FOREST PRESERVATION.

SENATOR DEPEW MAKES A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED APPALACHIAN PARK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, June 7.—Mr. Depew, of New-York, made in the Senate to-day a timely and convincing argument in advocacy of the Appalachian Park project. A bill has been reported to the Senate by the Committee on Forest Reserves and the Protection of Game, which proposes to expend $10,000,000 in the creation of a national forest park, to embrace about two million acres of forest lands in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia. This great Appalachian reserve is to be maintained and administered by the federal government in order to guard the sources of the thousands of watercourses which find their way from its plateaus to the Atlantic or to the Gulf of Mexico, and thus protect the vast area of agricultural lands which these rivers enrich and fertilize. As a member of the Committee on Forest Reservations the junior Senator from New-York has given much careful study to the forestry problem, and his appeal to the Senate to undertake this beneficent and national work was supported by many illustrations of the injuries suffered in older countries from a wasteful and short sighted denudation of forest areas.

It is said by the committee reporting the bill that "it may fairly be urged that the establishment of this forest reserve in the region of the South Appalachian Mountains is a matter of great national importance, and that, owing to the peculiar conditions existing in this region, the establishment of this reserve need not necessarily be accepted as a precedent for the establishment of similar reserves elsewhere in the East."

Mr. Depew spoke in part as follows:

Nature has been so prodigal in her gifts of forests to the United States that the important question of their preservation has been neglected too long. The attacks of the settlers upon the woods for clearings and a home have been indiscriminate and wasteful in the extreme. The settlers are not to blame, nor are the lumbermen. The destruction which has been going on with such frightfully increasing rapidity during the last fifty years is due to a lack of that governmental supervision in the interest of the whole people which can only come from education and experience. The lumberman wishes to realize at once upon his purchase, and as a rule vast fortunes are made in deforesting the land. Railroads are run into the woods, all the appliances of modern inventions and machinery are at work, and this magnificent inheritance is being squandered with a rapidity which is full of peril for the future.

Intelligent conservation of the forests of a country is the highest evidence of its civilization. The climate, the soil, the productive capacity of the farm, the equability of the rainfall and the beneficent flow of the streams are all dependent upon the science of forestry. We have wisely set apart already in the West forty-one national forest reserves—about forty-six million acres. One of them is already paying expenses and yielding a slight revenue.

While 46,000,000 acres of land have been rescued to the West, there has been nothing done in the East. The country had a superb property, unique in every way, unequalled for richness and rarity and for the value of its product, in the redwood forests of the Pacific Slope. Through carelessness, simply, Congress yielded to the shrewd representations of the speculator, who, under that homestead plea, which is properly so attractive to the American, secured the enactment of laws by which any settler could secure 160 acres in these forests of priceless value. Then came the harvest of the lumbermen. Each of their employes staked out 160 acres. The sailors upon the vessels that carried off their lumber were induced to make claims for their 160 acres each, and the land was then transferred to the lumber companies, until, for a mere song, this magnificent inheritance of the people fell into the hands of different corporations who are mercilessly destroying the timber.

Negligence of this kind on the part of Congress becomes almost a crime. Those wonderful woods should have been preserved, not for speculators and bogus settlers, but for the whole people of the country. They would, under scientifice forest management, have been for all time to come not only self-supporting and revenue producing, they would have been more—they would have been the source of supplies of wood for all purposes for the inhabitants of the Pacific Coast. They would have been additions to the rural scenery, which in every State and country, when attractive, helps culture and civilization. They would have been the home of game, where sportsmen could have found health and pleasure. But, instead, the land will become an arid waste, the streams will dry up, and the country will lose not only one of its best possessions, but there will be inflicted incalculable damage upon a vast region which otherwise would have remained always full of happy homes and cultivated farms.

THE PROPOSED APPALACHIAN PARK.

The Appalachian forest preserve as proposed in the pending measure is about 150 miles in length and of varying breadth. It is from 400 to 600 feet above the sea. It runs through the States of Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. The slopes of these mountains are very steep, varying from 20 degrees at the lowest to 40 degrees. The waters which flow from the perpetual streams, fed by the perpetual springs, run on the one side to the Atlantic, and on the other to the Gulf of Mexico. The streams from this mountain forest are the tributaries of these important rivers: The James, the Roanoke, the Catawba, the Savannah, the New (Kanawha), the Tennessee, the French Broad, the Coosa, the Yankin, the Chattahoochee, the Broad, the Hiwassee, the Nolichucky, the Pigeon, the Tuckasegee, the Watauga and the Holston. The region affected by these streams is from 100 to 150 miles in width on the Atlantic side, and more than that on the other. It comprises part of the richest agricultural country in the United States. The timber in this forest is all hardwood, and is the largest body of hardwood on the North American Continent. It is a museum of forest growth, embracing, on account of its location, the woods which can be grown in temperate, semi-tropical and tropical countries. There are 137 varieties, making this forest one of the most interesting in the world. The deep soil has been forming for a thousand years or more, and in its interlacing of tree roots and humus, of grass and leaves, there has been created an enormous sponge for the absorption, retention and distribution of the rainfall.

The rainfall in this region is greater than in any other part of the United States, except the North Pacific Coast. It ranges from 60 to 100 inches a year. The downpour at one time during the last year was 30 inches. Where the forests are intact the water finds its way through this thick and porous soil, goes into the crevices of the rocks and into the gulches and forms springs and rivulets. Nature, always beneficent in her operation, so arranges this vast collection of the rainy season that during the rest of the year it flows out naturally and equably through the rivulets into the streams and through the streams into the rivers and waters and fertilizes half a dozen States.

