

Topics of the Times

Mexico produced last year \$9,000,000 in gold and \$72,000,000 in silver.

A project is on foot in Geneva for the establishment of aerial excursions to view the summit of Mont Blanc.

The Pope is the head of over 250,000,000 human beings, or nearly one-seventh of the population of the globe.

A new vocation for women is that of X-ray nurses. Courses of lectures on the subjects are now given in Berlin.

The new British blue book gives the average weekly wages of fifteen skilled trades at \$10.50 in London and \$18.75 in New York.

It is anticipated that for the determination of longitude the wireless system will eventually take the place of cable and telegraph lines.

American newspapers every year pay in wages \$80,000,000 and receive \$80,500,000 for subscriptions and \$95,000,000 for advertisements.

A memorial has been erected at a cost of \$130 in Toowoomba cemetery, near Brisbane, Queensland, over the grave of Peter Jackson, the pugilist.

It is reported that in view of the looting of Boer Bibles that took place during the late war the Bible Society is to make a free distribution of 5,000 Dutch Bibles bound in leather.

The British national pavilion at the World's Fair, St. Louis, will be a reproduction of the Orangery, or banquet hall, of the Kensington palace, in Kensington gardens, London.

The atom of hydrogen is the smallest of the "ultimate atoms" of the chemists, but it is 1,780 times as large as the corpuscles which have recently been demonstrated as the elements of the atoms.

M. Thopiteau, French Deputy, proposes to tax all games of hazard to the extent of 8 per cent of the sums at stake. M. Thopiteau estimates that the tax would bring in an annual revenue of \$2,000,000.

In a recent newspaper article a Philippine student at Georgetown University, Ramon Jose Lacson, quotes the record to show that there were universities in the Philippines before institutions of as high a grade were established in the United States.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics at Washington has put out a report which shows that the average advance in the prices of food has within the last five years been 17 per cent, and that the average increase in wages has been at about the same rate. The increase in both is less than it has been supposed to be.

New Zealand has gone farther than any other nation in realizing the ideal state of the Socialists, where the government owns all the land, manages all the industries, and is the only capitalist in the community. About one man in every six throughout the islands is in some form of government employ, or is in receipt of a pension from the government.

The statistics of the petroleum output for last year, as shown by advance sheets of a report of the Geographical Survey, show a marked decrease in the production of Russia, and an increase in that of the United States, which gives us the lead. Russia furnished 45.4 per cent of the world's output, and the United States 45.6 per cent. The Dutch East Indies furnished 3 per cent.

At the beginning of the last century the Royal College of Bavarian Physicians sought to forbid steam railway travel because it would induce delirium among the passengers and drive the spectators crazy, while an English quarterly said that it would as soon expect the people to suffer themselves to be tied to one of Congress's rockets as to trust themselves to the mercy of a locomotive going at the prodigious rate of twelve miles an hour.

A new material made of non-poisonous red phosphorus and potassium chlorate has been bought by the German government, and is to be substituted in its works for the deleterious and oftentimes more dangerous white phosphorus. Great gain attaches to the fact that it does not ignite easily, hence removing or minimizing the danger from fire. How important this is appears when one is reminded of fires caused by the ignition of white phosphorus matches by the sun's rays. In regard to danger to employees, the commission says explosions are practically impossible with the new material.

IS HUMAN LIFE TOO LONG.

Physicians Think Their Art Wards Off Death Unnecessarily.

A new and rather startling idea is being promulgated by certain eminent physicians. It is that modern medical science and its allied science of sanitation is injuring the human race by preserving too many lives. It is the "better dead" theory reduced to a purely physiological basis and viewed in the cold, white light of medical science. A short time ago Dr. Chaplin, superintendent of health of Providence, R. I., read a paper before a medical convention in Boston, in which he called attention to the effect likely to be produced upon future generations by the saving by medical skill of the lives of weaklings who instead of dying, as they would have done in the natural course of events a few years ago, now have their lives prolonged until they have married and perpetuated their own infirmities and weak vitality in their children. He seriously questioned whether medical skill was not doing altogether too much for the general good of the human race.

