

GENERAL.

Patrick A. Collins was re-elected Mayor of Boston by a large plurality over George N. Swallow, the Republican candidate. The whole city election was a Democratic landslide, that party electing the mayor, street commissioner, twelve out of fifteen aldermen, all eight members of the School Board and having fifty-three members on the Common Council as against twenty-two Republicans.

The city of Galveston, Texas, is to be raised seven feet. Eleven million cubic yards of filling will bring the grade of the city to a level with the top of the sea wall now built. By this it is hoped to place the city beyond imminent danger from tidal waves. The expense of the undertaking will be about two million dollars.

The original manuscript of the first book of "Paradise Lost" is to be sold at auction by the Sothebys in March, 1904, unless it is sold privately before that time. It is announced that an American has offered \$250,000 for the manuscript. The authorities of the British Museum are trying to induce the government to make a grant to purchase the manuscript. Milton sold "Paradise Lost" for \$25 down and a promise of two more payments of \$25 each if two editions were sold.

The Secretary of the Treasury has asked for appropriations for 1904-1905 to the amount of \$624,502,146.

Moody Merrill, formerly a prominent Boston financier and politician, is dead. Ten years ago he fled the city and was arrested lately on the charge of embezzlement, and then defaulted.

Mrs. Hoar, wife of Senator Hoar, died suddenly at their home in Washington.

The Panama Canal.

The subject of the debate of Dec. 9, was stated: *Resolved*, That the treatment of Panama by the United States is justified. Messrs. Drew, Parker and Elliot took the affirmative, Messrs. Simonds, Keller and Schwartz, the negative.

The affirmative presented as its contention that the Spanish War has proven a canal to be necessary; the Walker Commission has decided in favor of the Panama route; Colombia has tried blackmail on us,

and that the treaty of New Granada justifies our course. Panama, before 1860, had seceded from Colombia three times, in 1860 joined as a sovereign state, and was reduced to a department in 1866. Always being dissatisfied, the late greediness of Colombia gave an excellent excuse for secession. As Panama has been a free state repeatedly, it is not difficult for her to again assume that position. Colombia refused the treaty so as to blackmail the United States and to secure a portion of the \$40,000,000 offered to the French Company. Panama, thus neglected by Colombia, revolted, and becoming a *de facto* government without opposition, might then properly be recognized, according to international law.

The negative pointed out that we have no right to inquire Colombia's motive in refusing the canal treaty; the fact must be enough for us. By the treaty of New Granada, the United States undertakes to maintain neutrality on the Isthmus and guarantees the rights of sovereignty and property of New Granada. The United States has carefully kept aloof from the fifty-three revolutionary riots of the last fifty-five years, and Colombia has put them down herself. Our government had no right to change its attitude at the present time. As to the treaty, Colombia was in no way bound to sign it and was right in demanding a maximum price for a valuable resource. Panama itself was not unanimous, for 130 citizens were deported. The ten days taken by us before ratifying the treaty was an insufficient time to determine if a *de facto* government existed.

The affirmative stated that Europe and South America desire a canal at any cost and if the course pursued was the only one, it was not wrong to take it. The specifications as to length, harbors, cost and difficulty of construction prove Panama the best route.

The United States interprets the treaty to mean that Colombia must be prevented from breaking peace. Colombia, wholly unable to ensure peace, has refused to ratify the treaty absolutely necessary to her welfare. It would have been weakness on our part to have acted otherwise, and having tried peaceable means we are wholly within our rights in the matter. It is really a duty to Panama and the world.

The negative characterized the United States as having acted prematurely. By international law a