The result of an attack upon this fortress created by nature for the protection and enrichment of the people is more disastrous than the sweep of an invading army of savages over a thickly populated and fertile country. They kill, they carry off captives, they burn and they destroy, but after the war the survivors return to their homes and in a few years every vestige of the ruin has disappeared. In its place there are again cities, villages and happy people. But the lumberman selects a tract of hardwood forests upon the Appalachian Mountains. The trees, young and old, big and little, surrender to the axe and the saw. Then the soil is sold to the farmer, who finds abundant harvests in its primeval richness. For about three years he gathers a remunerative and satisfactory harvest, but he sees, as the enormous rainfall descends, his farm gradually disappear. At the end of three years he can no longer plant crops, but for two years more, if lucky, he may be able to graze his stock. At the end of five years the rains and floods have washed clean the mountain sides, have left nothing but the bare rocks, have reduced his farm to a desert, and created a ruin which can never be repaired.

But this is not all. That farm has gone down with the torrents, which have been formed by the cutting off of the protecting woods, into the streams below. It has caused them to spread over the farms of the valleys and plateaus. It has turned these peaceful waters into roaring floods, which have ploughed deep and destructive gullies through fertile fields and across grassy plains. One freshet in the Catawba River last spring, occasioned wholly by the deforesting of the mountains, swept away $1,500,000 worth of farms, buildings and stock. The damage done by the freshet of last year alone, in the large territory fed by the streams and rivers which came from these mountains, was estimated at over $18,000,000.

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS THREATENED.

This destruction cannot be repeated many years without turning into a desert the fairest portion of our country. This process of destruction is constantly enlarging because of encroachments upon the forests on account of the growing scarcity of hardwood. The lumbermen are running light railways so as to reach the heretofore inaccessible depths. The giants of the mountains, which are 400 or 500 years of age, and many of them seven feet in diameter and from 140 to 150 feet high, are falling in increasing numbers every month before the pitiless and ruthless invasion of the axe and the saw. In ten years the destruction will be complete, the forests will be practically gone, the protecting soil will have been washed off the hillsides, and the newspapers will be filled each year with tales of disaster to populations, to farms, to villages and to manufacturing enterprises, occasioned by unusual and extraordinary rains, and the torrents which have been formed by them and flowed down through the valleys.

It has been estimated that there is in these mountain streams 1,000,000 horsepower, which can be easily utilized. This means a saving of $30,000,000 a year in coal alone, which would otherwise have to be used for the generation of that amount of power for manufacturing purposes. But it means more. This 1,000,000 horsepower that these streams, which flow equably all the year round because of the nature of the sponge which forms the reservoir that supplies them, would create an incalculable amount of electrical power. With the successful demonstrations which have been made in California and Niagara Falls of the distance to which this energy can be transmitted, the value of these streams, kept in their original condition, to the future of these States cannot be estimated. There are in these conditions all the elements necessary for transportation, for light and heat, for manufactures and mining, in a very large section of the United States.

The proposition in the bill is to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, at an expense not exceeding $10,000,000, to purchase 4,000,000 acres of these forests. They are held now in large tracts of from 1,000 to 5,000 acres. They are being rapidly bought up by lumber companies at from $1 50 to $2 an acre. The owners, as I am informed, would much prefer selling them to the government than to individuals or corporations. The reason is obvious. It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that within five years the forests would be self-sustaining, and after that a source of increasing revenue for all time to come. It is impossible for the States to undertake this work. New-York, in order to protect the Hudson and Mohawk, has been purchasing a large domain through the Adirondack forests which she proposes adding to every year. This is possible, because the whole territory is within the limits of the State of New-York. But in the Appalachian region one State cannot buy the forest sources of the streams, because they are in another State. The State which has the forests cannot be expected to go to the expense of protecting them in order to preserve the streams and agriculture and industries of adjoining commonwealths.

The government does much in many ways to create wealth for the people. Every river and harbor bill carries with it millions of dollars to create wealth by dredging harbors, rivers and streams. The irrigation propositions which are always before us, and some of which have passed the Senate, are also for the creation of wealth by making fertile the lands which have always lain arid. Here, however, is a proposition not for the creation of wealth, but for its preservation. This is a scheme not for many local improvements, like the $70,000,000 Public Buildings bill or the $70,000,000 River and Harbor bill, or the innumerable other bills which we pass for localities, but it is a public and beneficent measure to keep for future generations in many States and over a large area the productive energies which nature has stored for the comfort, the living and the happiness of large populations and for the wealth of the whole country.

It differs from all other schemes of governmental aid in another way. The advantages derived by the government from the improvement of rivers and harbors is incidental and indirect. The same is true of irrigation, of public buildings and public expenditures of every kind; but in this broad and beneficent scheme the government protects its people by entering upon a business impossible for States or individuals, and which no machinery but that of the government can carry on, and which the experience of other countries has demonstrated will prove a source of perpetual revenue.

BENEFITS OF FOREST PRESERVATION.

We have been the happy possessors of such extensive forest territories that we have not yet, like other nations, felt the poverty of wood. There has not been brought home to us how dependent we are upon it for all purposes in our domestic, home and business life. It would be little short of a national calamity if we should feel acutely the loss of our wood. That this will occur, and wood become so high as to make it a luxury, is certain if this forest denudation goes on. From the cottage of the poor man and the home and outbuildings of the farmer to the highly polished woods whose artistic graining ornaments the palaces of the rich, this wise provision of nature is our necessity. We can only keep these hard woods, which every year are becoming scarcer and more costly, within reasonable reach of the demands of the people by the government entering upon this process of scientific forestry. Instead of this 150 miles of hardwood forests being destroyed, as they will be in ten years unless measures are taken for their preservation, they would under this scheme last forever, and yield annually a harvest for the uses of the people. A few corporations or individuals may accumulate in a short time large fortunes by deforesting, fortunes which will disappear in a generation or two; but wise ownership, preservation and administration by the government will give employment, property, industries and homes to multitudes for all time.

