LELAND STANFORD

An Interesting Talk with the California Senator.

BUILDING THE CENTRAL PACIFIC.

Its Wonderful Snow Sheds-The Canadian Pacific and American Ro -The Senator Airs His Views on the Relations of the Road with the Government-All Three Minute Horses Thoroughbreds.

[Special Correspondence] WASHINGTON, May 3 .- I heard one of

the most remarkable stories of American history last night. It was told me by Sonator Leland Stanford, and it was the story of the building of the Central Pacific railroad. I called upon Senator Stanford at his house on Farragut square, and we chatted together in his library. He is a tall, striking looking man with a big head, a rosy face, blue eyes and brown hair. He is plain in his ways, and is ready with an answer to any question propounded to him on almost any subject. He is a man of ideas, and he is an especially interesting talker in the line of reminiscence. His whole life has been a continuous romance in which hard work and success and failure have gone hand in hand. He was a young lawyer in a small town in Wisconsin, making about \$1,500 a year, when the fire which burned up his office and library drove him westward. He went, intending to make some money and go back to Wisconsin to live. but the problems of the Pacific coast threw their arms about him, and he is grappling 'ith them still. He was the first Republican governor of California, and was elected to that position in the fall of 1861. He was a strong friend of President Lincoln, and it was mainly through him that California was saved to the Union.

I asked him as to the building of the Central Pacific railroad. He said: "No one supposed the road could be built, and had we known the difficulties of its construction I doubt whether we would have attempted it. Even in California no one outside of the company would have anything to do with it. We tried to get subscriptions to the stock in San Francisco, but we could only sell ten shares of \$1,000 each, and the man who bought these shares was a foreigner and a Frenchman. A little stock was subscribed at Sacramento, but subscribers as a rule thought that they were putting their money into a hole and they doubted whether they would ever get it out again. We had only enough money of our own to complete thirty-one miles of road, and the road building of today is nothing in comparison. In going over the Sierra Nevada mountains we built 150 miles of railroad which cost more than the building of the whole line between Chicago and the base of the Sierras, and for three winters we worked on the mountains with the snow falling to a depth of thirtysix and forty feet. I slept many a night in the snow during those days, and had to brush away the snow for a place to lay my blanket. All of our mate-rial had to come from the east, 17,000 miles by water, and we had then to haul

scavated, and we had domes under the now, and in these domes the masonry as laid and the stones were lowered rough the snow drifts." "Two million dollars seems a good deal

d we had to work under the snow. We

an tunnels into it to get at the rock to be

it up the mountains through the snow.

To give you some idea of our work in the

Sierra Nevadas, we used on the average

500 kegs of powder each day, and the

pay for snow sheds," said I. Yes." replied Senator Stanford, "it bes, but the ordinary man has no idea of hat these snow sheds are. They are a ass of the heaviest timbers, braced and oss braced in every direction. We had build some of them strong enough to apport snow drifts of from 60 to 100 feet ep, and some had to be built against the ountain sides on a slope, so that the valanches, with the trees and stones hich accompany them, might sweep over e structure and not hurt the trains. en now the snow drifts through these eds and sometimes fills them, and when does it often takes sixteen locomotives a single snow plow in the work of clearg them. We had thirty-seven miles of se sheds, and it might have been better have tunneled under the Sierra Nevadas slow the snow belt, and I think such a mnel will sometime be built. It would sed to be about ten miles long and would

st about \$5,000,000. "It is hard to conceive today the cost of ilroad building in the west in 1853. We ad to pay from \$200 to \$300 per ton for arley and oats, and hay cost us \$120 per The first two locomotives we used st us in freight and actual value \$70,-00, and the first ten engines we bought st us \$191,000. It cost \$2,000 in freight carry the first locomotive around Cape orn to San Francisco, and our cars were ide in the east, taken to pieces, brought ound Cape Horn or across the isthmus, nded at San Francisco, carried by boat Sacramento, and there put together. e had to haul much of our water for am and for the use of our graders, and ien we came to a spring we would carry for miles in pipes. Along 500 miles of road there was not a tree that would ke a board, and we had to carry nearly of our fuel. And then we had a great al of trouble with our laborers. At the t mining excitement they would leave and at one time, of 1,100 men whom transported, 1,000 went off to the nes and left only 100. Nearly all of managers were present on the ground, we superintended the work ourselves."

