NEW-YORK. TUESDAY. JANUARY 9, 1906. -SIXTEEN PAGES. - by The Tribune Association.

BIDS OPENED SECRETLY BLANK FORMS FILLED IN.

Bensel's Charge Against Featherson Regarding Thenix Co. Favoritism.

ment lid is pretty well off. uid not remove it, although Mayor Med ssioner Featherson, but he removed John A. Bensel, kindly the new Con

obliged yester cosel told a Tribune reporter that Commissioner Featherson publicly advertised for bids, and after getting them opened them in secret. He says that this kind of public bidding under Featherson was a good deal of a

He also said that, as far as he could discover, the Phoenix Construction and Supply Company and William J. Fitzgerald were one and the me, and that between them they got all the filling in work in the Featherson administration, covering two years. He estimates the net profits of the Featherson combination at \$70,000 for the two years, without the investment of anything for a plant.

Commissioner Bensel said, furthermore, that he had discovered that Commissioner Featherson had given William J. Fitzgerald a contract for filling in on the north side of 23d-st., North River, for 13,000 cubic yards, without any public advertising at all. Mr. Bensel ordered this work stopped yesterday.

"I ordered Fitzgerald to stop work on the contract," said he, "because the records of the department show that it never was publicly advertised. The Commissioner must have given it out to Fitzgerald without going through the usual formalities. He caused to be advertised a netice for bids for filling in on the south side, but none on the north.'

"Mr. Featherson says," it was suggested, "that all contracts were publicly advertised, according to law, and that he did nothing worthy

"The system of giving out these filling in contracts by Commissioner Featherson was some-thing of a farce," said Mr. Bensel. "Under the old charter, while Mr. Van Wyck was Mayor, the Dock Board consisted of three members, and they had large discretionary powers. Under nded charter this was changed, so as to give the Sinking Fund Commission supervision of everything that was done. The Commissioner was supposed to initiate plans and contracts and submit them to the commission for approval or rejection. The new charter aims to limit the Commissioner to transactions to \$1,000, and for sums above this figure provision is made for public advertising. Commissioner Featherson in handling this filling in business shut out every one but the Phoenix company and William J Fitzgerald. They are all one concern, so far as I can discover. William N. Shannon is the mar who takes care of the business of both firms Whatever the Phœnix company did in the way of work was shared in by Pitzgerald. This is the way that the two firms are regarded in this office—as one and the same thing. They both bid for filling in work, and between them they got all of it in the last two years.

SAYS RESULT WAS ALWAYS SAME.

"Commissioner Featherson," continued Mr. Bensel, "used to advertise publicly that bids would be received, but that was all there was to it. At the opening of the bids they were opened as he saw fit, and the result always seemed to be the same—the Phœnix company or Fitzgerald got the work.

"How do you know that there was favoritism shown?" Mr. Bensel was asked,

"Well, it's a fair assumption that when a particular firm gets all the contracts by a very small margin the successful bidder had some arrangement that would not fail. It is a pretty fair assumption that his bids were put in in blank and that figures that would just give him the work were written in after it became known what the figures of the outside bidders were. I don't know how else to account for it. The records show that the Phoenix company submitted figures just a shade over their competitors' in each instance. It is understood in this department that Edward Featherson and William N. Shannon and William J. Fitzgerald all worked together. In the two years that Commissioner Featherson was here they must have cleared up about \$70,000 in profits."

Commissioner then sent for a minute book, containing the following record of awards: William J. Fitzgerald, filling in Chelsea section 0,000 cubic yards; contract let August i5, 1904; cor ract price, \$5,050. Other bidders, John Fleming, 0,000; Phoenix Construction and Supply Company

Phonix Construction and Supply Company, filling n Believue section, 17,700 cubic yards; contract let september 23, 1904; price, \$3,620. Other bidder, John H. Fitzpatrick, \$3,600.

Phoenix Construction and Supply Company, filling in Peck Slip bulkhead, 17,000 cubic yards; contract let October 24, 1894; price, \$2,975. No other bidder. Phoenix Construction and Supply Company, filling in southern and Chelsea section, 29,500 yards; contract let April 15, 1905; price, \$4,425. Other bidder, W. J. Fitzgerald, \$4,120.

