

FRENCH JUNK FROM PANAMA.

Machinery That Cost Millions in the Scrap Heap.

New York Sun.
The Isthmian canal commission has begun the job of transporting about 100,000 tons of old French junk from the isthmus to this city. The junk includes old locomotives, dump carts, tanks, barges, boilers, girders, dredges, sheet iron, parts of old machinery and other things for which the French Canal Company paid millions of dollars and which is left to go to ruin on the isthmus.

The commission is selling on competitive bidding all the old iron and steel about the canal route except such parts as may be reserved for canal work.

About 700 tons will be moved to the States every two weeks by the steamships Ancon and Cristobal. It will take three years to transport all of the junk. Most of it will be scrapped where it lies on the isthmus. The commission will ship no pieces of more than 20 tons in weight. This will permit the shipping of locomotive boilers with fire boxes and flues.

Most of this old material is of foreign manufacture, and as it is landed in New York Uncle Sam is confronted with the proposition of being obliged to pay himself \$1 a short ton on the entry. Under a provision in the sundry civil act of May, 1908, this duty will be returned by Uncle Sam to the canal fund, but to accomplish this without a special appropriation each year it will be necessary to have the sale consummated only after the junk has passed through the New York custom house. Each contractor will be under a bond of \$75,000, and payments are to be made to the canal commission after each delivery.

The sale is being made at this time chiefly for the purpose of getting out the old material that lies in the great basin of Gatun lake before the basin is filled with water. There are large quantities of the junk in the lake basin.

Each of the locomotives left by the French yields between \$400 and \$600 worth of copper alone. The commission will save the old steel rails on the isthmus to be used as re-enforcement in the concrete work and as telephone and telegraph poles.

Some of this old French junk has been found in extraordinary places. Dredges have been discovered almost completely buried in sand, hundreds of feet away from any body of water, and overgrown with dense tropical vegetation. Apparently they have been carried away from the riverbed by high water, the river itself has shifted its course. Several of these buried dredges were in a fairly good state of preservation and are now doing work on the isthmus.

Some of the junk has been lifted from the bottom of the Chagres river and from the bottom of the old French canal prism, where hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment sank after the French abandoned the work. Some of the relics in the canal prism near the crossing of the Rio Grande river were dislodged only after heavy charges of dynamite had been exploded under them. Others have been raised from watery graves and are now helping to link the Atlantic with the Pacific.

The profit from the sale of the French junk will be small compared with the value of the service that the commission already has derived from the cast-off equipment. For the first two years of their work the commission relied absolutely upon the old locomotives used by the French. In 1906 there were 106 of these weather-beaten locomotives in service, compared with only 15 American-made engines. Since that time the percentage of the French locomotives has steadily decreased.

French dump carts also were used almost exclusively by the commission in the first two years. At one time more than 2,000 of them were hauling the dirt from Uncle Sam's shovels. The French relics furnished also many shop tools, stationary engines and much repair materials in the early days of the construction work.

In fact, Americans may thank the old French equipment for the fact that the canal is today just half completed. Without the aid of this rusty, storm-battered assortment of French machinery there would have been long delays in providing an adequate equipment from the States. It is estimated that the French supplies and equipment thus far utilized amount to fully \$1,000,000.

A few days ago Mail Carrier John Williams witnessed an unusual sight, says an Exchange. The men at work cutting hay on James I. Mills' farm had gone to the house for some purpose, leaving the mules in the field attached to the mower. The mules got tired of loafing and decided to go on to work. When Mr. Williams passed they were going around the field, holding the machine in and cutting hay just as if a driver was behind them. He watched the mules for some time and says they made perfect turns at the corners and seemed to know just how deep to hold the machine.

How It Is Done.

Here is a story that was sent to the Philadelphia Inquirer the other day by its Washington correspondent:

There was a little gathering of statesmen in a five-room apartment on the ground floor of the Champ-lain apartments. The apartment is rented by the year, and is used as a little private clubhouse.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon lives just about half a block away, but he was the last to arrive.

"Hello, 'Uncle Joe,' what's been

keeping you?" shouted the group that had already gathered.

"Oh, late session, late session," said "Uncle Joe," taking off his coat and sitting down at the table. And the speaker of the house, the vice president of the United States, secretary of State Knox and a few of the leaders of the senate and house began to play a little game of cards.