To sum up briefly, then, this is a work which only can be done by the government of the United States. It should be done by the government because it interests many States and in a large way the people of the whole country. It preserves the hardwood forests and their product for future generations. It keeps upon the hills and mountain sides the woods, whose influence upon climate, soil and rainfall is most beneficial to a vast territory. It prevents mountain torrents, which will in time, as the destruction of the forests goes on, turn a large agricultural region into a desert. It conserves for manufacturing purposes that enormous waterpower which will be utilized for a multitude of industries which will give employment to thousands and add enormously to the wealth of the country. Instead of being an expense and a drain—and it would be the best expense which the government could make if that was necessary—it will be one of those beneficent improvements which will shed blessings everywhere, and at the same time be self-sustaining and a source of everlasting revenue to the government.

At the close of Mr. Depew's remarks, Mr. Hale said that the Senate could not fail to be impressed by the great importance of the subject. He had not been aware of the extent of the land to be purchased, but he thought that some action ought to be taken on the bill at this session.

MR. DEPEW IN HIGH SPIRITS.

COMPLIMENTED ON HIS FOREST RESERVE SPEECH—GOING ABROAD FOR THE SUMMER.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, June 7.—Senator Depew was in unusually high spirits to-day after his speech on the Forestry Reserve bill, which is regarded as the most attractive address he has yet made in the Senate. The particular cause of his glee was twofold. First, he received a note from Senator Frye, president pro tem. of the Senate, telling him that it was by far the best speech of this session, and, second, it marked the close of his work in the Senate until Congress reassembles next December. On Monday he leaves Washington with Mrs. Depew for New-York, where they will take a steamer for Europe on June 11 and remain all summer. The Senator explained that he would not have sailed for Europe at so early a date had it not been that four months ago he engaged passage for himself and Mrs. Depew on the steamer that leaves New-York on Wednesday.

"It came about in this way," he said to a representative of The Tribune. "Last February I promised Mrs. Depew to take her back to Europe this summer. Until we were married in France last December and came to America Mrs. Depew had never been away from her mother one whole week in her life. Naturally she is homesick, and we shall go direct to Paris, where her mother resides. I do not know whether we shall attend the coronation at London, though it is possible we may cross the Channel for a day or two to witness the great show in the British metropolis. The Republican Steering Committee of the Senate is responsible for our early departure. It came about in this way: When we decided last February to go to Europe this summer, I asked Allison and other members of the Steering Committee what time Congress would adjourn. They assured me that they could guarantee the business of the session would be brought to a close by June 10. Believing they knew all about it, I immediately engaged passage for Mrs. Depew and myself to sail on June 11. When, a few weeks ago, it became evident that Congress would not be ready to adjourn June 10, I tried to make arrangements with the steamship people to go on another boat, but as travel across the Atlantic is so heavy at present they were unable to accommodate me. So if we do not go on the 11th there is no telling what time we could get away. However, the most important work of the session is disposed of, and as I am paired with a Democrat on everything of importance to be voted on from now on my absence will cut no figure."

Senator Depew had hardly taken his seat after his speech this afternoon before he received the following note from Senator Frye, which, he says, he values more highly than any other compliment that could have been paid him:

"Dear Depew: The most valuable and suggestive speech I have heard at this session. FRYE."

TO SUPPRESS ANARCHY.

CONCERTED ACTION PROPOSED BY GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

AMBASSADORS VON HOLLEBEN AND CASSINI PRESENT A JOINT NOTE TO SECRETARY HAY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, June 7.—The purpose of European countries to begin negotiations with the United States for the suppression of anarchy as soon as Congress grants the President the necessary authority is shown by official communications which have been exchanged by Germany, Russia and the United States. These communications are in the form of memoranda. Herr von Holleben, the German Ambassador, and Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, presented a joint note to Secretary Hay, in which they said in part:

The assassination of President McKinley, together with the anarchistic crimes and attempts upon the lives of chief magistrates committed in recent years, have rendered it terribly evident that a struggle against the menace of anarchy is an urgent necessity for all governments and a duty whose performance cannot be postponed.

It is evident that concerted action on the part of the governments interested cannot be really successful unless the uniform and strict enforcement of the measures that may be adopted against the anarchists can be secured by an international understanding. It would be preferable, it seems, to attain that end by an exchange of views among the governments rather than by convoking a new conference.

The Imperial Government of Germany and the Imperial Government of Russia have, consequently, agreed to propose such common action to the powers as will tend to the adoption of uniform measures in order to check the anarchistic movement.

The resolutions of the conference held at Rome in 1898, only a very small part of which has been put in practice, might serve as a basis for the projected understanding. It would be desirable that the governments, agreeably to the decisions of that conference, should consent to adopt uniform administrative measures having for their object the establishment of a rigorous surveillance of the anarchists by the creation of central bureaus in the various countries, by the exchange of information and by international regulations relative to the expulsion of anarchists from all countries of which they are not subjects. The projected understanding should, so far as this may be possible, not confine itself to the measures above referred to, but should comprise various legislative measures tending to strengthen and complete the provisions of the penal code against anarchists, against the combined effects of their common action and against the subversive press. It would furthermore be well to introduce into legislation a more complete and precise definition of anarchistic crime in all its aspects.

The governments of Germany and Russia express the hope that the United States will not refuse to recognize the necessity of energetically resisting the development of the anarchistic movement.

