

THE PANAMA CANAL.

IX—PAYING OFF.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Special Correspondence The Washington Herald.

Empire, Canal Zone, July 9.—It takes eighteen tons of silver and about 1,500 pounds of gold to pay off the canal force each month. It takes five men three full days, working nearly eleven hours a day, to hand across the counter enough money to settle the monthly bill for skilled and unskilled labor. Money is handled like so many bricks, or so much sand. It loses all interest to the pay clerks, and they cease even to make it a subject of jest.

Pay day begins on the morning of the 15th and lasts until the evening of the 15th of each month. Before this time the pay tickets have all been made out in accordance with the accounts of the time-keeper and the Panamanian silver has been counted out and wrapped up in packages of \$5 and multiples thereof.

If you happen to be in Empire about 3 o'clock in the morning on the 12th of any month, and are awake, you will see half a dozen lanterns moving from different points toward the disbursing office. The pay clerks will have the sum of half a dozen wagons going in the same direction. Over in the distance Gold Hill and Culebra Mountain stand like lone sentinels guarding the isthmian strong box. If you were not here, you might think some revived buccannors or freebooters of the old Spanish Main had planned a raid on the several million dollars of gold and silver stored there. But it is only the pay force going to load the pay car. The vaults in which the money is stored are made of concrete, in which are imbedded all sorts of old iron, from steel rails to horseshoes, to give it security.

The vault doors are opened, and while a dozen Zone policemen, armed to the teeth, stand around and see it well done, half a dozen Panamanians carry the gold and silver out to the wagons. The bags of silver, each holding \$1,000, weigh fifty-eight pounds each. The silver is carried in bags, having \$5,000 in each. Sixty tons of silver are taken from the vaults and carried out into the wagon, and then the jack-o-lantern parade proceeds to the pay car, a half mile in the distance. The money is loaded into it, and by sunrise all kinds are ready for the wagons. The silver is shifted, half the force staying with the pay car, while the other half goes to breakfast. By 6 o'clock breakfast is over and the pay train starts for La Boca, the Pacific end of the canal, where the paying off begins.

Excellent arrangements have been made for handling the crowds of laborers. In the pay car there are two doors on each side, opposite each other. At one end there is one center door, and at the other end two doors, one in each corner. The "silver" men are lined up on the right hand side of the car in four files. Four streams of men are kept pouring through the car all the time. Half a dozen policemen line up the laborers. As one comes to the counter of the pay clerk he is commanded to show his hands and produce his metal identification check. The policeman stationed at the counter examines the pay check and the identification check. If the numbers on them correspond the pay clerk takes it, throws the amount of money called for into the hat of the laborer, and commands him to pass on. There is no time for the laborer to count his money, but on the outside of the car there are several plain clothes members of the police force who keep a sharp eye on the money. They do not make away with a part of their money and then come back and claim that they have received short change.

The Spaniards are paid off in American gold with Panamanian silver for the smallest or change. The negroes are paid off in Panamanian silver entirely. The negroes get only half as much per hour in wages as the white laborers, yet they are obliged to take their money in Panamanian silver. When the negro gets a whole month's wages in Panamanian silver is a bulky pile of money. One American silver dollar is worth just two Panamanian silver dollars, and consequently a "Spiggoty" money, "in money," and "monkey money." When the negro gets a whole month's wages in Panamanian silver, he looks at it with a look of indifference, and usually the money-changer has rather unceremonious notice to move on.

When a laborer thinks he is underpaid he goes to the cashier of the pay car and makes his complaint. If he can tell which clerk has made the mistake, he is looked up at once. It is usually found that he has forgotten that there was a reduction for commissary books, and that things are all right. If his cash does not tally with his ticket, the matter is taken up, and when the balances are taken they can tell whether a mistake has been made or not. There are interpreters who accompany the pay car who can speak every language and dialect used in the Zone.