Now Dr. Ernest W. White, president of the London Medico-Psychological Association, declares that one of the principal causes of the alarming increase of insanity in England is the fact that "the old, rough law of the survival of the fittest is not so forcible as formerly. Weaklings who would have died in infancy in olden days are now brought up to marry and perpetuate the faulty stock." The course of action for the medical practitioner which might logically be deduced from such teachings as these is one from which both Dr. Chaplin and Dr. White would undoubtedly shrink. When the

medical profession ceases to believe that its first duty is to save life, let the consequences be what they may, the medical profession will have ceased to be of value to mankind.

The idea of improving a race by the elimination of its weaklings is older than civilization and was practiced before Esculapius. It is to-day a custom among many savage tribes, yet neither in the past nor in the present has it resulted in the production of an ideal race. Sparta is become a name, attached to a short-lived experiment, and the race it produced has vanished utterly away. A stringently enforced law against the marriage of those manifestly unfit to perpetuate the race would, however, be of benefit to humanity and is probably as far as the advocates of the "better dead" theory would go in the practical application of their ideas.—New York Press.

COLD, COMFORTLESS MEALS.

"Delicatessen" Men of New York Do a Large Business.

The "delicatessen" men do a large business, says the New York Evening Post. This very evening, I, encouraged by my friend's observations, paused before various open doors just before 6 o'clock and watched what was going on within. These places of provision were literally thronged; women of every age and every nationality were buying for the evening meal.

Visions of other poor men's homes, familiar to me in other times and other places, came almost as a veil between me and this motley company. Remembrances of open cottage doors, through which one could see the fire burning in the tidy stove, the steaming kettle with its cover clattering pleasantly through the force of pressure within; the big brown loaf of home-made bread, with the wide-bladed knife beside it; the savory odor of some wholesome stew, or of crisp bacon, inviting the most satiated appetite; a dish of meaty potatoes, ready to fall into powdery whiteness at a touch, and the bowl of baked apples or pears for a dessert—these things came back in strange contrast to what I saw now.

A link or two of sausage; a slice of this and two slices of that cold food, laid in papers and added, one after another, to the store in the basket underneath the almost invariable shawl. A bottle of catsup; perhaps a head of cabbage for a cold relish; a loaf of baker's bread, and almost invariably a pie. No thoughtful, house-wifely preparation of strengthening food for a strong-armed man too tired to digest easily; no warm, well-seasoned dish to strengthen or refresh him; no careful use of his money for his best sustenance. Only the easiest possible thing to procure that would prevent hunger, with the profit of preparation and cooking, going to him who buys a low grade of food at the cheapest price, and sells at a large profit.

In the few minutes in which I stood here and there, a looker-on at what was to me a sad sight, I counted twenty cold, comfortless meals carried hastily out to provide for the evening repast of men hurrying home from a hard day's work. Probably a third of the value of the purchase went to the benefit of the vendor.

A Tip for the Waiter.

"Everything all right, sir?" asked the waiter.

The patron nodded but still the waiter hovered near.

"Steak cooked to suit you, sir?" he asked again presently.

Again the patron nodded.

"Potatoes the way you like 'em, sir?"

"Yes."

Another period of silence.

"I hope the service is satisfactory, sir."

"Well, sir, of course, we get tips sometimes, and I've got to go to the kitchen for another party, so—"

"So you'd like a tip now, to be sure of it? Well, I'll give you one."

"Yes, sir."

"Here is the tip: I have a large, strident voice that I am capable of using. If anything is wrong, I'll let out a roar you can hear in the kitchen. If you don't hear it, you can know I am dining in peace and comfort, for it's no fun to have to pass verbal judgment on every mouthful I eat."

"But the tip?"

"That's the tip, and a mighty good one it is, too."

The Story of a 'Possum.

"You up dar, all right, is you?" said the old darky to the 'possum he had "treed."

"En you shakin' yo' fat sides en laughin' at me, is you?"

"En you not see dat fire what gwine ter roas' you brown—does you?"

"N'er dem 'taters what'll des swim in de gravy all 'round you—n'er dem—"

But just then he heard the crack of a rifle; the 'possum fell at his feet, was picked up by the man who owned the land and carried off in triumph.

The old man stood for some time in silence—looking after him; then he muttered to himself:

"Hit's nuttin' in de 'roun' worl' but dese po' white trash dat keeps de race problem stirrin' up de country!"—Atlanta Constitution.

A Question of Dignity.

"The trouble about Shakespeare," said the man who is first of all a practical financier, "is that it isn't likely to put an actor on his feet."

