

OCTOBER SEVENTH

DATE SET FOR LAUNCHING OF NEBRASKA.

Battleship Now Building at Morans' Yards, Seattle, Nearly Ready for Ceremony—Daughter of Nebraska's Governor, Miss Mary Mickey, Will Christen the Ship.

Seattle, Aug. 29.—The United States battleship Nebraska, which the Morans are building for the government, will be launched the afternoon of October 7. The big fighter is to be christened by Miss Mary Mickey, daughter of the chief executive of the state in whose honor the battleship is named. In commission—about one year from the date of her launching—the Nebraska will represent an investment on the part of the government of \$8,000,000. The Morans receive \$3,630,000 for the actual construction work. But before she leaves their hands all of her armament and fittings are to be placed, representing a total cost as above stated.

The formal announcement of the date of the launching was made Saturday by William Moran, vice president and acting general manager of the company.

Some days ago Mr. Moran wrote Governor Mickey, asking him to designate a proper person to christen the battleship, and he has named his daughter. Governor Mickey and his staff will witness the launching. Miss Mickey will accompany the governor and party.

Make It a Notable Event.

The Morans intend making the event one of the most memorable in the history of Seattle. That, in effect was what William Moran stated Saturday. He said:

"We hope to make the launching a success in every way—in fact, one of the most notable events in the history of Seattle. Governor Mickey and staff have been invited, and they will no doubt attend.

"The launching will occur during the early part of the afternoon of October 7—I should say from 2 o'clock to 2:30 o'clock. But the exact hour will depend somewhat upon the tide.

"Our invitations will include the officials of the navy department, of all the principal cities of the states on the Pacific coast, and those of British Columbia as well. About 50,000 all told are to be sent out.

"Our shipyards will afford accommodations for an enormous crowd. We will have the entire plant appropriately decorated with flags and other ornamentation. There will be speeches by leading men, music and other things that go with a big celebration. Before the day of launching, Robert Moran, head of the company, will have returned from Europe, enabling him to be present.

"At this time the Nebraska is about 60 per cent completed, and by the day of launching we hope to have her 55 per cent nearer finished. And I may say in this connection that construction on the Nebraska has progressed as rapidly as any of the other naval vessels or which the government gave out contracts at that time.

"We laid the Nebraska's keel two years ago last July, and began actual work in November of that year—1902.

"We hope to have her completed and ready for a full-fledged naval battle within one year from the date of her launching."

DUTY ON STEEL RAILS.

Canada Will Tax Foreign Product \$7 Per Ton After Nov. 30.

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 29.—A proclamation has been issued by the governor general in council bringing into force the act passed in 1903, imposing a duty of \$7 per ton on steel rails. The act was to take effect when satisfactory evidence was furnished to the government that rails of the best quality were being made in Canada in sufficient quantities to supply the ordinary demand.

A steel rolling mill is now in successful operation at Sault Ste. Marie, and in this part the tariff is now in operation. The duty is subject to deduction under the British preferential tariff. Duty will not be collected on any rails actually contracted for abroad prior to this date, but such rails must be imported into Canada not later than November 30, 1904, and must be laid in tracks not later than February 28, 1906.

Brought Much Gold.

Seattle, Aug. 31.—Alaska and British Yukon districts sent out gold valued at \$700,000 on the steamers Dolphin, Portland and Valencia, which arrived yesterday from the North. The famous Klondike contributed the bulk of the treasure. Her consignment to the Seattle assay office and the Canadian Bank of Commerce amounted to \$600,000. The balance of the gold came from Southeastern Alaska camps and the Alaska Commercial Company's Unga mine.

TO GUARD SALMON.

No International Hatchery, but Identical Legislation.

Washington, Aug. 30.—In response to advances made by our state department the British government has indicated that it is favorably disposed toward the plan of securing joint action to protect the salmon supply in the Pacific Northwest. It has been made clear in the course of the diplomatic correspondence, however, that neither the United States nor Canada is in favor of establishing an international hatchery on or near the Fraser river.

The approved plan has not yet taken definite shape, but both sides are agreed that in a general way steps should be taken to secure a conference between representatives of the state of Washington and the province of British Columbia, to the end that uniform legislation and regulations may be obtained to provide for the protection of the fisheries. Such a conference, the state department officials say, would probably have for its chief aim the adoption of identical rules relating to the taking of fish and not the establishing of common hatcheries. The subject of hatcheries, however, might reasonably be made a matter of conference between the state and provincial authorities, but the sentiment of the Canadians seems to be against the project of maintaining these hatcheries as a joint enterprise. It is suggested by the state department officials that any uniform rules and regulations which might be agreed upon for the maintenance of hatcheries by the Americans and other hatcheries by the Canadians would prove beneficial.