The paying off of the negro laborer in Panamanian silver is an expensive concession to the Republic of Panama. The United States is not bound to do so, but does it simply out of the goodness of its heart, in order to keep the Panama money in circulation. There are no exact figures to be had on the subject, but it is not improbable that it costs the United States a thousand dollars a month more to pay off the labor force in this "Spiggoty" money than it would cost to pay off in good American gold. Imagine the task of counting out a million dollars in American silver, and then reflect that it takes two men two pieces of "Spiggoty" money for every piece of American silver, and you will begin to see the trouble and expense involved in handling this Panamanian money rather than American gold. If a thousand dollars in gold a month is a fair estimate of the added expense, and it takes six years more to build the canal, it will cost us the tidy sum of \$2,000,000 to help the Panamanian keep an impracticable currency in circulation.

And this, even, is a mere bagatelle compared to what it will eventually cost the Americans on the isthmus. The stuff is so bulky and so much in one's way that no one from the States treats it as money. Men spend it where they would not think of spending their American silver and gold. Tender a \$10 gold piece in a native store when buying a dollar's worth of stuff, and you will get eighteen Panamanian silver dollars in exchange. You would have to walk around with a traveling grip full of gold, and an ordinary shopping, and trundle a wheelbarrow if you were going to spend a day replenishing your wardrobe. The

indifference of the American to the stuff costs him about 25 per cent, and his enforced use of Panamanian silver puts a premium on extravagance and an extra burden on his shoulders. Disbursing Officer Williams has long advocated the payment of all bills for labor and otherwise in American gold and silver. He thinks it would be cheaper and more satisfactory, but regards the matter as settled in favor of a continuance of the present policy.

There is almost a total absence of paper money on the isthmus. Except for the \$1 and \$2 bills paid out to Americans for the pay car, the Panamanian bankers would charge him all sorts of percentages for it, but he finally outgeneraled them, and now has the supply of gold under his own control, thus saving thousands of dollars a year. Mr. Williams has one of the best wheels within the big wheel on the isthmus. The pay system has been inaugurated in the United States. He was born in the city of Chicago and Northwestern, where he disbursed \$38,000,000 a year, to his present position, where he disburses \$27,000,000.

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To-morrow—The Panama Canal.

X—Transportation.

MANY DISHES WHICH TEST SKILL IN EATING

Appropos of the graceful eating of ungraceful things, "One of the most humiliating experiences of my life, claims a certain Western woman, "was one morning at a house party breakfast, when I innocently broke my egg into the egg cup in true Western style. It did it daintily enough, too, but there happened to be present an Anglomaniac with an aggressive nose and very little tact.

"Thereupon she launched into reminiscences of her travels, and in a few minutes was explaining to her neighbor in a very audible tone how breeding was never indicated so plainly as when one opened an egg. She expounded at length upon the English art of clipping the small end of the shell, and I sat flushing so painfully that every one noticed it.

"Now, there are a great many ways of eating corn on the cob, but in spite of the fact, there are many particular people who eat that vegetable, spaghetti, asparagus and oranges only in the privacy of their own rooms. In fact, they have been described as those things one should eat only in the bathtub.

And as for Welsh rarebit—the striny sort that is so delicious—once a pretty girl asserts that she would never put a man's affection to the test of seeing her eat it. But there is a right way to handle each. When eating corn, never start on the whole ear. It should be broken at least in half, and, if possible, in three pieces. It is then held in one hand, and it must all be held to one hand, never in both, and as one would not think of grasping a sandwich or a piece of bread in both hands, as though, unless firmly held, it might escape.

Asparagus is a different matter entirely. The best way to eat it is to first cut off the ends with a fork, eat them, and then pick up the stalk with thumb and forefinger and eat that, though without throwing back the head in the manner of a sword swallower. By first cutting away

the tips with the fork the asparagus is rendered short enough to handle gracefully and comfortably.

Fried chicken seems to give many people trouble, for it is difficult to handle, though a really expert person finds no difficulty in using the ordinary knife and fork. However, a few years ago, from the Cal, who love to "pick a bone," and it is a habit that may be indulged in, provided it is gracefully done. Always cut the wing, or whatever portion it is impossible to be picked, so that it is quite small, and then use only one hand during the operation. This last is a matter of great importance, unless one yearns to look like a dog.

