

WEATHER INDICATIONS.
Fair tonight and Friday. Light winds,
mostly south.

The Evening Times

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CLOSING DEBATE ON THE NICARAGUA CANAL MEASURE

The Hepburn Bill Expected to Reach a Vote at a Late Hour This Afternoon.

MR. CANNON MAKES THE PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT IN THE DISCUSSION TODAY

Colloquy With Mr. Hepburn Adds Spice to the Proceedings.

WARNING AGAINST SPECULATORS

Mr. DeArmond Not Inclined to Regard the Bill as Sacred, Holding That It Can Be Amended—Deft Seemingly to Be Toward Allowing the President to Select the Route.

It is expected that the Hepburn Nicaragua Canal bill will go to a vote in the House of Representatives at a late hour this afternoon.

The debate had been lively today, Mr. Cannon being the leading speaker and encounters between him and Mr. Hepburn adding much spice to the proceedings.

"Let us go slow," was the plea of Representative Cannon, in his discussion of the Nicaragua Canal bill in the House today.

His encounter with Representative Hepburn, the author of the measure, was the feature of today's proceedings.

He charged Mr. Hepburn with withholding his two hours' remarks from publication in the "Record," because they were full of errors and misstatements. At this Mr. Hepburn opened his desk, and dramatically presented Mr. Cannon with the manuscript of his speech, inviting him to read it carefully.

Severest Blow Yet.

Mr. Cannon's speech was the severest blow the bill has yet received. He did not oppose the building of a canal or the Nicaraguan route directly, but advised against speedy action. The country, he said, had suffered by going blindly into the Pacific Railway legislation, and had regretted it.

He wanted the best route for the least money.

Mr. Cannon brought forward a new point against the Nicaraguan route, arguing that the canal zone was liable to fall into the hands of speculators, and that if the bill passed now the cost of the right of way would be exorbitant.

Pointed Little Colloquy.

During Mr. Cannon's speech he turned to Mr. Hepburn and said:

"The gentleman from Iowa will correct me, I hope, if I am wrong."

"I can't undertake to do that every time," said Mr. Hepburn.

"If the gentleman was as good at giving information as he is 'lip' of tongue," cried Mr. Cannon, "he would be a better legislator."

Mr. Shackelford (Dem., Mo.) asked him if the Maritime Canal Company had any claim on the Nicaraguan strip.

A Shadowy Claim.

"Oh, I understand that somewhere, dancing around in the pale moonlight, there is somebody who has a shadowy claim that may rip on to something valuable," replied Mr. Cannon, and the House laughed.

Mr. Cannon said all he wanted was the best possible canal at the least possible cost, and he did not care whether the Nicaraguan or the Panama route was selected. He said that when the proper time came he would offer a motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to bring it back with the provision inserted for the location of the canal on the route that should be found to be the best.

He said the pending measure was a

MISS STONE SAID TO BE FREE AND EN ROUTE TO AMERICA.

Report from a Sofia Correspondent to This Effect Not Confirmed at the State Department.

VIENNA, Jan. 9.—The "Allgemeine Zeitung" Sofia correspondent reports that, despite denial, it is a fact that Miss Ellen M. Stone, the American missionary abducted by brigands, was liberated ten days ago, and that the full ransom demanded for her release was paid.

The missionary, the correspondent says, embarked at Salonica for Genoa, en route for America.

The Porte, according to the correspondent, has requested that the matter be kept secret so that the payment of the ransom may not encourage the kidnapping of foreigners.

MR. EDDY'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

He Is Expected to Return to His Post at Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3.—Spencer Eddy, secretary of the United States Embassy here, has been given a four months' leave of absence. It is said here that he will not return to Constantinople

MR. GROSVENOR'S PREDICTION.

Says Hepburn Bill Will Pass the House at 4 o'clock.

While at the White House at noon today Representative Grosvenor predicted the passage in the House of the Hepburn Nicaragua Canal bill at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

"I think it will go through without the Morris amendment," said General Grosvenor.

"Of course violent opposition to the measure will develop in the Senate. I think that the building of a canal would be a step most beneficial to the railroads. The ports of New Orleans, Galveston, and other Southern sea coast cities would increase in importance and the carrying trade to these ports would be manifold."

