

UNLIMITED DEBATE ON PANAMA CANAL

Feature Was Criticisms by Republicans and Democrats of Incomplete Statement.

PRESS AGENT OBJECTED TO.

Members of House Very Curious to Know About His Duties and His Ten Thousand Dollar Salary.

Washington, Dec. 6.—With an opportunity for unlimited debate on the subject of the Panama canal, the house exhausted its oratory on that subject in a session of four and three-quarters hours today. The bill appropriating \$15,500,000 for canal work, which was the subject of discussion, will be read for amendment and placed on its final passage tomorrow.

The feature of the debate was the criticism indulged in by both Republicans and Democrats regarding the incompleteness of the statement furnished by the canal commission. Mr. Hepburn, in charge of the bill, made some effort to show that while detailed estimates might be made satisfactory, at the same time members of the house were not in a position to pass critical judgment on estimates on such work prepared by expert engineers who held responsible positions and had been selected entirely because of their fitness.

Bourke Cockran of New York took decided exception to this attitude on the part of Mr. Hepburn, applied it as affecting all matters of appropriation, and arranged as he deemed the wrong attitude of legislators. To enforce his argument he read the sentiment of the president in his message for economy and scrutiny of appropriations.

The so-called press agent of the canal commission was criticized by several speakers, and lack of definite information as to the existence of such a position was shown. The place was declared to carry a salary of \$10,000 a year, and some curiosity was manifested to know what were its duties.

Less interest, as indicated by the attendance of members and spectators, was manifested in the proceedings of the house on its convening today. Discussion previous to the session indicated that the adjournment until next week would be taken as soon as the Panama canal bill is disposed of.

A session of the committee on rules, held just before noon, resulted in the preparation of a rule which will force consideration of the canal appropriation bill, should unanimous consent be refused. The rule provides for unlimited debate.

Representatives Ransdell and Robertson of Louisiana presented themselves and took the oath.

Unanimous consent was asked by Mr. Hepburn for immediate consideration of the canal bill. Pending the request Mr. Williams, the minority leader, took occasion to state that his request was unusual, but he said the necessity was unusual. There was no disposition on the Democratic side to delay the appropriation.

At the suggestion of Mr. Hepburn of Illinois, the committee reference was vacated. The bill was then considered by the house as in committee of the whole, with Mr. Vreeland of New York in the chair. Mr. Hepburn began the discussion of the measure.

After a brief controversy with Mr. Payne of New York, who asserted that the bill should have been referred to the ways and means committee, Mr. Hepburn reviewed the canal work, stating that \$10,000,000 had been expended, and that particular attention had been paid to housing employees on the isthmus and in rehabilitating the machinery the French company had left there.

There was a payroll on the isthmus containing the names of more than 13,000 persons. They were paid twice a month, and there would be no funds to meet the payment due Dec. 15 unless the bill should pass.

Replying to a question by Mr. Littlefield of Maine, as to the amount expended for salaries, Mr. Hepburn said there were 24 salaries of over \$5,000, six between \$4,000 and \$5,000, 55 between \$3,000 and \$4,000 and 136 between \$2,000 and \$3,000. These included engineers and persons of high skill.

It was stated in reply to C. B. Landis that the value of the Panama railway stock had been estimated at \$2,000,000. Mr. Hepburn could not recall the estimated value placed on the machinery and equipment before it was purchased by the United States.

Mr. Fitzgerald of New York said that he had been informed that \$10,000 a year was paid to a "press agent" in this city. Mr. Hepburn said he knew nothing of such an employee.

"How can Congress find out if that is so?" persisted Mr. Fitzgerald. The reply was that Mr. Fitzgerald knew as a member of the house that he could get the information by asking the proper place for it.

"But does the gentleman think this is a necessary appropriation?" asked Mr. Fitzgerald.

"I do not think it would equal in usefulness an Irishman who could yield a shovel," answered Mr. Hepburn.

"But that is hardly a good defense of a \$10,000 appropriation under any department of this government," retorted Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Hepburn said he had not heard of the matter before. He did not believe it a proper appropriation of the canal funds, and suggested that Mr. Fitzgerald pursue his information.

Mr. Williams suggested that an estimate be secured from the commission as to the amount necessary to carry on the work until January.

An explanation of the purchase of the two steamers, Mexican and Havana, was asked for by Mr. Waldworth of New York.

Mr. Hepburn replied that he under-



stood the three steamers originally purchased as part of the property of the Panama canal company were not capable of transporting the required material to the isthmus.

French work done by Mr. Olmsted of Pennsylvania and Mr. Kahn of California with the statement of expenses furnished, Mr. Hepburn concurred in this opinion.

