

CANAL FIGHT IS ON

PANAMA PEOPLE SAID TO HAVE SELFISH INTEREST IN OPPOSING NICARAGUA

EX-SENATOR MILLER TALKS

Says Any Canal Constructed Must Be Under American Control—Claims the Advocates of the Panama Scheme Are Not Consistent in Statements That Nicaraguan Schemes Would Injure Theirs.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Ex-Senator Warner Miller, who was formerly at the head of the Nicaraguan Canal company, in a published statement touching the fact that the representatives of the Panama Canal company are reported to have gone to Washington, supposedly to oppose the building of the Nicaraguan canal, said he looked upon it "as an astounding piece of chicanery on the part of the French company."

Mr. Miller calls attention to a message sent to congress by President Hayes on March 8, 1880, in which he said: "The policy of this country is a canal under American control. The United States cannot consent to the control of any power, particularly to European powers. Our commercial interest in the canal is not a matter of national policy, but of national safety, and of paramount concern to the people of the United States."

Mr. Miller then said: "The American people will have no canal under any other auspices save that of their own government. If the Panama canal is ever built, it must be surrendered to the control of the American government. It must be remembered that in 1887 a congress met in Paris, called by Count de Lesseps, to consider the question of an isthmian canal. The American Congress of Lesseps gave it unreservedly as his opinion (and it was the judgment of the entire assembly) that only a sea canal could be built in Panama, that if a canal with locks was to be built, the proper place to build it was in Nicaragua. The congress decided in favor of a sea level canal, and of course chose the Panama route."

Mr. Miller reviews the organization of the old Panama Canal company, its work in the United States, the failure of the Nicaraguan canal scheme, the formation of a new Panama Canal company for the purpose of keeping alive the concessions from Colombia.

Continuing, Mr. Miller says: "Now, when there seems to be a great probability of the United States government aiding the Nicaragua canal enterprise, the new Panama Canal company appears on the scene to procure or prevent legislation—not with a large amount of money—but by the simple exercise of chicanery, by talking to fool the American people with the proposition that Panama is the proper place to build a high level canal with locks, which De Lesseps and the congress in Paris declared not feasible in Panama, but feasible in Nicaragua. President Hutin claims to have solved the hitherto unsolvable problems in connection with the Panama canal. The Cuelbra pass has been found, according to his statement, perfectly easy to excavation. But a commission of French engineers, under the auspices of the French government, soon afterwards made a most voluminous report on the matter, and I do not find that the commission has ever since been seeking any feasible. They all say that if certain impossible contingencies did not happen the canal might be constructed for something like \$1,000,000,000."

Mr. Miller then enters into an analysis, from an engineering point of view, of the difficulties to be overcome in the construction of a Panama canal, and concludes: "In support of the claims of Mr. Hutin and his associates we have only their statements. They admit openly they have come here not seeking aid, but for the avowed purpose of persuading our government and congress to do nothing in favor of the Nicaraguan canal, but to give every penny of money from the treasury to the Panama canal, to be wasted in an impracticable scheme."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Information has been communicated to the state department by Consul Hart that the house of representatives at Bogota, Colombia, has petitioned the Panama Canal company to extend for six years the time for completing the construction of the canal. The company still has six years in which to carry on the work.

POSTAL DIVISIONS. Better Management of Rural Free Delivery System is Sought. WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The postmaster general has directed the division of the United States into seven districts, with one agent or more in each of them, for the better management of the rural free delivery system. The agent or agents in each district will have general supervision of the rural delivery work within his jurisdiction, including the investigation of all petitions and the inauguration of all work in places where it is to be undertaken.

SCORPION MISSING. Fears That the Vessel Has Suffered in the Heavy Storms. NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Fears are entertained for the safety of the United States gunboat Scorpion, formerly the yacht Sovereign. Relatives of the crew and officers are making anxious inquiries concerning the vessel, which left Havana, it is reported, last Sunday and has not yet been reported. The arrangement of the Scorpion is said to be so heavy that it would make the gunboat treacherous in a gale.

TO SUBDUE OUTLAWS. Government Will Send Soldiers to Suppress Dakota Bandits. ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 3.—According to dispatches from Chadron, Neb., the authorities here have been notified that the postal de-

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STARS AND STRIPES.

Old Glory Unfurled in Cuba With Impressive Ceremonies.

HAVANA, Dec. 2.—At noon today, the American forces having previously taken possession of Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad, in Santa Clara province, the Stars and Stripes were officially and with impressive ceremonies hoisted over the city hall and the municipal government and other public buildings in those cities. When the flags were unfurled the bands played "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the soldiers and large crowds of citizens cheered enthusiastically.

COL. BRYAN HAMPERED.

As a Soldier He Declined to Discuss Public Issues.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 3.—Col. W. B. Bryan, of the Third Nebraska, was received today by the two houses of the general assembly. He was introduced by the president of the senate, but declined to discuss public questions, saying: "Being a soldier, I cannot speak to you with the freedom of a civilian. I would speak, if I spoke at all, under limitations that would be unpleasant to me. What I would desire to say to you as a citizen I could not say as a soldier. I cannot now discuss these things that at present engage the attention of the entire nation."

FRIENDLY GREETINGS.

Americans and Spaniards in Havana Exchange Courtesies.

HAVANA, Dec. 3.—Gen. Wade, president of the United States evacuation commission, accompanied by Col. Clous, judge advocate; Capt. Hart, the official interpreter, and Maj. Sims, Alisoan, Butler and Brooke, called upon Capt. Gen. Castellanos at the palace today. They were received by the president of the Spanish evacuation commission, who introduced them to Gen. Castellanos.

TO POLICE HAVANA.

Former Chief McCullagh, of New York, to Undertake the Task.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Former Chief of Police John W. McCullagh, the present state superintendent of police, has been asked some time next week, to organize the police force of the city of Havana.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 3.—The Mississippi river commission held the closing of its semi-annual inspection trip last night.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 3.—Ex-Assistant City Attorney J. D. Dwyer, for aiding and abetting Maj. W. C. Morrison, in the case of the city of Pittsburgh, was today sentenced to serve three months in the county workhouse.

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 3.—E. L. Baskley, who killed W. H. Harrison, a member of the Texas legislature, was today sentenced to serve three months in the county workhouse.

CRANTON, Pa., Dec. 3.—A. F. Corcoran, a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, was today sentenced to serve three months in the county workhouse.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 3.—The Naval militia held the closing of its fourth annual meeting.

BLOOMSBURG, Pa., Dec. 3.—The Bloomsburg novelty works were destroyed by fire last night. The loss will reach \$50,000.

MILTON, Pa., Dec. 3.—The big mill mill of the F. A. Geisler company was almost entirely destroyed by fire today. The loss on the building and stock is about \$100,000; insurance, \$25,000.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 3.—Thirteen men were killed by a small village of gas in the Buttonwood shaft of the Parke Coal company today.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 3.—A fire tonight gutted the four-story brick building owned by the J. J. Donovan Real Estate company at the corner of Duane and Sixth streets.

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