

PANAMA'S QUIANT PEACEFUL OLD CITY

Tourists Who Expect to Find Wide-Open Town Surprised at Odd Municipality.

CHINESE STRONG IN TRADE

Regulation of Government Stores Gives Lower Prices to Patrons. Lotteries Declared Offset to Tendency of Drunkenness.

BY GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM. ANCON, Canal Zone, R. P., Dec. 18.—(Special Correspondence.)—The isthmus of Panama is a region of striking contrasts. While the Government of the United States is expending nearly \$400,000,000 on the biggest engineering feat the world has yet attempted, the territory which includes the canal and the old Spanish city near its Pacific entrance are much as they have remained since the first crossed the isthmus of Darien in 1513, almost 400 years ago.

"I am disappointed in Panama," said an American visitor. I asked him why. He had come expecting to find a busy, hustling "wide open" construction camp town, such as he would have encountered in "the states" near any big construction job where thousands of men had regular paydays to celebrate.

And instead he found Panama City a quaint, quiet old Spanish town, except for the improvements worked in its sanitation and paving, much as it always has been for the perpetual use of the Cathedral Plaza at Panama, or to walk upon the "Playa" or sea wall, and think that you have drifted back a century or two, so little evidence is there of the world-famous work progressing almost within earshot.

Some Natives Resentful. Do the Panamanians resent the coming of the Americans? Yes and no. The wise, far-sighted ones realize to the full the wonderful benefits that have come to their land from the influx of Northern money and energy. They appreciate the value of the \$10,000,000 we paid for the perpetual use of the Canal Zone, and already they are planning how best to spend the annual \$250,000 which we pay to Panama after 1915 as rental for the zone.

Chiefly, though, they think the Panamanians who know "what's what" are grateful to the United States for the stand we took in 1903 when we recognized them as a nation, even after they had revolted from Colombia.

Of course there are dissatisfied ones in the republic. "Panama for the Panamanians" is not altogether a forgotten cry, but those who may harbor such sentiments express them guardedly, recalling full well that the Big Brother with the Big Stick has come to the tropics to stay.

Merchants Not Merry. One class that does feel aggrieved toward the Canal administration is the storekeepers. For the Canal Commission has a monopoly on the right to buy supplies on the isthmus. It does all its own supply work through the Commissary Department, and as the prices charged by the commissary are far lower than small merchants can approach and the quality of the material far higher, naturally little of the Canal payroll money finds its way into the cash registers of the native stores.

Much of the better-class trade, by the way, is in the hands of Central merchants, Panamanians and Jews sharing about 40 per cent of it. The traveler to the isthmus can buy clothing and sundries at a price that is thanks to low or no duties. Inexpensiveness, however, ends as it begins, with the clothing, as all merchandise is considerably above the normal northern prices. However, prices are far from stable, and bargaining is an essential feature of all shopping, for the better dressed and the "greener" you appear, the higher soar the prices.

Tourist May Be Comfortable. The tourist at Panama may be comfortable, considerably more so, in fact, than it is possible to be anywhere else in Central America.

Practically everyone goes to the Government Hotel at Ancon, "The Tivoli." It is a huge hostelry, extremely comfortable and just what one might expect to find in any winter or summer resort of northern climes. There is a distinct criticism merited by Uncle Sam's Tivoli, though, for the chief object of its name is that those who may be foolish enough to seek or expect any "local color" or a table typically tropical at the hotel are sadly disappointed. And incidentally the big government caravanary has extremely stiff rates. It is not strange, then, that many experienced travelers, who are willing to go without some of the comforts and conveniences of the Tivoli, prefer to "take a chance" at the native hotel in the heart of the old city, there making up in interest of surroundings and food what they lose in elegance.

Plaza Is Quaint Garden. There is much for the traveler to see in Panama, both that which is related to the historic past and the picturesque present of the quaint old town.

There are two main plazas, or squares, each with pretty parks where in grow tropical plants and shrubs galore. The Plaza de Santa Ana is chiefly notable as the originating point of all revolutions, for whenever there is a disturbance it starts there.

Facing the Cathedral Plaza is the old Cathedral, dating from about the time of the independence of the United States, which is in active use today. Every Wednesday and Sunday night an excellent military band gives a concert in the plaza park, and then all of Panama is to be seen parading the walks; there the fair serenaders with their white-clad cavaliers, dark of hair and eyes and entirely un-apt to smile ever so little should their demure gaze chance to meet the eyes of a passing Gringo, and there are people of every race and dress imaginable, for Panama, the cross-roads of world trade and travel, is as notable for the concentration of its population as is the quiet at the gateway of the other great canal.

