

would be gladdened, young enthusiasms fostered, and young ideas put into practice with his money.

"Ah, Margie, we worked so hard and were so happy when we were yours and Dick's age. The gaining of the competence was much more enjoyable than the knowledge that at last we had it.

"Enjoy yourselves, children, for

while age may bring some compensations, after all there is nothing in this world but youth—and this is truer when love is a part of it. It is only when you are old that you are left alone with your thoughts and memories."

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)
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UNCLE SAM CAN BUILD HIS FIRST R. R. SYSTEM!

BY GILSON GARDNER

Washington, March 30.—For the first time in his history Uncle Sam is going into the business of building a big railroad system. This is the result of the passage of the Alaska railroad bill which has just been signed by President Wilson.

Here are the essential provisions of the bill:

The president is given practically all power to do anything necessary to bring into existence a completely equipped railroad a thousand miles long and not to cost more than \$35,000,000.

He is also permitted to buy at physical valuation any existing line or lines of railroad now in Alaska, but if he does so, this is to be included in the maximum 1,000 miles limitation.

The road is to be built from the south coast of Alaska to navigable waters in the interior, and also to tap one or more coal fields. The president himself must decide what will be the ocean terminus and at what point it will connect with the river transportation in the interior. The road will connect with either the Yukon, the Tanana, or the Kuskokwim, and the scaport which will be selected will be either Valdez, Seward or Katalla.

Before determining these questions the president will undoubtedly appoint a commission of expert engineers from civil life and the army or navy to make investigation.

One million dollars is provided with which to start work.

The Panama equipment is made

available when no longer needed at Panama.

The president is authorized to withdraw lands for town sites and also to reserve any such lands in Alaska "as are or may be useful for furnishing materials for construction and for stations, terminals, docks and for other purposes." This is an important provision, as it will enable him to reserve forest, mineral or any other lands which he "deems necessary and desirable" for construction and operation of the railroad.

The president is given the option either to operate or lease the system after it is completed. If leased to private parties, the terms shall not run for a period of more than 20 years, and if leased, the interstate commerce commission is to have jurisdiction over it. But, if the president determines on government operation, the control of the road, including rates, etc., is left entirely in his hands.

The construction of this road foreshadows the creation of a government-owned line of steamships connecting with it in order to secure its benefits to the citizens of the United States, and particularly to those on the Pacific coast. It will also make necessary the development of the coal mines, and should eventually break the coal trust's high prices on the Pacific coast.

Miss Carrie Johnston of Cleveland, O., is one of the few bacteriologists in the United States