When did you first begin the road?" We began to consider the matter in Mr. Judah, C. P. Huntington, Mark Mr. Judah, C. P. Huntington, Mark pkins, Charles and Edward Crocker and self then became interested in it. re had been talk of it before, and in smile in three minutes. a road to the Pacific was surveyed by

act of congress, but nothing was done. We decided that the thing was practicable, and we had five surveys made across the Sierras to choose the best route. We took the Dutch Flat route, ascending the mountains from the west at a rise of nearly 7,000 feet in eighty three miles. We had to go almost 3,000 feet down along the sides of precipices to descend the solid walls of granite above Doner lake, and we thought that when we YORKTOWN AND VESUVIUS. completed our road we would have a monopoly, and that our only com-petitors would be the ox teams and the steamers. We organized our company with a capital of \$8,000,000 under the law of the state of California, and then got the legislature of Nevada to allow us to build across its desert. This was before congress had anything to do with it, and tion at which patriots can rejoice, and, the first Pacific railroad act was passed in with the recent launching of six new 1862. The first work we did on the road was at Sacramento, on the 8th of January, 1863, and we completed it in 1869. is beginning to disappear We received, all told, just \$27,000,000 from the government in bonds, and there is no truth in these statements as to our the contracts with the late John Roach, getting \$100,000,000 and more out of the are now upon the sea, and on April 28, at treasury. The \$27,000,000 in bonds we had to sell, so that we got only \$20,000. the ship yard of Cramp & Sons, Philadel-phia, were launched the gunboat Yorktown 000 for them, and the road, all told, cost about \$41,000,000. We were allowed to issue \$20,000,000 in bonds ourselves, and how it was possible for us to get \$100,-000,000 out of the \$40,000,000 we received is a problem for mathematicians.

"And just here I want to say that it is

impossible to estimate the money the United States has saved by this railroad. It has never paid us as high rates for carrying the mails as it used to pay the stage lines. The government paid Wells, Fargo & Co. \$1,750,000 every year for interest. carrying the mails before this road was built. The mail in their case was not to exceed 1,000 pounds. As soon as our rail-000 a year. We have thrown a number of states and territories open to settlement, and we have done an incalculable amount of good to the country. It is not true that we have not done what we promised. The company has performed all its obligations. It has never made a cent at the expense of the government or of the people. We had to rush the building through at double cost because the government wanted the road, and it did not fulfill its obligations to us in surveying the land according to its contracts. As to the lands of the government, they have doubled in value. They were worth nothing at the time the railroad was built, and they are now worth a great deal. We had to build cross roads in addition to the Central Pacific, and we have built altogether 6,000 miles of road.

"How about other Pacific roads?"

"They all compete with us, and the Central Pacific railroad is today mainly a California road. For a time we had practically the whole business of the country. and our only competition was the steamship line by Panama. Now, there are the Southern Pacific, the Atlantic and Pacific, mow sheds on these mountains cost us Pacific. The Canadian Pacific now takes the Northern Pacific and the Canadian about \$2,000,000. We had from 10,000 to freight in bond from San Francisco and carries it north, and ships it across the country to the eastern United States cities at less rates than we can offer according to the interstate commerce law. A commission of the government went last year to Japan, and they took the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian ships. It is true the company has grown in business, but competition has grown faster than business. All of these roads have their agents in San Francisco, and you will find them soliciting business in competition with us.

"How about the Canadian Pacific?"

"I don't know whether it will pay or not. They receive a great deal more from their government than we ever did. They got \$60,000,000 and a big land grant, and they got it outright. The money we got from the government was only a loan. We had to pay a high interest, and were not as well off as most borrowers. When we undertook to build the Central Pacific the government practically assured us that we would have no competition, and we understood that it would not aid other roads to compete with us. Had we known differently I doubt whether we could have put the road through. It is done, however, and the rails will stay and the trains will run whatever be the action of congress and the government in regard to us. I think the Central Pacific road was well built, and we run through trains at a uniform rate of twenty miles an hour."

