

# GOVERNMENT MADE CEMENT. Association of Portland Cement Manufacturers Enters Pro- test Against It. WOULD INJURE NEW INDUSTRY. Argument Submitted to Secy. Hitch- cock—Many States and Terri- tories Directly Affected.

Special Correspondence.  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—The association of Portland cement manufacturers representing a large percentage of the \$250,000,000 of capital invested in this industry, has presented to the secretary of the interior, E. A. Hitchcock, an argument against the manufacture of cement by the government to be used in the construction of the Tonto basin dam in Arizona. This dam will be 247 feet above foundation, with 193 feet available storage, and a capacity of 540,000 acre feet covering 5,000 acres of public land, 4,000 of unimproved private land and 40 acres of cultivated land. As the principle is the same as will be involved in the furnishing of cement for the Idaho, Washington, Milk River, Montana, Colorado river, Gunnison, Colorado, Sweet River, Wyoming, and the Rio Grande, New Mexico, irrigation projects for which over \$16,000,000 are already available, derived from the sale of public land, the cement manufacturers are very desirous that the government should not go into the business of manufacturing cement in competition with private enterprises.

**THE ARGUMENT.**  
The argument presented to the secretary reviews the history of the development of the American Portland cement industry, one of a continuous struggle to produce in this country a material the demand for which is dependent upon its reputation. The manufacture of American cement was begun in the smallest possible way, and it was only after it had been used to the satisfaction of the engineers that the early manufacturers were able to demonstrate beyond cavil that American cement was equal to the imported. The manufacturers therefore contend that in the proposition to manufacture in the Tonto basin 200,000 barrels of cement the greatest dam in the world, which, if it should give way, would utterly destroy millions of dollars invested by the government and private land holders, devastate an entire valley, and might pale into insignificance the Johnstown flood, there are two reputations at stake, first those of the "distinguished and able engineers of your department," and second, "the reputation of the American Portland cement industry and those who have built it to its present magnitude."  
**PROPOSAL TO MANUFACTURE.**  
It is proposed that cement should be manufactured from materials found at the site of the dam and the memorandum points out that the reports upon which the manufacture of Portland cement are based, so far as machinery, results and production are concerned, are made by one, who, according to the records established by him in the op-

eration of cement works at Montauk, New York and Colton, Cal., has not been successful in his enterprises. It is obvious Mr. E. A. Dwyer, formerly superintendent of the cement works at Colton, Cal., is referred to, and it is said that the works which he built at Colton are being entirely reconstructed. He is now in the employ of the government.  
The argument points out that if the department undertakes to manufacture its own cement there will be no security or bonds provided and no punishment in case of failure, except the possible discharge of an incompetent superintendent.

**LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED.**  
By far the most important part of the argument is devoted to a consideration of the legal questions involved. The manufacturers maintaining that: "It is certainly no part of the government's duty to enter into the manufacture of any class of commodities. If the government can erect cement plants to avoid the cost of railroad transportation, middle men's profits and manufacturer's profits," says the argument, "it is its duty to erect mills for the manufacture of blankets, clothing, shoes, etc., worn by its soldiers and sailors, to manufacture iron for its building construction, to operate mines for its gold and silver currency, etc."

**GOVERNMENT COMPETITION.**  
The manufacturers contend that "in no case should the government enter into any competition with the general public." The manufacturers, therefore, submit a proposition that the government advertise for bids for Portland cement of known character, and subject to definite specifications and under definite requirements for security and that such bids should recite "that on the site of the dam, materials of such chemical analysis as to be found, as are believed to be suitable for the manufacture of cement; that the government is the owner of a cement plant of a character to be described, and will furnish electrical power free to the manufacturer; and that all bidders may bid upon the cement of the character above described, and under proper bonds, to be supplied either from their own mills, or to be made upon the site of the dam."

**ASSOCIATION GOES ON RECORD.**  
In order to place themselves on record the association, in a letter to Secy. Hitchcock, says: "We, however, do not recognize that the government in the construction of a dam, should, without requesting bids from cement manufacturers, proceed to construct and operate a cement works as part of the construction of the dam—such cement works and operation of the same being no part of that which would be called for in bids for the construction of the dam, or materials entering therein." They add that it is a source of gratification to them to find upon investigation at Washington, "that the high price at which it was claimed cement would cost at this dam, arose from the excessive cost of transportation, and not from excessive factory price of the material."