"I cannot see my way clear to advocate the improvement by irrigation of the arid lands of the Southwest to an extent which will make them compete seriously with the 5000 per acre land of the people whom I represent, at the expense of those people."

TAKOMA FLOATS WATER BONDS.

A SECOND ISSUE OF \$10,000 SOLD.

Credit of the Town Shown to Be Good by Prices Obtained.

Extension of the System.

The Maryland portion of the town of Takoma Park has floated an issue of \$10,000 water system bonds. The issue is the second the town has made to build its water system, the first, for \$50,000, having been floated a little more than two years ago.

Takoma's credit is excellent in the financial world. The bonds are 4 per cent, and Takoma has only 500 inhabitants, and yet the first issue was sold for 104. The issue of \$10,000 now floated has been taken by the Washington Loan and Trust Company at par. The town has never in its history failed to meet an obligation.

The System Self-Supporting.

The Takoma water system has been in full operation now for a little more than a year. It is more than self-supporting, and the residents of the town generally are having the service installed rapidly, so that in a short time there will be a very good surplus each year.

It is not yet possible, however, to make extensions out of the revenues of the system and the new bonds have been found a necessity.

It is hoped that in a short time a duplicate engine and pumping service can be installed as it is found that this will be necessary to the full success of the system.

EIGHT-HOUR BILL HEARINGS.

Those Interested Asked to Appear Next Thursday and Agree on Date.

The House Committee on Labor today instructed its clerk to inform those interested in the eight-hour bill to appear next Thursday and agree on a time for hearings.

The time for hearings is to be limited, as Chairman Gardner wants to bring the bill before the House at an early period to prevent the delays of last year which kept the Senate from taking action.

The opposition to the eight-hour bill will be represented by Judge J. K. McCammon, of Cramps; Mr. L. E. Payson, of the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, and Mr. Herbert S. McCow, representing several dry dock concerns.

The labor men will be present to refute their arguments if necessary.

The effect of the bill is to limit a day's labor to eight hours on any Government work done by contract.

TO DEVELOP TRADE IN ORIENT.

A Commercial Journal to Use Foreign Characters in Printing.

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Fitzherbert Leather, a well-known commercial editor and general writer of Seattle, is in Chicago, completing an organization to publish the "American-Asiatic," a commercial monthly journal, the duty of which will be the development of American trade in the Orient. It will be the first commercial periodical in the United States in Oriental characters.

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PREFERS CHARGES AGAINST MR. PERRAULT.

The Surveyor General of Idaho Said to Have Violated Rules of Service.

The Civil Service Commission has presented to the Secretary of the Interior charges of violation of the Civil Service rules against Joseph Perrault, Surveyor General of Idaho, which may lead to the removal of the latter from office.

It is alleged that the Civil Service Commission has been having trouble with Mr. Perrault ever since his accession to the office November 1, 1897. In a report on his case just submitted to the Secretary of the Interior the Commission states that in view of the "persistence and flagrant character of his violations" they consider him a fit subject for removal.

The Surveyor Generalship is the largest Federal position in the State of Idaho. Mr. Perrault's term of office will expire January 12, and this fact may save him from dismissal, as it is thought likely that the Interior Department may continue its disapproval to a recommendation that he be not re-nominated to succeed himself.

Effect of a Recent Decision.

The case of Surveyor General Perrault has been brought into prominence again by a recent decision of the Court of Claims for the plaintiff in the case of

DISTRICT BILLS ACTED UPON.

Tax Payments on Installment Plan Approved.

EASTERN STAR HOME MEASURE.

House Committee Adopts It With an Amendment—Proposed Change in Regard to Tax Arrangements Laid on the Table—Personal Tax Law Finds Advocates.

The first business meeting, this session, of the House District Committee was held this morning, and action was taken upon five of the pending measures affecting the District.

It was agreed to report favorably Mr. Jenkins' bill regulating taxes in the District. It stipulates that the whole of the tax on real and personal property shall be payable in May of each year and that it may be paid in two equal installments in November and May and that no penalty shall accrue for delinquency until the following June, when a penalty of 1 per cent per month is to be imposed.