Phenix Construction and Supply Company, filling in Chelsea section, between 16th and 18th sts., 40,000 cubic yards; contract let August II, 1905; price, 85,300. Other bidders, W. J. Fitzgerald, \$5,200; T. A. S. Sheridan, \$5,500.

s. Sheridan, \$5,590.

Phoenix Construction and Supply Company, filling in Cedar-st., North River, 24,600 cubic yards; contract let September 12, 1905; price, 34,220. Other bidders, W. J. Fitzgerald, 34,080; T. A. S. Sheridan, 34,281 25.

## WITHOUT PUBLIC ADVERTISING.

"This record," said the Commissioner, "is not complete without the 23d-st. job. That was let without any public advertising of any sort. It was let on the same basis as the others, yielding the city \$2.093, or on a basis of about 162-3 cents a cubic yard for the filling in. The company paid this to the city and received on all its contracts on an average about 50 cents a cubic yard from those who had dirt and rock to dispose of. In round numbers the Featherson combination got filling in contracts practically without competition for about 200,000 cubic yards at an average profit of 35 cents a cubic

yard, yielding the combination about \$70,000." "In the latter part of Commissioner Featherson's administration did you have any controversy with him over this contract work?" Mr.

Bensel was asked. "That is a personal matter and of no par-

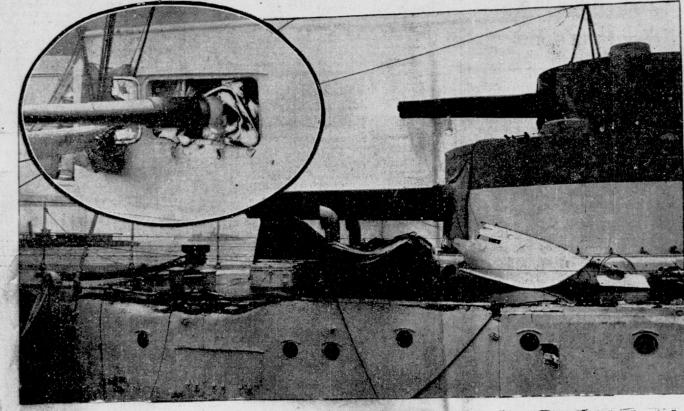
ticular public interest," said Mr. Bensel. It is understood that Commissioner Feather son upbraided Mr. Bensel for furnishing information concerning the filling in contracts that found its way to the Mayor and Controller, Mr. Bensel would not comment on this phase of the subject. When pressed for an answer with

reference to the politics in the department, he "Under the old system, when Van Wyck was Mayor, the commissioners had large powers, and it was an understood thing that many privileges were given out as political favors. That system is not supposed to be in vogue at this time. The Phœnix company seems to be a sort of parent

company, and the contracts all went to one in Mayor McClellan was asked to reply to ex-Commissioner Featherson's challenge to specify

Continued on fifth page. THE IDEAL TRAIN TO FLORIDA. Lv. New York 12:55 P. M. The Southern Palm Limited, N. Y. to St. Augustine. Entire train electric lighted. New equipment. Pullman's best productions, N. Y. Offices, 271 & 1185 B way.—Advi. THE DAMAGED BATTLESHIP KENTUCKY.

GUNHOLE IN THE KENTUCKY, SHOWING DOORS SMASHED IN COLLISION.



AFTER DECK OF THE BATTLESHIP KENTUCKY, SHOWING PLATES BENT AND PARTS OF CAPTAIN'S GIG. (For story about the Kentucky see page 4.)

### SAYS HE HAS MANIA.

# Swallows Poison Mixture.

After writing a letter in which he willed his body to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which he was graduated, Dr. R. W. Steger, of No. 101 West 84th-st., took a mixture of morphine and chloroform in a room at the Audubor Hotel, 39th-st. and Broadway, last Sunday, and lay down to die. He was found unconscious by one of the hotel servants shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon and taken to Bellevue Hospital, where it was said last night that he would

In a letter, which was found in the room, Dr. Steger said he had been seized with frequent attacks of "suicidal mania." Sometimes, he said, the attacks took the form of "homicidal mania." After he had taken the poison he wrote a message, in which he compared his mental state to that of the hero of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde."