**Garretto Guilty of Murder.**  
Montpelier, Vt., Dec. 23.—Alexander Garretto, charged with the murder of Eli Cotti at a riot between Anarchists and Socialists at Barre on the night of Oct. 3, last, was today found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to not less than ten nor more than twelve years in the state prison.

**A Wisconsin Boy Shinghailed.**  
Janesville, Wis., Dec. 23.—Relatives of Rudolph McCummings of Janesville, fear the young man has been shinghailed on board a vessel on the Pacific ocean. Young McCummings left for Portland, Or., many months ago. Today his mother received a card from the German consul at Victoria: "The Astoria, with Rudolph McCummings on board, has touched at this port. If you wish to communicate with him you must do so immediately, as the boat leaves soon for parts unknown."

**The Bleucher's Exciting Voyage.**  
New York, Dec. 23.—The Hamburg-American liner Bleucher docked today after an exciting voyage. During the first night out from Hamburg while she was running in a dense fog at only half speed with foghorns blowing, she was run into by a 1,500 tramp steamship and a hole stove in her bow. The forward compartment was flooded and the ship had to delay one day at Cherbourg where new plates fitted. After leaving Cherbourg she ran into a stiff northwest gale. On the night of the 19th, when the crew of the Bleucher was rolling and pitching furiously, making the strongest passage, she was only saved by prompt action on the part of the officers. The passengers feared the vessel would sink.

**SAN FRANCISCO WATER.**  
City Will Not be Allowed to Get It from Yosemite Park.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The secretary of the interior today refused the application of the city of San Francisco for permission to begin the necessary construction toward obtaining a water supply from the Yosemite national park. The city proposed to expend about \$33,000,000 on the waterworks and had a hearing before the secretary of the interior some months ago, at which authority to take the preliminary steps, so far as they applied to the park, was refused. The interior department's adverse action is based on the fact that the organic act creating the park requires the government to keep it in its natural condition.

**Graves Charged with Murder.**  
Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 23.—Winnie Reader, or Mrs. Walter Halbach, the actress, within twenty-four hours after returning home, swore out an information charging her step-father, C. W. Graves, with the murder of her mother. The coroner's jury had returned a verdict to the effect that Mrs. Graves had been checked to death and that fire had been applied to her body afterwards. Mrs. Graves's charged body was found last Friday. The couple had been living on a farm, and divorce proceedings had been instituted. Graves is now in jail.

**PANAMA CANAL TREATY.**  
Senator Hale of Maine Thinks it Will be Ratified.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Senator Hale of Maine, in an interview with a Post reporter today, said he thought the Panama canal treaty would be ratified. He added: "I do not like the situation and am afraid it will involve us in an expensive and protracted war, but I have seen no way from the beginning but to ratify the treaty and make the best of it." "Our government moved rather rapidly with some precision when the navigation broke out, but Colombia was holding us up and meant to rob us, and as we were committed to the building of the canal by the United States, and as some kind of government had been set up in Panama, we were compelled to come to terms with that government, however quickly forged and however unsubstantial it might be."

**IDAHO LANDS.**  
Secy. Hitchcock Refuses to Approve Their Segregation.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Asst. Atty. Gen. Campbell of the interior department has rendered an opinion to Secy. Hitchcock, sustaining the latter in refusing to approve the segregation of between 4,000 and 5,000 acres of arid lands in Idaho, which it was proposed to reclaim. The commissioner of the general land office had held that in view of an act of the Idaho legislature of March 8, 1901, no further contracts between the state and the United States could be entered into so

long as the state law was in force. This law provides that when a company improves a tract of land by the building of extensive irrigation canals and within two years had not found the necessary settlers for each 160 acres of land, the land should be decided to the companies making the improvements. This was said to be contrary to the federal laws. Under the decision entered the matter will again come before the interior department at the expiration of the two-year clause for settlement of the lands.

**Judge Charged with Forgery.**  
Havana, Dec. 23.—Frederico Mora, a justice of the supreme court, who has been charged with forging signatures in connection with real estate transactions, has resigned. Public criticism of Justice Mora has been very strong.