DEEDS IN THE ISLANDS.

Representative Jenkins' bill to provide for the execution in the Philippine Islands and in Porto Rico of deeds for lands situated in the District of Columbia, was favorably reported with an amendment striking out the last clause.

Mr. Jenkins' bill to confirm title to lot 1 square 1112 in Washington was favorably reported without amendment.

For Eastern Star Home.

The bill introduced by Representative Richardson of Tennessee to incorporate the Eastern Star Home for the District of Columbia was likewise reported favorably but with an amendment omitting the provision which says that the organization shall not be prevented constructing suitable rooms as offices in connection with the home.

It was agreed to lay on the table the bill introduced by Mr. Peffer by request authorizing that arrangements of taxes due the District of Columbia to July 1, 1900, be received at 6 per cent per annum in lieu of penalties and costs.

The question of providing a means for raising money for the extraordinary District projects was brought up and informally discussed, but no order was taken.

FAVOR A PERSONAL TAX LAW.

Mr. Babcock informed the committee that the District Assessor had prepared a personal tax bill and that it would be soon introduced in the Senate.

A number of the members expressed themselves as quite strongly in favor of a personal tax law, and willing to support such a measure. As the bill is not yet before the committee, it could not be further discussed.

GUESTS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Labor Leaders Take Luncheon at the White House.

Considerable speculation has been aroused over the fact that President Roosevelt entertained at luncheon today a number of representatives of railway employes organizations, together with the Attorney General and Secretary of Agriculture.

Besides these Cabinet members the President's guests were P. F. Sargent, grand master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, and others. It is said, however, that the commission of immigration at New York; E. B. Clark, railroad chief conductor of the Order of Railroad Conductors; P. H. Morrissey, president of the Order of Railway Trainmen, and A. B. Youngson, first assistant general engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

POST TREATY WITH BOLIVIA.

Another South American Republic Brought into the Parcel Compact.

The President this morning signed a parcels post treaty with Bolivia.

Nearly all the South American Republics are now in the parcels post alliance with the United States and the Powers of the old world.

THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE STATEMENT ON SCHLEY CASE.

Expected to Announce His Decision This Afternoon.

A statement of the President's future action in regard to the Schley case may possibly be made at the White House this afternoon.

It is expected that the President will announce therein whether he will take action on Admiral Schley's appeal or whether he will await the recommendation of Attorney General Knox, or whether he will refer the case jointly to Secretary Long and the Attorney General.

PRESIDENT CANNOT ATTEND.

Invited to Banquet of Philadelphia Manufacturers' Club.

Senator Penrose called at the White House this morning with a delegation from the Philadelphia Manufacturers' Club to invite the President to attend the annual banquet of the organization on the 25th of the present month.

The President announced that he regretted his inability to attend.

COLONEL HEISTAND IS EXONERATED.

HEMP CHARGES NOT SUSTAINED.

Allegations of Major Hawks Alleging Misconduct at Manila Disposed of by Senate Committee.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs today, by a unanimous vote, adopted the report of the subcommittee exonerating Col. H. O. S. Heistand from wrongdoing in connection with the alleged combination to control the output of Manila hemp.

The report says that none of the charges preferred by Major E. L. Hawks were sustained by the testimony produced at the enquiry.

It also completely exonerates Former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen, Former Assistant Secretary of War Melikoff, General Corbin and Assistant Adjutant General Boyd, all of whom, it shows, severed their connection with the projected company as soon as it was shown it might conflict with their official duties.

The report also finds that officials other than Colonel Heistand were not connected with the proposition by the latter to form a company to erect a hemp factory in the Philippines; that the appointment of Major Hawks to the Philippine customs service by Mr. Melikoff was not in payment of a political debt or promise; that there was no attempt by any of the officials to influence the War Department in fixing the tariff rates on hemp in the Philippines or in opening or closing the hemp ports.

The letter of introduction given Major Hawks by Colonel Heistand and Messrs. Melikoff and Boyd, upon which Major Hawks laid great stress and the original of which was destroyed, the committee finds was not in the form claimed by Major Hawks and did not contain the official titles of the signers.