"That's true," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "Yet it is an advantage over the modern drama in not compelling him to stand on his head."—Washington Star.

Rapid Shoemaking.

A pair of women's shoes made in Lynn, Mass., to establish a record for rapid shoe-making, required fifty-seven different operations and the use of forty-two machines and 100 pieces. All these parts were assembled and made into a graceful pair of shoes ready to wear in thirteen minutes.

The question of precedence in this country is merely a question of hustle.

Although macaroni is hollow it is said to be solid food.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Different Kinds of Fools.

HERE can be no doubt that God gave us fools for our enjoyment, but we should show economy in the enjoyment of fools. Folly is not easy to analyze—there are so many different kinds. There are clever fools, for instance—perhaps the most "enjoyable" sort—and silly fools, whose folly is more than half their own fault, and in whose composition there is often more than a little of the knave. Then there are "fancy fools," so to speak, who appear only in fiction. And finally there is the man whom we sometimes call a fool for want of a better word to express his entire innocence of the lower forms of wisdom.

Clever fools are very much the fashion nowadays. Literary society keeps quite a number for its amusement. In mental feature they favor their spiritual progenitors in motley. They write a great deal and they talk a great deal, taking themselves very seriously all the while, which is no doubt part of the game, and would do no harm if certain other people did not take them at their own valuation. Their meter is to say silly things in a clever way, and the chief secret of their philosophy is the deduction of rules from exceptions.

There are, of course, other and far more respectable types of clever fool. There is the fool who is apparently inspired now and then to say a really shrewd thing. He is often described by his intimates as a "fool." There is a link-missing in his reasoning apparatus. He cannot take his hearer straight from one point to another; neither can he follow an argument from end to end.

Very few "silly fools" afford any pleasure to the spectator. Yet out of two types of them some dangerous entertainment may be derived. The first of these two is a pretty woman—an inhabitant, perhaps, of the "fool-frequented fair of Vanity." But she may thrive anywhere in any station. As a rule she is not such a fool as she looks, and her mind is capable of some expansion, at least in one direction, the direction of self-interest.—London Spectator.

What the Farmers Will Do.

COMPETITION has ruled in full force in agriculture, while combination and the arbitrary fixing of high prices and rates has been prevalent in the other industries. This has certainly placed agriculture at a disadvantage, and the disadvantage is something which has been felt, and which has found voice in such conferences as the one recently held at Chicago. Selling under competitive conditions and buying under monopolistic conditions does not constitute a favorable situation in which to place any industry, and that is where the farming industry is placed to-day. It is needless to say that the mass of farmers will not long remain content in such a position. They will either effect a combination of their own or they will begin to vote in favor of drastic measures for the suppression or control of other combinations. But they can never, it would seem, organize an effective combination among themselves. We may therefore expect an early revolution of a political nature among agriculturists, unless combination in manufacturing and transportation is in some way robbed of the powers it has in so many cases been freely exercising in the past few years. Assurances from railroad presidents riding about the country in private cars, that the farmers are getting more out of the present industrial arrangement than any other class can never be made to pass at their face value on the farms.—Springfield Republican.

Ghost Dance and Wedding.

WHEN the nervous system of the American woman—or any woman, for the matter of that—lands her in the region of hysteria and sets her to making a show of herself in public she needs, of course, a kindly hand to lead her home and to keep her there by such restraint as may be necessary. One would be loath to think that any woman laying claim to modesty or culture was to be found among the thousands of the sex who fought and struggled about the carriage of the bride at the Golet wedding in New York, and who afterward looted the church of its decorations. The mere fact that they were mainly well dressed counts for nothing. If the female wards of Bedlam were let out for a holiday in their good

KING OF ENGLAND'S CROWN.

It Contains Several Historic Jewels, Especially a Large Ruby.

The most important historic jewels in the present imperial crown are the large sapphire in the center of the front cross-patee, the large pale sapphire on the crest of the crown, and the small but finely colored sapphire in the center of the cross-patee above the mound at the top of the crown.

The history of the so-called ruby is well known and is of great interest. In the fourteenth century, says Cyril Davenport in the *Consolateur*, it belonged to the king of Granada, and Pedro the Cruel, king of Castile, received this king under the guise of friendship in the Alcazar at Seville. Here he was murdered for the sake of his jewels, among which was this stone. Pedro afterward gave it to Edward the Black Prince after the battle of Navarrete as a mark of gratitude for his successful help, and it is also supposed to have been worn in the crown of Henry V. at Agincourt. On that occasion it may have helped to save a king's life, as the Duc d'Alencon aimed a blow at Henry which was turned by his crown, then worn over his helmet.

