

## Great Progress Already Made on Panama Canal

The Isthmus of Panama has undergone tremendous changes during the occupation of the Isthmian Canal Commission, writes Dr. A. DeClairmont, ex-consul for Peru from Ohio, who recently returned from South America by way of the Canal Zone.

The wonderful progress in the cutting through of the canal is now quite apparent to the traveler. From now on, it will be a question of hard work; hitherto it has been more or less a question of organization, such as attending to the sanitary department, putting up dwellings and commissary stores for the employees. Hundreds of men are being discharged every week, such as carpenters, machine men, boiler-makers, etc., who have prepared the double bed of the railroad and built the machine shops so that the work will go on without interruption.

The regular employes and engineers will devote their time to the actual work, which is moving so rapidly that it is the belief of every one on the Isthmus that steamers will be passing through the canal within five years, a prediction which appears quite reasonable when it is remembered that all that has to be done now is the cutting of the Culebra, a cut of about eighty feet to canal level, and the building of the locks.

While the city of Panama is handling many more millions of dollars than it ever did during the French occupation, there is much dissatisfaction in that the profits are not so great as

Company, Chilean Navigation Company and Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The first two conduct a regular passenger and freight service between Ancon and the rest of South America. The Panama railroad and steamship line runs a regular five-day passenger and freight service between Cristobal (Colon) and New York city, and there are many freight boats bringing coal and various other supplies to both sides of the Isthmus for the canal commission and the merchants. No duties or charges are imposed by the United States government on shipping facilities at the ports of Ancon and Cristobal, and no collections are made by the Panama customs authorities on any material or supplies for the use of the canal commission or the Panama railroad in accordance with the Taft agreement of December 3, 1904.

Unusual opportunities are given to every one renting lands in the zone. Good agricultural lands that will grow all sorts of fruits and cereals, bananas, etc., may be rented for \$1.50 per acre per year. The rent for building land varies according to the location. For the first three-quarters of 1907 the revenue from land rent was \$6,653.20.

There are fifteen hotels in operation for white Americans and the price per meal is 30 cents. The stewards and cooks are generally white men. There are 23 kitchens for Indian laborers and a day's board is supplied for 30 cents. The food is prepared by Indian cooks. The income from the hotels last year

any other disease. In 1907, 11,745 were treated at the commission hospital. A new-comer on the Isthmus now-days wonders at the absence of mosquitos at Panama and Colon and the settled parts of the canal strip. The reason is found when it is stated that during the last year more than 2,736 gallons of mosquito oil was sprinkled on the streets and low places. A very rigid inspection is made of all passengers and crews on boats, and those touching at unclean ports are held in quarantine for five days. The vaccination against smallpox for 1907 amounted to 34,589 cases. The immigration for the same



A GLIMPSE OF THE CANAL.

year was more than 30,000, out of which only forty-four were rejected.

### Fashions in Horses' Tails.

Horses' tails have been subjected to curious changes of fashion. In the time of the Stuarts the English coach-horse's tail was worn long and flowing, and was cut square, like King Charles' charger at Charing Cross. English Country Life says that it was adorned with ribbons on gala days, and strapped up in a leather case in winter weather; thus a certain harmony was preserved between the wig of the master and the tails of his horses.

By the time of George II. a short wig and a pigtail had taken the place of the flowing curls in which the cavaliers of Charles I. and the rakes of Charles II.'s court delighted.

The brilliant idea occurred to Lord Cadogan, a cavalry officer of that period, to reduce the tails of his dragoon horses to a short dock. Possibly this was with the view of saving his soldiers the trouble of cleaning those long tails, and avoiding the nuisance of the splashes uniforms and accoutrements must have received from such hair streamers.

Or it may be that the debased taste of the age made him think the appearance of his regiment was really improved by bobbed tails. That is a question which history does not decide.

