

THE NICARAGUA CANAL

Work of Survey Soon to Begin by United States Commission.

Three Employees Start Ahead for Port Limon with Part of the Outfit to Make Preparatory Arrangements.

Three employees of the Nicaragua canal commission have left New York with a large quantity of provisions, materials and other outfit for the commission's use, on the Atlass liner Adironack, for Port Limon. They start in advance of the commission, so as to have things ready by the time the members arrive. The commission, which was appointed by President McKinley last summer, consists of Rear Admiral John W. Walker, representing the navy; Col. Lester Haines, for the United States army, and Prof. Lewis M. Haupt, a civilian. They are to survey a route for the proposed Nicaragua canal.

Rear Admiral Walker said that the commissioners would leave in the near future. He said further:

"We shall go on the gunboat Newport, which is now at the Brooklyn navy yard. We require for our work any amount of instruments, in short, a supply of everything which foreign suggests that we shall need. We expect to take about 40 men with us, but little or no freight, as the Newport is a small boat. The white labor we shall take with us, but at Nicaragua we shall employ considerable native labor so as to bring our total numbers of laborers up to about 200. How long we shall be engaged at the work I cannot say. A thorough survey will be made from the eastern coast to the western. Of course other routes have been surveyed before, but we shall proceed independently of them, selecting that route for the canal as in our judgment is best."

**RULES FOR PATENTS.**

Changes in the Proceedings Before the Department January 1.

Acting Commissioner of Patents Green has made a number of important amendments to the rules governing the practice of the patent office, and they have been approved by Secretary Blais.

These rules will apply to all cases filed after January 1, all cases filed prior thereto being subject to the old rules.

The new rules provide that no invention submitted is patentable if it has been described in printed publications two, or more years, before its filing. Heretofore, if a foreign patent had been taken out before an American patent, he should go to the ledges in the faraway Siberian territory. He made a journey of 2,000 miles by rail over the recently constructed trans-Siberian railroad. At Irkutsk he was in a vehicle to a point 2,000 miles farther distant on one of the streams flowing from the mountains into the Amoor river. There he found miners delving in the richest of placer mines.

Some idea may be formed of the wealth of the region in precious metals when it is considered that gold to the value of \$10,000,000 had been taken from one gulch or ravine not over two miles long.

"As a mining region the country differs from California and resembles the upper Yukon districts in this, that no

sign of a secondary upheaval of nature is visible.

The placer leads show that the gold deposits are the result of glacial action without subsequent volcanic disturbance.

ASSAIS CHURCH SOCIALS.

Chicago Evangelist Causes a Commotion at Kewanee.

Not for years have religious circles at Kewanee, Ill., been so agitated as they were the other day because of an address delivered in the M. E. church by Evangelist Lindfield, of Chicago.

Church socials and entertainments have been given by the religious organizations of the city, so many, in fact, that the evangelistic services held by Mr. Lindfield have not been well attended. In the pulpit he took clippings from the local newspaper giving the reports of such socials and read them aloud to the congregation, after which he made most scathing remarks about the Christianity which tolerated them. In the newspaper reports there were the names of many prominent ladies of the various churches, and their sincerity was questioned by the speaker, with the result that the address has aroused much feeling and antagonism.

"When a real Christian wishes to give 25 cents to the cause of the Lord," said Mr. Lindfield, "he has no right to demand that an oyster supper be thrown in. The church social and kindred entertainments are only means of extorting money from unwilling people, and I put them in a class with the saloon and the gambling den. They are a form of robbery, and the church which accepts money from such sources is full of the works of the devil."

Especially bitter was the speaker against a Klondike social to be given the coming week at one of the large churches, and he openly ridiculed the promoters, who are among the most prominent people of the city.

SIBERIA'S RICH GOLD MINES.

Vatican Archives Do Not Contain a Certain Document.

Engineer Tells of His Experience in the Faraway Land.

Russell E. Dunn, a mining engineer of San Francisco, brings the news that Siberia equals if not exceeds the Klondike.

A year ago Dunn was summoned to Paris by cable to consult with a French syndicate regarding quartz mining in Siberia. It was determined that he should go to the ledges in the faraway Siberian territory. He made a journey of 2,000 miles by rail over the recently constructed trans-Siberian railroad.

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THEIR SALARY IS EXEMPT.

Postmaster's Compensation Cannot be Taxed by State or Municipality.

The issue as to whether a state or municipality can levy an income tax on the salary or compensation of a postmaster, a subject of broad interest to the federal service generally, was decided in an opinion rendered by Acting Assistant Attorney-General, Harrison J. Barrett for the post office department.

The case arose on an inquiry from the postmaster at Gastonia, N. C. It held that a state has no authority to tax the emoluments paid to any officers or agents which the United States may use and employ as necessary and proper means to execute its sovereign power.

