

WILL BUY IN THE CHEAPEST MARKET

Material for Panama Canal Will Be Purchased to the Best Advantage.

TAFT TELLS WHAT IS POLICY.

Foreigners Will be Permitted to Compete With Americans in Publishing Supplies.

Cincinnati, May 26.—The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Cincinnati Commercial club closed tonight with a banquet, at which the speakers discussed the questions of the day. Secy. of War Taft made the principal speech, on "Policy and Practice," saying:

"If the Panama were inside the territory of the United States, of course all material used on the canal would pay duty or be brought in the United States, but as the construction of the canal is a number of days' journey from the tariff wall of the United States, it presents exactly the same case as in the case of the Philippines, etc. Now Congress wants to say more than France is willing to say, then they are at liberty to do so, but in the absence of a rule we feel we must carry out the rule that applies."

"That law requires that, prices and quality being the same, we must buy American goods. In the absence of a rule we feel bound by our trust to build the canal as possible. We submitted the question to Congress on this line, asking Congress to lay down a rule if there is no rule we must build as a business man would build. Now there is no question of protection or free trade; it is merely our duty under the law as it stands. If the rule has been changed we must change."

He spoke of the work of the commissioners of the canal, and praised highly the men who have put in the hard labor. He then spoke of the relation of the government to the railroads.

"I cannot but think," he said, "that the discussion is now going on has had a much wider scope than is necessary. The question is the passage of certain legislation, and the discussion is properly considered by consideration of such legislation."

He explained the present status of the interstate commerce commission, calling attention to its reference to "unreasonable rates," and the position of the interstate commerce commission on the matter. He insisted that the measure proposed was a very moderate measure, and that it was unfair to denounce it so severely as had been done.

He believed the changes proposed by the East-Townsend bill would result in good.

President Lucas Tuttle of the Boston & Maine railway spoke of "The Relation of the National Government to the Railways." He said in part:

"I have yet to meet the well-versed railroad official who believes it possible to select any five, ten, and 20 miles of river, how able, honest, or expert, to whom could be safely intrusted the power to supervise or prescribe, either in whole or in part, the transportation rates of this great country without risk it imminent and widespread danger to every commercial interest."

"I believe I was almost without dissent railroad officials saying that it accepts the general principle that the governments relation to public transportation companies should be that of wise supervision to prevent, insofar as is practicable, every injustice practised, either by them or against them, have reasonable faith in the principles I have been only instrumental in building up so successfully and wonderfully the world's intercourse cannot have so suddenly gone wrong in the performing of their most important functions as to warrant the hasty application of drastic and untried remedies."

The closing speech, by Melvin E. Ingall, a prominent man from New England as president of the Big Four railway, brought a new and striking suggestion for added powers for the interstate commerce commission. After remarking that as he had retired and was now a private citizen, he would talk railroad rates, he said:

"You should investigate the railroads as you would any other business, turn them inside out. Give the Interstate Commerce Commission all the clerks they want and full authority to investigate the railroads, but don't give them power to fix rates. What the people want and will have is equal and fair treatment to all."

ISLAND OF SAKHALIN.

Rumor that the United States Wants to Buy It.

St. Petersburg, May 26.—The Tenochechka, a radical anti-government organ, prints the rumor that the United States government is in the market for the purchase of the island of Sakhalin. The paper, which takes every opportunity to place the Russian government in a poor light, says that the United States is interested in the island because it can pick up the island with its rich forests and mines at a bargain, as Russia is unable to protect it.

RIO GRANDE IS SPREADING.

El Paso, Tex., May 26.—The Rio Grande river has spread over the Mella valley north of El Paso and has done great damage to crops, especially alfalfa. Many adobe houses have also crumbled and the inhabitants have fled to high ground. A Santa Fe freight train was wrecked today as it

went through the valley.

New York, May 27.—A dinner to welcome Edward B. Warman, author of his return from London has been arranged by the Pilgrims of the United States. It will be given June 2 at the Waldorf Astoria. President Roosevelt and his cabinet officers have been invited, and many other public men are expected as guests.

New York, May 27.—A new Pennsylvania railroad iron bridge across the Hackensack river in Jersey City was blown up, apparently by dynamite, early today. The noise was heard throughout Jersey City. No one was hurt.

No definite information has been obtained as to the cause of the explosion. Minor officers were in charge at the scene, and there had been no other trouble of any kind recently and they believe the explosion was caused by an accident.

The new bridge spanned the Hackensack meadows from the foot of Newark Avenue, Jersey City, and when completed would have been 400 feet long. The old bridge now in use spans 200 feet away and was not damaged.

While there is no motive for the action otherwise than pure malice it is believed by the police who are now at work on the case that the explosion was caused by some person who rowed out under the structure in boat. No estimate of the damage has yet been made.

Will Welcome Choate.

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