The next step was to turn bobtails into pigtails, by cutting all the hair for the last two or three inches of the dock. Having thus succeeded in disfiguring the hind quarters of dragoon horses, some monster devised the additional barbarity of cropping their ears.

### Facing the Enemy.

Major Cary, who died a few months ago in England, was the leader of the search party which rode through the African bush to find the body of the Prince Imperial of France. It was with Lieutenant Cary of the Ninety-eighth Regiment that he went out on the fatal ride in the Zulu War. Ellen Barlee gives an account of the tragedy in her life of the prince, and also mentions a little incident of his boyhood which is curiously prophetic of the spirit he showed in his last fight.

The prince was a bright, jovial youth, with high spirits. "The Dear Boy" he was called in camp. When the corps of volunteers under Cary's command found his body in the tall grass it was seen that he had received seventeen assaig wounds, all in front.

When the prince was a small boy he was attacked by a deep-seated abscess in his back. An operation was ordered, and the little fellow submitted bravely. Something troubled him,

was \$492,000, expenditures \$475,000. The average number of meals served in a month is about 1,000,000.

### Health on Isthmus.

The Isthmus has been very healthful since the medical commission cleaned up the various cities and villages along the zone. There has been no yellow fever for three years. The department of sanitation is magnificently equipped and goes into every part of the zone. There are two splendid hospitals at Ancon and Colon and line hospitals at all the principal settlements along the canal route. There are numerous dispensaries, and a district physician and an inspecting force are maintained in each. When Dr. de Clairmont passed over the zone in 1904 on his way to Peru, the jungle reigned supreme in all the settlements built by the French. Now one sees numerous well ordered villages, with the jungles and grass cut away, drainage ditches run in every direction, there are good sidewalks and in many places electric lights. It is a pleasure to ride over the new road from one end of the Isthmus to the other, and

Admiral Walker, who first reported in favor of the Nicaragua road, so angered the French Panama company that they made a reduction of \$70,000,000 on their previous figure, so that of the \$40,000,000 paid to the French company, \$27,474,000 went to the canal. The Panama railroad received \$6,884,000, and there was paid for the plans, maps and abstracts \$2,000,000. This also included 30,000 acres of land that went with the railroad; 625,000 acres of land under the Wise concession, 2,265 buildings in the city of Panama, in Colon and along the line of the canal, and three steamers of 2,000 tons each.

The Isthmian Commission, May 4, 1904, took possession of the property, which included, at that time, 115 store-houses, 15 large warehouses and 41 parks or yards scattered along the 40 miles of canal road.

### French Inventory.

According to the last inventory of the French, the canal property represented a book value of \$20,000,000. Most of the stuff has been thrown on the scrap heap, and in 1906 a dealer in old iron bought two shiploads, paying \$60,000, while hundreds of tons have been going to New York as ballast on the Panama steamers.

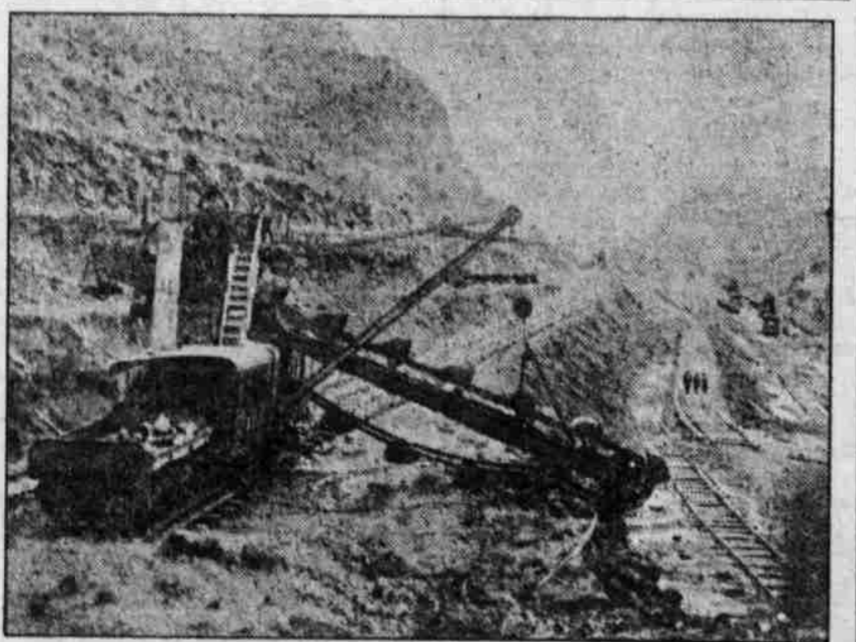
Many hundreds of engines and machines have been put in service and are now at work on the canal. The Ancon hospital, one of the finest on the Isthmus, cost the French upwards of \$5,000,000, and De Lesseps' house, also at Colon, \$200,000. The building now occupied by the American legation cost \$60,000. The commission is now quartering and caring for about 25,000 men, and the experiment with laborers from Spain has proven very satisfactory.