HAD A NOVEL FEAST.

International Commission Hold Banquet on Alaska Boundary Line.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 27.—The steamer Danube, from the North, brings news of a happy event in connection with the fixing of the initial monument which is to mark the boundary between Canada and Alaska. The Danube took the commissioners representing Canada and the United States up the Portland canal. They were Prof. W. F. King, of Ottawa, head of the Dominion astronomical survey, and O. H. Tittmann, superintendent of the United States coast and geodetic survey. The former was accompanied by his daughter and the latter by his wife.

Last Friday the initial mark was placed in position. The spot was determined by triangulation. It is located at a place known as Eagle point, near the mouth of the Salmon river, and the boundary extends due north to a mountain indicated by the boundary tribunal a short distance above the 56th parallel. From there it follows the tops of very high mountains.

At Eagle point a monument was erected the laying of which was marked with an interesting ceremony. The monument is a four sided magnetic bronze pyramid, which stands six feet high and tapers from six inches at the top to eleven inches at the base. On the side facing the east is the name "Canada," and on the opposite side the name "United States." The structure was erected on a concrete foundation, and is expected to last for many centuries.

After its erection what will be a historical event took place. Near the site of the monument was found an old wooden building, which had been used for a dwelling at some time, but which had long since been abandoned. Here it was that a jovial party, including the two boundary commissioners, the ladies in the company and the officers of the Danube, gathered after the work of placing the monument had been completed. A dinner was spread within the old ramshackle place, the table being set on a mark that left it half within American and half within Canadian territory. Some of the members of the party occupied seats on the Canadian side and others on the Alaska section. Toasts were drunk to King Edward, President Roosevelt and the governor general of Canada. The new line, it is said, gives to Canada, at the base of the mountain chain in question, what promises to be a valuable mineral property, formerly held to be in the United States.

To Stop Profanity.

Berwick, Pa., Aug. 29.—A campaign against the use of profanity in the streets here has been inaugurated by the Young Women's Christian Association. Copies of an ordinance recently enacted by the town council have been posted conspicuously about town. It forbids the use of profanity on penalty of \$100 fine or three months imprisonment. Members of the association propose to secure the strict enforcement of the law and have called on all good citizens to help them.

To Replace Old Guns.

London, Aug. 29.—It is reported that the admiralty has decided to abolish 7 and 8 inch guns in the navy, substituting therefor 9 inch guns of greatly superior penetrating power.

ROPE ENDS JOINED

SEATTLE-SITKA CABLE SUCCESSFULLY SPLICED.

Distinguished Guests Witness Climax of Work That Joins Alaska to Mainland in Direct Telegraphic Communication—Ceremony Consisted Principally of Cheers.

Seattle, Aug. 29.—Amid the cheers of three hundred men and women, the hoarse shrieks of two big steamships and the exultant rendering of the national anthem by a brass band, the spliced ends of the Seattle-Sitka government cable fell into the waters of Puget sound at 4:40 yesterday afternoon, ten miles out of this port, and about half a mile off West point. Mayor Ballinger and J. T. Flynn, chairman of the special chamber of commerce committee, severed the two ropes holding the cable to the deck of the United States cable ship Burnside exactly eight minutes after the final splice was made, and with a splash that evoked almost frenzied cheers from the spectators on board the government vessel and the steamship Queen, the wire fell to the bottom of the sound and direct communication between Alaska and the United States was established after months of work and the expenditure of \$2,000,000.

Simplicity, in itself impressive, marked the event. There were no set speeches as the wire went over the side, and the best ceremony, in the opinion of the onlookers, were the rounds of spontaneous cheers from everybody that witnessed the event. In the rigging of the Burnside, brilliant with flags and streamers, were massed the Filipino sailors of the cables. An eighth of a mile away lay the Queen, her deck rails lined with the interested faces of some of the most prominent citizens of Seattle. Her rigging was also covered with streamers. About a mile away, although taking no part in the ceremonies, lay the United States monitor Wyoming, her presence adding interest to the affair. Several small harbor craft stood off from the big ships as they lay in the stream, ready to add their whistles at the proper time to the general tumult.