And, adds the correspondent, if the average citizen had heard their pleasant little conversation about the Nicaraguan war, about railroad laws, about conservation and waterways,

he would have been puzzled no more about the way the boards are greased behind the scenes.

"Do You Drink?" the Employer Now Asks.

It has been growing harder and harder for men who drink to get or keep jobs says The Delineator for January. One after another of the great railroads have posted notices warning employees of instant dismissal if they are known to drink. Such a rule has more practical ef-

fect than a thousand temperance lectures. Frick's great iron and steel works at Homestead are under an absolutely total-abstinence regime. Marshall Field Co., enunciated a rule which has been followed to a less or greater extent by other mercantile establishments. "We will not, to our knowledge, place a young man who drinks in our business."

Many a bank clerk has passed a very humiliating quarter of an hour in the office of some surety company, while learning that because he was known to drink the company would

refuse to sign his bond unless he could furnish it acceptable security. The United States Labor Department, using percentages based on several thousand reports, found that ninety per cent. of the railroads, seventy-nine per cent. of the manufacturers, eighty-eight per cent. of the trades and seventy-two per cent. of the agriculturists discriminate against drinking men as employees.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.—Campbell.

\$500.00

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS GIVEN AWAY!

Great Voting Contest for
Readers of : : : :

THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON AND THE DAILY ITEM

A \$400 Piano and Two Gold Watches Costing \$50
Each are the Prizes.

Contest Opens Monday, Nov. 29th and Closes February 28th.

Do You Want the Piano? It is yours if you comply with the Easy
Conditions and Make the proper Effort.

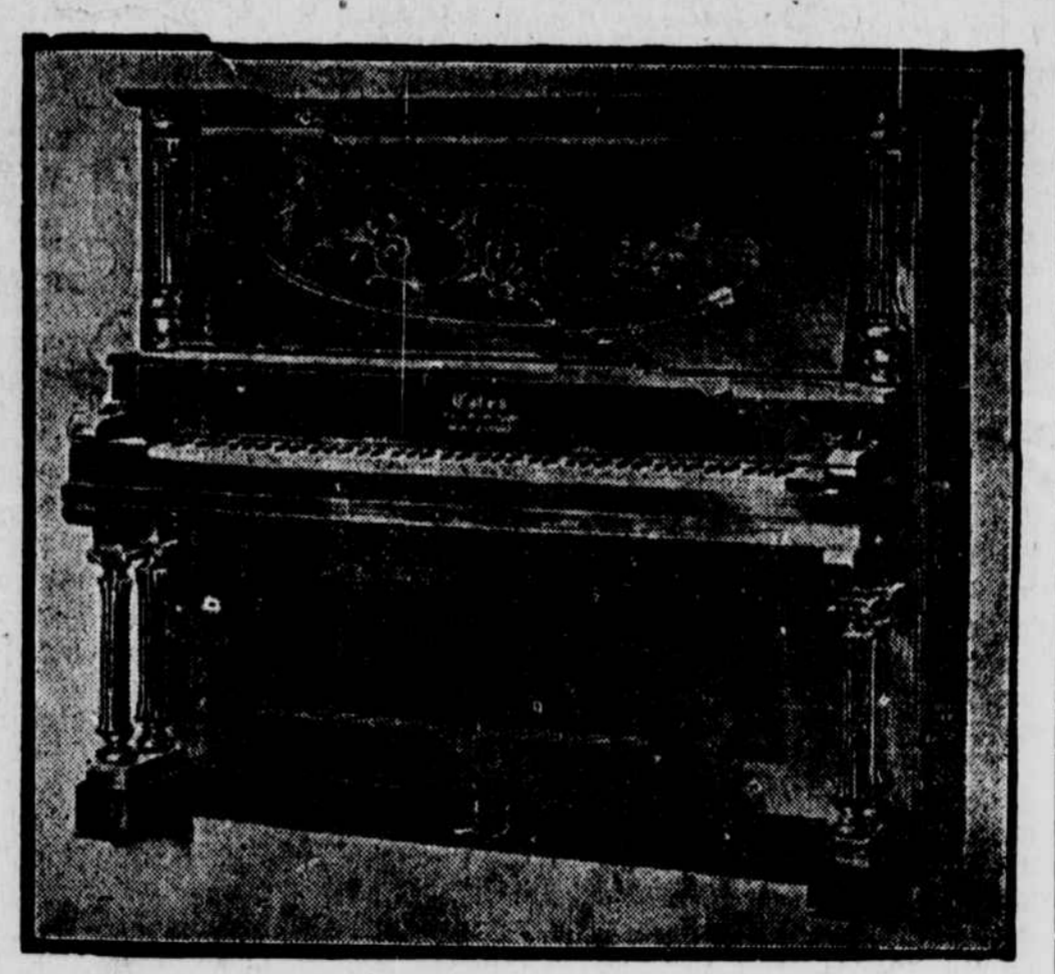
Conditions and Prizes.