Spaghetti is obvious, but it can never be properly handled, save by an Italian, who seems to possess an hereditary art in eating it. Thoroughly, it should be wound on the fork by drawing it tight, and then turning it round and round. This is the proper way, but it is even more difficult than it sounds. In fact, if one has not taken lessons from an Italian, it is impossible. So the uninitiated sometimes use a spoon as a sort of guard while they wind. The act stamps them as mere amateurs, but it is an assistance in receiving food when one is very hungry and the first course is spaghetti. Some, who are neither Italian nor amateurs, are able by perseverance to separate the long strands of spaghetti, and eat them or less "like a lady," but this takes long practice in private.

Oranges may be eaten in many ways, and the quality of his wares was not above suspicion. Three miles from the town was a pretentious little shop whose stock was the best and whose prices were uniform and the car service excellent, yet the people submitted to arrogance, poor quality, disappointments, and high prices with a remedy at hand, and the grocer prospered.

When the leading grocer in a town that finds favor with summer guests frankly confessed that if it were not for the summer cottagers he would have to go out of business, that he ran behind his expenses in the winter, I began to think something about prices. I found that he was charging a little more than winter prices to people who bought liberally and paid promptly, and the quality of his wares was not above suspicion. Three miles from the town was a pretentious little shop whose stock was the best and whose prices were uniform and the car service excellent, yet the people submitted to arrogance, poor quality, disappointments, and high prices with a remedy at hand, and the grocer prospered.

There were a few exceptions, of course. One good customer promptly punished a butcher who took advantage of her absence to overcharge the maid for a piece

PROPER DRESS FOR GIRL WHO'S GROWING

It is a great problem just now how to dress a girl when she is long, lanky, and awkward. This is apt to be the age when she cares most for appearances, being about fifteen or fourteen years of age. She has a short neck, a long neck, and a back that is not entirely flat, and often appears all hands and feet.

She is growing, she is exercising, and she is developing slowly into what she will be when she is twenty. She should wear some kind of loose corset and be very careful in its selection. It is a grave mistake to put any cheap corset on her that comes to hand merely because she is childish. As the corset supports, so the figure will grow. Ill-made corsets will develop a bad figure.

There should be a mad for her at this period of her life or very carefully fitted. It were better for her to wear the wrong kind of corset after her figure is developed than now, when it is most necessary for her waist and hips to be correctly guided in their growth.

Too much freedom in their figures should not be allowed. Just because a girl is growing it is poor logic to let her go without any support at waist and back. Her clothes should be made to look like they are made for a girl of her age, and not tumble about all over her figure in a graceless manner.

For the slacker woman wax candles are preferred, as they never produce smoke or smell. They seem to soothe the nerves of the invalid and in this way help to produce a restful night.

COLOR SCHEMES IN WOMEN'S COSTUMES

A woman's dress is like the binding of a book; it ought to be suggestive of her character. Therefore, study your type.

The real blond and the real brunette can wear almost anything, provided they have pink cheeks. But those Americans are neither very dark nor very light, and it is such who must be careful.

A woman who has the least tendency toward the auburn-haired type should accentuate it as much as possible, so as to be a little different from everybody else. She can wear just those shades of tan and orange that bring out the color in her hair. She should exercise and do all possible to have a high color, and if her eyes have any leaning toward greenness let her by all means wear a touch of just that greenish gray that will bring out their color. Blue eyes should be made more blue by wearing a touch of the same in the neckwear and hat, while the very rosy complexion should always be enhanced by gowns of black or green, or at least a black velvet band around the neck.

THE VARIED FANCIES OF HEALTH WOOLERS

Edward A. Ayers, M. D., has been saying a few forcible things about fads of women who have little physical problems to solve. Writing in a recent number of Harper's Weekly, he says:

HATS TO HARMONIZE WITH YOUR MOODS

"Your hat must harmonize with your mood," says the latest up-to-date French milliner. "Did you ever notice that a hat which looks like a dream one day will be a fright and give you the blues the next? It is all because it does not match your mood. There are the melancholy hat, the affectionate hat, the mischievous hat, and a hundred others, as various as the moods of the lady who wears them.

"It is very hard on the moody girl unless she has a telescope pocketbook or is clever about shifting trimmings.