There were 4,317 Europeans at work on the canal June 30, 1907, as well as 14,906 natives of West India.

The Panama railroad has a force of 5,000 laborers and 6,900 Europeans. During the year 1907 nearly 1,500 men were out of the ranks every month. At the present time the labor cost is smaller, owing to the progress of work and the reduction of forces in many of the departments. It seems that the labor problem is still unsolved.

The wonderful progress of the Americans on the Isthmus is seen everywhere. Cottages are well built and of picturesque appearance. There are 537 houses for married employes and 223 for single men; all told there are 528 hotels, 16 mess houses and 19 kitchens. There are 55 miscellaneous offices and club houses, making a total of 2,208 buildings.

The American department, called the Canal Zone, is divided into two custom districts, known as Ancon, on the Pacific, and Cristobal, on the Atlantic side. The steamship lines entering Ancon are the Pacific Steam Navigation



A STEAM SHOVEL AT WORK.

every few miles there is a clean tropical village.

There is a station on the Isthmus for lepers and new insane quarters at Ancon. The lepers have now been placed on a point in the bay west of La Boca, near Panama.

The death rate on the Isthmus has been as follows: In 1905 it was 53 per cent, in 1906 49 per cent, in 1907 42 per cent, and the total deaths in 1907 numbered 1,273, of which 104 were due to accident. The native death rate, compared to the whites, is 3.21, and the cause of this is that the white man stands the conditions on the Isthmus three times as well as the negro, a statement that would have been contradicted three years ago, but which experience has proven true.

Pneumonia claims more victims than

however, which at last he confided to his father.

The abscess being in his back, he would have a wound behind.

"If a scar remains," he said, "perhaps my enemies some day will think I ran away."

### Court and Witness Agree.

An amusing incident occurred in one of the New York courts the other day. The lawyer for the defense was making a very lengthy cross-examination of an old lady when he was interrupted by the judge with the remark, "I think you have exhausted this witness."

"Yes, judge," she exclaimed, "I do feel very much exhausted."

Most men, when they come to the end of their rope, also come to their senses.



### Farm Industry Prospers.

No industry has equaled the prosperity of agriculture the past decade. Scientific methods of farming and improved live stock have greatly increased the revenue of the farms in all parts of the country. The land has been cultivated to yield increased crops, and prices have ruled uniformly high and stable. While other industries feel the effects of the financial depression, the soil continues to yield bountiful harvests and values hold firm in contrast with depressed business activities. The government estimates that the value of the agricultural products of 1908 will total the enormous sum of \$8,500,000,000.

Farmers have invested approximately in agriculture \$25,000,000,000, which yields a gross income of 30 per cent on the investment, according to the estimate of the value of this season's output. In some localities where farm lands are cheap the gross return is upward of 100 per cent on the investment, and farmers are able to pay for their land with a single crop. It is estimated that there are 6,000,000 farms in the United States that are putting on the market annually an output valued at \$8,500,000,000. It is the leading industry of the country, and its prosperity has had an ameliorating effect on the late financial panic. The farmers are the only representatives of an industry who are not materially affected by the current dull times.

