

# NICARAGUA CANAL TREATY RATIFIED

**Senate Provides United States  
Control of \$3,000,000  
Option Payment.**

**ISLANDS FOR NAVAL BASE**

**Resolution Declares Rights of  
Costa Rica, Salvador, and  
Honduras Are Not Affected.**

**GEN. CHAMORRO PLEASED**

**Minister Expects Prompt Ratifica-**

**tion of the Convention by the**

**Nicaraguan Government.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Senate late this afternoon, after long debate and by a vote of 55 to 18, ratified the proposed treaty with Nicaragua, under which the United States is to acquire perpetual right of way along the San Juan River and the Lake of Nicaragua for a transoceanic canal by the payment of \$3,000,000 in gold.

General Chamorro, the Nicaraguan Minister, stated immediately after the Senate had acted that he expected early ratification of the convention by his Government.

As originally negotiated by Mr. Bryan, as Secretary of State, with the Nicaraguan Governor Chamorra, the treaty contained provisions for American supervision practically tantamount to an American protectorate. To meet what was then understood as opposition, those provisions were eliminated before Mr. Bryan resigned his portfolio. Today, in the Senate's resolution of ratification, those provisions, so far as they relate to American supervision of the expenditure of the \$3,000,000, are largely restored.

For the treaty in this afternoon's vote were forty Democrats and fifteen Republicans. Against it were five Democrats, led by Mr. Clarke of Arkansas, President pro tempore of the Senate, and thirteen Republicans. The five Democrats opposing ratification were Mr. Chamberlain of Oregon, Mr. Clarke of Arkansas, Mr. Martine of New Jersey, Mr. Thomas of Colorado, and Mr. Vardaman of Mississippi. The fifteen Republicans supporting the treaty were Mr. Brandegee and Mr. McLean of Connecticut, Mr. Colt and Mr. Lippitt of Rhode Island, Mr. Dillingham and Mr. Page of Vermont, Mr. du Pont of Delaware, Mr. Fall of New Mexico, Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire, Mr. Harding of Ohio, Mr. Lodge and Mr. Weeks of Massachusetts, Mr. Poindexter of Washington, Mr. Sutherland of Utah, and Mr. Wadsworth of New York.

With the exception of Mr. Poindexter, who is technically of the Progressive Party, all the Republicans supporting the treaty are of the conservative wing. These Republicans, led by Mr. Root of New York, as long as he was in the Senate, and by Mr. Lodge, took the view that the treaty was but a logical continuation of the Republican policy of dollar diplomacy, supplemented by provisions for ninety-nine-year leases to Great Corn and Little Corn Islands and to a naval base yet to be selected on the Nicaraguan coast of Fonseca Bay. They objected to the inclusion in the treaty of the Platt amendment to the Organic act of Cuba, which was originally proposed by Mr. Bryan, but after that provision was eliminated they rallied to the support of the treaty.

As the treaty was submitted to the Senate the only provision reminiscent of these features of a protectorate was one stipulating that the \$3,000,000 to be paid by the United States should be applied to the debt of Nicaragua. Presumably the United States could have enforced this provision by a certain control over at least a part of Nicaraguan finances. As amended, however, the treaty permits the application of the money to other public purposes, but provides that all disbursements shall be with the approval of the American Secretary of State or his agent.

Back in Mr. Bryan's time Costa Rica, Honduras, and Salvador protested that the treaty would work an infringement of their rights. This protest Mr. Bryan, to the still further alarm of Central America, met by suggesting that any of the countries could enter a similar arrangement under American protection. The Senate, however, met the protest today by adopting as part of its resolution of ratification a declaration that the rights of the three protesting countries were expressly preserved and in nowise impaired.

The text of the convention as amended by the Senate is as follows:

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Nicaragua, being animated by the desire to strengthen their ancient and cordial friendship by the most sincere co-operation for all purposes, of mutual advantage and interest and to provide for the possible future construction of an interoceanic ship canal by way of the San Juan River and the Great Lake of Nicaragua, or by any route over Nicaraguan territory whenever the construction of such canal shall be deemed by the Government of the United States conducive to the interests of both countries, and the Government of Nicaragua wishing to facilitate in every way possible the successful maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, the two Governments have resolved to conclude a convention to these ends, and have accordingly appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The President of the United States, the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State, and

The President of Nicaragua, Senor General Don Emilliano Chamorro, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua to the United States.

Whereas, Having exhibited to each other their respective full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

## ARTICLE I.

The Government of Nicaragua grants in perpetuity to the Government of the United States, forever free from all taxation or other public charge, the uncumbered exclusive rights necessary and convenient to the construction, operation, and maintenance of an interoceanic canal by way of the San Juan River and the Great Lake of Nicaragua or by way of any other route over Nicaraguan territory, the details of the terms upon which such canal shall be constructed, operated, and maintained to be fixed by mutual consultation between the two Governments whenever the construction of such canal shall be decided upon.