The \$400 Piano, the grand prize of this contest, will be given to the subscriber or a nominee of a subscriber of the Watchman and Southron or Sumter Daily Item receiving the greatest number of votes in this contest. No matter where you live you are eligible to enter this contest.

One \$50 Gold Watch, either Gentleman's or Lady's size, as the winner may select, will be awarded to the person, not a resident of the City of Sumter, receiving the next largest number of votes.

One \$50 Gold Watch, either Gentleman's or Lady's size, will be awarded to the person resident of the City of Sumter, receiving the next largest number of votes.

The contest for the Grand Prize, the \$400 Piano, is open to all readers of The Watchman and Southron or The Sumter Daily Item. It can be won by a resident of Sumter, Lee or Clarendon County, or some other County. One Gold Watch as a special second prize to be contested for by non-residents of the City of Sumter, while the other is a special second prize to be contested for by residents of this city.



This Magnificent Cote Piano, which we will give away, is 4 ft. 9 in. high 5 ft. long and weighs, boxed, ready for shipment, over 800 lbs. The finest materials and most experienced workman have produced in the Cote an instrument excellent in tone, power, durability and appearance. This piano is installed in the best homes, conservatories and music halls in the land; is well known and widely recommended by the leading musicians and teachers. It is positively guaranteed for ten years by the Manufacturers.

Nominations.

Each and every person entering the contest must be nominated on one of the Nomination Blanks published in both the Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item. The nomination counts as 1000 votes, but only one nomination will be credited to a person.

In each issue of the Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item will be published a ballot which is good for the number of votes specified on the ballot.

How to Obtain Votes.

Every new subscriber paying in advance, will be credited for each dollar paid, 200 votes. Every old subscriber paying up back dues will be credited for each dollar paid 100 votes, and on each dollar paid in advance 200 votes. No votes will be given on payments of less than \$1.00. Every person or firm that brings or sends an order for advertising or printing and pays for same in advance will be entitled to 100 votes for each dollar paid. For money paid on accounts 50 votes will be allowed for each dollar paid, if money is brought or sent to this office. No votes will be given for money paid collector.

Nominations Close Dec. 24.

wishing to vote must send the money, for which a voting ticket together with a receipt, will be mailed to the person making the remittance. The tickets must be made out, signed and returned promptly to this office.

Nominations will not be received later than December 24, therefore, it is important that the blanks be mailed to this office at once. Remember every nomination blank counts for 1000 votes, but will not be counted twice for the same person. We have a supply of voting ballots at our office which must be filed there, properly signed, as the cash is paid for subscription, advertising or printing. Those at a distance made out, signed and returned promptly to this office.

THE WAY TO WIN.

Ask your friends and neighbors to subscribe for the Watchman and Southron or the Sumter Daily Item, and get them to vote for you as their candidate. Ask your friends and neighbors or the merchants with whom you deal to patronize the Osteen Publishing Company by advertising in Watchman and Southron and the Daily Item, and by giving us their printing, and get them to vote for you or your candidate. If you do not want the Piano or one of the Gold Watches yourself or have no friend you wish to win one of the elegant prizes, perhaps your Sunday School, or public school, or lodge needs a fine piano, and this will be the golden opportunity. It costs nothing to enter the race or to vote. If you are now a subscriber to either of our newspapers the votes are given for payments you will make anyway. If you are not a subscriber you ought to be, for you need your home paper. If you or your friends give us your printing, you get the best work at the lowest prices consistent with good work and good material. We challenge and meet any and all competition on price and quality.

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SEE PIANO ON DISPLAY AT THE SAVOY ICE CREAM PARLOR.