COMMERCE BILL IN SENATE.

Little Business Done and Early Adjournment Taken.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with in the Senate this morning and, upon motion of Mr. Hale, it was decided that when adjournment was taken today it be until Monday.

The bill to establish a Department of Commerce was reported from the Committee on Commerce, and placed on the calendar.

At the conclusion of the business of the morning hour—12:40 o'clock—the Senate went into executive session, upon motion of Mr. Cullom.

At 1:50 the doors were reopened and the Senate adjourned until Monday.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE CONFER.

Discuss the Clash Between the American Sailors and the Soldiers of the Czar.

BOTH EVIDENTLY REGARD IT AS MORE SERIOUS THAN THEY WILL ADMIT.

Count Cassini Receives No Advice From His Government.

one demanding notice by the Government authorities.

CAUSE OF THE DISTURBANCES.

Russia's High-Handed Proceedings in Taking Possession of Treaty Port of Nienchwang—Strict Orders Sent Commander Barry to End the Troubles—May Have Serious Consequences.

An interesting conference took place at the State Department this morning between Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, and Secretary Hay. Count Cassini called relative to the Nienchwang affair and spent about an hour closeted with the Secretary.

Although there was an evident intention on the part of the Russian diplomat and the Secretary of State to minimize the reported troubles at Nienchwang, both of these officials are nevertheless extremely anxious over the situation.

Has Received No Advice.

At the close of the conference Count Cassini said he had received nothing whatever from his Government relative to the Nienchwang matter. This lack of news, he said, was a clear indication that Russia did not regard the friction between sailors of this country and soldiers of Russia as a matter of serious moment or

It may be stated, however, on the best of authority, that the State Department does not feel as confident of the amicable settlement of affairs as stated.

That there has been a certain amount of friction for some time between the Russian and American representatives at Nienchwang is well known by the State Department.

The high-handed manner in which Russia took possession of the treaty ports at Nienchwang on the excuse of properly policing the city, has never been fanned by either this Government or England.

Assurances have been given by Russia that she will abide by the treaty in the future and the other countries are awaiting with much interest the next move in the drama.

It is feared that the recent disturbances will precipitate Russia's policies in regard to Manchuria.

THE DIPLOMATIC DINNER TONIGHT.

Affair to Be One of the Most Brilliant Ever Given at White House.

The largest banquet ever given at the White House will be held this evening. It is the annual "Diplomatic dinner" and will outshine and outnumber any event of the kind in the history of the country.

It is expected that 55 or 60 guests will sit around the great white board and enjoy the President's bread, meat, and wine.

The dinner will be made notable also by the fact that it will be given in the East Room. Never has this big apartment been used for banquet purposes. The table will be shaped with the cross at the northern end. It will extend 60 or 70 feet southward.

The President will, of course, occupy the center of the table, the Ambassadors and their ladies stationed in their proper order.

Workmen were busy all day decorating the banquet hall. Miles of green and thousands of pot plants will be used. In addition to the diplomatic representatives of the foreign countries the President has invited a select number of guests from the ranks of Congress.

Among those who will come from other cities is John G. Milburn, president of the late Pan-American Exposition Company, at whose home in Buffalo the late President McKinley died.

CONFER AS TO CHINESE EXCLUSION.

A Hearing Before the Pacific Coast Delegation in Congress.

Members of the Pacific Coast delegation of the Senate and House met today to again consider the Chinese Exclusion bill. President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, and other labor leaders, who desire particularly that that provision be strengthened which excludes from the United States the Chinese of the Philippines, who are said to number 1,500,000, were heard.

In order to exploit the subject more thoroughly, the measure was referred to a subcommittee which will grant hearings to these interested, including representatives of the Chinese Exclusion Convention of San Francisco, who have come on for the purpose.

AWAITING ADVICES FROM HOME.

Miss Mary Lego Still at the House of Detention.

Mary Lego, the eighteen-year-old girl who cried herself into the House of Detention last night because the man who brought her from New York had deserted her, will remain a lodger at that institution until her friends in New York can be communicated with and arrangements made for her return to that city.