Live stock husbandry is becoming more paramount in agricultural operations. The assessed valuation of the horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs in the United States now totals \$4,331,230,000. Dairy products now equal the combined value of wheat and oats. The value of eggs and poultry equals the

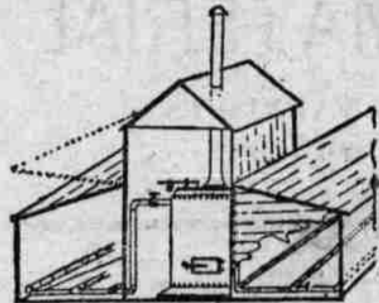
### It Pays to steam Fodder.

Fodder can be made much more palatable by moistening the mass with live steam. A barrel or hoghead with a little steam pipe run from a small feed cooker will do for one to half a dozen head of cattle, but for feeding on a large scale the following plans will show how to build a cooker of sufficient capacity:

The shed should be only large enough to house the steamer. There is a small door in the end next to the fire-box beside the boiler.

The bins on the sides should be large enough to steam an ample supply for each day's feeding. The bin is filled one day before using and steamed thoroughly, but not enough to make it soggy. It should be allowed to cool and then fed the next day.

The bin should be provided with hinged lids. The steam pipes are run



COOKER FOR STEAMING FODDER.

from the steamer to the bottom of the bins, where they are connected with more pipes to give an equal distribution of steam.

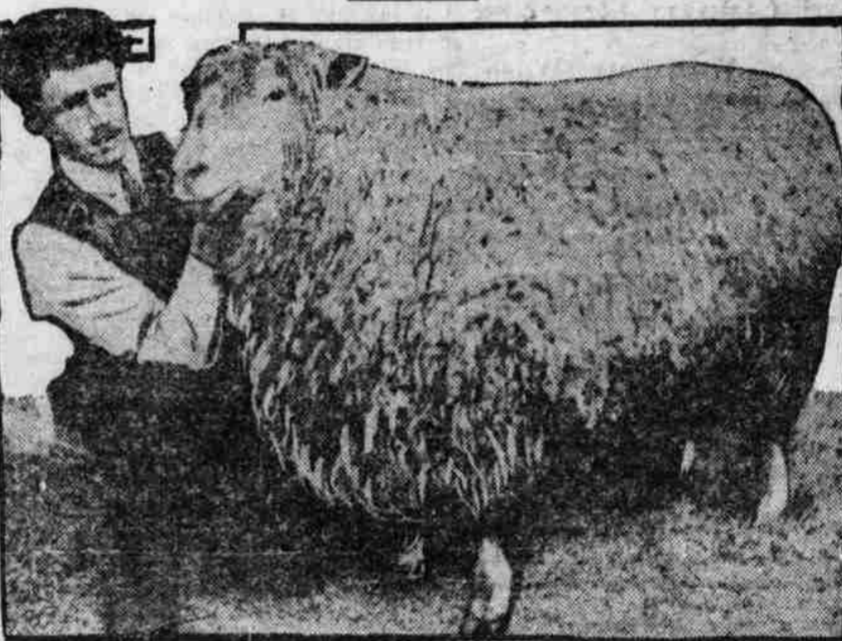
The pipes inside the bins are pierced with one-eighth-inch holes six inches apart to allow the steam to escape.

To preserve the bins they should be lined, bottom, sides, top and lids, with zinc.

### Cellar for Roots and Vegetables.

Root cellars are usually built half below and half above the level of the ground. Excavate sixteen inches below the desired level of the floor, and around the sides build a foundation twelve inches wide of one part Portland cement, three parts clean, coarse sand and six parts broken stone or gravel. Remove form and fill between

### A BIG SHEEP AT THE CHICAGO STOCK SHOW.



combined appraisal of wheat and oats. The combined value of dairy products, eggs and poultry equals the value of the corn crop.