Dr. Steger registered at the Audubon Hotel last Sunday at noon. He retired to his room almost immediately, and was not seen again until yesterday afternoon, when one of the entered the room. She saw the

Patrolman John Brady was called, and, realizing that the man was in a dangerous condition, ed an ambulance from Bellevue Hospital. The doctor was hurried to the hospital. On a dresser in the room, the police found a letter, addressed, "To whom it may concern,"

and reading as follows:

Sunday, January 7, 1906, 7 p. m.—My name is Robert W. Steger and I am forty-eight years old. Occupation, physician. Place of birth, Alabama. Cause of death, suicide by means of morphine and chloroform. I give my body to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of this city for dissection. I am a graduate of that school, class of '96. I have not been mentally sound for several years, having suffered from frequent attacks of suicidal mania. These would sometimes take the form of homicidal mania, and again a combination of both. The attacks usually lasted two or three days, during which time it was impossible for me to sleep. The present attack has lasted three weeks. A continuance would be worse than death, so I feel justified in taking my life. This condition has caused me to do things for which I have been severely censured. I trust my friends may now know that my mistakes have been of the head and not of the heart.

Another message, evidently written after the doctor had swallowed the poison, was found. The second message was written on an envelope of the Audubon Hotel and read as follows:

As I am sitting here in Room 17, as sane as I have been for three weeks, and expecting to die in an hour, I want to say that the book of "Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde" is none to strong. I also think—

The writing, which was bold and firm at the beginning of the message, but had gradually become wavering, grew so indistinct as to be undecipherable at the end.

There was a bruise on the unconscious physiian's face and another on his body, which tooked as if he might have repented of his act before he became completely unconscious, and had arisen from the bed to call assistance, falling to the floor before he reached the electric bell. How he managed to crawl back to the bed

s a puzzle. Among the doctor's other effects was found a pawn ticket, calling for a watch that had been pledged on December 4 last, for \$7. Three leters were also found in the room. One was addressed to the "Postmaster of Station W, Columbus-ave. and 84th-st."; another to "Mrs. C. F. Davies, No 1,716 Milan-st., New-Orleans, La.," and the third to "Mr. J. Marshall, care of the Racquet and Tennis Club, West 43d-st."

Mr. Marshall, who is the head waiter at the club, when seen last night, said he met Dr. Steger at Hot Springs, Ark., a year ago. He said that he had been a patient of Dr. Steger for several months. When he opened the letter addressed to him, he found the following direc-

Consult Dr. Frank S. Matthews, No. 62 West 50th-st. You will find him all right in every way.

DR. R. W. STEGER.

'At Dr. Steger's home, No. 101 West 84th-st., it was learned that he had been boarding with a family named Morgan for several weeks. Mr. Morgan said Dr. Steger had been a prominent physician in Chicago several years ago. He also said that he had married the daughter of a rich hotel proprietor in that city, but that Dr. Steger's wife had separated from him, as he was addicted to the morphine habit.

Prior to having lived at No. 101 West 84th-st. Dr. Steger boarded with Mrs. A. B. Pearson, at No. 68 West 37th-st.

Dr. Frank S. Matthews, whom Mr. Marshall was directed to consult, said last night:

"Dr. Steger formerly lived in 50th-st., swithin few doors of my home. I grst met him about four years ago, when I was called to attend Mrs. Steger. I never noticed that there was any disagreement between Dr. Steger and his wife. For some erason, which I do not know, Mrs. Steger spent most of her time in the South. I have always thought that she was rich in her own right. Only a few days ago I met Dr. Steger on the street and he told me that he expected his family in the city in a few days."

