

THE POLK COUNTY NEWS.

JOHN CARNEGIE, PUBLISHER.

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THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 1905.

The Isthmian Canal.

The Government has undertaken a work of great difficulty. The construction of the canal will require much time and money, but when completed it will equal the greatest engineering feats of the world.

Although the board of consulting engineers has decided in favor of a sea-level canal, it is yet an open question whether the Panama Canal shall be a sea-level, or a lock water way. The decision of the board of consulting engineers is not final. The decision of the board was reached by a vote of 8 to 5 in favor of the sea-level project General Davis and Messrs. Burr and Pearsons joining with the five foreign engineers against a lock canal.

The report of the board of engineers probably will not be submitted to President Roosevelt for five or six weeks. As to the character of the project, the report will not be unanimous. In fact, two reports, one by the majority and one by the minority, will be submitted. These reports the President will lay before the canal commission and Chief Engineer Stevens for consideration. Mr. Stevens will come to the United States from the isthmus to take up the subject with the commission and with the President.

It can be stated with absolute assurance of accuracy that while due weight will be given to the decision of the majority of the board of engineers, the authorities who have the final determination to reach will approach the subject with care and deliberation and perfectly open minds. The President has discussed the question with some of his callers and he has indicated that the advocates of the sea-level project will have to prove their contention clearly. The cost, the time and the risk of the two projects will be gone over carefully.—Carolina Spartan.

MYRA NEWS ITEMS

Allen-Wilson Church Wedding—Huggins School Opened—People Busy Gathering Crops.

Commissioner Jackson will soon have his dwelling completed.

Huggins school house has opened with Miss Mary Pace as teacher.

People in this community are very busy now taking advantage of the fine weather gathering crops.

The young men's prayer meeting was held at Mountain Valley last Sunday and we are told they had a lively discussion.

C. C. Lovelace, of Mack Rutherford county, was at Big Level last Sunday and made a thrilling Sunday School speech.

There was a church wedding at Big Level last Sunday at 10 o'clock a. m. Fred Allen, of Rutherford county, and Miss Lillian Wilson, daughter of the late B. T. Wilson, were presented at the altar and united in matrimony, Rev. B. P. Jackson officiating.

IN POLK COUNTY REAL ESTATE.

Recent Transfers Made According To Records of Register Of Deeds.

Register of Deeds F. M. Burgess says there has been more transfers in real estate lately than at any time during his term in office. A few of the deals made follow:

C. Hamrick to J. G. Powell, 146 acres in Green Creek township, \$1,800 cash.

Mrs. M. E. Peck to C. W. Ballenger, 1 town lot in Tryon, \$500

C. S. Cox and wife to Alice F. Orr, 1 house and lot in Tryon, \$3,000.

John Orr and wife to Geo. P. Bollman, of Pittsburgh, Pa., 1 acre lot in Tryon, \$300.

Julia C. Goodell to W. J. Gaines, 1 house and lot in Tryon, \$2,500.

Geo. A. Gash to W. L. Gibbs and others, 62 acres in White Oak township, \$400.

Miss Ann Ridings to F. M. Burgess, 212 acres in Columbus township, \$5 per acre, total \$1,160.

SECRETARY ROOT'S ENERGY.

State Department Officials Astounded By His Capacity For Work.

The way in which Secretary Root has entered upon his official duties and his conceptions of them, have been a revelation to the old-timers in the state department. He has gone to work with a thoroughness that is without precedent in his office. Instead of taking the words of subordinates or taking anything for granted he has insisted on informing himself of the entire history from A to Z of everything that is likely to come before him in any way whatever.

Every afternoon as early as possible the secretary cuts short the business of the day, denies himself to visitors, orders that no cards be sent to him, leaves his office, and locks himself in the diplomatic room, where he busies himself in the record of cases. A force of messengers and clerks is kept busy bringing documents to him.

Meanwhile swarms of visitors, including some of high degree, try vainly to induce the messengers to take their cards in.

Here he stays until 6 or 7 o'clock every evening, working hard. By the time he has finished these preliminary studies at the rate he is going he will know more about all matters of current diplomacy and all that have any chance of becoming current than any man, from secretary to clerk, who has ever stepped foot in the building.

That stand-by of all executive departments the veteran clerk, who "has his finger ends," is to find his usefulness gone, because the secretary will know more than he does. Among the matters the secretary will know more than he does are our relations with Venezuela, our trade with Germany, our relations with the Moroccan question.

The labor of acquainting himself in a few weeks with the entire machinery and all the problems of the state department and of American and foreign diplomacy and statemanship is great, but no one familiar with Mr. Root's tremendous capacity for work doubts that it will take him less time than it would take almost anyone else. His manner of doing it has dismayed some of his subordinates, delighted others and astonished all.—New York Times.

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STARVATION AND STEALING.

An Ethical Question About Making The Punishment To Fit The Crime.

Another ethical question comes from Chicago on which there is room for lively sociological discussion. A merchant named Neumeister, summoned for duty on the grand jury, found occasion to declare that he would not vote to indict a man who had stolen food to keep himself or his family from starvation. The judge dismissed him with a rebuke of such views as a "first step towards anarchy." But Dr. Hirsch, the eminent Jewish educator, sustains Mr. Neumeister on ethical grounds.

The principle that theft must be invariably punished at least so far as the jury is concerned, leaving the question of clemency to the court, is indisputable in the abstract. But to put its practice on the impregnable basis courts should take a great care that the punishment is invariably in the case of great as well as small thefts. So long as the powerful can absorb millions by devious means and go unpunished, the rigid punishment of a poor wretch who steals food for his starving children is a longer step toward anarchy than Mr. Neumeister's heresy.

Still, considering the duty to which he was summoned, that attitude was extreme. A grand juror, considering that he is sworn only to determine whether there is enough proof to justify a trial, might well recognize that it is the function of the trial itself to determine whether the circumstances call for mercy. The duty of the trial juror in such a case would be much more puzzling. Theoretically the correct verdict would be one of conviction, with a recommendation to the extreme mercy of the court. But the juror who refuses to agree with such a verdict, unless he is sure the clemency will be extended, will be more to the liking of men with warm blood in their veins than the gilded person who will permit the unfortunate offender to go to jail without an effort in his behalf.

The case also calls for the remarks that Mr. Neumeister's heresy is not the most dangerous one. When we have had in this country a demonstration that a thief caught with the money on him and without the plea of starvation in his family, cannot in the presence of certain mysterious judicial indignation may probably be directed to the anarchy of such things.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

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J. G. Hughes bought the Saluda telephone system Tuesday. The owners of this property were Huggins, Thorne & Boone. This practically puts the telephone system in Polk county in possession of The Polk County Telephone Company, the only exception being the few connections of the Bell Company has on its long distance lines. The rates at Saluda were advanced 25 cents.

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