## ARTICLE II.

To enable the Government of the United States to protect the Panama Canal and the proprietary rights granted to the Government of the United States by the foregoing article, and also to enable the Government of the United States to take any measure necessary to the ends contemplated herein, the Government of Nicaragua hereby leases for a term of ninety-nine years to the Government of the United States the islands in the Caribbean Sea

**Continued on Page 3.**



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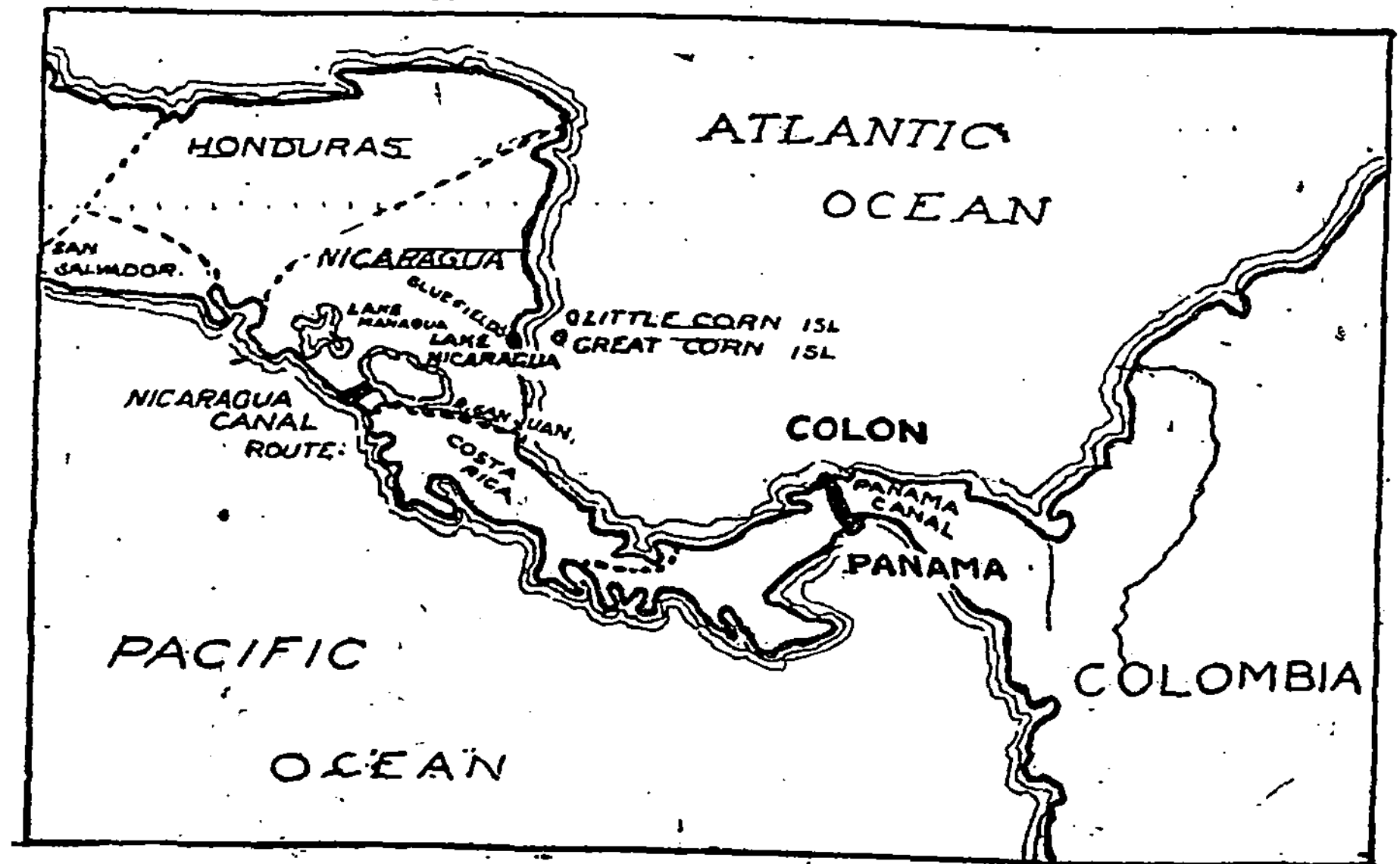
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known as Great Corn Island and Little Corn Island; and the Government of Nicaragua further grants to the Government of the United States for a like period of ninety-nine years the right to establish, operate, and maintain a naval base at such place on the territory of Nicaragua bordering on the Gulf of Fonseca as the Government of the United States may select. The Government of the United States may have the option of renewing for a further term of ninety-nine years the above leases and grants upon the expiration of their respective terms, it being expressly agreed that the territory hereby leased and the naval base which may be maintained under the grant aforesaid shall be subject exclusively to the laws and sovereign authority of the United States during the terms of such lease and grant and of any renewal or renewals thereof.

## ARTICLE III.

In consideration of the foregoing stipulations and for the purposes contemplated by this convention, and for the purposes of reducing the present indebtedness of Nicaragua, the Government of the United States shall, on the date of the exchange of ratification of this convention, pay for the benefit of the Republic of Nicaragua the sum of three million dollars United States gold coin, of the present weight and fineness, to be deposited to the order of the Government of Nicaragua in such bank or banks or with such banking corporation as the Government of the United States may determine, to be applied by Nicaragua upon its indebtedness or other public purposes for the advancement of the welfare of Nicaragua in a manner to be determined by the two High Contracting Parties, all such disbursements to be made by orders drawn by the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Nicaragua

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and approved by the Secretary of State of the United States, or by such person as he may designate.

## ARTICLE IV.

This convention shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective laws, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present treaty and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at Washington, in duplicate, in the English and the Spanish languages, on the 5th day of August, in the year Nineteen hundred and fourteen.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN (seal)  
EMILIANO CHAMORRO (seal)

The proviso in the Senate resolution designed to satisfy the objections of the protesting republics reads:

"That, whereas Costa Rica, Salvador, and Honduras have protested against the ratification of said convention in the fear or belief that said convention might in some respect impair existing rights of said States; therefore, it is declared by the Senate that in advising and consenting to the ratification of the said convention, as amended, such advice and consent are given with the understanding, to be expressed as a part of the instrument of ratification, that nothing in said convention is intended to affect any existing right of any of the said named States."

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