The 6,000,000 farms produce a gross output of \$8,500,000,000, or an average of \$1,416 annually. This is an average gross income per farm of \$118 per month. Even the 190,000 New England farms are credited with an annual output of \$200,000,000, or an average of \$1,032 per farm. While there is no magical transition from poverty to wealth in agriculture, there are such liberal returns from the soil and such attractive profits for farm produce that farmers as a professional class lead all industries in stable prosperity. Commercial activity or industrial depression do not materially affect the consumption of farm commodities.—Goodall's Farmer.

### Farm Notes.

Sheep should not be fed ensilage except in small quantities.

It is said that barley furnishes as much nutriment as the same weight of oats.

Don't overcrowd the chickens. Winter only as many as you can comfortably.

Clean dirty eggs with a woolen rag slightly moistened in water; never wash them.

A teaspoonful of chloride of lime in a pint of warm water is said to relieve wind colic in horses.

The idea of perfect comfort should predominate in every building that is constructed for the hogs.

The failures that we make, if wisely pondered and wisely used, may guide us to the success we long to achieve.

Farmers are a power in the land, but it is only as they stand together on questions that affect their welfare that this holds true.

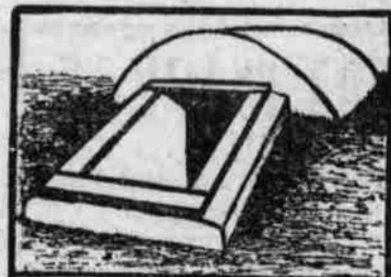
Fourteen million bushels of wheat were exported through Puget sound ports last year and 13,000,000 through Portland, Ore. New York exported 20,000,000, Galveston 8,000,000 and New Orleans 5,000,000 bushels.

In Holland healthy paupers are set to work at farming. For this purpose the government has six model farms, and on these a man who fails to support himself at another calling is taught the principles of farming. He is then allowed to rent a small piece of land at a very low figure and is compelled to till it and support himself.

the foundations to a depth of twelve inches with porous material, tamping well.

On the foundation and at equal distance from either edge erect a solid wall eight inches thick, with one part Portland cement, two and one-half parts clean, coarse sand and five parts cinders, broken stone or gravel, leaving an opening at one end for the steps. Build up the end walls, so as to form a point in the middle, and high enough to give the roof a sufficient pitch to shed the rain.

Near the top at each end openings



CONCRETE ROOT CELLAR.

for windows should be left, and the sash fitted and plastered in after the concrete has set and forms have been removed.

If a concrete roof is desired, forms should be erected and a roof two and one-half inches thick laid on. On the top of this, and before the concrete is dry, a layer one-fourth inch thick of one part Portland cement and one part sand should be placed, troweled when partially set and smoothed with a wooden float. Forms should not be removed from roof for at least three weeks.

Roof and steps should be reinforced with a woven wire fabric or with steel rods. The cut shows a small cellar suitable for storing all kinds of roots, fruit and vegetables.—Farm and Home.

### Canning Sweet Potatoes.

The Lindale canning factory has been running regularly for several weeks, canning sweet potatoes. This is a new thing and furnishes a market not only for all the sweet potatoes raised in the vicinity of Lindale, but carload lots are being shipped in to supply the canery.—Wills Point (Tex.) Chronicle.

### A Snow Plow.

Take two pieces of plank one foot wide and four feet long and bolt them together in the shape of a letter V. To this arrangement attach a horse and by standing on it to hold it down one can make a path four or five feet wide with very little trouble.

## Old Favorites

### Down in a Coal Mine.

I am a jovial collier lad, and blithe as blithe can be,  
For let the times be good or bad, they're all the same to me.  
'Tis little of the world I know, and care less for its ways,  
For where the dog star never glows, I wear away my days.

