

Around the Globe.

Nicaragua Canal—Ignoring the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and the fact that Admiral Walker's canal commission had not yet reported and might not report in favor of the Nicaraguan route, the national house passed by a vote of 225 to 45 Congressman Hepburn's canal bill. The motive apparently was to express a hearty belief in the canal project. It was generally understood that the measure would not pass the senate at this session. Some of the Washington correspondents said that another motive was defiance of C. P. Huntington's railroad lobby, which opposes the enterprise. The bill provides for the purchase of needful territory, the construction and ownership of the canal by the government and its "defense" rather than its "fortification," this latter a concession to opponents who plead our international relations as opposed to fortification.

The "Free Home" Bill, which has been before congress for years, was passed by the house of representatives. It provides that the government shall issue patents to homestead settlers on agricultural lands already opened to settlement, on Indian reservations; shall pay the purchase price to the Indians, and shall pay the endowments to agricultural colleges from the sale of public lands, in case of deficiency. These payments involve \$1,200,000 annually. Of the 29,000,000 acres in Indian reservations opened to settlement for which the government is to pay, or has paid \$35,000,000, about 8,000,000 acres have been taken and about 2,000,000 are supposed to be still available for agricultural purposes. The venerable Galusha A. Grow of Pennsylvania, the oldest member of the house, spoke in behalf of the bill recalling his speech for the agricultural homestead bill 48 years ago, when he was the youngest member of the house.

A Pan-American Congress will be held next year in the City of Mexico, through the instrumentality of our state department. All the republics in the western hemisphere have accepted the invitation. Not merely the fostering of our trade with central and South America is desired, but an opportunity to dispel the impression that our government has designs on Central and South American territory.

Church Gatherings—Worldly amusements, the liquor curse and divorce were considered by the Methodist general conference in session at Chicago. This great gathering followed close upon the world's conference of evangelical missionary bodies at New York. The missionary gathering was notable for enthusiasm and the disposition to simplify creeds and get together. The daily attendance at the meetings was 15,000. An international organization was formed after its close to carry out various plans set forth at the meeting.

Status of the Islands—Charles H. Allen was inaugurated governor of Porto Rico May 1, and addressed his fellow citizens of the island with the utmost cordiality and the promise of liberty and progress. Meanwhile the question just how far the islands taken from Spain are subject to the federal constitution is before the United States supreme court. In several cases recently entered. Decisions in all of these cases are not expected during the present term of the court. In the case of Porto Rico, the civil government bill as passed makes the island neither a state nor a territory, like Hawaii. The inhabitants are not citizens of the United States, but of Porto Rico, under the protection of the United States. Cuba and the Philippines are under a military rule, entirely at the discretion of the president of the United States, the former having promise of home rule as soon as she demonstrates her fitness for it.

Trusts—Standard oil's March dividend of 20 per cent was followed by a May 1 dividend of 10 per cent. This company has raised by 10 per cent the wages of 25,000 employees throughout the country.

A blow at trusts is a recent decision of the appellate division of the New York supreme court, which decides that the investment by a trustee of the funds

in his possession in the stock of an industrial combination formed for the purpose of controlling prices is illegal and unauthorized. The judgment also decrees that the trustees in the case in which the adjudication was made shall pay over to the estate, out of their own pockets, the sum thus invested, the same as if no such investment had been made.

Parcels Post—Following upon the parcels post treaties with Germany and Nicaragua comes a third which has recently been consummated with Venezuela. It is said that negotiations along this line are progressing favorably between Postmaster-General Smith and the British postal department.

Personal Germany's crown prince, Frederick William Victor Augustus Ernest, became of age, at 18 years old, May 6, which event was celebrated throughout the empire with thanksgiving and praise. The future sovereign is described as a modest, thoughtful youth, with large gifts of intellect, who looks like his father, Emperor William. His children of the emperor are six sons and one daughter.

Capt Chadwick of the navy was severely reprimanded by Secretary Long, in a public letter, for saying unpleasant things about Admiral Schley to a newspaper correspondent, who printed them in his paper. The correspondent, Capt Chadwick said, abused his confidence, the conversation being private. Chadwick was captain of the cruiser New York in the Spanish war and Admiral Schley was in command of the Brooklyn.

Bear Envoys constituting a peace commission, sailed from Rotterdam for the United States in the hope of enlisting popular sympathy for their cause. They are President Wessels of the Orange free State parliament, Dr Mueller, the Orange free State minister at The Hague; Dr Boeschoten, Dr Fischer and others.

American Lumber for Japan—A timber raft containing 14,000,000 ft is being made up at Puget sound for Japan. It will be conveyed by a half dozen gigantic tugs. This is the greatest enterprise of the kind ever undertaken, and may be the forerunner of an extensive business if this first raft can be successfully tugged across the Pacific.

New York follows the example of Massachusetts in making a law prohibiting the wearing of song birds on hats.

Thousands of Japanese have entered the United States at Port Townsend, Wash. or from Canada. The danger of a war between Japan and Russia is probably responsible for this immigration.

There was wholesale slaughter of miners by an explosion near Salt Lake City, at Scholfield, nearly 300 being killed. Public sentiment is demanding precautions for the safety of miners.

Representatives of a large number of agricultural and mechanical associations of the Dominion recently urged the Canadian governor-general to ask for a grant of \$100,000 to hold a Dominion exposition at Toronto at the same time the Pan-American exhibition occurs at Buffalo.

There have been organized in the U S in the past dozen years about 10,000 co-operative creameries which make yearly about one half billion pounds of as good butter as the best dairies. It is generally admitted that creamery butter is worth 25 per cent more on the average than the homemade article, so it takes but little figuring to show that creameries are of \$25,000,000 benefit to the farmer each year. To say nothing of the general enterprise which has brought about a large increase in the amount of the products.—[A. Lyman Mass

Beware of Tree Agents—A new tree-agent scheme is reported by some of our readers. The agent of an Ohio nursery company agrees to plant an acre to fruit trees, such as apples, pears, plums, peaches and small fruits, for \$110. One-half the price is to be paid down and the balance at the end of 5 yrs, and they agree to take one-half the fifth year's crop for the \$55. During this time they will send a man to trim the trees and advise as to their care. As

the nurserymen are well aware that only a small part of fruit trees planted ever live to bear, especially when set by inexperienced men, they expect the 55 first payment to cover the cost of trees, planting and profits and anything received after that is clear gain. It is not advisable to plant several kinds of fruit together in this way and the one who tries it will be sick of it in a few years. The trees to plant an acre can be bought of reliable nurserymen who advertise in Farm and Home for less money and the buyer can have the choice of varieties, while in the other case he would have to take what nobody else wanted and varieties which would probably be unsuitable or undesirable.

Judicial Scoring on Oleo—The Ohio supreme court has ousted the Capital City Dairy Co, one of the two oleomargarine manufacturers of the state, by compelling it to sell its product uncolored. The decision is based on the violation by the company of the law forbidding the use of artificial coloring matter in oleomargarine. Without coloring matter, there are but few who will buy the stuff. The decision is a great victory for the dairy interests, but has been appealed to the U S superior court.

The Kieffer Pear has become one of the most prominent fruits of the day. The price of trees has greatly advanced and nurserymen are unable to supply the demand. Bearing trees had a good crop last year. The Kieffer has depreciated the value of the luscious and faultless Bartlett, Lawrence, Anjou and others of this class. It may be shipped to foreign lands and many have been sent to Europe. The practice of labeling canned Kieffer Bartlett is not to be commended, as when canned they are as good as any other variety.—[R. S. Emory, Md.

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