PRESIDENT'S SYMPATHY EXPRESSED.

"I am directed by the President," said Secretary Hay, in response, "to express his cordial sympathy with the views and the purposes set forth in the memorandum of the Ambassadors of Germany and Russia." The Secretary quoted a part of the President's last annual message, in which he urgently recommended anti-anarchistic legislation. "These extracts from the President's message, it is believed," the Secretary continued, "will assure all governments of civilized peoples of the President's earnest desire to adopt every practicable means to eradicate this deadly growth from our body politic. The President will be glad to adopt such administrative measures as are within his constitutional power to co-operate with other governments to this end. So far as concerns the legislative action which may be necessary, the large number of bills which have been introduced in both houses of Congress during the present session sufficiently show the trend of public sentiment in the same direction. The President will take all proper means to urge upon Congress the adoption of such measures for the suppression of anarchy as may be found acceptable to the national legislature and which may enable the Executive to act in the matter with greater effectiveness in concert with other powers."

WORK ON ANTI-ANARCHY BILL.

Washington, June 7.—The House spent the day voting on amendments to the Anti-Anarchy bill, but all failed except one proposed by McMcCall, of Massachusetts, to strike from the anarchist section the word "assault" where it is coupled with "killing" in the prohibition against conspiracy for killing the chief magistrate of a foreign country. After the bill had reached the last parliamentary stage before passage, Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, moved to recommit. The quorum failed at this point, and the House was compelled to adjourn without final action.

HIGH ARMY PLACES FILLED

SUCCESSORS TO GENERALS STERNBERG, WHEATON AND BROOKE SELECTED —NAMES NOT MADE PUBLIC.

Washington, June 7.—Secretary Root had a long conference with the President at the White House this afternoon, at which many important army nominations were decided upon. Among these was a surgeon general to succeed George M. Sternberg, who retires for age to-morrow, and two major generals to fill the vacancies which will be caused by the retirements of General Loyd Wheaton on July 15 and General John R. Brooke on July 21. Two brigadier generals to succeed officers of that rank promoted were also selected. Secretary Root declined to give any information concerning the personality of the men selected in advance of the nominations being sent to the Senate, which probably will be done early next week. He did say, however, that the main factors governing the selection of the officers for promotion were previous record, ability for future military service as demonstrated by past service, date of retirement and seniority. All other things being equal, the Secretary said, the selections were governed by seniority. He also said that the nominations of the successors of Generals Wheaton and Brooke were made in advance of their retirement for the purpose of giving the Senate an opportunity to pass on them.

LIFE OF DANISH TREATY EXTENDED.

A PROTOCOL SIGNED BY SECRETARY HAY AND MINISTER BRUN.

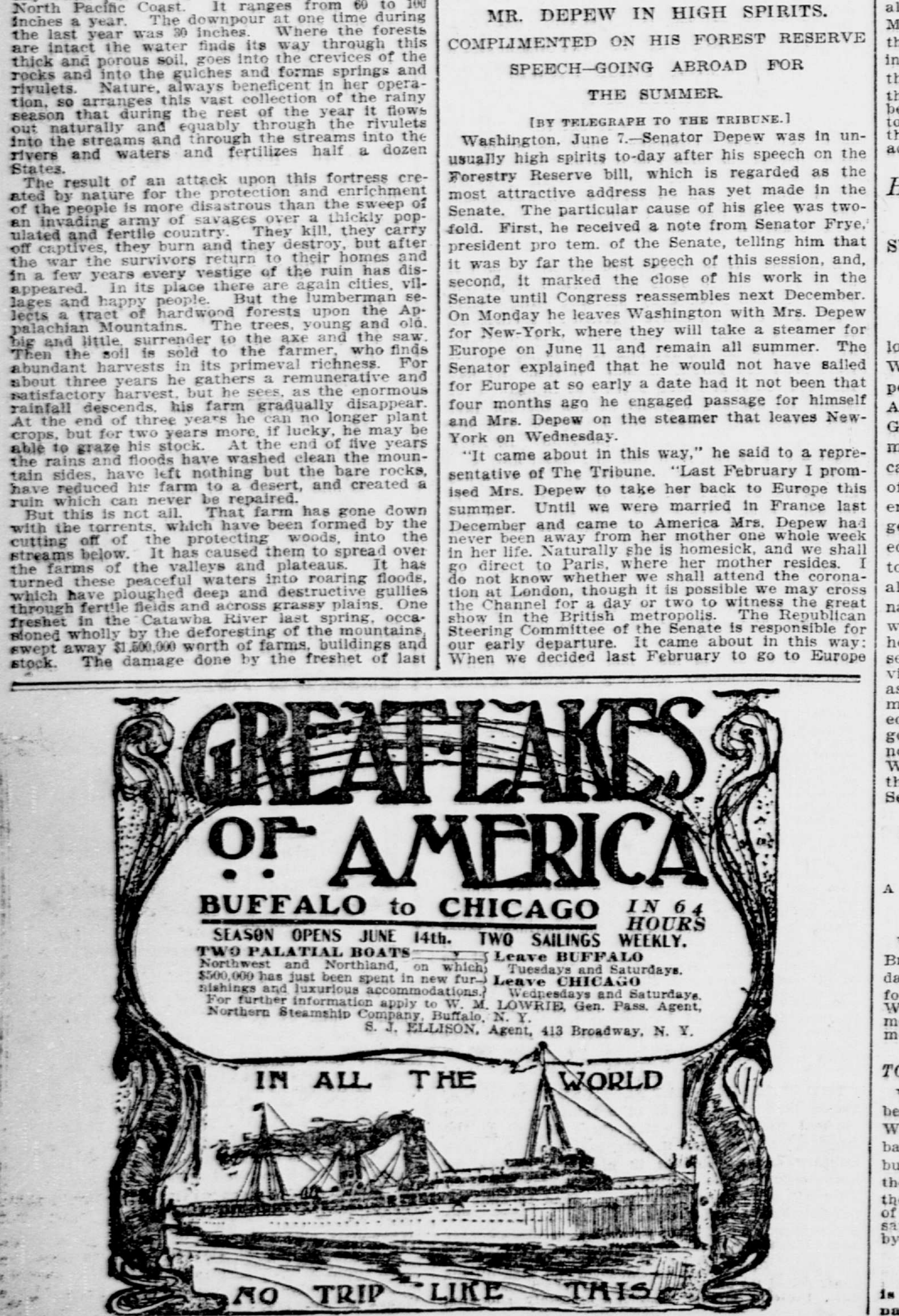
Washington, June 7.—Secretary Hay and Mr. Brun, the Danish Minister, signed a protocol today, extending for twelve months the time allowed for the exchange of ratifications of the Danish West Indian treaty. This allows for the adjournment of the Danish Rigsdag over the summer months, without final action on the treaty.

