

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866

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Serious Blow to the Canal.

Report of the Commission to Examine the Nicaraguan Route

Says the Project is Impracticable on Present Data.

From The New York Herald

A serious blow has been dealt the Nicaraguan Canal Company's project for the construction of a waterway across the Isthmus by the report of the Nicaraguan Commission.

Inevitable delay and a further and more thorough investigation of the entire subject are declared to be necessary before even the engineering feasibility of any canal across Nicaragua can be decided upon.

I am able to give to the public through the *Herald*, for the first time, a review of the contents and the report of the Nicaraguan Canal Commission. This report is now lying on the President's desk, and is being considered by him in connection with his annual message to Congress.

The report is at such variance with the numerous rumors and predictions which have from time to time been published concerning it, that it will cause great surprise and disappointment among those who have hoped for a generally favorable report, and who have, therefore, placed credence in these rumors, which usually stated "on the favored authority" that the Commission favored the route proposed by the company, and placed the cost of the canal at about \$110,000,000.

The report points out that it is neither practicable nor advisable to attempt the construction of the Nicaragua Canal upon the data at present available, and that the undertaking would be fraught with hazards too obvious to disregard.

That the necessary knowledge may be had of the physical and topographical conditions affecting the construction and maintenance of a canal across Nicaragua, upon which to form a final judgment as to the feasibility, permanence and cost, the commission recommends an appropriation by Congress of \$350,000 for extensive additional surveys and examinations, covering a period of eighteen months.

With the data at hand, however, the commission makes a provisional estimate of cost of \$133,472,893, or nearly double that of the Maritime Canal Company's unconditional estimate of \$69,893,660.

The commission makes its estimate "provisional," for the commissioners say the existing data are inadequate as a basis for estimating the cost of many structures. Some portions of the work may cost more; others less.

The report says the official estimate by the company of \$69,803,660, is insufficient for the work; that "in several important cases, the quantities must be greatly increased, and in numerous cases the unit prices do not make proper allowance for the difference in cost of work between the United States and Nicaragua."

The general trend of the entire report is certainly very unfavorable to the canal company. The commission refrains from any direct criticism of the company's prospectus, but its report shows that certain features, which the company has persisted in assuring the public, through Congress, were known to be absolutely safe and feasible, if put in execution might jeopardize the practicability of the whole system, and possibly destroy forever the hope of a canal by means of the San Juan River and Lake Nicaragua.

For instance, the Maritime Canal Company has proposed to construct in Ochoa, on the San Juan River, twenty-nine miles from Greytown, on the Caribbean, what is known as a "rock-fill" dam to hold the lake and river level at a navigable elevation, and divert the line thence from the river to the sea by a canal in excavating. This has, in fact, been one of the foregone certainties of the project, and the company has told Congress that this enormous structure could be erected for \$977,273.

The Canal Commission says a "rock-fill" dam cannot be built in Ochoa for less than \$4,000,000. It also shows

that the dam, at any rate, is a most hazardous venture, but the Commissioners have so little information as to the nature of the site of the dam that they cannot, as engineers, recommend any sort of a structure at this point, although they admit the necessity for the success of the company's scheme of a great dam in this locality.

The Ochoa dam is referred to more than once in the report. In fact, it seems to be the pivotal point of the entire question—"the keystone of the whole project," the members of the Commission consider it. Numerous instances of successes and failures of "rock-fill" dams are cited, and the lesson drawn therefrom seems to leave the only problem to be solved in connection with the Ochoa dam that as to the nature of the foundation.

The Commission finds that the company has made few borings in the bed of the river where it proposes to build this colossal structure and that for lack of suitable tools the borings made reached such a shallow depth as to make them of little practical value in determining the character of the foundation on which the dam is to rest.

Members of the commission cannot, as engineers, commit themselves favorably to the constructing of such an unprecedented work, no matter how inviting and advantageous its successful completion would appear, without a thorough knowledge of the physics of the site. Such an examination might prove the construction of the dams to be practicable. Without such an examination, the Commission regard the erection of the dam as unsafe and dangerous, and it calls attention to the possibility of a heavy flood demolishing the structure and releasing such a head of water as to wash Greytown into the sea.

The conclusions of the report are eighteen in number, and are:

"The entrance to the harbor at Greytown, as proposed by the company, is too near the angle of the coast line, and should be moved eastward about a mile and a half, the present lagoon to be used as the inner harbor and connected with the entrance by a canal with a bottom width of 200 feet. The harbor throughout should be dredged to thirty feet below low water, and its depth increased to six fathoms at the entrance.