# DOCTOR TRIES SUICIDE. BRITISH POLLING NEAR ANTI-ODELL MOVEMENT.

## Wills Body to P. and S. College and New House to Meet on February 13 -Partisans Active.

London, Jan. 8 .- King Edward, who has been absent in the country since Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Cabinet was formed, returned to London this afternoon and held a meeting of the Privy Council, at which the proclamation dissolving Parliament was signed. Immediately afterward writs were sent to the returning officers for the election of the members of the new Parliament, which, in accordance with the law, his majesty has summoned to meet at Westninster on February 13.

The first polling will take place on January 18 at Greenwich, where Lord Hugh Cecil, leader of the Conservative Free Traders, is engaged in a triangular fight for the Unionist seat against a Liberal and a Chamberlainite. The last poll must close on January 27. Therefore, within a fortnight the verdict of the majority of the electors will be known and the probable life of the Liberal government will be measurable. The leaders of the opposing forces mounted

the hustings to-night and the rallying cries of the main forces and factions engaged in the combut were heard everywhere. No fewer trula A porter was called, and he tried to awaken nets spoke in different parts of the country, in-Dr. Steger, but his efforts were unsuccessful. cluding the former Premier, Mr. Balfour; Her-

the defensive.

It is devoted exclusively to answering the proposals for tariff reform, finding strong fortification in the returns of the Board of Trade of 1905. Sir Charles Dilke has issued a novel address

to his constituents of the Forest of Dean Division of Gloucestershire, which he has represented in the House of Commons as an Advanced and this has prevented unanimity of action. Radical since July, 1892. It consisted of a single sentence, as follows: "I solicit a renewal of your trust."

Speaking in London to-night Sir Charles announced himself as an advanced Radical-Inde-

pendent candidate. He spoke favorably of the nembers of the new Cabinet. Asked about Morocco, Sir Charles said that the difficulties predicted over the Moroccan situation were frightfully exaggerated, and that there was no danger of a war arising therefrom.

# STOLE AN ELEPHANT.

#### Restored Pachyderm Exhibited in Proof of Daring Deed. [By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Bridgeport, Conn., Jan. S.—The management of the Barnum & Bailey show allege that an attempt was made this morning by a discharged employe to steal an elephant from their winter quarters. Unbelievers are shown the elephant. When the night watchman went through the elephant house at 3 o'clock it is said that he missed Ko Ko, one of the baby elephants. Though only a little over five feet high Ko Ko is considered a bad elephant. When the night watchman discovered the absence of Ko Ko he awakened George Conklin, who has charge of the animals.

By telephoning in all directions it was learned that a man had been seen leading an elephant that a man had been seen leading an elephant toward New-Haven. A posse dashed away in pursuit. Near Yellow Mill Pond they came upon the former employe and Ko Ko. Conklin yelled at the elephant and the animal, recognizing the voice of his master, stopped short. The other men set upon the former employe and after giving him a severe beating turned him loose.

## FORGED BOSS MURPHY'S NAME.

James Wilson, of No. 240 West 43d-st., was found guilty of forgery by Judge Cowing, in General Sessions, yesterday, and was sentenced to five years in State's prison. Wilson forged the name of Charles F. Murphy to a check, payable to Joseph Gaffney, of No. 216 East 19th-st. Wilson represented that he was a brother of James Gaffney, the Tammany contractor, and got the money.

#### A TURKISH MINISTER DEAD. Constantinople, Jan. 8.—The death is announced of Ahmed Nazif Pacha, the Minister of Finance. He is succeeded by Zia Bey.

#### AN AFFRAY AT CIENFUEGOS. Havana, Jan. 8.-After the voting at Cienfuegos yesterday on the question of a loan for vaterworks, a street fight occurred in which a

policeman was shot and mortally wounded. Several persons were arrested. THE TRAIN OF THE CENTURY is the Twentieth Century Limited, the 18-hour train between New York and Chicago by the New York Central Lines. Leave New York 3.30 P. M., arrive Chicago 8.30 next morning—a night's ride.—Advi.

#### PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED. Plan for Party Reorganization Discussed by New-York Congressmen. [From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 8 .- A plan to accomplish a complete reorganization of the Republican party in New-York, to be effected by the selection of a new State committee, with a new chairman at its head, is being earnestly discussed by certain members of the New-York delegation in Wash-

Those members of Congress who are advocatng this programme maintain that Mr. Odell has lost his control of the State committee and that a poll of the thirty-eight members would unquestionably establish this fact, and to that end they advise the immediate "sounding" of the committee on the subject. Thus far there have been no formal conferences in the New-York delegation, and the plan is being discussed in a purely tentative way, but some of the New-York members profess to be deeply in earnest. Representative J. Sloat Fassett, for instance, said to-day:

I think it is high time that a movement to bring about a change in the chairmanship of the State committee should be instituted, although I know of no concerted movement to that end at the present time. Another prominent member of the delegation,

the would not permit his name to be used, said: fifteen members of the past and present Cabinets spoke in different parts of the country, including the former Premier, Mr. Balfour; Herbert Henry Asquith, Joseph Chamberlain, John Morley, Lord Lansdowne, John Burns, David Lloyd-George and Austin Chamberlain.

The issues were clear and the speakers continued to ring the changes against home rule or tariff reform. The Liberals all along the line attacked the Unionist fecord of the last ten years, while the Unionists in the main were on

Some members of the delegation, Herbert Henry Asquith, the Chancellor of the talked with their associates about bringing pres-Exchequer, issued his election address to-day. sure to bear on Mr. Odell to force his retirement, declare, however, that there is a strong sentiment in favor of some step of this kind, although they admit having encountered several members who do not care openly to disavow him. It has, apparently, been impossible to agree on any particular candidate as a successor Among those who have openly expressed dissatisfaction at the criticism of the party, alleged to be due to Mr. Odell's methods, are Representatives Olcott and Bennet. Representative Parsons, it is presumed, would also favor the overthrow of the Republican leader who opposed him in his fight for control of the County Committee. The deepest interest is taken in the situation by all the New-York members. As the next State Convention will not be held until September, when a new State Committee will be elected, Mr. Odell has still a considerable tenure of office, provided no effective measures are taken to precipitate his resignation.

> Under ordinary circumstances the State Committee would not meet until next September, but a special meeting can be called at any time.

The friends of George W. Aldridge say the Higgins men will ask him to take the chairmanship of the committee, even if he has to resign as a State Railroad Commissioner. Mr. Aldridge is averse to retiring from the commission, it is said, and for that reason is likely to refuse the State chairmanship.

When State Chairman Odell was seen last night at Newburg he said:

I don't know of any move of the kind described in the Washington dispatches. There has been considerable talk of that kind lately. I have no mment to make.

### BRACKETT TO FORCE DEPEW LINE-UP. His Opponents Allege That He Wrote Letter Asking Pass for Friend.

Albany, Jan. 8.-Senator Brackett announced to-day that he would reintroduce his resolution calling on United States Senator Depew to resign, and would press it through if possible. No matter what arguments those opposed to the resolution might use, he would force a line-up on the question, he said. He did not attach much importance to a story told here that friends of Senator Depew have a letter from him ,asking for a pass for one of his friends. 'I don't believe such a letter exists," he said.

'At least, there has been no such letter in recent years. But even if they have it, I will make the fight for Depew's resignation just the same. "If these people have any such letter, they should have brought it forward long ago. During all my years of service as Senator, I have

never ridden on a pass, and to the best of my recollection I never have asked for one, "I withdrew the Depew resolution last Wednesday because some of the Senators said they re- ment. quired more time to make up their minds on the subject. Next Wednesday night I will not withdraw it. They can destroy it if they want to, but I will force a line-up on the proposition."

DEWEY'S OLD PORT FOR INVALIDS. Will strengthen the Weak and Convalescents.
i. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 133 Fulton St., New York.