The door was yielded to Mr. Williams of Mississippi, who gave notice of certain amendments he should offer to the bill. He declared the non-partisan question. Its benefits to the south would be great. No individual could claim credit for the canal.

The principal amendment he offered would be to strike out the sum of \$15,500,000 in the bill and insert an amount he should endeavor to ascertain on the amount actually necessary to carry on the work until Jan. 1 next.

Asserting that there was at least \$40,000,000 belonging to the United States now on deposit without interest in national banks, Mr. Williams said he would object to the issuance of bonds on which 2 per cent interest should be paid to secure money to build the canal. Failing in striking out the entire bonding provision, he would move to strike out the provision reimbursing the treasury the amount appropriated in the bill from the proceeds of the bond sale. He called attention to the original act authorizing bonds for the canal, and said it was plain there was nothing mandatory about it.

At the suggestion of Mr. Fitzgerald of New York, Mr. Williams said he would also offer an amendment requiring itemized statements of expenditures from the canal commission.

Replying to Mr. Clayton of Alabama, who asked if any of the money asked for would be spent for actual work of excavation, Mr. Mann of Illinois replied that the payment item would cover the work of excavation, which, he said, had never ceased since the property was acquired from the French company.

It was a fact, Mr. Mann said, that after this appropriation was made \$76,000,000 would have been expended, and little work done. But preparations for work have been made, and the result, he predicted, would be the building of the canal for even a less total cost than had been estimated.

Admitting that it might have been better if estimates had been more in detail, Mr. Hepburn saw no good reason why the appropriation should not be made. He said if the estimates had been in detail it would hardly be the function of members to set up their unprofessional judgment against that of expert engineers. It would be impertinent on his part, he maintained, to set up his judgment against the expert opinion of those who had been selected because of their fitness for the work.

This statement furnished the text for a lively speech by Bourke Cockran of New York, who demanded to know if members of the house were to blindly follow estimates, what were they there for? If that was the case, he did not want to occupy his position on the house floor. He asked Mr. Hepburn what the president meant when he said in his message: "I earnestly recommend to the Congress the need of economy, and to this end a rigid scrutiny of appropriations."

"If the power of appropriation is superseded and interpreted by the committee, it is all a mockery. But I ask this house to declare now that this function is not impertinence, but pertains to the high duty which we have longer ago than Monday, which includes that the treasury shall be guarded by us and not in a perfunctory manner."

Mr. Hepburn retorted that he did not purpose that the gentleman from New York should make him responsible for a statement he had not made. He had stated that the canal work had been estimated at \$10,000,000, and that particular attention had been paid to housing employees on the isthmus and in rehabilitating the machinery the French company had left there.

After some further debate the house, at 4 p. m., adjourned until Monday.

standing that the bill will be read for amendment and put on its passage tomorrow.

NEW YORK LAWYER
GUILTY OF BLACKMAIL.

New York, Dec. 6.—Thomas W. Wickes, a prominent attorney and former assistant corporation counsel, was today found guilty of blackmail in the criminal branch of the supreme court. He was remanded for sentence next week.

The case of Wickes is one of the most peculiar in the criminal annals of the city, and the man himself has come to be known as the "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" of the legal profession. While occupying a prominent place among his fellows in the legal profession and enjoying a high reputation, it has been learned that under the name of "Lewis Jarvis," which he assumed for the purpose, Wickes wrote hundreds of letters to persons who were interested in cases with which he was connected. Not only did he write these letters, but he also used his ability in the legal profession. Some of the letters, however, had other ends in view, and it was one of these which resulted in the undoing of Wickes.

To Dr. Edward Weston of Newark, N. J., several of these "Lewis Jarvis" letters were written, advising Dr. Weston to settle a certain litigation against himself by paying several thousand dollars. Wickes was found out and arrested when he went to a post-office for letters addressed to "Lewis Jarvis." During the present trial he admitted that he was the writer of the letters.

REGULATORY TARIFF LAW.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Senator Lodge introduced an amendment to the Dingley tariff law today providing for maximum and minimum rates of duty so as to give preference and advantage to the products of those countries which do not discriminate against products of the United States. It provides in specific terms for the levying of excess duties against countries which do not admit the goods of the United States on terms equal to those granted other countries.

PROCTOR WON'T RESIGN.

Washington, Dec. 6.—An intimation by Senator Proctor of Vermont that he might retire from the senate March 3, 1909, two years in advance of the expiration of his term, caused the report that he would resign in the near future. Senator Proctor has made no definite statement as to his future intention.

PHOENIX AGAINST STATEHOOD.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 6.—The Phoenix board of trade today passed resolutions to be sent to every member of Congress protesting against joint statehood with New Mexico.