Lotteries Big Attraction. One of the customs that soon comes to the attention of the tourist is the weekly lottery. The office of this national institution is in the Bishop's Palace, which perhaps lends it an air of super-respectability in the eyes of the natives. It is more than probable, indeed, that stock in the lottery com-

MORE SCENES FROM CANAL ZONE.



ABOVE: NATIVE VILLAGE, PANAMA. CENTER: CATHEDRAL AND PLAZA, PANAMA CITY. BELOW: SCENE AT CULEBRA CUT.

pany is owned by ecclesiastical persons of high degree.

Be that as it may, every week there is a drawing, on Sunday morning, and every week some one gets \$7500 for a ticket that cost \$5. As much again is distributed in minor prizes. The lottery company, a private corporation, makes about 15 per cent a month, even after paying the government for its exclusive franchise. The franchise expires in 1913, and there appears a strong probability that after that date the lottery may be terminated, or handed directly by the government, thus insuring all the profits to the national treasury.

There are lottery ticket sellers everywhere in Panama. Old men and women, children, Chinese, cripples, scores of persons who win a generous livelihood from their sales, at a 5 per cent commission. All the poorer natives put all the cash they can scrape together into tickets, and there are few white men who do not "take a chance" every week.

When I went through Culebra Cut in the official motor car of the Canal Commission, one Monday morning, the chauffeur was a Connecticut Yankee who had won the "grand prize" at the previous day's drawing. He had his \$7500 with him, on the way to a bank, and by all odds he was the most popular man on the canal. Unlike most winners, he placed his easily-won money where it would do good and went on with his work, the usual custom being either to "blow" the cash in a grand Sabaoch or hurry "back home" with it.

FORECLOSURE SUIT IS BIG

Trust Company of America Plaintiff Against Road in \$800,000 Action.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Probably the largest foreclosure suit ever brought in Lane County was taken under advisement by Judge Harris, in the Circuit Court at Eugene Thursday. The case is the Trust Company of America vs. the Oregon & Southeastern Railroad, and is for \$800,000. The trust company holds the bonds of the railroad company issued under a first mortgage for the amount stated. The Oregon & Southeastern runs from Cottage Grove to Disston, a distance of 20 miles.

The suit is also to establish the priority of the mortgage over personal injury claims outstanding against the road, and F. H. Hall, W. B. Foster, G. T. Ellis and H. L. Bown, the latter as Sheriff of Lane County, are made co-defendants. The Sheriff was made co-defendant because of the fact that he had attached the property of the road in an attempt to satisfy the claims of damages of \$6500 and \$3000, respectively, for injuries received in the wreck of May 7, 1909.

The attorneys have 30 days in which to make their arguments, so that a decision is not expected for several weeks.

STATE ARMORY DEFECTIVE

Architect Says Building at Woodburn Not Up to Specifications.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Outlining many defects in the construction of the new armory at Woodburn, being erected at an expense of \$40,000, of which the state pays half, State Architect Knighton today submitted a report to the Governor, to be forwarded to Adjutant-General Finser, in which he announces that the Adjutant-General

would be justified in refusing to accept the building.

He attributes the condition to lack of effort on the part of the contractor to follow specifications and to the architect's failure to observe that their plans and specifications were not being properly carried out. About \$7000 has so far been paid on the work by the state.

In passing on the condition of the armory and pointing out flaws in the work of construction, the State Architect says:

Under the heading "Concrete Floors," the gutter around walls has been omitted. The concrete foundation wall is not accurately built; the exposure of the same above ground shows the brick work to be set back two inches in some places, flush in others and overhang in others. This should be made an even projection on street sides and neatly plastered with cement mortar.

The elevations indicate a small concrete base or plinth for brick courses around entrance door openings and to rest on steps. This is omitted. Under "Concrete" is mentioned all gravel, pockets to be pointed up. This has not been satisfactorily done.

The cement coping shown on drawings has been put on about 1 1/2 inches in thickness. This is useless, and should be not less than four inches thick.

All workmanship on the brick work is of an inferior quality, and especially so above the roof line.

DELEGATE CHOICE VEXES

Washington Politicians Seek Ruling on Direct Primary Law.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—How will delegates to the Republican state convention be selected? This is the question which seems uppermost in the minds of Republican leaders of Chehalis County and one which has resulted in a lively debate in the past week.