The stone is a finely colored, deep red spinel, a mineral which is chiefly found in the river beds of Ceylon, Burma and Siam. Like most oriental stones, this particular jewel has been pierced; the top of the piercing is now filled by a small ruby set in gold, and the stone is uncut, but polished on its natural irregular surface. It is irregularly drop-shaped and about two inches in length.

The second notable jewel in the imperial crown is the large pale sapphire in the front of the circlet. It was worn in the crown by Charles II. and ultimately became the property of Cardinal York, who bequeathed it to the prince regent, afterward George IV. The prince gave it to the Princess Charlotte, but on her death it was returned, as it was properly considered to be a crown jewel. It is partially pierced, which may mean it was intended to be used as a bead, but never finished; or it might perhaps have been intended to serve as a support for an aigrette, in which case a half-piercing would be enough. It is cut en cabochon, as most ancient and colored stones were, and as colored stones should be, the edges being trimmed into the form of a long, symmetrical oval. No doubt this is an oriental stone; it is about two inches in length.

clothes they might make another such a mob. It was, in fact, a ghost dance of hysteria brought on by the worship of riches and titles which has become a disease in many vulgar minds.

We shame ourselves in the sight of the world by such shocking exhibitions of regard for mere wealth. There is no escape for us through the expedient of calling the emotion curiosity. When a huge mass of women cast aside modesty and self-respect and struggle in the street for a glimpse of a wealthy girl going to church to marry a duke they place themselves on the same level with animals which herd together for gross purposes. When wealth marries title on American soil decency remembers that there are better things than either the one or the other and goes about its business. Mobs of women in good clothes are a curse in any community if they have nothing better to do than run together in the streets to show their vulgarity.

Here is a subject for the cultured women of the land to take up seriously and devise a remedy if they can. Such displays as that in New York degrade the sex and shame the nation.—Chicago Daily News.

Throwing Stocks Overboard.

WHEN a man has money he can spare from his business very often he puts it into stocks. If at a later time he has to have the money in a hurry he sells the stocks for what he can get. Wall street realizes that a lot of people besides the gamblers are selling stocks these days. That is what makes it so nervous. "Big fellows" have had to go into their safety deposit vaults and dig up bundles of stock certificates to sell for whatever they will bring.

Too many red automobiles with cushioned seats have been purchased within the last year or two. Gentlemen with rosy imaginations all over the country have been riding in those splendid chariots thinking of the large quantities of money they were about to make out of speculative deals. The tidal wave of extravagance has risen steadily. Money has been spent before it was made and even before the government presses and the government mints had turned it out. The art of cornering things so as to make them dear and bring in large profits has been carried forward persistently. "Failure" now is being written in capital letters across the fronts of various imposing trusts. Millions have been sunk in grandiose schemes for exploiting industries which when carried on with caution and hard work were highly profitable, but which have failed to produce returns when made to move to the tune of the stock ticker. Now the old story of riotous waste is having its old sequel.

The crops are good and business is good. Because stocks fall the public should feel relieved, since this proves that the country is sobering up. It may have a headache after its debauch, but it is physically sound. What it particularly requires now is serious reflection on the enormity of its financial excesses and a firm determination to stop its foolishness and run its business right.—Chicago News.

The Clearing-Off Man.

THE man who always thinks it is going to clear off is a blessing to any community. He takes a cheerful view of the weather because he takes a cheerful view of everything. He is wise meteorologically because, as a matter of fact, it generally does clear off; and he is wise temperamentally and in the worldly sense because continued cheerfulness, a habitually hopeful view, is rewarded with the world's affection and confidence—two things which are worth a great deal more than his money.

There are far too many good people in the world who make a kind of public calamity of their goodness. We doubt whether a good person who thus makes his goodness a cheerless and critical thing comes off as well in the eternal account as the man who, though he may have his little human weaknesses, makes people smile instead of frown—makes them firmly believe that dark skies are going to clear, and instantly brightens into sympathetic radiance a rather weak and hazy quality of sunshine when it comes.

Since beauty is truth, the man who makes us believe in the essential beauty of the world must be a good and true man. In any case, with all his faults we love him.—New York Mail and Express.