"The sympathetic hat is especially winning. It is a big, soft leghorn, and it has clouds of soft white trimmings which extend almost like a halo. The sympathetic girl in the sympathetic hat could while the family mummy out of the spinax. Everybody wants to tell her his troubles, just as everybody is very quick to keep out of her way when she dons her defiant 'Merry Widow' sailor with its flaring wings in two shades of blue.

"The melancholy hat is wonderfully pathetic, with its long, heavy ostrich feathers, either dull green or black, trailing well down to the shoulders in the back, while the top of the hat is almost flat, not a bow or a buckle or anything 'cocky' on it. Incidentally, it pays in a millinery sense to be cheerful, for pensive and melancholy hats, with their trailing feathers, are terribly expensive.

"The mischievous hat can be gotten up by almost any home milliner, and is not an extravagant item on the bill for moody women, with the exception of the yellow or cerise feather perched amid a veritable flower garden in which every color of the rainbow is represented by some blossom. These mixed wreaths, by the way, are especially attractive, for they are good-looking combinations for very low prices.

"The hat itself can be a narrow sailor with a perky high crown, and it must al-

FROM WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

I have no patience with the meek woman. I know she is extolled in the Scriptures, but times must have changed, for nowadays she is a football for persons of both sexes and all ages. She is scolded by her husband, ruled by her children, and rebuffed by tradesmen of all kinds, and, really, there seems to be no room for her in the scheme of life.

I am not above an admiration for a good fighting disposition. I do not mean a disposition to nag or dominate, but a sturdy resistance to injustice, for the world loves a fair fighter and is willing to do a good bit toward settling the question of terms. I have heard repeated assurances from butchers that they knew where to take advantage, and that people who do not know enough to safeguard their rights deserve to lose them.

When the leading grocer in a town that finds favor with summer guests frankly confessed that if it were not for the summer cottagers he would have to go out of business, that he ran behind his expenses in the winter, I began to think something about prices. I found that he was charging a little more than winter prices to people who bought liberally and paid promptly, and the quality of his wares was not above suspicion.

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A SMART COAT SUIT FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

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of meat by going to the city for supplies, saving some money even though it required some expenditure of strength and time. The incident will not put the butcher out of business, but the man would be serious if her example was generally followed.

The tradesman who asks us to pay a penny more than we owe is robbing us as severely as if he held us up on a dark night and went through our pockets. The penny or two, or three, for which the wiles of workmen profess scorn, are looked after by prosperous business men and the sum total represents a neat little profit which comes as a gift from hard-working patrons. I think that most of us overlook the fact that a few of them make the respectable dime, that a few more carry the sum up toward the dollar mark, which commands respect.

Did you ever see a husband who respected a weak wife? I never did. All the respect I see goes to wives who expect much from husbands and get it; to mothers who really rule their children. Fancy a woman being afraid to go into her own kitchen because the girl to whom she is paying good wages considers it an intrusion and expects the woman extols, as you can see without searching for it.

"You have to handle him with gloves" is a common saying, meaning that only a humble demeanor will be tolerated by somebody who has not the smallest right to take such attitude. People of proper spirit will not stop to put on gloves when dealing with legitimate problems; they will meet anybody face to face when they have the courage of their convictions. Every creature in the universe has a right to expect fairness, and the wise ones insist upon their rights. Admiration for courage is general and scorn for lack of it is natural. You cannot expect anybody to make concessions when not even asked, at least in a practical world like ours.

He was awakened in a curious manner. Opening his eyes, he found them covered with a soft transparent something that wrinkled when he blinked. He raised his hand to remove it, and gazed in astonishment upon his sudden acquisition of a woman's handkerchief. A monogram was embossed in one corner. His logical mind deciphered it in a flash with little expenditure of eye-strain.

"Exhibit 'C,'" he murmured, jumping up eagerly. "Now here's hoping for the lady herself!"

But the most searching scrutiny of rocky "nests" and niches failed to discover her. Indeed, after several days he dropped her book into a pool of water. "Dear Richard," it ran, "I have just learned that Helen Tudor, a college friend of mine, is staying at Surridge with her sister. She's a very clever girl, so I just written a remarkable thesis on some learned subject and got an A. M. degree. You ought to like her. She's your kind. Be sure to look her up. I've written her name going to. She's staying at the Sea Cliff."