"For the canal from Greytown to Lock No. 1.—A bottom width of 100 feet, with a clear depth of thirty feet, and two intermediate and one terminal siding for meeting of vessels is preferable to the company's cross section of 120 feet bottom width, twenty-eight feet depth and no sidings. The location of the canal through the Benard lagoon is objectionable, and the line may probably be moved to the southward and straightened with advantage.

"Lock No. 1 to end of summit level, at Lock No. 3.—To reduce the lift of locks and dams in the Deceado Valley, four locks, with a maximum lift of twenty-eight feet, are preferable to three with a maximum lift of forty feet, as proposed by the company, particularly in view of the increase of the summit level elevation from 106 to 112 feet above sea level. The company's cross section of the canal between locks has a bottom width of 120 feet. The Commission believes that the width of 100 feet, with sidings at proper intervals, should be adopted.

"Eastern Divide Cut.—Additional borings on the axis of the cut, and parallel therewith, to cover proposed excavation, are necessary for information as to materials and their distribution. The vertical one-fifth to one slopes, proposed by the company, may have to be increased, and the cube thereby somewhat enlarged.

"The proposed basins, from the East Divide along the San Juan River to Ochoa, called the San Francisco basin, involve long lines of very heavy embankments in clay, traversing deep mud bottoms at some points, which will call for great care in construction. The width of the connecting channels now fixed by the company at 80 feet should be increased to 100 feet, and a depth of 30 feet provided below elevation 100. The height of all embankments should be raised to provide for a water surface elevation of 112, and the use of any portion of the embankments as weirs is inadmissible.

The Turkish Situation.

London, Nov. 26.—The Times will tomorrow publish a dispatch from Constantinople saying that the ministers' report on the guardship demands which was sent to the Sultan, was returned yesterday for revision, accompanied by a memorandum from the Sultan's first secretary, which stated that his majesty feared that the arrival of the six warships would encourage the Armenians to renew the disorders. The ministers yesterday again debated their report and came to the conclusion that no reason could be seen for the Sultan's fears. They again recommended compliance with the demands. Halil Rifaat Pasha the grand vizier, sought an audience with the sultan today with a view to persuading him to sanction the firmans, but he was not successful.

The Constitution Finished.

Thanks to the Steering Committee of the Convention.

Columbia, November 26.—The Constitutional Convention has practically finished its great work. The new organic law under which South Carolinians are to live for perhaps a generation has been finally adopted, and now all that remains to be done is for the committee on order, style and revision, to take out the rough edges and make the Constitution a symmetrical whole. Some few material changes may be accepted on this consideration to correct manifest constitutional errors, but the Constitution will necessarily remain the same as at present.

Suffice it to say as to the work of the Convention that every one in it has done the very best that he could, and done what he thought was for the good of the State and not for his personal or political profit. The Convention has generally done good work, and one that will in time redound to the credit of those who participated in it. The work today was perhaps as important as any during the session of the Convention.

The schedule adopted provides that the new Constitution shall go into effect on December 31, 1895.

The homestead law was amended again to-day by fixing out the proviso that the homestead when set aside could not be waived or mortgaged. The best that could be done in this line was to make it so that the consent of the husband and wife must first be obtained.

The section as to official costs being limited in small estates was struck out.

The article on the judiciary department was adopted without material changes. The only changes as to the operation as to judicial system were in the line of perfecting the plan as agreed upon. The point of material difference was the elimination of the section which recognized certain divorces. Senator Tillman, it will be remembered had a section incorporated recognizing certain divorces granted outside of the State, and to-day that was struck out.

The final work of the Convention was in every way satisfactory, and there seemed to be but little confusion in the closing hours.

The committee on style and revision will remain here and finish its work as soon as possible for the Convention, which is to meet here in a week's time, next Tuesday evening.—*News and Courier.*

Bail For Mrs. Oliver.

Columbia, Nov. 27.—Messrs. Melton & Melton appeared before Associate Justice Pope to-night on behalf of Mrs. Conway B. Oliver, who is confined in jail, charged with being an accessory before the fact to the murder of her husband, and made application for bail. Solicitor Nelson represented the State and Court. Stenographer McFeet read the testimony taken at the trial of T. C. Aughtly, charged with having committed the murder. Justice Pope said that he thought bail should be allowed and fixed the amount at \$1,000. Messrs. Melton said that the defendant could not give bond to that amount. Justice Pope replied that because of the gravity of the charge he could not fix a less amount, but if it was found that it could not be given he would hear argument as to why it should be decreased.

Derailed a Troop Train.

