

FROM TITICACA TO THE SEA.

CROSSING THE ANDES BY THE HIGHEST RAILROAD IN THE WORLD.

Delights of Traveling Above the Clouds.—The Great Desert of Islay—Etc.

(From RECORD-UNION'S Special Correspondent) XXXIII.

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From Lake Titicaca to the sea is a railroad journey of 325 miles, all in Peru, over the Andes and across a desert. Starting at an elevation of 12,500 feet, the road rises by gradual ascent to the extraordinary altitude of 14,666 feet, the highest that wheels turned by steam have ever attained. This is at a point called Cruceiro Alto, about midway between Puno and Arequipa, and by the way, some of the recent books on South America confound Cruceiro Alto with the pass in Bolivia known as Alto del Cruceiro. The latter is more than 16,000 feet high and many miles farther inland on another range of the Andes not crossed by any railroad, but by the solitary mule-trail which we traversed some months ago, going from La Paz to the Yungas valley.

This Puno and Molleandu Railway was built for the Peruvian Government about fourteen years ago by Henry Meigs, and it cost more than \$45,000,000 for the 325 miles, or the enormous average of \$139,000 per mile! But railroad building in the Andes is by no means what the same thing might be in the United States. This is really a wonderful work and though it has few tunnels no railway in the world can show so much excavating and so massive embankments. There is another Peruvian railroad, called the Oroya, also built by Meigs, leading from Lima up to the mines of Cerro del Pasco and thence projected to the head waters of the Amazon, designed to connect with the Amazonian highway and thus make transit to the Atlantic shorter and cheaper than by the old routes—which, at some points, will be even higher than this one.

While John Thorndyke, late of Boston, was manager of the Puno and Molleandu road, it admits of a great deal of the American plan; but since this railway, in common with all others in Peru, now comes under the celebrated "Grace-Donoghue contract," the leaders being the well-known banker and ex-Mayor of New York city Lord Donoghue and Lord London, backed by plenty of English and United States capital, its business is managed by an odd but politic mixture of methods, notably North American, South American, Peruvian and English. Its present superintendent, Victor H. MacCord, formerly from San Francisco, is a typical Westerner, combining the most cordial courtesy with great business energy. He has experienced some strange "ups and downs" in his connection with this railroad, which serves as a sample of what most foreigners may expect who have the boldness to engage in business in many portions of this revolution-ridden continent.

Coming here first as a telegraph operator, Mr. MacCord soon worked his way up to the superintendency of the road. The most dangerous part of the road, and which it happened one day, by some accident wholly unforeseen, that an engine on its way to Molleandu was seized and "run in" by the Chileans, who seem to have made it a point during that short but stormy struggle to steal everything they could lay hands on, even to locomotives under full steam. Though in no way to blame for the occurrence, Mr. MacCord was held directly responsible by the local authorities of Arequipa, that city, which has always been headquarters of the railway. The result was that, then under military rule. He was at once arrested and without a hearing of any sort imprisoned in a gloomy den of the quarter, which had not so much as a chair or bed, nothing but the bare, damp walls. Neither food nor water was supplied to him, and his repeated demands for a trial, or at least the chance to make a statement in his own behalf, were answered by counter-demands for a large amount of money. The latter not being forthcoming, he was led out one day to a firing square, moments' warning, ostensibly to be shot, and told to prepare for instant death.

Probably it was not intended to kill him, merely to terrify him into enriching the impetuous local jefe politico. Failing in this, after he had been placed in position and the soldiers had raised their rifles to fire, knowing that nothing could be gained by his death and possibly something might be wrung out of him if he were allowed to live, the half-drunk crowd never returned to the firing square. Friends brought him food and finally raised the sum to \$100,000 for his release, which they paid over to the jefe, who certainly had no right to it beyond that of temporary military power, and the illegally imprisoned gentleman was set at liberty. A few months ago Mr. MacCord was again made superintendent of this same road to the satisfaction of all concerned, and affairs are now going on as smoothly as anything can be expected in Peru.

A few miles from Cruceiro Alto is Vinococaya, the very loftiest village in all the world, unless it may be some of those in Central Asia, 14,366 feet above the sea. It is higher than the celebrated mines of Cerro del Pasco, higher even than famous Potosi; higher than Queen of the Mountains, Leadville, Colorado; nearly twice as high as the Alpine Hospice of Saint Bernard, and if one were to put Mount Washington on top of the present one, its summit would still be almost 2,000 feet lower down than Vinococaya. This village, and its name is purely a creation of the railroad and boasts of all the adjuncts of a relay and repairing station, as well as a so-called American inn, El Hotel Express. Why "American" I do not know, as the landlord and his wife are half-Chilean, half-German, and hardly indeed needs to be to live so near the station. Professor Orton, of Vassar College, was obliged to pass a night here, and, accustomed as he was to the mountain air from his life in Quito, wrote that he could not sleep at all, but spent the time panting for breath.