At 4:30 two sailors of the Burnside who had for an hour been joining the ends of the cable, made their final splice. There were now but two ropes holding the cable on board the ship. A sailor's clasp knife was given to Mayor Ballinger and one to Mr. Flynn. At a signal from Col. Allen, of the United States signal corps, each drew the sharp blade across the strands and the wire fell. The group of army officers, city officials and newspaper men who were around the mayor waved their hats and cheered almost before the splash came. The men in the rigging of the Burnside and those on deck doffed their hats and, yelling as only sailors can, notified the passengers aboard the Queen that the cable was complete and laid. Simultaneously the sirens of the Burnside and the Queen broke loose, as did those of the smaller vessels. Wagner's band, on board the Queen, struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," heard dimly through the whistling and the cheering. The enthusiasm so manifested lasted fully five minutes and formed, the spectators afterward stated, the most impressive manifestation of the kind they had ever seen.

FORT HALL RESERVE.

Prospective Applicants Now Camping at Blackfoot, Idaho.

Blackfoot, Idaho, Aug. 30.—Already prospective applicants for lands to be opened on the Fort Hall reservation, near Pocatella, September 6, are gathering in the vicinity of the United States land office here. They are camped near the entrance to the office, sleeping on the steps, and either carrying their own provisions or having friends bring food to them.

Those here have inaugurated rules of their own as to numbering consecutively on arrival, for preference right to file, temporary absences, etc.

As the crowd will be steadily augmented by arrivals on every train, and as great confusion is likely to ensue before the end of the week, choice tracts near Pocatella will be applied for by numerous applicants who are not aware of this early move to secure favorable positions.

Instructions from Washington are meager and proposed procedure may not be endorsed by the commissioner general of the land office. Local officers have wired for instructions. About 41,000 acres are to be thrown open.

Bears Letter to President.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 31.—Information has been received at the executive offices here of the arrival in New York of G. Franchotte, a delegate to the peace conference which is to be held in September at the St. Louis exposition. He is said to be a bearer of credentials from the king of Belgium to President Roosevelt, requesting the latter to use his good offices in the restoration of peace between Russia and Japan.

DO NOT NEED LIBERTY

Irish Reform Association Asks for Small Favors.

London, Sept. 1.—The Irish Reform Association has adopted a platform for the association which, while firmly maintaining that the parliamentary union of Great Britain and Ireland is essential to the political stability of the empire and the prosperity of the two islands, expresses the belief that such a union is compatible with the granting to Ireland of a larger measure of self government.

It considers that such a devolution, while avoiding matters of imperial concern and subjects of common concern to the United Kingdom, would be beneficial to Ireland and would relieve the imperial parliament of a mass of business occupying its time to the detriment of more important concerns.

The association also considers that the present financial administration of Ireland is wasteful; that it ought to be revised and that the time has come to extend to Ireland the system of private bill legislation, which has been so successful in Scotland. It advocates earnestly higher education and expresses the desire to do all in its power to further the policy of land purchases in the spirit of and on the general lines laid down by the land conference report.

PORTLAND WANTS CONTRACT

Panama Commission Opens Negotiations for Much Timber.

Portland, Or., Sept. 1.—If the negotiations now being carried out between the Robertson Lumber Company of Portland and the Panama canal commission are brought to a successful termination, hundreds of millions of feet of logs and piling will be sent from the Columbia river logging district in immense rafts to the isthmus, to be used in the construction of the temporary work of the canal.

The commission has been requested by the men who have the construction work of the canal in charge to purchase 40,000 sticks of piling for use in the work at the canal, and this requisition is now in the hands of the purchasing department of the commission. This amount of piling is equivalent to 32,000,000 feet of timber, or equal, all told, to four of the huge rafts that are built on the Columbia river and towed to San Francisco at the rate of three each summer.

JAPS AS ADVISERS.

To Be Power Behind the Throne in Korea.

Tokyo, Aug. 29.—It is unofficially stated here that the Korean government has agreed to engage Japanese nominees for advisers of the departments of finance and foreign affairs, and has also undertaken to follow their advice in every respect. Korea already has Japanese advisers at court and in its military departments. In addition an extensive program of reforms is to be inaugurated.

In order to enable the government to carry out its intentions, Japanese will lend Korea 3,000,000 yen as a first installment in order to place the finances of the country on a sound footing and to correct the abuses created by the nickel currency. The Korean military establishment, comprising 20,000 troops will be reduced to 1,000, whose sole duty will be in garrison.

In due time Seoul will withdraw its diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, trusting the care of her interests to Japanese officials.

WITHOUT RESULT.

Attempts to Settle Packers' Strike Prove Unavailing.

Chicago, Aug. 29.—Conferences of the committee appointed last week to attempt a settlement of the stock yards strike with the parties to the dispute resulted in nothing. The packers and the strikers said just what they said at their conferences with the mayor about a week before, and there appeared to be no spirit of concession on either side.

