and the serious injury of Miss Christine Smither, Miss Kittie Howard and Frank Groch, who will probably die. Four others were also hurt in the accident. The front of the two-story frame building was blown completely out, and the plant burned out by fire, which followed the explosion. The company manufactured railroad torpedoes.

Santos-Dumont Accepts.

Paris, (By Cable).—M. Santos-Dumont accepted an invitation from the officials of the St. Louis Exposition to go to St. Louis to assist the authorities in the organization of the proposed balloon contests and select a site on which to erect a balloon shed for himself. The aeronaut will sail for New York on the steamer Deutschland April 4. He will not take a balloon with him.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS.

For Three New States.

The House Committee on Territories favorably reported a bill providing Statehood for the Territories of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

It is the intention of the members of this committee, when the bill is considered in the House, to change the name of the Territory of New Mexico. This is not provided for in the bill, but an amendment will be offered to that effect. Representative William S. Knox, chairman of the committee, is among those who believe that the name should be changed. He does not think that any State in the Union should bear a name identified with that of any Latin country upon the Western Hemisphere. Several suggestions have been made regarding a new name, but none has yet been agreed upon. Among the names mentioned are "Montezuma" and "Lincoln." The latter favorably impresses many members of the committee.

The bill will embrace the three Territories, taking the place of a separate bill for each.

New Chinese Legation Home.

The Chinese Imperial Government will have a legation building of its own in Washington.

Before Minister Wu Ting-fang was accredited to this country the legation on Columbia Heights. The present Minister's taste ran to white stone, and looking around for a residence he obtained the beautiful and massive stone structure at the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Q streets. Deeds were placed on record conveying property at the northeast corner of Nineteenth street extended and Vernon avenue from Julia T. Peck and A. M. Ely to the Chinese Government for a legation site. The price paid was \$15,870.

There recently has been a boom among legations in this direction. The French Government bought one of the finest pieces of property in the city for a new embassy and plans for the building are now being prepared in Paris by one of the national architects. For a while there was talk of other legations clubbing together and building separate buildings upon an entire block.

To Retain Census Clerks.

By a vote of 5 to 4 the House Committee on Census directed that the bill drawn by Representative Hay, of Virginia, be reported, amending section 5 of the recently passed permanent Census act, by peremptorily placing all of the employes of the Census Office who were on the rolls on March 7, 1902, except unskilled laborers, in the classified service.

The purpose of the measure is to retain in the government service the large number of census employes who would be discharged under the construction which the executive branch of the government has placed on section 5 of the new act.

Pure-Food Legislation.

Jay Miller, of Chicago, concluded his statement on pure-food legislation before the House Committee on Commerce, and Robert H. Moses, of New York, spoke for the National Confectioners' Association in favor of a pure candy provision.

Mr. Miller held that stringent national legislation was not necessary, as the States were regulating the matter, but if there is to be Federal law, he argued, it should be confined to the prevention of transportation of deleterious articles.

Mr. Moses said the confectionery clause of the Hepburn bill is satisfactory to the confectionery interests.

Hosiery and Knit Goods.

The Census Bureau has issued the following preliminary report regarding the manufacture of hosiery and knit goods in the United States in 1900, with percentage of increase since 1890. Number of establishments 921, increase 16 per cent.; capital \$81,800,604, increase 62 per cent.; wage-earners, average number 33,387, increase 40 per cent.; total wages \$24,358,627, increase 47 per cent.; miscellaneous expense \$5,599,865, increase 32 per cent.; cost of materials used \$51,971,859, increase 42 per cent.; value of products \$95,482,566, increase 42 per cent.

Printers Complain of Ruling.

A committee of representatives of printing crafts talked with the President and handed him a memorial requesting that the ruling of the Postoffice Department barring from the mails certain publications issued annually, semi-annually and quarterly, be set aside. They stated that they represented 1,000 firms employing 100,000 persons, and that the ruling was a great hardship. The President took the matter under advisement.

Cavite Marines to Be Relieved.

Washington.—The Navy Department has made arrangements to have a battalion of marines go to Cavite, P. I., to relieve the present battalion, which has been there for some time. Major Paul St. C. Murphy will be in command of the detachment until its arrival at Guam, where he will assume command of the marine barracks.

BIG CONVENTION OF MINERS BEGINS

Three Anthracite Coal Districts Represented by Many Delegates.

ACTION WILL AFFECT 125,000 MEN.

The Failure of the Operators to Meet the Officials of the Miners' Union Was the Principal Topic of Discussion—Many of the Delegates Are Insistent in Their Demand for Recognition of the Union.

Shamokin, Pa., (Special).—An important convention of the United Mine Workers of Districts 1, 7 and 9 is being held here to settle the question whether 125,000 men are to go on a strike.

District No. 1, comprising the Lackawanna and Wyoming regions, where there is much dissatisfaction, practically controls the situation. Should the delegates from that region declare for a strike the remaining districts would be compelled to accept the inevitable.

The chief grievance is that the operators refuse to confer with the miners' organization, adopting, instead, the plan of posting notices announcing their wages. Recognition of the union will not be the only issue, though it will probably be the chief one. The reports of President John Mitchell and his assistants in their efforts to settle existing differences with the operators and the replies received will be read. Recognition of the union, the eight-hour day, grievances of firemen, and in some cases an increase of wages, are among the subjects included in these letters. It is stated that the combined treasuries of the three districts now contain \$400,000 available for use in case of strike.

District President Fahy called the convention to order at 2:15 o'clock. President Mitchell was unanimously selected as permanent chairman. He made a brief address, in which he said he hoped the miners would be able to secure redress for their wrongs without recourse to the methods of 1900. Mr. Mitchell's appearance on the stage was the signal for an ovation.

Secretary Easley expressed the opinion that a meeting could be brought about between the miners' president and J. P. Morgan. He said:

"There is no question but that Mr. Morgan will agree to a meeting. He is not opposed to labor organizations, as some seem to think. Mr. Morgan would rather consult with one representative man rather than negotiate with many. I know that before the big steel strike he assured Mr. Shaffer, the steel workers' president, that recognition would be given if the men would wait. The aversion to recognition of the United Mine Workers' Association in the anthracite region is mostly confined to men of set ideas who are not progressive.

"In the bituminous fields a different feeling seems to actuate the operators. It will not do for the anthracite operators to say that they will have no dealings with the miners' organization. Such a course is not in keeping with present-day progress. Nevertheless, the miners must exercise patience and forbearance."

Arsenic in the Coffee.

Washington, N. C., (Special).—Dr. T. Tayloe, of the State Board of Medical Examiners, and his entire family were poisoned by coffee and hash containing arsenic, put there by James Walker, a negro driver, who had often threatened to kill the negro nurse. When Walker was arrested rat poison, containing arsenic, was found in his pocket. Quick aid saved the poisoned family, all of whom were seriously ill. The negro, who is in jail, confessed that he put the poison in the coffee and the hash, but said it was only to kill the old nurse, who had "conjured" him.

Reported Rebuff by Turkey.

London, (By Cable).—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Constantinople says: "The Turkish government has flatly refused the demand of the United States for the repayment of the money paid to the brigands as a ransom for Miss Ellen M. Stone and her companion, Madame Tsilka." The ransom amounted to \$72,500.

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