#### ROGERS ENTERTAINS.

#### THEN GOES ON THE STAND. COURTS INVESTIGATION.

#### Approves "Penny Ante" -- Tells Reporters He Would Help Hadley.

One of the features of yesterday's hearing in the Missouri Standard Oil case was a talk by H. H. Rogers with the reporters. He talked in and ante-room while waiting to be called to the witness stand. He told of his fast yacht Kanawha.

some one build a boat that could beat her. You know she was built, though, to go fast, but a craft could be constructed to beat her. I would

"Do you know," he said, "I would like to have

like to see it done. "But would you really like to see the Kanawha beaten?" he was asked. "Yes," replied Mr. Rogers, "you see I know I could build a boat to beat the one that beat the present Kanawha, and I would build it the next

Mr. Rogers said that his son was now down at Nassau on the yacht formerly the Delaware, which he purchased from Commodore Bourne

of the New-York Yacht Club. "This boy of mine wanted to take the Kanawha down there, but she is not a craft for that kind of a trip. The other is a better cruis-

ing yacht," said he. Mr. Rogers told of being at the Mark Twain dinner, of having a seat next to Miss Ruth Me-Enery Stuart and of his having followed Bliss

Carman and his head of hair out of the room. "I felt out of place at that dinner," he finally commented, "but I had a bully good time-an unusually good time. I wasn't going, but Clemens said I must be there. I went, and was glad to go as I had a good time."

Mr. Rogers told a story of Mark Twain's experience in Hartford, when he first moved there. "It was like this," he said. "Mrs. Twain said to him that as the children were growing up, they had better identify themselves with some Twain thought that a good idea, and suggested that they go to all the churches, and pick out a good minister. They did, and later Twain thought the preacher in a little Methodist Church near by was the most eloquent divine in the place.

"'But, Mark,' said Mrs. Twain, 'you don't want preaching-what you want is prayer.'

"Then the story ends this way. Down in Washington, one New-Haven man told another New-Haven man about the great revival in that city. The other wanted to know all about ft. Why, said the man, one church got Mark Twain, but lost seventeen other members at the same time, but it was a great revival."

Speaking of the present hearing, Mr. Rogers added, with a wink, that if patience was all that was necessary, he had patience to spare. "How does it come, Mr. Rogers," asked one

reporter, "that all of these years here you have always kept us away from you, and now we find you are really a nice fellow?" "Well," observed Mr. Rogers, slowly; "you see, I was born in the country and am a little

you were. If I had known it," he added, "things would have been different." Later Mr. Rogers suggested that if the Tuesday proceedings proved as dull as they were that afternoon, they get the court to assign them, he and the reporters, to g little room, where they could have a good time doing noth-

ing, as they had to be there. We could get a deck of cards and play-"A little penny ante," interrupted a reporter. "Yes, that's a good game," rejoined Mr.

Rogers. "But if what I hear is true, I do not want to play poker with a Standard Oil man," was the

reflection of another newspaper man. "Oh, that's all nonsense. We are not half so bad as some would make us think. We are always willing to do a good turn. Why, I am willing to help this fellow here (Attorney General Hadley) out if I can answer his questions to

"It is understood he wished to succeed Folk out there and be Governor of the State," remarked one of the Western newspaper men present.

"Yes, I know that," replied Mr. Rogers, with a laugh; "and even this morning when I wished him good morning I innocently said, 'Good, morning, Governor.' Just slipped out, as it were."

Just then the crier called Mr. Rogers to the witness chair and the interview was at an end.

# NORMAL COLLEGE FIRE.

#### North Building Burned-Damage May Reach \$200,000.

Albarty, Jan. 8 .- Fire broke out about 8:30 this evening in the north building of the State Normal College, in Willett-st., north of Madison-ave. The flames entirely destroyed the north building, spread to the house of President William J. Milne adjoining and threatened to go still further, under the sweep of a stiff northwest wind, but at 11 p. m. the firemen seemed to have the fire under control.

One fireman was seriously hurt by falling debris. The loss, it is believed, will reach \$200,-000, against which there is insurance of \$80,000, permitted by a special act of the legislature. Dr. Milne himself has about \$1,500 insurance, but his loss will exceed that, especially on rare books and works of art.

A feature of the loss is a large and beautiful stained glass memorial window, which cost \$5,000, and was given to the college by the students and alumni.