Jacksonville, Nov. 28.—A cablegram to the Times-Union from Key West, Fla., says: Advice from Cuba via the steamship Olivette state that near Cienfuegos, on Nov. 25, the insurgents, commanded by Leoncio Vidal, wrecked a train carrying 200 Spanish soldiers and a quantity of arms and ammunition. The insurgents placed a dynamite bomb on the track and it exploded with terrible force. The locomotive and the car next to it were torn to kindling wood and the other coaches derailed. The engineer, fireman and 13 soldiers, who were in the coach next to the engine, were killed by the explosion. Eighteen soldiers were also killed when the rear coaches were derailed, as they went down a high embankment. About 50 soldiers were wounded, some of them mortally. The soldiers who were uninjured were so horrified that they surrendered to the insurgents without resistance. The arms and ammunition captured were valued at many thousands of dollars.

Perico Delgado, the insurgent chief reported killed near Banes, is alive and operating in the Vuelto Abajo district at the head of 800 men. In the engagement at Banes with 300 Spanish troops Delgado's men were victorious. Thirty Spaniards were killed and 60 wounded. The insurgents lost 20 killed and 30 wounded. In the Vuelto Abajo district hundreds of men are leaving the tobacco plantations to join the insurgents. The planters complain that the Spanish authorities are unable to protect them.

Carolina at Atlanta.

The Crowds Were Immense, the Weather was Fine, the Troops Made a Handsome Appearance.

ATLANTA, November 28.—They all say that this has been the greatest of days at the Exposition, and all join in saying that South Carolina has made it the greatest of them all. Carolina may not have the business capacity to get up such a show, but her people know how to appreciate a good thing when it is on hand, and they can and do always arise to any emergency. This had been set aside as Carolina day long ago, and as time and circumstances progressed it had several days pinned on to it, but the red letter portion of the day's name was South Carolina. The Exposition management called this Atlanta day and Savannah day and S. M. Inman, and Athens, and then Macon and University and Butts county were strung on, but it so happened that South Carolina day was the kite, and the others only the tail. Yes, the old Palmetto State took off the laurels of the day, and, for that matter, of the entire Exposition, for the authorities all say that there were more Carolinians here than there were Georgians on their own day. The people of Atlanta are very close kin to Carolina, and no set of people could have come here that would have been more welcome, and that welcome has been shown on every side.

It has not been the matter of a day's growth, this mass of Carolinians. They have been coming here for several days to see the Exposition, and when the railroads got down to rock bottom in their rates, then the Palmetto boys came in train loads, a thousand at a time, and they kept on coming until the last minute, and the statistical experts now say there were from 10,000 to 15,000 Carolinians in the city for the occasion.

Of course Carolinians feel a pride in their soldiery and were on tiptoe to see what impression would be made by the troops from their State, and it may be said that the parade was truly imposing. Some few companies were a bit jagged in dress and drill, but they are true blue and always at the front, but on the whole Carolina did nobly, for there were 1,500 of her troops in line. The parade is said to be one of the finest seen here.

The procession in honor of Carolina day was magnificent. The 5th Georgia regiment was out in full force, as a special escort, with the Macon Hussars and Volunteers, headed by Governor Atkinson and staff. After the Georgia militia came the South Carolina contingent, headed by Governor John Gary Evans, who rode a fine white horse. At his side was Adj. Gen. Watts, and the staff followed in full uniform, there being: W. W. Bruce, assistant adjutant and inspector general; Col. Geo. S. McCrary, Col. I. H. McCalla, Col. J. W. Floyd, Col. D. W. McLaure, Col. W. R. Bullock, Col. R. Lowman, Col. W. J. Rollison, Col. H. T. Miller, Col. J. A. Mead and Col. Boyd Evans. In a carriage following rode Senator Tillman, Commissioner Roche and Dr. A. Toomer Porter. In the next carriage were Mrs. Will Jones, Mrs. N. G. Evans, Miss Lina Caldwell and Mr. N. G. Evans; next Miss Mary Evans, Miss Ollie Caldwell, Mrs. Howell Evans and Col. A. H. Pattison; next Mrs. Gen. H. L. Farley and Capt. W. A. Courtenay. Adj. Martin and others were in other carriages. Then came the Fourth Regiment Band, followed by Gen. Anderson and staff, which included Majors Harvey, Whitehead, Norwood and Eason. The splendid corps of Citadel cadets, Lieut. Jenkins commanding, came next, and were followed by the Porter Military Academy boys, Lieut. Whaley commanding. Then along came the magnificent 4th brigade of Charleston, in which were: The W. L. I. Battalion, Carolina Rifles, Sumter Guards, Maultrie Guards, Palmetto Guard, German Artillery, Naval Reserves and Irish Volunteers.