Long before we arrived at Vinococaya, coming from either end of the line, nearly everybody is suffering from soroche, in greater or less degree. Strange to say, frequent passing over the same heights does not exempt one from the distressing complaint, and the strongest and healthiest seem to be more prostrated by it than the sickly, with the exception of one of our immediate party, a consumptive young Chilean, traveling to prolong his span of life, whose sunken chest heaves painfully in the effort of respiration, and whose pale face has taken on a ghastly grayish blue. Poor little T., whose heart is easily disturbed from its regular work, lies helpless among the rugs and furs, with purple face and icy extremities. Several passengers are relieved by a copious flow of blood from the nose; and a jolly Englishman from Arequipa, who weighs nearly 300 pounds, and says he was never ill in his life except when passing over this road, has turned the color of a boiled lobster, and, gasping with suffocation, holds his head with both hands, declaring that it is about to burst.

The remedies commonly made use of are brandy and bromide of potassi, assisted by various means of massage, and the natives believe so implicitly in the latter preventive that not one of them will travel in the higher altitudes without a generous supply, which he cuts and sniffs at leisure, though it be strong enough to draw tears from the eyes of a graven image. When mules and horses

are prostrated with soroche, the usual cure is to stuff slices of raw onions up the creature's nostrils. Many people cannot make this journey at all, especially those of exceptionally "thin" habit, or who have any chest trouble. I have known more than one person to set out bravely for Bolivia who was obliged to give it up before the highest point on the road was reached. If fresh from an ocean voyage, or after long residence near the level of the sea, the soroche may be more to be feared, as at Arequipa, which has an altitude a little less than 8,000 feet, in order to accustom one's self by degrees to the oxygenless gas.

The traveler on this railway is constantly reminded of that celebrated maintenance engineer, "The Heart of the Andes," and realizes that he has found the very spot. It is always bitterly cold on the mountain tops, and when, at Vinococaya, we pick our way from the car to the Hotel Empress for luncheon, in a driving storm of sleet and hail, the altitude looks like a vast bog, covered with patches of snow, and short, coarse grass growing in bunches. As the storm increases to a raging blizzard, whitening all the landscape in a few moments, the domesticated llamas and alpacas run to the corrals for protection, while the gruanacos, vicuñas, and other wild creatures huddle together to keep warm, or skurry away to sheltered gorges known only to themselves. Undoubtedly those "four sheep of the Andes" belong to the same family, the alpaca being crossed between the llama and the sheep, and the gruanaco between the vicuña and the llama.

In some parts of Peru, Bolivia and Chile gruanacos are as common as goats in Switzerland. The animal's body is somewhat of the greyhound build, being very narrow in the joints but deep in the chest. It is covered with long hair, exceedingly soft and fine, pale yellow, shading to white underneath; combined with the strength and endurance of the llama, it has all the characteristics of the North American deer being graceful and fleet-footed, and its flesh is much like that of the antelope. Their skins, like those of the vicuña, command a high price in Europe, where they are in great demand for carriage robes, cloak linings, etc.

In their wild state, the animals roam in flocks, and one of the herd always stands on guard. If danger threatens he gives the alarm by stamping his feet, and swift indeed must the pursuer be who can overtake them. They abound in great numbers in the less thickly settled portions of the Andes, and that part of the Argentine Republic which used to be Patagonia, where they furnish the principal sport of the people. Every hunter who can afford it keeps a pack of dogs trained especially for this chase. The most "savage" of games with greatest care, and sometimes get near enough for a shot with their rifles; but it often happens that the timid creatures decline so close an acquaintance with their natural enemy, man. If a gruanaco is found grazing singly on the plain, the chance of getting him is very small; but when the herd is pursued, each animal tries to crowd himself into the center for greater safety, thus considerably retarding their speed by the confusion that ensues. It is amusing to note how well the dogs understand this trick, and while crazy to pursue a flock, they look with indifference upon the solitary gruanaco or vicuña.

What is known as a "bezoar stone" is occasionally found in the stomach of one of these animals, and to possess it is considered the greatest kind of good fortune, its magical virtues exempting the lucky individual who carries it in his pocket from most of the ills to which flesh is heir. Alpaca and vicuña wool closely resemble that of the llama, but being very fine and valuable, large quantities of it are exported to England, and little goes to the United States. The coarser wool of the llama is from six to eight inches long, and a single fleece often weighs as much as twelve pounds; but it is seldom shorn, and the animal being so valuable as a beast of burden in altitudes where horses and mules are useless.