The method of selection, say several local lawyers, will depend upon the interpretation given the state laws by some of the leading Republican attorneys. A question has arisen as to whether the procedure is governed by the old law of 1905 or the direct primary law of 1907.

The direct primary law, as near as can be learned, does not provide that delegates to the National convention be elected by direct primary. It does provide, however, that all inter-party matters shall be governed by the party, which would mean by the state central committee.

Under the law several Republicans of Aberdeen venture the opinion that the state committee has complete power to provide for the election of the National delegates by any manner it sees fit.

WOMAN'S FINE IS \$1

Minimum Imposed on Wife Who Whipped Judge.

HUSBAND'S POSE IGNORED

Attempt to Be Recognized as Martyr in Case Is Upset When Court Grants Stay of Judgment. Defendant Allowed Appeal.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Over the emphatic protests of Harry Olson, her husband, that no leniency was being asked, Mrs. Christina Olson was fined by Judge J. T. Ronald in the Criminal Court this morning, \$1 and costs for attacking Judge John F. Main, with a horsewhip on October 27, following Judge Main's setting aside the verdict of a jury in a rent case, in which the Olsons were defendants.

"I believe that it is apparent to your honor, as it was to the jury, that this woman made the attack at the behest of her husband; she was his misguided tool," said Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tom Kennedy. "Under the circumstances I would recommend the lightest sentence possible."

"That's what I intend to give," said Judge Ronald.

Martyr Pose Scorned. "I have no sympathy with your trying to pose as a martyr, I shall not take it into consideration," he said to Olson, "the costs in this action are \$41.75. Can you pay that in 40 days?"

"I am a painter and paper hanger," Olson replied, "and I don't know, because work is very dull just now."

"Well, I won't be hard on you," began the court when Olson interrupted to know if it was too late to get a new trial. He was told that it was not.

"Before I do that I want to ask another question," he continued. "If I go to trial again will the judge refuse to let me show provocation?"

"He most certainly will," answered Judge Ronald.

"Then we might as well quit right here."

Judgment Is Stayed. Judge Ronald's lawyer, who had the record show that a motion for a new trial was made and denied.

"Now I have fixed it so you can appeal if you think you have been done an injustice," said the court. "The sentence is that Mrs. Olson, pay a fine of \$1, and the costs of this action, and the judgment be stayed for 30 days."

Then turning to Olson, Judge Ronald added, "Now, young man, don't be so hard headed, go down and get a lawyer and he will appeal the case for you in an orderly and legal manner."

"I'll tell you why I don't want anything to do with lawyers," Olson hotly began, but was checked.

"That's your business," said Judge Ronald sharply.

INSANITY WILL BE PLEA

Clark to Be Heard Monday to Answer to Death of Banker.

CHEHALIS, Wash., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—County Attorney Buxton yesterday filed an information against Adolph B. Clark, the slayer of Lawrence Bar, banker, charging the young man with murder in the first degree. Clark killed Mr. Bar while holding up the Farmers Bank at Centralia on December 30.

According to the County Attorney the information has been filed so that it will be unnecessary for the state to prove any premeditation on the part of Clark. A long list of witnesses is endorsed on the complaint.