Miss Lego was found at the corner of Sixth and C streets northwest last night with tears streaming down her cheeks. She was without funds and without a place to sleep. She had walked the streets in search of work and finally burst into tears from exhaustion and melancholy. She was taken to Police Headquarters and from there sent to the House of Detention as she is a stranger in the city and has no friends or relatives here.

AN UPHEAVAL FOR ELLIS ISLAND.

President Roosevelt to Stir Things Up at the Immigration Bureau.

President Roosevelt will start a mighty upheaval among minor officials of the Immigration Bureau at Ellis Island, N. Y., as soon as a successor to Mr. Thomas Fitchie, the present Commissioner of Immigration, is named.

Mr. William Schmittman, of New York,

one demanding notice by the Government authorities.

Count Cassini was inclined, he said, to believe the trouble arose from a drunken brawl.

Orders to Barry.

During the course of the conference Secretary Hay assured the Russian Ambassador that stringent orders had been sent by this Government to Commander Barry of the Vicksburg to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

The Secretary also, it is understood, told Count Cassini of the impossibility of the Vicksburg's leaving Nienchwang before spring, even if this Government was inclined to relieve her.

Russia's High-Handed Act.

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ONE WITNESS AGAINST OTERO.

Efforts to Prevent Confirmation of New Mexican Governor.

Though serious charges have been filed with the Senate Committee on Territories against Governor Otero with a view of defeating his confirmation in the Senate, only one man, Col. W. M. Berger, appeared before the committee this morning to present the charges verbally.

Governor Otero was present and there appeared in his behalf a dozen prominent officials of New Mexico and Eastern capitalists interested in the Territory.

The hearing today was behind closed doors. Colonel Berger asked for a continuance in presenting his charges, which included improper and unjust increase of the tax levy from 6 mills to 17.75 mills, without any corresponding increase in benefits, the adoption of special legislation increasing the Governor's own salary and that of certain State officials and the adoption of legislation with a view of building up and maintaining a machine having for its object the plundering of the Territory.

The Governor and his friends denied the charges in toto and opposed further delay in the case. Among those who spoke were G. W. Pritchard and W. H. Llewellyn, Territorial district attorney, and W. G. Reynolds, United States Attorney, Court of Private Land Claims.

Colonel Berger was called upon by the committee to produce certificates in support of his charges, but he was unable to do so. At noon therefore the committee took an adjournment until two o'clock this afternoon to give him an opportunity to furnish proofs. If he is unable to do so it is quite probable that the committee will abandon further consideration.

Governor Otero's term of office expired six months ago, and he was reappointed. His nomination was sent to the Senate before the holiday recess, but was held up on the appearance of a delegation of New Mexicans, who protested against the confirmation. Affidavits and other documents were filed with Senator Beveridge's committee making various charges against Governor Otero.

NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Names of New Officials Sent to Senate for Approval.

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate:

To be naval officer of customs in the district of Boston and Charleston, James O. Lyford, of New Hampshire.

To be collector of customs for the district of Pearl River, Miss., W. F. Swan, of Mississippi. To be United States Attorney for the southern district of Mississippi, Robert C. Lee, of Mississippi. To be United States Marshal for the southern district of Mississippi, Edgar S. Wilson, of Mississippi.

To be Secretary of the Territory of Oklahoma, William Griggs, of Oklahoma. To be agent of the Indians of the Sac and Fox agency, Oklahoma, Ross Giffin, of Missouri.

To be registers of land offices, Robert B. Sanford, of North Dakota, at Minot, N. D.; Frederick W. Collins, of Mississippi, at Jackson, Miss.

To be receiver of public moneys, Isaiah T. Montgomery, at Mississippi. At Jackson, Miss.; Albert E. Rose, at North Dakota, at St. Michael, Alaska.

Mr. Frank Sargeant, the Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, is also a prominent candidate. It is understood that the position was offered to Mr. Sargeant six weeks ago and that he declined it.

No reports from the Secret Service agents showing an alleged revolting condition existing at the immigration station on Ellis Island have been received at either the Treasury or the White House, although both Secretary Gage and the President have received information of unsatisfactory conditions from other sources.