**Waters Succeeds Beavers.**  
Washington, Dec. 23.—Announcement was made today of the appointment of J. M. Waters as superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances of the postoffice department to succeed George W. Beavers to take effect Jan. 1. Mr. Waters is now acting superintendent of the division.

**Fair Will Case.**  
New York, Dec. 23.—Rumors are in circulation at Newmarket, N. J., that the Smiths, heirs of Mrs. Charles L. Fair, have settled, or have agreed to settle. The story goes that each is to receive \$125,000 and discontinue further contest. The truth of this is doubted by the friends of the Smiths. William R. Smith has gone to Colorado, and this is believed to have started the rumors.

**Colombia Calls for a Loan.**  
New York, Dec. 24.—The Colombian government has called for a voluntary loan of \$500,000 from the eight departments, according to a Herald dispatch from Bogota. One per cent a month interest is promised and the loan will be guaranteed by the proceeds of customs duties.

**Transvaal Can't Carry War Loan.**  
New York, Dec. 24.—The opinion is growing that the Transvaal will be unable to take up its share of the war loan in February called the Johannesburg correspondence to a Herald dispatch from Johannesburg. The mining industry entails a heavy loss but security of labor is thought to be the only outlet for the business depression now existing.

**To Consider Colorado Strike.**  
Florence, Colo., Dec. 24.—John L. Gehrk, national organizer for the United Mine Workers has received a telegram from John Mitchell, president of the Colorado conference that will be held in Indianapolis Jan. 4 to consider the coal strike. The conference will be in conference with the higher officials of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company, and may settle the coal strike in Colorado.

**A GREAT REDUCTION.**  
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**A RASCAL RUN DOWN.**  
J. N. Abeel, Who Personated J. Ogden Golet, Jr., in Toronto.

New York, Dec. 24.—James N. Abeel, who was indicted several weeks ago for alleged impersonation of "J. Ogden Golet, Jr.," in an attempt to marry Grace Anderson, a telegrapher employed in the Grand Hotel, has been located, according to the American. He is said to be in Toronto and declares his departure from New York was in no way connected with the Anderson affair. The person who was exposed just before the proposed marriage with Miss Anderson had presented his intended bride with a check bearing the Golet signature for \$200.00. This and the notoriety caused by the affair caused the Golet family to employ detectives to run down the impostor. Abeel, who is a wealthy young married man, was fixed upon as a suspect but he had disappeared and no trace of his whereabouts had been found until the news came from Toronto that he is living there. The reporter who found Abeel says he traced Abeel to Philadelphia to St. Louis, and then to Detroit and then across the border and that Abeel has been in contact with persons in the United States. After reaching Toronto he admitted his identity, but declared he had left New York for no reason connected with the Anderson affair, and that he never had seen or heard of any person connected with the romance until the story was published in the newspapers.

**Disaster to the Olive Bank.**  
San Francisco, Dec. 24.—Capt. Henderson of the dismasted British bark Olive Bank, which has just been towed into this port for repairs, has made a statement of the cause of the disaster to his vessel. In this he says that everything went well after leaving Shanghai, on Oct. 18, in ballast for Royal Roads, B. C. For orders, until the vessel reached latitude 36.05 north, longitude 154.24 east, when she dived on Nov. 9. Here a typhoon struck the vessel, heaving the ship down until her rail was in the water. When the wind went down the sea rose and the vessel began to roll heavily until at last the topmast rigging fore and aft gave way under the strain and the masts and yards went over the side. The vessel began to list heavily and the crew, owing to the heavy rolling of the ship which continued during the operation. From that time on fair weather favored the vessel and under jury rig she made the last 1,200 miles of her voyage in good time. When the repairs are completed the Olive Bank will proceed on her way north.

**Operator's Assailants Repelled.**  
Wilmington, Del., 24.—Two men have been repelled in an attack made upon the night operator in the Pennsylvania town of Linwood. They were chased by a band of Italian laborers, but escaped after several shots had been exchanged. Later, two suspects were taken by the police of Chester, Pa.

**BEST SELLING BOOKS.**  
Record for November.  
According to the records of all book-sellers, the six books which have sold best in the order of demand during the month are:  
1. The Little Shepherd of Kingda.  
2. Come, Fox.  
3. The Call of the Wild. London.  
4. Rebecca. Wiggan.  
5. The One Woman. Dixon.  
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