One year is named as the period within which failure to prosecute will be held to constitute an abandonment of the application for a patent.

MAY COST COLOMBIA DEAR.

American Returns and Tells of an Outrage Suffered There.

George W. Schiffer, who arrived at New York the other day on the Atlass liner steamer Adirondack from Port Limon, tells a story of alleged outrage that may call for interference by the Washington authorities. Mr. Schiffer is an American citizen and a resident of Buffalo, N. Y. He was superintendent of the gold mine of the Puma Mining company at Honda, in the United States of Colombia.

Mr. Schiffer says that through ignorance of the customs of the country he failed to turn in a certificate of the quantity of native liquors sold at the mining company's stores. For this offense, he says, nine armed soldiers entered his house in the middle of the night and attempted to drag him to jail. He resisted and kept them at bay till morning. Subsequently Mr. Schiffer says, he was dragged slowly in the fierce sun by the longest route to the courthouse at Victoria, 25 miles distant from Honda. A rope was tied around his neck and he was jeered at, insulted and otherwise ill-treated by the natives. Mr. Schiffer, after his release, instituted with the United States minister at Bogota a suit for \$25,000 damages against the Colombian government.

WARSHPES AS CLUB HOUSES.

Practices of Lending Them to Naval Militia Is Denounced.

In a report to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt on the naval militia, Commodore Francis Dickens, assistant chief of the bureau of navigation, denounces the practice of loaning war ships for militia cruise in summer.

"The natural consequences," he says, "have been that the training of the officers and men of our national vessels and fleet maneuvers have been seriously interfered with, just at a time when they should be engaged in those drills on our coast, as that season furnishes the best weather for maneuvering."

He points out that naval militia's practical value in war will be in coast defense work. As such it is really a part of the military, and its drills should be in alliance with the army, not the navy.

"The vessels," he says, "have been more or less used as clubhouses for the naval militia. I would suggest that their training be confined to such work along the coast as I have indicated. I would also recommend that each state maintaining naval militia battalions erect an armory on shore, where boats and equipments of all kinds shall be kept."

New Women Among the Aristocracy.

The autumn has developed two fresh specimens of the "new woman" among the aristocracy. Lady Gifford is personally hunting a pack of harriers regularly while the duchess of Bedford has established her reputation as a first-class shot and in Bedfordshire knocks over high rocketing pheasants with the best shot among the men.

BIG HALL for New York.

Greater New York is to have a hall of education, to cost something like \$500,000. The project has been dragging along for nine years. It is to be used exclusively by the board of education, which now rents quarter on the outside from time to time.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00; Edition de Dimanche, \$2 00.

BRYAN ON THE GRIDIRON.

Late Presidential Candidate Starts a Game of Football.

William J. Bryan, late presidential candidate, appeared in Columbia, Mo., the other day, in an altogether new role.

Mr. Bryan participated in his first game of football. Clad in a striped old gold and black sweater, the erstwhile presidential candidate appeared on the athletic field of the Missouri university and took part in the game. It was a practice game between the varsity and alumni teams, and Mr. Bryan had been persuaded to go out to the field by the college boys. Once on the field, it was suggested that the distinguished guest take part in the game.

At the solicitation of Capt. Hill and Coach Young, Mr. Bryan consented to kick off for the alumni. Capt. Hill offered the Nebraskan his sweater, which was pulled on, and amid a deafening cheer college yell Mr. Bryan strode on the field. The ball was placed in position and after a few rehearsals Mr. Bryan planted his No. 10 fairly and equally under the sphere and the ball went sailing down the field for 40 yards. Mr. Bryan retired to the side lines and watched the scrimmage, continuing to wear the sweater during the game. He was much impressed with the play, and said that, while it was not played in his college days, he was certain that he would have been on a team had he been given a chance.

Mr. Bryan was given another entertainment at night in the way of an old-time "possum supper, at which 150 guests sat down.

NO PAPER FROM PONTIUS PILATE

Magazine Do Not Contain a Certain Document.

Acting Engineer of San Francisco, brings the news that Siberia equals if not exceeds the Klondike.

A London news agency has revived the old report as to the existence in the vatican archives of a communication addressed by Pontius Pilate to Emperor Tiberius respecting the crucifixion of our Saviour. It sent out what purported to be a literal translation.

The papers promptly stamped it as an impudent forgery, which it undoubtedly is. Several French journals and one New York sheet had given wide currency to similar stories, and this publicly led to inquiries at Rome for trustworthy information.

These facts are these: Not long ago the paper was informed from two sources that fragments of manuscripts concerning the crucifixion of Jesus had been discovered, particularly a communication from Pilate to Tiberius.

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