Edward the Confessor's emerald is much smaller and of a deep color; it has been recut in brilliant form, probably for Charles II., which was quite unnecessary. It is said to have been taken out of the confessor's ring, which was buried with him and it has the reputation of being an antidote to cramp. A story told about it relates that the confessor, in one of his walks about Westminster, met a beggar who asked for alms, and the saint being at that moment short of money, gave him his ring in charity in the name of St. John. Some time afterward some English pilgrims, traveling in the holy land, got into difficulties and consulted an old man, a stranger, who happened to be in their company. On hearing that the travelers were English, he revealed himself to them as St. John, the special patron of Edward, king of England, and he assisted them out of their troubles, and gave them a ring to take back to their monarch, with the message that he would meet him in paradise in six months' time. When in due time Edward received the ring, he had once recognized it as that he had given to the Westminster beggar and when he died, according to the saint's prediction, it was buried with him in his shrine at Westminster.

ager of the station sergeant, who recognized him, brought him to realize his position.

The man whom the Stratford magistrate sent to jail for his failure to report himself every month said that he had been turned away from his work and lodgings on two occasions when it was discovered that he had to call at the police station periodically. He could scarcely have known that with the Home Secretary's permission ex-convicts are allowed to report themselves by letter.

Falling from Aloft.

"One of the wonders of seafaring life," writes Charles Protheroe in *Life in the Mercantile Marine*, "is the singularly small proportion of sailors who meet with death or accident by falling from aloft. Whether or no the cherub who is supposed to sit aloft and watch over poor Jack is responsible for it, I am not prepared to say, but the fact remains. Having to tumble up aloft at all hours and in all weathers to perform acrobatic feats that would almost puzzle a monkey, the saying among sailors about 'hanging on by the eyebrows' becomes almost a truism. One would think the situation was highly spiced enough by danger without needlessly increasing it. Yet it is not altogether an uncommon thing to see a man, if he happens to be barefooted, run out along the yard in preference to using the footrope placed under it for the purpose, to reach what is a post of honor, the weather earring. In spite of all this, although not knowing the actual percentage, I make bold to say that not more than one sailor man in hundreds is killed or injured by falling from aloft. If I use my own experience as a base, the proportion would be less, for in over twenty years of sea life I was never caused the pain of witnessing such a catastrophe."

Believed in Skilled Labor.

"The organist's wife told me this morning," said Mrs. Thornton, "that several of the pipes on the organ were out of order."

"Well," replied Mrs. Hadley, "I hope they'll get Mr. Jones, our old plumber, to fix them, and not those new plumbers that have just set up on the corner."

Men never gossip. They simply mention a name to their female friends and proceed to listen.

A compliment makes a woman feel good, even when she knows it is only flattery.

LINED WITH WASTE.

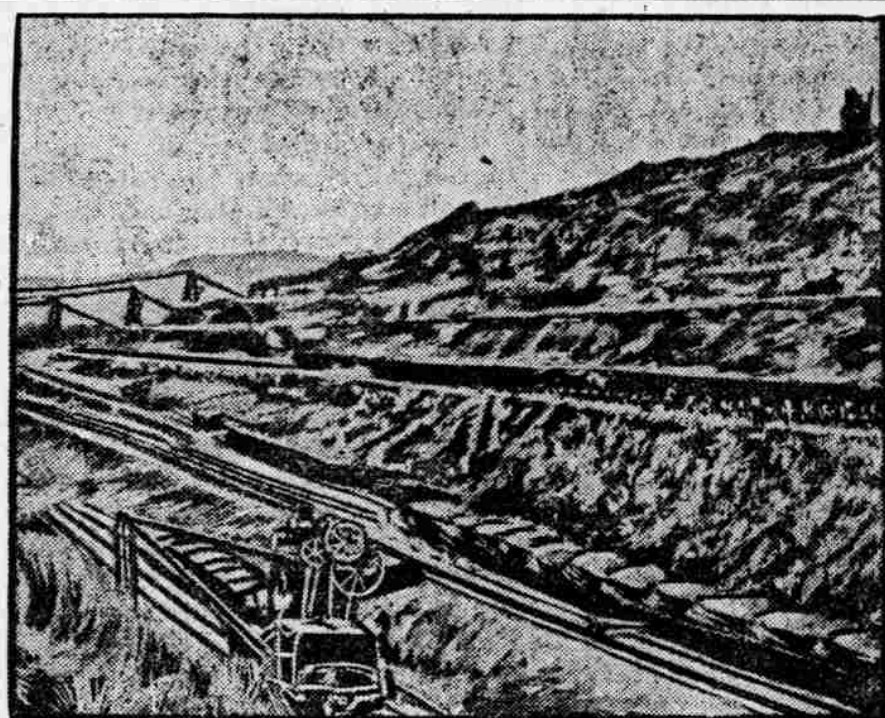
DITCH WHICH CAUSED A NEW REPUBLIC'S CREATION.