TO LAY THE NEBRASKA'S KEEL ON JULY 4.

Washington, June 7.—The Navy Department has been informed by Moran Brothers, at Seattle, Wash., that they will lay the keel of the big battleship Nebraska on the Fourth of July. The builders inform the department that the work at their yards has lagged a little of late, owing to the prevalence of a small strike and also because of delay in the delivery of ship fittings, but they say that the progress on the big vessels building by them is now improved.

A BUSINESS DIRECTORY FREE.

is virtually what is given with to-day's paper in those "Little Ads. of the People."



SPEAKS FOR NICARAGUA.

SENATOR MITCHELL CALLS THE PANAMA CANAL PROJECT "A STUPENDOUS GOLD BRICK."

Washington, June 7.—After transacting some routine business and discussing for a time the bill to relieve shippers from the London dock charges, the Senate to-day resumed consideration of the isthmian canal project. Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, continued his speech, begun on Thursday, in opposition to the Panama route. After considering the engineering difficulties of the route, which he regarded as extremely serious, he denounced the methods of the Panama Canal Company, which he declared were the most corrupt in the history of the world. He asserted that no better way could be found to defeat the construction of any canal than to adopt the Spooner amendment.

Mr. Mitchell said he had referred inadvertently to the Isthmian Canal Commission as "Hanna's Commission," and had not intended to reflect on Mr. Hanna or the commission. Discussing at length the reports of the Canal Commission, he said that it had reported in favor of the Nicaragua route, after examining all routes, as the most feasible and practicable, and that report was definite and conclusive, backed by facts and figures. The commission, he added, had changed its mind within a month, wholly on the ground of cost. He insisted that if the facts presented by the commission were examined carefully it would be the judgment of any Senator that the real choice of the commission as to a route was that through Nicaragua.

Mr. Mitchell criticised the project for constructing the Bohio dam on the Panama route, quoting eminent engineers as saying that it involved enormous difficulties and many novel and untried features.

He handled the proposition to build the canal by the Panama route, and incidentally the Spooner amendment, without gloves. By the adoption of this proposition, he said, "the United States would be tacking on to one of the greatest frauds and pieces of corruption known since the world began." He could not believe that the Senate intended "to consider seriously a proposition which will involve the United States in a legal controversy for a hundred years. I want the Senate to know the facts and to determine whether we really shall take up this rotten concern across the sea." Mr. Mitchell expressed the opinion that the enactment of the Spooner amendment would result in postponing the beginning of the canal project, as the President probably would have to make an independent investigation before he reached a decision. He urged that Congress ought to accept the responsibility of selecting the route, and not turn that responsibility over to the President. He admitted that legally the transfer of such responsibility could be made, but emphatically denied that it was either wise or proper, and intimated that such action would be cowardly. He suggested the possibility that if the United States should adopt the Panama route some other nation would construct a canal by the Nicaragua route, thus creating competition that would be disastrous to the United States.

Mr. Mitchell denounced the idea that the United States should lend its name to the Panama Canal enterprise, "whose history in the last ten years had shocked the sensibilities of mankind." He declared that it was the "most rapacious scheme of legislative corruption, journalistic venality and social and political exposure ever uncovered in any age or country." He asserted that the launching of the Panama Canal enterprise was "one of the greatest farces ever witnessed on earth, either in ancient or modern times," and that the whole project was "one of the most stupendous gold brick games ever imposed upon a people."

Mr. Mitchell declared that by the Spooner amendment and the views of the minority of the Canal Committee the United States not only was invited to take part in a gigantic lottery scheme, but also would be compelled by French law controlling canal construction to purchase in France all raw materials entering into the canal. He pointed out that the new Panama Canal Company had entered into obligations to construct the canal, and insisted that the United States, if it purchased that company's rights and property, would be the legatee of all obligations of the French company, including those to the stockholders of the old Panama Canal Company. In view of all the conditions he did not think a wise man would invest $40,000,000 in a proposition of that kind.

In closing, Mr. Mitchell declared that if he were looking for a way to defeat the construction of an isthmian canal, he could find no better one than the adoption of the Spooner amendment. He was satisfied that the Panama Canal proposition could not be touched without defilement or even looked at without loathing. It was, he said, a sink of iniquity which the United States ought not to approach.

After a brief executive session, the Senate adjourned.

LIGHT ON NICARAGUA ROUTE.