Notwithstanding, however, the labor leaders announced later that in all probability the butchers' strike would be settled amicably before next Wednesday. They declined to explain the grounds for their belief, but were positive in their statements that the strike would not be called off.

President Donnelly, of the butchers' union, has called all the members of the butchers' executive board to meet in Chicago next Wednesday.

WORLD'S FAIR PAYING.

Announced Exposition Makes Profit of \$10,000 Per Day.

St. Louis, Aug. 31.—Announcement is made semi-officially by officials of the world's fair management that the \$1,000,000 loan applied for a month ago to be used in case of emergency will not be applied. It is stated that the revenue of the world's fair has exceeded expectations and that the total daily receipts in round numbers, amount to about \$75,000.

According to the statement of President Francis, the cost of maintaining and operating the exposition, including government loan payments, is \$65,000 a day.

BIG BEND PROJECT

OFFICIAL REPORT IS FILED AT WASHINGTON.

Over Three Million Acres Will Be Reclaimed If An Adequate Water Supply Can Be Obtained—Estimated Cost Is Twenty-Six Millions.

Washington, Sept. 1.—The Big Bend irrigation project in the state of Washington is the largest single scheme for the reclamation of arid lands anywhere in the world. The area which it is proposed to reclaim is nearly as large as the state of Connecticut, and if reduced to a state of cultivation would annually produce from twenty to forty million bushels of wheat. Lands situated on the lower levels all around this great tract are garden spots of productiveness; but, barring the single element of moisture, the conditions necessary to fertility are the same.

T. A. Noble, the government engineer who has been making an expert examination of the project, has made his report to the agricultural department, and it will be published in a few weeks. The question of practicality is one of the most serious that the irrigation experts have yet encountered, and on this point Mr. Noble says that the scheme, even under the most favorable conditions, will be one of great magnitude, as the quantity of water to be handled will be exceptionally large; "but," he adds, "the topographic difficulties to be overcome in diverting this water throw more or less doubt on the ultimate feasibility of this project. The irrigation of this large body of land is of such great importance to the state that every possible means to a successful result should be thoroughly investigated."

The lowest portion of the Big Bend area is at the junction of Snake and Columbia rivers, and is 380 feet above sea level. From this point toward the north and east the land rises in a series of benches to an elevation of 2,000 to 2,700 feet. The upper portion is a rolling prairie now wholly taken up and cultivated for raising wheat. From the point where the Spokane river joins the Columbia river in the northern portion of the Big Bend country, the Columbia river makes a big bend toward the west and south for a distance of 270 miles, leaving, with the exception of the Grand Coulee, an unbroken ridge from 300 to 600 feet above any adequate source of water supply. This ridge is from 30 to 50 miles wide.

Covers 3,400,000 Acres.

Mr. Noble estimates that the portion of the irrigable area which is below the level of 1,700 feet and which is not profitable for cultivation without irrigation, covers 3,400,000 acres. A large portion of this area, he says, is either so rocky or so isolated that it is not suitable for cultivation. It is believed that two-thirds of the land can be irrigated if sufficient water can be brought into the district at an elevation of over 1,700 feet.

The main sources of water supply are Crab creek and Palouse river, running through the land, and the Spokane and Pend d'Orielle rivers. The former two are not of much account except in their own immediate vicinities.

Increase Spokane's Flow.

The Spokane river, Mr. Noble remarks, is separated from the irrigable area by a great basaltic ridge. The Pend d'Orielle river, Mr. Noble says, flowing from Lake Pend d'Orielle, elevation 2,061 feet, an Priest river, flowing from Priest lake, elevation 2,439 feet, can be diverted into Spokane river to increase the flow of the Spokane in case there should not be enough water to irrigate all the land under the Big Bend project.

The chief difficulty in connection with the Big Bend project, Mr. Noble says by way of summing up, is the fact that between the only adequate source of water supply and the land to be irrigated is the high basaltic ridge already referred to. Two lines of investigation have been followed—one to determine the feasibility of conducting the water from the Spokane river down the valley of the Spokane and Columbia rivers and through the Grand Coulee, and the other to find some location in the basaltic ridge where a tunnel of reasonable length would divert the water to the irrigable lands.

Concluding, Mr. Noble says that as a result of the more recent reconnaissance of the territory between the Spokane river and the arid lands of the Big Bend area, two routes have been found for carrying the waters of this stream on to the Big Bend area. The estimated cost of the diversion and storage works necessary for the distribution of the water on the various irrigable areas, is \$26,000,000.

Until the surveys are completed no conclusive statement can be made as to the cost per acre or feasibility. It is hardly possible, however, judging from Mr. Noble's report, that the cost for each acre will be less than \$20 or \$25.