I asked Senator Stanford as to his horses which were burned the other night, but he did not like to talk of them, and the conversation drifted into horses and horse breeding generally. "I became interested in thoroughbred horses," said he, "through ill health. My doctor had ordered a vacation for me, and had told me that I must go away on a tour. I could not leave at the time, and he advised me to drive as much as possible. I bought a little horse that turned out to be remarkably fast, and a was in the using of it that I became in-terested in the study of the horse and its actions. I had these instantaneous pho-tographs taken of the horse in motion, and I began to buy fast horses and breed them. It was a very expensive amuse-ment at first, but it is now preditable, and I think that it is useful as well. We are aising a much finer class of horses in the United States now than ever before, and I believe that by proper breeding we can double the working powers and the staying powers of our work horses. I believe the thoroughbred makes the best work horse as well as the best running or

trotting horse."
"How about fast horses?" "I do not think there are any very fast trotters who have not a trace of thoroughbred plood, and I don't believe that any horse without such a trace has ever made

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Uncle Sam's New Navy Beginning to Take Form.

They Were Recently Launched at Philadelphia, and They Are Bere Pictured and Described-The Former Is a Gunboat and the Latter a Dynamite Cruiser.

The United States is at last in a condivessels, it may be said that Uncle Sam's reproach for deficiency in naval armament

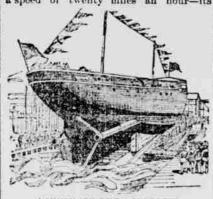
The four new cruisers-Dolphin, Atlanta, Boston and Chicago-built under phia, were launched the gunboat Yorktown

THE VESUVIUS.

and that striking novelty in naval work, the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius. As this last, if a success, will greatly revolutionize naval warfare, a full description is of

The Vesuvius is an unarmored ship, with machinery below the water line, 246 dynamiters, and other gunboats, we may road was completed we had to construct a feet long with a knife blade bow and special car for mails, and we carried stern and a body like a thick eigar. It is eighteen tons of mail matter and two but 26 feet wide and 14 feet deep, with a messengers. The government controls mean draught of 9 feet. The sides are this car, and we often have to put one or crowned with a very light railing of galtwo extra cars on to carry the mails. In vanized iron, which gives it the appearthe time of the Wells and Fargo express | ance of a pleasure boat, and it is designed the heavy mail went by Panama, and only | not to stand and take shot, but to fire and the letter mail was carried by them. Now, run away Indeed, in certain contin-we carry everything, and yet the gencies it must be guarded by an ironwe carry everything, and yet the goucies it must be guarded by an iron-government has never paid up to this date quite \$1,000,000 a year to both the Central Pacific and the Union more novel is the arrangement by which Pacific for this service, whereas, as I the three dynamite guns are fastened in have stated, it paid Wells & Fargo \$1,750, vessel itself must be pointed at the object

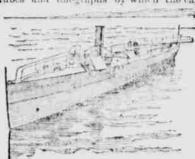
The dynamite guns look like immense reflecting telescopes, being 55 feet long, and projecting far out from the forecastle deck. The breeches are firmly fastened to the bottom of the vessel, and around them are thirty-six pipes, each 25 feet long and 16 inches in diameter, into which the compressed air is forced to charge the guns The compressor brings this air to a pressure of 2,000 pounds to the square inch, and by its force the dynamite shells. weighing 600 pounds, can be sent two miles As the vessel's engines can give it a speed of twenty miles an hour-its



VENCH OF THE YORKTOWN. shape being calculated for speed-it is plain that the destroyer can "shoot and run," like the militia captain of the old story The engines are toward the stern, triple expansion machines developing 3,300 borse power, to both run the vessel and compress the air.

The guns are the kind invented by Lieut Zalinski, of the navy, recently tested with great success; and one of them can throw a 900 pound projectile. The vessel contains apartments for its complement of officers and men, and the designers are confident it will prove indeed

the "Destroyer of the Seas" Along with the dynamite cruiser was launched the Yorktown, or Gunboat No. 1, as she was first called-a steel cruiser of 1.700 tons displacement, length between perpendiculars 230 feet, draught 13 feet forward and 15 feet aft, and breadth 36 feet. She has a poop and topgallant forecastle, with open deck between Her engines are triple expansion, of 2,200 horse power with natural draught and 3,300 with forced draught, giving a speed of seventeen knots per The engines are in separate water tight compartments, and the coal is in bunkers around them to give protection. The machinery, magazines and steering gear are covered by a three-eighths inch water tight steel deck, which is in the form a turtle back, curving down at the sides and at the bow and stern, while the frown of it is but little above the water fine Above and below this deck are water tight bulkheads, dividing the ship into many water tight compartments, all of which can be drained by the powerful pumps and ventilated by the blowers An armored tower stands on the forecastle deck, protected by 2-inch steel plates and provided with speaking tubes and tolegraphs by which the cap-



NEW BIGITISH TORPEDO BOAT. tain can communicate with the engineers and men at the guns and control the whole thing in battle. The Yorktown carries 400 tons of coal, enough to sail from 2.500

to 10.000 miles, according to the rate of

making for speed above eight knots per hour, each added knot requires more coal

than any preceding.