### Chorus:

Down in a coal mine, underneath the ground,  
Where a gleam of sunshine never can be found;  
Digging dusky diamonds all the season 'round,  
Down in a coal mine, underneath the ground.

My hands are horny, hard and black, with working in the vein,  
And, like the clothes upon my back, my speech is rough and plain;  
Well, if I stumble with my tongue, I've one excuse to say,  
'Tis not the collier's heart that's wrong, 'tis the head that goes astray.

At every shift, be't soon or late, I haste my bread to earn,  
And anxiously my kindred wait and watch for my return;  
For Death that levels all alike, whatever their rank may be,  
Amid the fire and damp, may strike, and fling his darts at me.

How little do the great ones care, who sit at home secure,  
What hidden dangers coilers dare, what hardships they endure;  
The very fires their mansions boast, to cheer themselves and wives,  
Mayhap were kindled at the cost of jovial colliers' lives.

Then cheer up, lads, and make ye much of every joy ye can,  
But let your mirth be always such as best becomes a man;  
However Fortune turns about, we'll still be jovial souls,  
What would our country be without the lads who look for coals?  
—Old English Song.

### Jennette and Jeannot.

You are going far away,  
Far away from poor Jeannette,  
There is no one left to love me now,  
And you too may forget;  
But my heart will be with you,  
Wherever you may go.  
Can you look me in the face  
And say the same, Jeannot?  
When you wear the jacket red,  
And the beautiful cockade,  
Oh! I fear you will forget  
All the promises you've made;  
With your gun upon your shoulder,  
And your bayonet by your side,  
You'll be taking some proud lady,  
And be making her your bride;  
You'll be taking some proud lady,  
And be making her your bride.

Or when glory leads the way,  
You'll be madly rushing on,  
Never thinking if they kill you that,  
My happiness is gone;  
If you win the day, perhaps,  
A general you'll be,  
Tho' I'm proud to think of that,  
What will become of me?  
Oh! if I were Queen of France,  
Or still better, Pope of Rome,  
I would have no fighting men abroad  
No weeping maids at home,  
All the world should be at peace,  
Or if kings must show their might,  
Why let them who make the quarrels,  
Be the only men to fight;  
Yes, let them who make the quarrels,  
Be the only men to fight.  
—Charles Jerfery.

### Walking Sticks.

The sixteenth century is that in which the walking stick became not merely a useful implement, but an article of fashion, dignity and luxury. In the seventeenth century it was gold-headed and made of rare woods. It was a sign of leadership.

For a long period there was little variety among Englishmen in the material used for the majority of walking sticks. The "oaken towel," as it was pleasantly termed when an enemy was to be "rubbed down," shared popularity with the crab tree cudgel, which, among rural folk especially, was much valued and classic from the conflict in "Hudibras," when—

With many a stiff thwack, many a bang,  
Hard crab tree on old iron rang.

Classic, too, is that stout oaken stick which sturdy Dr. Johnson, who, like Knox, "never feared the face of living man," provided himself with when he went to the pit of the little theater in the Haymarket in full view of Foote, who had announced his intention of "taking him off" on the stage, an intention which in view of the stick he did not carry into effect.—Gentleman's Magazine.

### The Road to Success.

John G. Johnson, Philadelphia's famous lawyer, was talking in the smoke room of a liner about work.

"In my youth," said Mr. Johnson, "I was ambitious. Ambitious in an aimless and desultory way. In early youth, of course, one understands neither life nor one's self."

"An aged millionaire questioned me one day good-humoredly.

"You are ambitious," he said. "I am," I agreed.

"Why," said the millionaire, "do you want to rise?"

"So that I can do as I like," I answered.

"The millionaire smiled and shook his head.

"Ah, my boy," he said, "it is only when we do as we don't like that we succeed."

When a husband is mean, patience in his wife is never regarded by any of the neighbors as a virtue.