

BIG CANAL WILL SOON BE OPEN

Great Engineering Feat to be Completed This Month in New York.

Albany, N. Y., May 12.—We hear so much about the Panama Canal, but do not realize that there is to be opened in New York State this month a canal nearly ten times as long as the one in Panama.

The New York State Barge Canal, which is now practically completed and ready to be opened to navigation between Buffalo and Albany, has been called the world's greatest engineering feat, not alone because of the many engineering problems encountered in its construction, but also an account of the many peculiar and original structures which are to be found in the various channels.

The Panama Canal covers only a district of fifty miles, while the New York canal extends over 530 miles. It has to cross railroads, skirt cities, make junctions, follow river beds, climb over mountains and drop down through valleys.

Fifty-seven locks have been built in the canal. Then there are ten smaller ones. On the Panama Canal there are but six pairs of locks. At Little Falls there is a lock which is the highest one in the world—40 feet higher than the lock at the Gatun section of the Panama Canal. At Medina, this canal goes through a gorge 90 feet deep and 500 feet wide. Across this there is an aqueduct built of concrete with a span of 285 feet and width of 129 feet.

The New York canal has 30 dams, while the Panama Canal has only three. The drop of the new canal to the sea level is 563 feet. The drop of the Panama Canal is 120 feet. The dimensions of the new canal vary according to the locality, but it has a minimum depth of 12 feet throughout. It is 75 feet wide, with earth sections of the "land line" 94 feet wide in rock cuts and has a minimum width of 209 feet in the beds of canalized rivers and lakes.

The new waterway is an enlargement of the old Erie Canal, to which has been added a number of important links and feeders. The old canal, from Buffalo to Albany, is 39 miles long. The principal additions are the Champlain canal, 61 miles long; the Oswego canal, 23 miles long; and the Cayuga-Seneca canal, 23 miles long, giving a total length to the new waterway of 446 miles.

Some of the locks on the new canal are the finest in the world, the five at Waterford, the eastern entrance to the Erie, having the distinction of being the greatest series of high lift locks in existence. They have a combined lift of 169 feet, which is one foot less than the total lift of every lock in the Panama Canal. Other works on the

OPEN LETTER IS SENT CONGRESS

Either Include Quakers For Service or Eliminate All "Conscientious Objectors"

(By George H. Manning.)
Washington, D. C., May 12.—The American Union Against Militarism which has been urging the administration to adopt in the proposed draft law the English provisions regarding "conscientious objectors" addressed a plea to the conference committee, urging them either to strike out the present exemption granted to Quakers or else to broaden the exemption clause to cover "conscientious objectors" regardless of their denominational connections. The open letter to the committee was as follows:

"Both the House and Senate bills recognize the consciences only of those who happen to belong to a 'well-recognized sect whose creed opposes participation in the war.' Both bills fail to recognize the right of the individual conscience although conscience is nothing if not individual. At the request of a number of organizations and individuals, including the Quakers, who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war, we urge the conference committee to adopt the English provisions providing for the examination and exemption of 'conscientious objectors' regardless of their religious connections. We urge its adoption:

(1) "Because the present provision is grossly discriminatory and should either be stricken out entirely or changed to include any and all persons who have real conscientious scruples against participating in war."

(2) "Because the present language in the bill does not even cover Quakers who have no formal creed."

(3) "Because the experience in England demonstrates that few slackers escape by virtue of such an exemption clause."

(4) "Because the principle of such exemption from military service is recognized in 24 of our State constitutions and in the statutes of 6 more."

The Union urges that direct participation in war could be assigned to useful non-combatant service.

The new waterway that have attracted world-wide attention in engineering circles are the great dams on the Mohawk and the great excavations at Cohoes, where the canal terminates in the Hudson river.

The waterway is costing the people of the State of New York \$150,000,000, and those who have studied it feel confident that it will accomplish the purpose for which it is constructed, the opening of a modern waterway for the easy, rapid and inexpensive transportation of goods from the Middle West to the Atlantic seaboard.

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