Extravagance in the History of the Panama Canal, on Which a Vast Sum Has Been Squandered—Subject of Great Scandal—Curious Features.

Events in the Isthmus of Panama, and the somewhat delicate position assumed by our government, direct attention anew to the extraordinary engineering work in which fortunes and reputations have been sunk; where extravagance and waste have prevailed, and which now assumes a new phase of international interest by becoming a bone of contention between republics. The Panama canal has been a subject of scandal for years. So far as all practical purposes are concerned, this ditch and a strip of land on either side constitute the Isthmus of Panama, though in a wider sense the term, Isthmus, embraces the whole neck of land connecting the continents of North and South America. As generally understood, however, the fifty-four miles of territory along the proposed ship canal, between the cities of Colon, or Aspinwall, as it is sometimes called, on the Caribbean sea, and Panama, on the Pacific ocean, are all there is to the Isthmus. The common impression, the one prevailing among those who have not studied the topography of the country, is that comparatively flat land lies between these two points. This is erroneous, for between the two cities is a range of mountains, a continuation of the Andes. This is the great natural difficulty in the way of the canal, and a second one, scarcely less vexing, are the floods on the Chagres river. Were it not for these obstacles the vessels of the nations would for years have been

rotting frames of dredges half buried in mud. He could see thousands upon thousands of dollars' worth going to decay. For miles the piles of rusting and abandoned rails stared him in the face. There was machinery covered with dirt and overgrown with weeds. Every now and then he passed a house fast going to decay, which was intended for a station on the canal. His attention would be directed by some native or by a well-informed fellow traveler to the house built for De Lesseps, looking no more pretentious than many a cheap city dwelling or country house in our country, but which represented an outlay of nearly \$100,000. A wood-eating worm had got into this, as it did into the stations, and probably little is now left of the buildings. If he kept his ears open the traveler heard other strange stories of recklessness, such, for instance, as that of a locomotive and tender toppling into a ditch and being left there because the contractor hadn't the energy and common sense to pull it out.

With the death of De Lesseps and the collapse of his company the canal project dragged more slowly than ever until the United States took it up. The question of a canal through Nicaragua, instead of across the Panama Isthmus, was for some time discussed, but the preference was finally given to the old route. The treaty with Colombia, however, by which this country was to pay \$10,000,000 for the necessary concession, was defeated this summer in the Colombian Senate. The present attempt on the part of the State of Panama to secede from Colombia is the outcome of this action. President Roosevelt's desire to follow the Panama route rather than that through Nicaragua is due to the fact that it will cost several millions of dollars less to buy and complete the Panama route and that the annual cost of maintenance will be \$100,000 less.

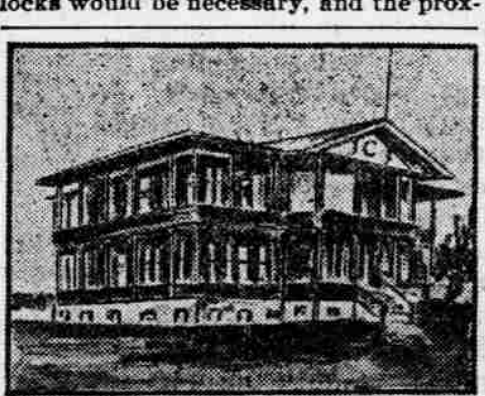


VIEW OF THE PANAMA CANAL, IN THE CULEBRA CUT.

passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again.