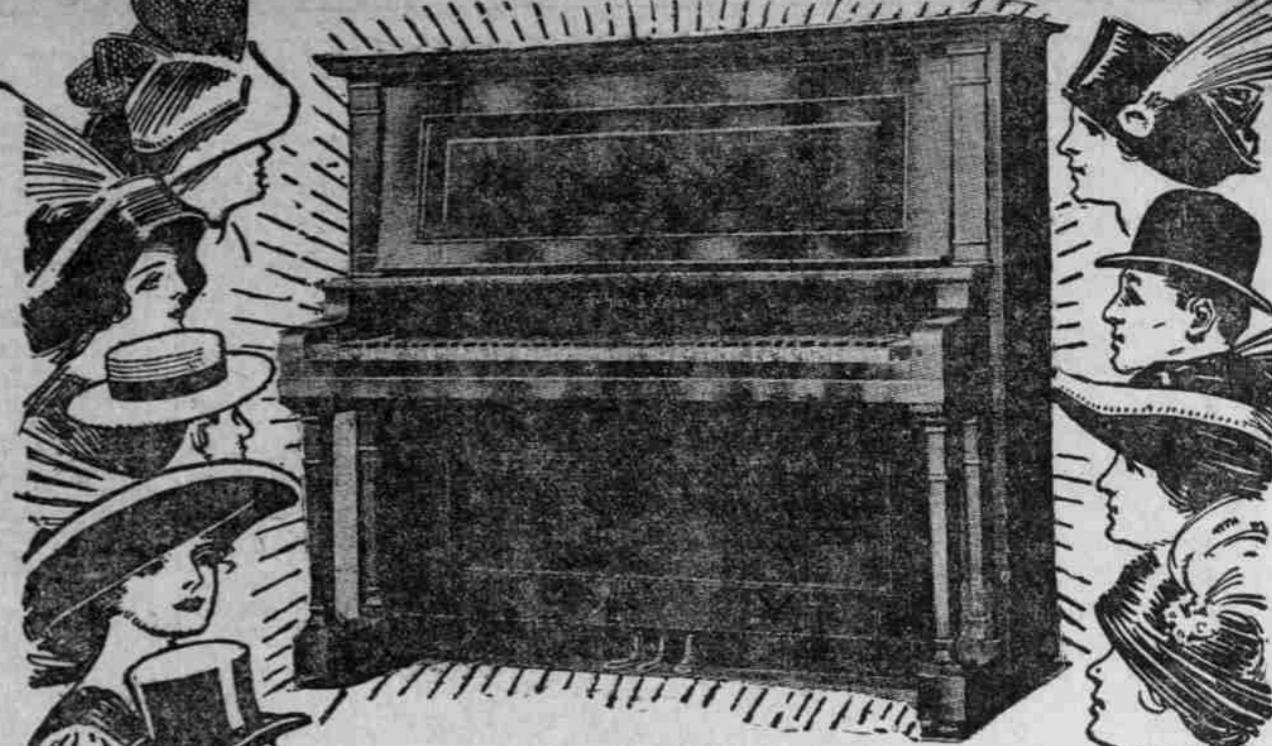
Clark will be arraigned Monday, when he will be given a chance to enter his plea. Attorney Bonser, of Aberdeen, has been secured to defend Clark. It is understood that the plea of insanity will be entered in the attempt to save the young man. A brother of Clark, who lives at Aberdeen, is said to be mentally unbalanced, and it is believed that there is a streak of insanity in the family.

When arrested Clark attempted for two or three days to shield his identity, refusing to tell his parents or occupation until finally forced to admit these by a number of Centralia people identifying him as a resident of that city who had seen him there in a sawmill. Since Clark's attorney, employed by his relatives, visited him he has not talked further of the crime.

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ROAD MODELS ON EXHIBIT

Lane County Sends for Plaster Casts to Show to Farmers.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—In line with the County Court's plan for scientific improvement of the roads of Lane County, that body is arranging for an exhibit of road-building, to be maintained at the Courthouse, where the different sorts of improvement may be explained to the farmers when they come in.

The court has asked L. W. Page, director of the Board of Public Highways, Washington, D. C., for a number of plaster of paris models and pictures illustrating different phases of road-building. Mr. Page has written that he will send the three models asked for and the other material just as soon as work is out of the way on sending out some demonstration trains. With an expert road-builder in charge of construction, and this exhibit with which to instruct the farmers, the court expects to be able to make a decided advance this year in the improvements of the highways of the county.

ALBANY DEBATORS BEST

Salem High School Orators Lose on Text-Book Question.

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—By unanimous decision of the judges, Albany High School won from the Salem High School in debate here Friday.

Albany supported the negative of the question, "Resolved, That a law should be passed that school districts furnish to pupils free text-books for all departments below the high school grades."

The Albany speakers were Charles Orling and Irvine Acheson and Salem was represented by W. P. Bull and Karl Beck. The judges were Professors Baldwin and Hetzel, of the Oregon Agricultural College, and Rev. J. Sherman Wallace, of McMinnville.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Albany High School won the debate last night from Eugene High. Albany upheld the affirmative of the question of free text books. Both teams were coached by young women. Albany by Miss Frances Nelson and Eugene by Miss Birdie Wise.

In this country last year there were 250 serious accidents, due to as many steam boiler explosions.

Advertisement for Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Includes text: 'A STRICTLY FAMILY MEDICINE', 'BEFORE THE PUBLIC SINCE 1853', 'Is your Stomach weak—digestion poor—bowels constipated—the liver inactive?', and an image of the bottle.

THE GENUINE HAS OUR PRIVATE STAMP ON NECK OF BOTTLE.