Not a great way from Vinococaya the road passes between two blackish lakes, both higher up than Titicaca, named respectively Lago de Titicaca and Lago de Chichas. They are splendid bodies of water, blackened at all times of year by wild duck and other fowl; but whether they are navigable or not nobody knows, nor is it a matter of much consequence in this unhabited region. For miles we ran along the banks of a river fed from the clouds, where droves of laden llamas, driven by Indians, are as much a feature of the landscape as camels in Arabia. Though a long stretch of this "land of the sky" is exceptionally rich in water and pasture (for Peru, where the face of the earth is mostly covered with dry sand), the cold prevents anybody from living here. Away up where nothing grows, many fantastically-shaped rocks are seen, as if the Titans of the Andes had their playground in these solitudes.

As we slowly descend to lesser heights, the great mountain, "Misti," which stands behind Arequipa, seems to come hospitably forth to meet us. Though only 18,650 feet high, this inactive volcano is one of the most beautiful in all South America, being a cone of perfect regularity, crowned with snow during most of the year, while eternal summer reigns at its feet. Close by Misti, apparently, but in reality separated from it about seventy miles by the plain of the Uta, is another snow-capped mountain, called Coropuna, nearly 25,000 feet high. Then there is Chachani, a little north of Misti, about 19,000 feet high; Pichipichu, to the southwest, 17,800 feet; and El Ubinas, only 16,000 feet high, which its eruption occurred late in the twentieth century.

But Misti is grandest of all, though 5,000 feet nearer to earthly things than Coropuna, probably because the beauty of its snow is not detracted from by too near neighbors. Many wild tales are connected with this mountain, some of them an outgrowth of Indian superstitions. The Aymaras and Quinchuas, who come down from Puno and about to Arequipa, if compelled by business to remain a few days in the vicinity, will affect them as if they were set out with their llamas away up into the wild recesses of Misti to "rest themselves," as they say, and also to perform some unknown religious ceremonies.

Not a great while ago, two young Englishmen, residing in Arequipa, undertook to explore Misti, actuated purely by a spirit of adventure, and also to discover a possible trail which might be followed to the other side and thus save the customary detour. The oldest was a man of 28, and the other a lad of 17. Well equipped they set out gaily, with no thought of the fate that awaited them. Failing to return in course of time, a party went forth to look for them. After a weary search the bodies of the two were found, the elder in a crouching attitude, with his back against a crag, and the boy, who had evidently committed suicide, lying at the foot of a new-by precipice. From scraps of writing in their note-books, it was learned they lived at least three days without food or water, having set their way on the far side of the great mountain, and traveled round and round in its trackless solitudes. The man died first, from cold, exposure and starvation; but youth is hard to kill, and the lad, crazed by the awful silence and the loss of his companion, paced to and fro beside the corpse another long night, and at last, in his despair, had thrown himself over the precipice.

At Arequipa (pronounced Are-keep-ah), one of the oldest and most interesting cities in Peru—to which we shall return later—the traveler must stop overnight, having arrived about dark on the

A MAN FLAYED ALIVE.

FROG SKIN GRAFTED WHERE THE HUMAN CUTICLE WAS.

Terrific Experiences of Wesley Keller, Who Fell Into a Vat—Living and Getting Along Nicely.

(From the Indianapolis News.) Wesley Keller will return to work tomorrow.

This little notice may not interest the general public much, but to Wes. Keller and his friends it means much. Wednesday, July 30th, Keller fell into the steam vat of the Indianapolis Veneer Works, where he had been working, and was so severely scalded that for a long time his life was despaired of.

The injured man was taken to his home, and Dr. Ralph St. J. Perry, the company's surgeon, called. The doctor found that Keller was scalded from the soles of his feet to the middle of his chest, and that one arm was also blistered to the shoulder. Huge blisters puffed up all over the man's body, and the fluid which had exuded from the flesh to fill them had become cooked to a jelly. In removing his clothes great strips of the outside or scurf skin came off. Keller was scalded from the soles of his feet to the middle of his chest, and that one arm was also blistered to the shoulder. Huge blisters puffed up all over the man's body, and the fluid which had exuded from the flesh to fill them had become cooked to a jelly. In removing his clothes great strips of the outside or scurf skin came off. Keller was scalded from the soles of his feet to the middle of his chest, and that one arm was also blistered to the shoulder. 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