PROFESSOR HEILPRIN SAYS HIS OBSERVATIONS SHOW THAT DORMANT VOLCANOES CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

Philadelphia, June 7.—"The Press" this morning printed a dispatch from Professor Angelo Heilprin, giving his views on the subject of an isthmian canal route in the light of his studies of the volcanic eruptions in Martinique and St. Vincent. He says, under date of Fort de France:

My study of what has happened here throws added light on the isthmian canal question. The castrophism here is without parallel. Its relation with conditions at St. Vincent establishes a long volcanic circuit, whose existence should dispose of Nicaragua as a canal route.

The reasons which lead to this conclusion as to the canal route are these: The conditions here and at St. Vincent establish conclusively an increase, and not a decrease, of volcanic phenomena in the Caribbean Gulf region. An absolutely new form of destructibility has been exhibited here. The destruction has been not by lava, ash or earthquake, but by explosive gases or steam, shattering everything as if blown from a cannon. For seven miles massive masonry villages have been overwhelmed in all directions by terrific mud and rock. The loss is incredible. I have visited St. Vincent, ninety miles away, and find the phenomena there identical, with a broader area of destruction. There can be no question as to the interrelation of both eruptions, that at St. Vincent preceding by one day that at Martinique. The facts all prove the broad reach of volcanic force, and that reliance for the protection of a canal running through a volcanic country like Nicaragua on the localization of volcanic force, its assumed dormancy, or the resistability of the canal to its force, is absurd.

DOCK CHARGES AT LONDON.

Washington, June 7.—The Senate to-day began consideration of the London Dock Charges bill. Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, in support of the bill, said the charges made at the London docks against American flour principally were a discrimination against the United States.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. McCumber as to what guarantee the shippers of this country would have, in the event of the elimination of the London dock charges, that Atlantic freight rates would not be increased, Mr. Nelson replied that there was no guarantee, and could be none. The shippers would have to take their chances on that. The steamship trust organized by J. P. Morgan, he said, might raise the freight charges. That was not to be prevented by the pending bill. "God deliver us from trusts!" exclaimed Mr. Nelson. "That is a matter which we will have to take care of later on."

The bill, he said, was for the purpose of protecting the American manufacturer, the American producer and the American farmer. Protection was needed all the more since the formation of the shipping combination by Mr. Morgan. As the situation is, said he, "the American shippers are in the clutches of a devilfish of a monopoly, from which we ought to pray every evening before going to bed to be delivered."

The bill was then laid aside.

NOT TO TRY CHICAGO'S OFFICERS.

RECOMMENDATION FOR A COURT MARTIAL DISAPPROVED BY ADMIRAL CROWNINSHIELD.

Washington, June 7.—The Navy Department this morning issued the following statement concerning the court of inquiry which investigated the case of the American officers arrested at Venice:

The court of inquiry recommends trial by court martial of Lieutenant John S. Doddridge, U. S. N.; Captain Robert F. Wynne, U. S. M. C., and Assistant Surgeon Robert E. Ledbetter, U. S. N., on the charge of unbecoming behavior in public, and that no further action be taken in the case of Naval Cadet James C. Kress, U. S. N., and Private Wilfred Langley, U. S. M. C. Admiral Crowninshield has disapproved the opinion, and recommendation of the court of inquiry where it is adverse to the officers, on the ground that the evidence is not sufficient.

There will be no further proceedings in this case, according to the present intention of officials. The grounds on which Admiral Crowninshield disapproved the findings—the insufficiency of evidence—would not, it is believed, give any cause for offence to the Italian Government. The admiral does not find that the Italian court erred, but he does find that, situated as the Chicago is, it is not possible to secure the evidence which would justify the assembling of a court martial.

The decision of the Navy Department to refrain from carrying the case further is based entirely on a cabled and consequently brief report of the action of the court of inquiry, and of Admiral Crowninshield's disapproval of the recommendations.

When informed of the findings of the court of inquiry, the Italian Ambassador, Signor Mayor des Planches, expressed personally entire satisfaction with the case as it now stands, and felt reasonably sure that his government would hold the same view, as the court's recommendation for a court martial in the cases of three of the officers does not reflect on the action of the Italian tribunal.

In accordance with its regular itinerary, the European squadron is scheduled to leave Castellamare to-day for Gibraltar, where the Buffalo will meet it about June 18 with a consignment of enlisted men and petty officers to exchange. From Gibraltar the squadron is to sail for Lisbon, Admiral Crowninshield, on the Illinois, going on to Spithead for the coronation ceremonies.

AMERICAN FLEET LEAVES NAPLES.

Castellamare, Bay of Naples, June 7.—The United States battleship Illinois, flying the flag of Rear Admiral A. S. Crowninshield, commanding the European Station, and the United States cruisers Albany and Chicago, sailed from here to-day for Southampton.

NEITHER SIDE YIELDING.

ANOTHER FRUITLESS EFFORT TO AGREE ON A CUBAN RECIPROCITY PLAN.

(By The Associated Press.)

Washington, June 7.—The conciliation committee representing the beet sugar Senators held its second meeting with the Republican members of the Senate Committee on Relations with Cuba to-day. The effort to reach an understanding on the Cuban Reciprocity bill was continued, but no agreement was reached. The positive announcement was made after the conference by Senators representing each side of the controversy that the differences are now no nearer adjustment than before the first conference was held, and that each side occupied practically the same position that it held in the beginning.