Then came the 21 brigade, Gen. Richbourg commanding, with his staff officers, Majors Newham, Heath, Kendall, Drew, Bamberg, Dugar, Calvo, Kirkland and sides, and the 21 regiment in command of Col. Willie Jones and Lieut. Col. Marshall and Capt. Brennan, and 1st regiment, Col. Hall, Lieut. Col. Tillman and Maj. A. O. Vally.

The Clemson cadets, who showed up finely, came in next, 215 strong. They were followed by the noble little band of Mexican Veterans, Col. Blanding, Capt. Gibbs and Mr. Beard. Then the Richland Volunteers, Fairfield Rifle Guards, Greenbrier Rifles, Governor's Guards, Pomara Rifles, Peake Guards, Lee Light Infantry, Chester; Tillman Volunteers, Orangeburg; Manning Guards, Darlington Guards, Sally Rifles, Gary Evans Volunteers, Laurens; Governor's Volunteers, Blackville; Edisto Guards, Bamberg Guards.

Fifth regiment infantry, Col. Boyd; Patrick Military Institute and Capt.

Mended a Broken Neck.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 29.—Two Cleveland surgeons, of national repute, Charles B. Humston and Samuel E. Kaestlin, have succeeded in a triumph of surgery which will astound the medical world. They have brought to complete recovery Erwin Keidel, a fourteen-year-old boy, who sustained a complete fracture of the third cervical vertebrae.

There is no case on record throughout the world where this has ever been accomplished before. The greatest surgical text books cite but two cases of even partial recovery. Both are English cases, and in the one, the victim died after fourteen months suffering and in the other after fifteen years of pain.

In contradistinction, the medical profession here are unanimous in asserting that young Keidel is now as physically perfect as he was before the fracture of the vertebrae was made. The fracture he sustained is exactly the same as that which is announced in the accounts of executions by hanging, wherein it is stated: "The neck was broken and death was instantaneous."

Erwin Keidel received his injury on August 24, when he was run over by a heavy wagon. The wheel in passing over him doubled his head under his body and the neck vertebrae snapped with a sound like the crack of a whip.

Dr. Kaestlin was immediately on the scene. He located the injury at once from the fact that respiration had ceased, the seat of the respiratory powers being located between the third and second cervical vertebrae.

Holding the boy's head so that the respiration returned, the doctor drove with him to the hospital. There Humiston was called and the two surgeons determined to throw precedent aside and enter into a struggle to save the boy's life. Delicate operations were entered into with the object of having the fractured vertebrae knit, and then the boy's head was placed in an immovable iron cage, while his body was also strapped down immovably.

A month after the time of the accident the cage was removed and the surgeons were amazed to find that their hopes had been entirely realized. Young Keidel will be allowed to return to his home next week, when the medical society of this city will officially announce the surgical marvel to the surgical world.

Sensational News From Venezuela.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Information of a somewhat sensational character with respect to the boundary dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain has leaked out here to-day. A letter written by a member of President Crespo's cabinet to a friend in this country discloses the fact that President Crespo's absence from the seat of government which has attracted some attention, had a purpose in view. He has been cautiously sounding the governors of the different provinces of the republic as to the forces which they could put into the field in case of war. Assurances, it is said, were given that a well equipped army of 100,000 men could be mobilized in case the president should determine upon a movement against British Guiana settlers on what is claimed to be Venezuelan territory, with a view of driving them back to the boundary, which Venezuela claims as her territory, namely back of the Essequibo river. Only part of this force would be necessary for that purpose the large army of 100,000 men, Crespo believes, would be necessary to meet the counter attack which the British Guianians, with aid of Great Britain would undoubtedly make in return for Venezuela's aggressive movement.

How To Prevent Croup.

Some reading that will prove interesting to young mothers. How to guard against the disease.
Croup is a terror to young mothers and to post them concerning the cause, first symptoms and treatment is the object of this item. The origin of croup is a common cold. Children who are subject to it take cold very easily and croup is almost sure to follow. The first symptom is hoarseness; this is soon followed by a peculiar rough cough, which is easily recognized and will never be forgotten by one who has heard it. The time to act is when the child first becomes hoarse. If Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is freely given all tendency to croup will soon disappear. Even after the croupy cough has developed it will prevent the attack. There is no danger in giving this remedy for it contains nothing injurious. For sale by Dr. A. J. China.

"OUR GREAT BEN TILLMAN."

He was the "star" attraction, and when he arose to speak the boys hurried and yelled as they did in the State campaigns. He first captured the crowd by taking a jocular view and insisting that hungry people did not care to hear speaking, and he would not trespass on the time of the audience. He soon saw he had a great many Carolinians present. He spoke of how utterly unprepared he was for a set speech and how he has had to work in the Convention, and said he had not come over here to talk to South Carolinians, but every where he went he was met with a "Hello, Ben" or "How-de-do, Senator?"

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