

(COPY)

THE SQUIRRELS,
HIGHLAND FALLS ON HUDSON,

June 28th, 1904.

The President of the United States,

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Referring to the note of the 14th of March last which I had the pleasure of receiving from you in reply to some suggestions I had taken the liberty of offering you in relation to certain suitable Isthmian memorials, you seem to have received the impression that I was overlooking the nation's incalculable obligations to Senator Hanna for what he contributed as a member of the Federal Parliament towards the prospective union of the two great oceans which wash the shores of our Continent.

If in my letter I named two coadjutors only, it was because I realized the necessity of promptly changing the names of the two terminals of the Canal and before the old names find their way into official and other contracts; into the ledgers of commerce, on the Livre Doré of the Nation, and into the geographies and histories of the young Republic, which are already germinating. There is no difficulty in giving these terminals new names now, but later such changes may create confusion, embarrassment, litigation, and possibly, among the natives, more or less discontent.

With your leave I will now offer you my notion of a suitable monumental memorial of the departed Senator, which will show you, if necessary, that I am not open to the suspicion of underestimating his services either as a statesman or as a friend of the Isthmian Canal, or as one of the nation's historic benefactors, and the adoption of which notion is not likely to suffer so much by delay as those proposed for the terminals.

You are doubtless aware that the plan devised by M. Bunau-Varilla and unanimously approved of by the Walker Commission, for the circumvention of the torrential caprices of the Chagres River,--by many long regarded as an insurmountable obstacle to a Canal,--contemplates a dam across that river at Bohio, of sufficient strength and dimension to hold back enough of its waters to create an artificial sea of sufficient depth and proportions to shelter and accommodate, or pass in safety, the fleets of all nations. When completed, the creation of this artificial sea will be perhaps one of the most superb illustrations of engineering prowess on this continent, and the creator and conservator of more force than was ever concentrated elsewhere in the same space by the hand of man.

To Prest. Roosevelt.
June 28.1904.
2-

Now I would propose that this new sea or lake should be called Lake Hanna or The Hanna Sea; that the Dam should be called the Hanna Dam; that the locks in which the ships are lifted up to this Hanna Sea should be called Hanna Locks Nos. 1.2.3. &c.; and finally that the City which Palmyra-like shall arise here in the Centre of the new Republic & on the shores of this new Sea, at which more of both the naval and commercial marine of the world is likely to touch more frequently than at any other city or port in the whole world, should never be known by the insignificant name of Bohio, with which it is threatened, but, while fire burns and water runs, simply as Hanna.

Forgive me for troubling you with so much unsolicited advice, and please also accept my Congratulations upon the recent enthusiastic approval of yr. administration at Chicago.

Yours respectfully and truly

(Signed) John Bigelow.