The session lasted two hours, and was devoted to earnest talk, but no disposition was manifested to yield a point. On the one hand, the Platt amendment and President McKinley's promises were pleaded, while on the other it was contended that advantage had been taken of these promises and of the general outlook by men of means to make investments in Cuba which would be greatly enhanced in value if the promised concessions were made. The testimony taken by the Cuban committee showing the large holdings of real estate by Americans in Cuba was quoted in substantiation of this statement. The friends of the beet sugar interests repeated their assurance of willingness to grant a rebate, but declared that they were not prepared to grant a tariff reduction for the benefit of Americans whose wealth was shown by their large investments.

Another conference will be held on Monday.

AMERICANS' SUGAR LANDS IN CUBA.

OWNERS SAID TO HAVE WAR CLAIMS FOR OVER $41,000,000 AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Washington, June 7.—Truman G. Palmer, of Chicago, continued his statement on the subject of American holdings of sugar lands in Cuba before the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Relations with Cuba to-day. He added to the two classes of American owners four others. Summarizing the entire presentation, he placed the number of Cuban estates held by Americans, individual and corporate, at 172, with a total acreage amounting to 1,482,801, of which 330,846 acres are cane producing. The annual cane capacity of this land he placed at 830,445 tons, but he said that the lands were not, of course, producing to their full capacity, and some of them not at all. These American owners have war claims against the United States, he asserted, amounting to $41,335,803.

Mr. Palmer began his statement with the presentation of the third of the series of classifications, two having been presented by him when he testified on Thursday. The third classification consisted of ten Cuban-American corporations, the names of which had come into his possession within the last ten days, and he did not know whether they were operating or not. Estimating that the holdings of these companies are at least 50 per cent of those of the companies whose holdings are known, he placed the acreage owned by these ten companies at 173,155, with an annual sugar producing capacity of 75,125 tons.

The next classification was that of Cuban sugar centrals owned by American citizens, most of them naturalized, living in Cuba. There were thirty-one estates in this list, and the war claims presented on their account aggregated $10,677,569. The total acreage of these estates was placed at 218,705, part of it estimated, and the total capacity at 105,400 tons of sugar.

The fifth list was that of eighteen Cuban cane growing estates which do not own centrals or manufacture their own cane, and are owned by Americans. The total acreage of these lands is 43,628; the total capacity of the lands in cane, 34,650 tons; total war claims on file before the American Claims Commission, $1,592,661.

The next list, embracing the sixth classification, was similar to the preceding, except that the owners in this instance, while Americans, still live in Cuba. This list included fifty-five estates, none of which own centrals or factories, with an aggregate acreage, partly estimated, of 91,080, and a total sugar producing capacity of 76,862 tons. This class of estates has war claims amounting to $5,749,899.

Having closed his statistical presentation, Mr. Palmer said that the estates mentioned contain ninety-nine central raw sugar factories, with a total producing capacity of 330,445 tons, but from a purely cane growing point of view the lands would produce 827,115 tons. He added:

Some of these American factories for which claims for damages have been presented undoubtedly have not been rebuilt, but neither the Spaniards nor the insurgents could have destroyed the land which was in cane. The cane undoubtedly was destroyed, but the land must be in better condition to grow cane after years of idleness than it was several years ago, when Cuba produced over a million tons of sugar in a season.

Whatever additional scaling down may be done on the statements submitted on the basis of inaccuracies or misstatements on the part of the claimants for damages, the fact must be patent that the holdings by American citizens of land in Cuba, which is or has been in cultivation, are of sufficient area to produce as great a crop as the entire island turned out this year, and this is less than one-fourth of the total area owned by American citizens and corporations.

Mr. Palmer said there were other large acreages of Cuban lands owned by outsiders which he had not included in his list. In this excluded list he referred to the 150,000 acres of land which Sir William C. Van Horne had informed the committee had come into his possession.

When Mr. Palmer finished his statement the committee adjourned for the day.

THE CHEERFUL IDIOT

is one who will travel all over town looking for something he might find in the "Little Ads. of the People" in to-day's paper.

MR. WELDE WINS AGAIN.

APPELLATE DIVISION UPHOLDS HIM IN KEEPING COMMISSIONER OF JURORS' PAPERS.

Albany, June 7 (Special).—The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the IIId Department on May 23 unanimously affirmed the decision of Judge McLean, of the Supreme Court, denying the motion made by the attorneys of Thomas Allison for the delivery to him of the books and papers belonging or appertaining to the office of Commissioner of Jurors of New-York, now in possession of Charles Welde. No opinion was rendered by the Third Division judges. The order was affirmed, with $10 costs and disbursements.

Mr. Hollands, the clerk of the Third Division, yesterday telegraphed to Robert H. Elder, Mr. Welde's counsel, the decision of the court. It is presumed that Boardman, Platt & Soley, the counsel of Mr. Allison, will appeal to the Court of Appeals from this decision.

Mr. Welde became Commissioner of Jurors for the Boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx on September 16, 1898. Then Chapter 602, Laws of 1901, was passed providing that a Commissioner of Jurors should be appointed in each county of the State having a population of one million; to be appointed by the justices of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the department "in which such county is situated, or a majority of them." The judges of the Ist Department met on April 10 of this year and appointed Mr. Allison as Commissioner of Jurors under this act. Mr. Welde refusing to surrender the office and its papers, Mr. Allison brought the present action to compel the delivery to him of the books and papers of the Commissioner of Jurors' office. Judge Blanchard, of the Supreme Court, on April 17 issued an order directing Mr. Welde to show cause before him on April 21 why he should not deliver to Mr. Allison the books and papers appertaining to the office of Commissioner of Jurors. On April 23 Judge McLean denied Mr. Allison's application.

Judge McLean rendered no opinion in denying the motion of Mr. Allison's counsel, and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court here also affirmed Judge McLean's decision without giving any opinion or opinions. Mr. Welde's lawyers had argued that the act of 1901 under which Mr. Allison was ap-

Financial.