A Long-Standing Proposition. Proposals to pierce the Isthmus of Panama are almost as old as its discovery. Cortez had a route surveyed and from the days of the explorer down to our time the idea has been kept alive. The discovery of gold in California caused a new demand for a great waterway, but it resulted only in the building of a railroad. The successful accomplishment of the Suez canal construction in 1868 called attention anew to the American project, and, finally, in 1879, Count Ferdinand de Lesseps made an appeal to the several nations to send delegates to a congress to meet in Paris, to decide upon the route and plan for an interoceanic canal. Nearly all the nations of the world were represented, and the decision of the congress was that such a canal as was projected could be built by way of Limon bay to Panama. The preference for this route over that at Nicaragua lay in the fact that ships could be towed through in ten or twelve hours, while at Nicaragua forty-five hours would be required. Fewer locks would be necessary, and the proximity of the station sergeant, who recognized him, brought him to realize his position.

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THE DE LESSEPS HOUSE.

imity of the railroad made the delivery of laborers, machinery, tools, supplies, etc., an easy matter. The United States objected to the building of the canal except by an independent company, and accordingly the Universal Interoceanic Canal Company undertook the enterprise, and de Lesseps was empowered to proceed.

From the seeds sown in that convention, what a harvest of corruption was there! For fifteen years the work proceeded, the stockholders having every confidence in De Lesseps and his contractors, and the latter enriching themselves at the expense of that trust. When at last there came, in 1892, the revelation of what had been done, the world was amazed. Over \$200,000,000 had been sunk in the project, but only a small part had been actually expended in the work. Most of it had been spent in France to influence public opinion. Charles de Lesseps, Ferdinand's son, was held to be chiefly responsible, but the elder man himself was convicted of fraudulent maneuvers and sent to prison for five years. He died within a year of his conviction—in 1896. The hands of the De Lesseps were not the only unclean ones. Statesmen were tainted; contractors were fraudulently enriched, and even common laborers had their share of the money wrongfully obtained. Never before in all history was there such a gigantic swindle so palpably carried out.

Meanwhile visitors to the Isthmus saw a distressing sight. The work had been abandoned. From the railroad crossing the Isthmus the traveler looked down and saw, in the ditch, the

There are many curious features in connection with the canal. At Panama, where the range of the tide is eighteen feet, a tide-lock is required, and the channel has to be dug far out from the shore to enable vessels to pass from the ocean into the canal at low tide. On the Caribbean side, at Colon, to reach the proper depth of water dredging will be continued into the sea to a point forty-six miles from this port. On the Atlantic side the canal has a higher elevation than on the Pacific, where it runs near the base of the towering mountain, Picacho, which looms up in back of the city of Panama to a height of 7,200 feet. The greatest constructive obstacle in the shape of excavation is the Culebra, or summit, cut, which for a distance of half a mile has an average cutting of 330 feet. The depth of the canal is about twenty-eight feet.

COTTON WEDDING.

Manner in Which the First Marriage Anniversary May Be Celebrated.

The first wedding anniversary is an important occasion to a young married couple. Because they know so little about it, they think they have settled down into the condition of "old married people" and are entirely accustomed to their dual life. To show this clearly they feel it desirable to have some sort of celebration of the fact that they have actually been husband and wife for a year.

But it is not enough to make the celebration a mere gathering together of their friends to spend an evening contemplating a spectacle of mutual felicity. There must be something done to entertain them. And since the first anniversary is, by common consent, the cotton wedding, the party must be of an appropriate character.

A rather unusual method of bringing this about is a sheet and pillow case party, which is also a domino party. This should not be of the old-fashioned kind, in which the costumes were awkward and unbecoming, but one in which the accepted dress is arranged in graceful fashion. For both men and women the sheets may be put on in the same way. The width is passed around the body just below the arm pits, the two corners brought to the back, crossed, then each drawn up over the shoulder, and secured in front with a pin. The length of the sheet falls straight all around. If it is too long, part of it may be folded below the chest. Rather large sheets should be chosen, that there may be plenty of fullness and a certain degree of grace. After the sheet is on, the women may use what they choose in the way of flowers or ribbons for ornamentation. The men—poor creatures!—must content themselves with simply the plain dress.—November Woman's Home Companion.

Seek Something Appropriate. "Yes," said the old inhabitant, "we thought we'd ought to do something nice for Bill after his funeral. He only had one fault. He couldn't tell the truth."

"What did you do for him?"

"Carved a little motto that his friends would understand—'Let him lie in peace.'"—Washington Star.

Fools and Money.—She—A fool and his money are soon parted. He—True, and a fool and her money are soon wedded.—Yonkers Statesman.