The records of the institution, which was founded sixty-one years ago, are also lost. A few weeks ago the college, previously a normal school, was raised by the State Board of Regents, to the full grade of a college.

## HUNTERS KILLED BY TRAIN.

#### One Drags Himself Toward Farmhouse, but Succumbs to Cold and Injuries.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Jan. 8.-The bodies of two hunters, one instantly killed by a train and the other frozen to death after the train had left him seriously injured, were found near here to-

The men, George Denny and Henry Lafair, were struck by a New-York Central train yesterday. Lafair, with both legs crushed, had crawled through the snow toward a farmhouse until the cold overcame him.

## THE KAISER SLIGHTLY ILL.

Berlin, Jan. 8.-Emperor William is keeping to his bed to-day in consequence of a slight cold. He is receiving the usual reports in his apart-

#### POLAR EXPLORER COMING HERE. Copenhagen, Jan. 8. Captain Elmer Mikkelson,

who took part in the Baldwin and Amdrup Polar expeditions, and is going to explore the Polar regions west of those explored by Sverdrup, will leave Copenhagen for New-York by way of London on January 9. He expects to start from San Francisco in June.

# PRESIDENT ON CANAL

PRICE THREE CENTS.

### Message Well Received in Congress -Friction Between Taft and Shonts.

Washington, Jan. 8 .- The President's message. transmitted to Congress to-day, with the annual report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, made a markedly favorable impression in both houses Its frank and manly tone and the cordiality; with which the President courts full and complete investigation of the canal administration seem likely effectively to dispose of the spirit of carping which has from time to time manifested itself in connection with Panama Canal affairs. The criticism of Chairman Shonts, expressed by Secretary Taft in his letter of transmission, was regarded as in some respects sensational, however, as it revealed completely the cause of that friction between these two high officials, of which accounts appeared in the press some months ago.

#### The President's message follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: I inclose herewith the annual report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, the annual report of the Panama Railroad Company and the Sec-retary of War's letter, transmitting the same, together with certain papers. The work on the isthmus is being admirably

done, and great progress has been made, especially during the last nine months. The plant is being made ready and the organizations perfected. The first work to be done was the work of sanitation, the necessary preliminary to the work of actual construction, and this has been much of convert with the approximation. work of actual construction, and this has been pushed forward with the utmost energy and means. In a short while I shall lay before you, the recommendations of the commission and of the board of consulting engineers as to this proper plan to be adopted for the canal itself, together with my own recommendations thereon. All the work so far has been done not only with the utmost expedition, but in the most careful and thorough manner, and what has been accomplished gives us good reason to believe, that the canal will be dug in a shorter time than had been anticipated, and at an expenditure within the estimated amount. All our penditure within the estimated amount. All our citizens have a right to congratulate themselves upon the high standard of efficiency and integrity which has been hitherto maintained by the representatives of the government in doing this great work. If this high standard of efficiency and integrity can be maintained in the future at the same level which it has now reached, the construction of the Panama Canal will be out of the feats to which the people of this republic will look back with the highest pride.

MANY UNFOUNDED CHARGES. From time to time various publications have been made, and from time to time in the future various similar publications, doubtless, will be made, purporting to give an account of jobbery, or immorality or inefficiency or misery as obtaining on the isthmus. I have carefully exame ined into each of these accusations which worthy of attention. In every instance the acusations have proved to be without foundation any shape or form. They spring from sever sources. Sometimes they take the shape statements by irresponsible investigators of sensational habit of mind, incapable of observating or repeating with accuracy what they see, and desirous of obtaining notoriety by widespread slander. More often they originate with or are given currency by individuals with a personal grievance. The sensation mongers, both those who stay at home and those who visit the ithmus, may ground their accusations on false statements by some engineer, who, having applied for service on the commission and been retused such service, now endeavors to discredit his successful competitors, or by some lessee of the commission and service. modest. But I didn't know what a nice crowd his successful competitors, or by some lessee of owner of real estate who has sought action or maction by the commission to increase the value of his lots, and is bitter because the commission cannot be used for such purposes, or on the tales of disappointed bidders for contracts, or of officeholders who have proved incompetent or who have been suspected of corruption and dismissed, or who have been overcome by panic and have fled from the isthmus. Every specific charge relating to jobbery, to immorality or to inefficiency, from whatever source it has come, has been immediately investigated, and in no single instance have the statements of these no single instance have the statements of these sensation mongers and the interested complaintains behind them proved true. The only discredit inhering in these false accusations is to those who originate and give them currency, and who to the extent of their shilling therein.