"That dished the whole thing," "His kind," indeed! He abandoned a "blue-stocking" as he fancied it, and he abandoned and ceased to look for "H. T. W. '04," in his daily rambles.

But, with the proverbial irony accredited to her, Dame Fate, as soon as she perceived Richard's back turned with her, bobbed up from his most unexpected ally. To be strictly accurate, Richard, to his own amazement, bobbed up in front of her.

THE MAID OF ARTS

By M. C. SANFORD.

Unrestricted choice of any Low shoes for \$2.95

UNRESTRICTED choice of any Low shoes in the store for \$2.95. That means every pair of our \$3.50 lines. Also every pair of our celebrated \$4.00 models, and every pair of our best-made \$5.00 shoes. Positively nothing reserved. That an offering such as this has not been made before—not in former seasons. It will be the quickest, surest clearing sale we've ever had.

All styles, all widths, all lasts heretofore displayed are in this sale. There are tan leathers, shiny leathers, kid leathers, and dull leathers. In addition, we offer the following:

38 styles \$3 and \$3.50 women's low shoes at \$2.39

10 styles women's \$2.50 low shoes at, a pair, \$1.89

Odd lots and broken sizes \$3 to \$4 low shoes at \$1.50

hind this mask of coquetry. She was really a haughty, overbearing, pedantic person with a string of academic degrees stacked on to her name. He would round up this little matter without any sentimental nonsense.

"Oh, yes," he said, in his dignified, legal manner; "you probably refer to the day you dropped your handkerchief on my face. Here it is. I am glad to be able to return it to you. And here is your college pin, also. I found it near the fence where you had been carving your initials."

He handed both souvenirs to her with a cold smile. He had difficulty in convincing himself was genuine.

"The girl looked at the pin carefully, glanced up at Richard a moment in perplexity, and then burst out laughing.

"Thank you," she said finally, recovering herself. "Do you imagine the pin belonged to me?"

JULY 20 IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

323—The ballot used for the first time in America in the election of John Wilson as pastor and teacher at Salem.

324—Russo declares the independence of the United States.

325—Many thousand bushels of wheat and four armed at Columbus, Ohio, burned by rioters.

326—Gen. Brown moved his whole force upon Fort George, but, being supported by the best troops of General Harney's army, fell back on the 21st to Quantico.

327—The Confederate Congress meets at Richmond.

328—A cavalry expedition sent by Gen. Foster struck the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad at Rockwell, N. C., burned the Rockwell Bridge over Tar River, tore up two miles of track, destroyed the depot, a large cotton factory, and a saw-mill, and killed 1,000 bales of Confederate cotton. A cavalry force, under Col. Tolland, burned Wytheville, Va.

329—Hood attacked Gen. Sherman with a loss of 20,000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

330—Fight at Winchester, Va., between Gen. Early and Gen. Averell. The Confederates treated with a loss.

331—First of Sherman's three battles at Atlanta. Battle of Peachtree Creek.

332—Bill to exclude the electoral votes of the non-organizing States voted by the President and rejected by Congress.

333—Suliste of M. Prevost Parodot, French Minister at Washington.

334—Sitting Bull, a famous Indian chief, surrendered at Fort Buford.

335—Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, who had been elected to the Chicago convention, declared his intention to vote for Blaine and Logan.

336—Provision decided to be legal by Supreme Court of Minnesota.

337—A dispatch from Gen. Miles said: "We have the Massachusetts, Dixie, Gloucester, Chesapeake, Annapolis, Leyden, Waco, Yale, and Columbia. We expect to sail for Porto Rico at 3 o'clock." The number of troops conveyed from Quantico was 4,124.

338—Pope Leo XIII died. Born March 1, 1858.

339—The circulation of the new currency authorized by the government began in the Philippines.

340—Gov. Cleveland in an article in O'Brien's column in the New York Herald, said: "I am glad to see that the Standard Telegram to St. Louis convention."

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