CHILES GOLD RESERVE.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The Chilean government, through its minister here, Señor Walker-Martinez, has made an arrangement with the National Bank of Commerce of New York for the deposit with that institution of \$3,000,000 in gold which is to serve as a part of the gold reserve of that country.

GEN. SAKHAROFF ASSASSINATED.

Killed by Woman of "Flying Column" of Revolutionary Movement.

SHE SHOT HIM THREE TIMES.

Creates Profound Sensation in St. Petersburg Where It Is Fanned Her Example May Be Followed.

London, Dec. 7.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a dispatch dated Dec. 5, sent via Edytkunnen, East Prussia, says:

"Lieut.-Gen. Sakharoff, former minister of war, was assassinated today. The government had deputed Gen. Sakharoff to visit the province of Saratoff for the purpose of quelling the agrarian riots there."

"A woman belonging to the so-called 'flying column' of the revolutionary movement, called to the house of the governor of Saratoff at noon today and asked to see Gen. Sakharoff."

"She fired three revolver shots at the general, killing him on the spot. The tidings reached St. Petersburg tonight. Count Witte charged Lieut.-Gen. Rudiger, minister of war, with the task of breaking the news to Madame Sakharoff."

"The event has created a profound impression in St. Petersburg, owing to the fact that the revolutionists here will follow the example this set. The specter of a military dictatorship, which has been looming on the horizon, is slowly gaining consistency and sharpness of outline."

"I am personally convinced that Count Witte's faith in the good sense and political tact of the Russian ruling classes, which recently was as firm as a rock, is gradually weakening, and with it his hopes for the carrying out of the liberties promised in the emperor's manifesto."

"There are signs of a collapse of the post and telegraph wires. Two-thirds of the telegraph operators are daily offering to resume work, but they are prevented from doing so because the wires have been cut or the stations fail to answer signals."

"Father Gapon has gone to Paris under very mysterious circumstances, which I am not at liberty to unfold."

JEWISH RELIEF FUNDS.
Committee Having Their Distribution In Charge Hampered.

London, Dec. 6.—The secretary of the recent committee which was appointed by the recent conference held here, under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild, to take charge of the distribution of the funds collected for the relief of the Jews in Russia, said to the Associated Press tonight that the committee was being much hampered by the failure of telegraphic communications. He said that the following dispatch had been received from the traveling commissioners, who are now working in various parts of Russia securing data and statistics for the guidance of those who are distributing the funds:

"Telegraphic communication has been entirely stopped throughout Russia, and we are without news. We are sending this to the frontier. After a personal inspection we can report that the destruction is indescribable. Hundreds of shops have been destroyed and business is at a standstill. The damage amounts to millions of rubles."

"Forty thousand persons are affected in Kieff alone. Several small towns which had Jewish sections have been entirely burned and the people are sleeping in the fields."

Writing from Kieff, under date of Dec. 1, the commissioners say that the town was in open riot and that firing was continual. The British consul had offered to shelter the commissioners.

The secretary said that up to date \$2,475,000 had been contributed. This sum includes \$1,000,000 from the United States.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.
French Journals Much Excited Over President's Exposition of It.

Paris, Dec. 6.—The Temps, in a leading article this evening, discussing President Roosevelt's message to Congress, says:

"The Monroe doctrine is given extraordinary proportions. It is no longer bought and sold close is our whole secret."

Don't care who knows it. Your grace returns your money if you don't like Schilling's Best.

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IRISH EMIGRATION.
Catholic Bishops of Ireland Trying to Stem It.

Dublin, Dec. 6.—The Catholic bishops of Ireland are making another attempt to stem the tide of Irish emigration. A circular signed by Cardinal Logue and Bishop Sheehan of the diocese of Waterford has been ordered to be read in the churches throughout Ireland warning the younger generation of the evils of emigration, appealing to the people not to be alarmed by the enticements held forth in letters from the United States, and especially dilating on the dangers that beset the path of girl emigrants.

No Case of Pneumonia on Record.
We do not know of a single instance where a cough or cold resulted in pneumonia or consumption. When Foley's Honey and Tar had been taken, it cures coughs and colds perfectly. It does not take time with some unknown preparation which may cause complications, which cause complications. A cold Ask for Foley's Honey and Tar and refuse any substitute offered. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co.

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THE LACON ROAD.
Salt Lake & Ogden Railway.
S. M. HAMBERGER,
Pres. & Gen'l Manager.

Time Table in Effect Nov. 26, 1905.
LEAVE SALT LAKE
6:30, 11 a. m., 2:40, 5:30 p. m.
7:30, 12 m., 3:50, 7:30 p. m.

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