# of America are so deeply involved. It matters not whether those guilty of these false accusations utter them in mere wanton recklessness and folly, or in a spirit of sinister malice to gratify some personal or political grudge. RUINOUS TO CUT DOWN SALARIES.

and who, to the extent of their abilities,

work in which both the hor

Any attempt to cut down the salaries of the officers of the Isthmian Commission or of their subordinates, who are doing important work, would be ruinous from the standpoint of accomplishing the work offectively. To avoid the officers of the Isthman Commission of the subordinates, who are doing important work, would be rulnous from the standpoint of accomplishing the work effectively. To quote the words of one of the best observers on the isthmus, "demoralization of the service is certain if the reward for successful endeavor is a reduction of pay." We are undertaking in Panama a gigantic task—the largest piece of engineering ever done. The employment of the men engaged thereon is only temporary, and yet it will require the highest order of ability if it is to be done economically, honestly and efficiently. To attempt to secure men to do this work on insufficient salary would amount to putting a premium upon inefficiency and corruption. Men fit for the work will not undertake it unless they are well paid. In the end the men who do undertake it will be left to seek other employment with, as their chief reward, the reputations they achieve. Their work is infinitely more difficult than any private work, both because of the peculiar conditions of the tropical land in which it is laid and because it is impossible to free them from the peculiar limitations inseparably connected with government employment; while if is unfortunately true that men engaged in public work, no matter how devoted and disinterested their services, must expect to be made the objects of misrepresentation and attack. At best, therefore, the positions are not attractive in proportion to their importance, and among the men fit to do the task only those with a genuine sense of public spirit and eager to do the great work for the work's sake can be obtained; and such men cannot be kept if they are to be treated with niggardliness and parsimony, in addition to the creatinity that false accusations will continually be brought against them.

## FULL INVESTIGATION COURTED.

FULL INVESTIGATION COURTED.

I repeat that the work on the isthmus has been done and is being done admirably. The organization is good. The mistakes are extraordinarily few, and these few have been of practically no consequence. The zeal, intelligence and efficient public service of the Isthmian Commission and its subordinates have been noteworthy. I court the fullest, most exhaustive and most searching investigation of any act of theirs, and if any one of them is ever shown to have done wrong his punishment shall be exemplary. But I ask that they be decently paid and that their hands be upheld as long as they act decently. On any other conditions we shall not be able to get men of the right type to do the work; and this means that on any other conditions we shall insure. If not failure, at least delay, scandal and inefficiency in the task of digging the glant canal.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The White House, January S. 1906.

# DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

When the message had been read in the Sonate, Mr. Gorman took the floor. He said in part: ate, Mr. Gorman took the floor. He said in part:

I think the country should be highly gratified by
the extraordinary statement the Fresident makes
in regard to this great work. It is true that hidividuals and the press have circulated criticisms of
the extraordinary orders issued and the work
done, but the President has given a certificate of
perfect purity and great efficiency to all that have
been connected with the canal construction.

It is true he invites the closest scrutiny—and in
justice to him and to the employes to whem he
has intrusted the work on the isthmus that invitation should be accepted. I trust that before
the Senate proceeds many days it may instruct
the Canal Committee to enter upon such investiga-

#### OVER NIGHT TO CHICAGO. PENNSYLVANIA SPECIAL.

The eighteen-hour train. Leaves New-York 3:55 P. M., arrives Chicago 8:55 A. M.: leaves Chicago 2:45 P. M., arrives New-York 9:45 A. M., via Pennaylvania Railroad.—Advt.