

PANAMA CANAL DESCRIBED VIVIDLY BY FORMER LA GRANDER

(Continued From Monday's Daily.)

The gates were closed. The water commenced to rise. The usual floods, rushing from the upper Chagres, the Trinidad and the Gatun, found their way at last barred at Gatun by a dam that would not yield, and instead of going on down to the Atlantic their waters caused the lake to slowly rise up on the little settlements and fincas of the natives. In vain did they pray to their Holy Mary for protec-

tion from this, the greatest flood they had ever known. Some of them finally became alarmed and got away before the water was at their doors, but the greater portion remained, believing it was nothing more than a large flood which would soon pass on. Those who remained until the last had to be picked from the tops of their palm-thatched huts by boats, and from nearby hills they sadly viewed the covering of their homes and little farms by the ever-rising, relentless waters of the lake. They saw the jungle covered by water—in fact, saw the waters rise even higher than the Americans had foretold. Of course, the natives were amply repaid for their losses in the lake area by the United States authorities.

Only a short time ago the American was thoroughly despised by all Spanish-Americans, and especially was this so on the Isthmus, but lately they seem to have experienced a change of heart which has placed the American, with his general good nature and the care-free manner he assumes among them, several notches higher in their esteem. They have learned that Americans, taken collectively, with their "happy go lucky" dispositions, and with their fearlessness and fairness, are not the worst people on earth, and they have now put the American in his proper place in their high regard, which is far above other nationalities when measured by their achievement and self-reliance. They have learned that the American can not be kept down, so they have let

down the bars of conventionality and bade him help himself, with the surprising result that they find many good qualities in our people which they had not previously imagined could exist.

They have learned to tolerate the American, and they overlook his shortcomings and manners as we would those of a big fun-loving child. They have now even gone so far as to begin teaching the English language in their school, and it is only a question of time—a comparatively short time at that—when English will be the language used almost exclusively throughout the Republic of Panama, Spanish will have become a thing of the past, and the customs of America from the best country under the sun will supplant those of the old Spanish days which have held forth since first Balboa set foot upon the shores of that fair country.

The Panamanians have a beautiful and wonderful country, which needs only proper development. There are thousands upon thousands of square miles of rich territory in Panama where the foot of civilization has never strayed, which must some day be made to produce their share of wealth for humanity. And that day is coming—it's bound to come—and that very soon, too.

The work of the Americans on the Isthmus has extended further than the building of the "world's greatest waterway." The influence of those pioneers who went down to that great undertaking has caused the "Spiggoty" to realize that the soil of his native land is just about as fine as can be found anywhere, and the natives are taking greater interest in their fincas and plantations, and are adopting methods as fast as possible.

They tell a story on the Isthmus of one old native who was quite progressive, and who took advantage of

American ideas, etc., as fast as an opportunity presented itself. This Spiggoty learned to read English, and subscribed for an American farmers' paper, which he took great delight in perusing when his day's work was done.

One day he noticed in this publication an advertisement by a breeder of fancy hogs, showing pictures of the fine, fat porkers of various pure-blooded strains. Now, this Spiggoty immediately saw the possibilities of mixing these fat hogs with his "razorbacks."

The Panamanian razorback is about three feet tall, about five feet long, and is correctly named. Razorbacks are perhaps one-third the weight of ordinary hogs in the States, and are principally skin and bone. As a farm product they are not a great source of profit to the grower. However, it costs practically nothing to raise them, as they are very fond of coconuts and can usually get everything required to keep alive under the coconut palms. If these jungle hogs are exceedingly hungry, and no coconuts are on the ground, they will climb the trees and devour the nuts in the tops.

This native who intended to cross his hogs with the fat American varieties was a shrewd old Spig, indeed. He figured that halfbreed Spiggoty-American hogs would be fat like their American ancestors, which would be fine when he came to market his pork, while from their Spiggoty forbears they would inherit an ability to live upon coconuts, thereby being very cheaply raised.

He sent to the United States and had a fine pair of blooded hogs imported. When they arrived at Colon he was on hand to meet them, and they proved to be the finest specimens of the genus porcine ever seen in that country, even greatly surpassing the expectations of their purchaser.

He moved them out to his little farm, time passed, and the little halfbreed pigs were born, and a fine looking lot they were. Their owner called in all his neighbors for miles around to show them the wonderful Spiggoty-American hogs he had bred, and everyone prophesied he would be very rich in a few years. But, sadly, such was not the case.

The little pigs grew up rapidly to be fat and healthy porkers. On account of the Spiggoty strain in their blood they began to look around for coconuts to appease their increasing hunger, and waxed fatter and lazier upon the nuts found on the ground beneath the palms. They soon cleaned up the fallen coconuts, and of course, (for such is the appetite of a pig), desired more. Their craving for coconuts had wonderfully increased, and when they had finished those on the ground they stood and looked longingly at the nuts in the tops of the trees.

At last the Spiggoty strain asserted itself more and more, and the pigs started to climb the trees to secure the remaining nuts. Now, as you know American hogs cannot climb trees, and these being half American were badly handicapped. Being only half Spiggoty, they could climb but half way up the trees, and there they hung, half way to the top of those coconut palms, and actually starved to death, vainly endeavoring to overcome the American blood in their veins, which held them back from the sustenance they craved.

The poor, progressive native, their owner, his fondest hopes blasted, has become a raving maniac.

Understand me: I do not claim this story is absolutely true. I simply repeat it as told to me.

When the Americans first went to Panama, in 1904, there was a good deal of fever, but this trouble has been eliminated by proper sanitary precautions. When it was demonstrated that the only way by which yellow fever could be transmitted was through infection, and that the germ was only carried by a certain species of mosquito, it remained only necessary to exterminate the mosquito and the fever naturally became a thing of the past.

The mosquito lays its eggs in the water, and with the water covered by crude oil the young cannot hatch. This covering of the waters with oil back for a mile or so from the canal, and proper drainage of surface water, etc., have been largely responsible for

(Continued on Page Seven.)

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