The Financial World.

The market has sounded the depths of dullness the past week; and unless something unforeseen happens, another such week is before us. So dead has been the general list that the efforts of the pool in Canadian Pacific to keep their stock active have furnished quite a little amusement to the Street. It was the one agitated spot in a dead level, and thus made humorously manifest the artificial character of the agitation. Such general dullness usually favors lower prices, and most of the time the market has worn a heavy look, though the actual changes in quotations have not amounted to much.

In the early part of the week it was South African affairs which principally engaged attention; and in the latter part the coal strike became the main topic, as the developments of the contest took on a more threatening aspect. The bituminous miners in West Virginia have gone out, which directly affects the Norfolk and Western and Chesapeake and Ohio roads. In the anthracite regions, the operators seem to have been successful in keeping the pumps going at all places where there was real need of it. Not much disorder has occurred so far; but it would be too much to expect that the strike will be continued peacefully. When nonunion men are obtained to resume the actual getting out of coal, outbreaks may be expected. In fact it may be said it is simply a question of how many men will be killed before the strike is settled. More or less are killed in nearly every big strike, and often in small ones—as in Chicago the other day.

It was noted here when the strike was declared that well informed coal men expressed the opinion that it would be a long one. They say the same now, but are confident enough that the men will be beaten in the end. There was some uneasiness for a few days that interference in the fight would come from Washington; and it was quite plain also that the idea of it roused a determinedly belligerent feeling, but the official declaration that the President found no grounds for interference, allayed this. The operators say they lost the last fight through outside interference, and they are determined not to lose again from that cause.

Meanwhile, New-York is overwhelmed with the black smoke and half choked with the fumes from the bituminous coal which supplies the place of the unobtainable anthracite. We know now what it would be if soft coal were in constant use here. It is a most costly fuel. While a dollar or less per ton may be saved on the purchase price as against hard coal, yet the foul smoke, the noxious fumes, the ashes and cinders which are thrown out, damage property to a costly degree, as well as threaten the public health. This makes the nominally cheaper soft coal, an actually high priced article to the public; and when the strike is over, the use of soft coal in this city will not be tolerated for a day. And it ought not to be.

The dullness of business on this Exchange is not more or less than what exists on the European exchanges. All the reports are one way. The London market acted on the peace news about as was intimated in this column it might do. There was one active day, marked by large realizing sales; then prices reacted and business fell away. A month of debating and vote taking, in the field and in convention, by the Boers, had given the speculators time to load up in anticipation of the end, and they sold when it came.

The end came without the dramatic scene at Appomattox; where the half starved, ragged, wearied yet still defiant remnant of a once great army, found itself ringed as with an iron wall; when hope had gone and there remained only the desperation of despair. Nothing like this closed the South African war. Yet when that gathering of Boer commandants at Vereeniging authorized their chiefs to surrender, to "save their race from extinction," they put on record a declaration of hopelessness as dramatic in its expression as was the surrender at Appomattox.

If great questions are to be put to the arbitrament of war, it is well for future peace that the war be fought to the last. This war was fought to settle which should be the dominant race in South Africa. It is settled that it shall be the English speaking race; and the future development of the country, which will be all the more rapid because of the war, will be done along the lines which have made the English speaking peoples of to-day the foremost in the world. What such a peace means to South Africa and the world, is not a thing which the stock markets can discount in a day. The small recession the markets had, and the dullness, are temporary. There is every promise that later in the year all markets will wear a very different and brighter aspect.

It is quite possible, if not probable, that for some little time we may see business shrink and prices go lower; but given that the crops turn out well, fulfilling their present promise, and we have all the elements necessary to give us big bull markets later. In the first place, the growing cotton crop is said by experts to be one of the finest ever seen, nearly perfect in its appearance. An immense yield is promised; and it is certain there will be a demand for it sufficient to give the grower profitable prices. The prosperity of our Southern roads is assured in this; for even where the actual amount of cotton carried on them is comparatively small, yet the cotton crop is the main support of the people along the lines. The winter wheat crop is rapidly coming forward, and the yield will, to all appearance, be full for the acreage sown. Some was lost, and the ground ploughed up; but this was put into corn. Of the corn and spring wheat crops, it is, of course, too early to speak. The experts say they look well at this stage, which is all that can be said absolutely. It is argued that two successive corn failures are unknown, so that no failure need be feared this year; but if only sixty per cent of the planted area matured, it would be a bumper crop, because of the great increase in acreage.

In these crops, in the better state of affairs abroad, and the increasing supplies of gold, which furnishes the machinery of exchange, there is material enough for a continuance here of our present industrial activity, and for an industrial revival abroad. We have been surprised by the way railroad earnings have shown increases this spring over those of last year. If present promise is made good, these increases will continue; and the railroads are still to make the biggest earnings of their history.

In the hope of what may come good in the near future, it is possible to bear patiently the present dullness and to stand temporarily lower prices if they come. CUTHBERT MILLS.

pointed was unconstitutional, but the courts which have thus far passed judgment upon the case have not disclosed their opinion of this argument or their reasons for their decision.

DUKE OF FIFE BUYING STOCK.

PURCHASES OF NORTHERN SECURITIES SAID TO BE FOR HIM.

It was reported in Wall Street yesterday that an investment had been made recently in Northern Securities stock for a member of the British royal family, presumed to be the Duke of Fife. There have been similar interests in the Great Northern in the past, and the story is regarded as not at all improbable. The Duke of Fife is largely interested in the British South Africa Company.

A BARGAIN INCUBATOR.

You will always find each Sunday a new bargain hatched out among those "Little Ads. of the People."