While the United States navy is employ ing its constructive telents on destructive gunboats. Great Britain is devoting her naval energies just at present to the per fecting of torpedoes and torpedo boats There are fifty such boats in the British navy, but the admiralty a year ago pro nounced them unsafe, uncomfortable and of little or no use in a rough sea, and in vited proposals for a new class free from the existing defects. The result has been a boat of novel designs constructed by Messrs Yarrow & Co. Their first boat was lately exhibited in the Thames, and is officially declared a success. It is 60 feet long, 8 feet and 6 inches in beam, and can make seventeen knots an hour with its full load. The rapidity and ease with which the boat is turned, its capacity for the roughest sea and the ease with which it is steered, fill the admiralty's

The machinery consists of a locomotive boiler and triple expansion engines-all protected, as is the steering apparatus A revolving torpedo gun is fixed aft, from which a torpedo can be ejected at an angle while the boat is going at full speed, a great improvement on the firing from the bow, by which the speed of the boat was suddenly checked, greatly increasing the liability to be bit by the enemy's guns A small Nordenfeldt gun is also mounted. so that the craft can be made, to that extent, a quick firing gunboat if the neces sity arise. The admiralty are so pleased with the new design that they will super sede with it all the old torpedo boats, and, of course, other nations must follow suit. And by the time we get well supplied all around with torpedoes, torpedo boats, reasonably expect that some genius will invent something that will render all these useless, and then we shall all begin again at the beginning. But the great point to the United States is that these new gunboats can range the ocean and de-

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE. Melville W. Fuller Nominated by Presi-

dent Cleveland. President Cleveland has named a successor to the late Chief Justice Waite, of

the United States supreme court. Melville Weston Fuller, of Chicago, the

nominee, is a man of 55, and was born in Augusta, Me. llis father was Frederick A. Fuller, his

mother Catherine Martin, daughter of Chief Justice Nathan Weston. Melville W. was graduated at Bowdoin in the class of 1853, E. J. Phelps, minister to England, being a classmate. Mr Fuller began the study of law in

the effice of his MELVILLE W FULLER. Melville Weston, at Bangor. After at tending lectures in the law department of Harvard university he began the practice of his profession in Augusta in 1856 While waiting for clients he acted as editor of The Age. Some time later he went to Chicago, and there he soon had a lucrative practice In 1861 he was elected a member of the state constitutional con vention. In 1862 he was chosen to the Illinois legislature, and, although a Democrat, running each time in a strong Republican district, he was victorious by ge majorities. He was a delegate to the Democratic national conventions of 1864, 1872, 1876, and 1880. In 1860 he was selected by the citizens to deliver the address of welcome to Stephen A. Douglas, of whom he was an ardent admirer.

Theosophists at Chicago.

The Theosophists of America have re cently held a convention in Chicago, and we here present group portraits of some of the more prominent delegates thereto.



H. S. OLCOTT

PROF. ELLIOTT COUES. WILLIAM Q. JUDGE. DIETZ BLAVATERY The society was founded in New York, in 1875, by Mme. Blavatsky, with the cooperation of Col. H. S. Olcott. Mme. Blavatsky is now at the head of the branch of the Theosophical society, which she established in London. She has been succeeded in America by Professor Elliott Coues, who is president of the society. Among the early members of the group of which the society was originally composed was Linda Dietz, the actress. She was at that time a favorite with the public, and was playing at the Union Square theatre. She has since retired from the stage, and has disappeared from public view. Then there was Mr. W. Q. Judge, a native of the Emerald Isle, who is now the secretary of the society. He has had charge of Mme Blavatsky's business affairs for many years. All the branches of the society were represented, twentytwo in number, at the Chicago convention. It appeared from the records that there now in the United States about 600

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