

# BEAUTIFUL NICARAGUA.

### Brigham Young Academy Exploring Expedition in Nicaragua's Capital.

Prettiest of All the Southern Republics—Grand Mountain Ranges and Active Volcanoes—Its Great Lakes and Salubrious Climate—Boundless Agricultural Resources—Inducements to Settlers.

**T**HE hacienda San Bernardo at which the boys were camped when Mr. Klenke and I met them on our return from Tegucigalpa is worthy of notice. It contains about 20,000 acres of land, two thousand head of milk cows, five thousand head of other stock, besides horses and mules. Its greatest product is cheese, of which it makes about three hundred pounds daily. Two kinds are made, whole cheese from the cream and milk and skim milk cheese. The former of course brings the higher price. A great amount of salt is also manufactured from the ocean near by, and ready sale is found for it inland, and at the smaller haciendas near by.

The yield of cheese and the number of milk cans are altogether out of proportion as measured by our standard, but the cows in this country give but little milk at best, and half of what they give must be to the calf. As a rule they are milked once a day, but some, we noticed, are milked both morning and evening.

From the Mexican line as far south as we have traveled, we have found inferior stock, with few exceptions. But little is done to improve the breed, as the owners seem to be content with what they have. The stock has big horns and small bodies. The cows look like steers. At home such stock would not pay for the keeping, but here there is no winter and there is plenty of grass, the keeping is practically nothing. Occasionally we find a hacienda owner with modern ideas about stock, and invariably he has some imported breeds, the short horn, and Herefords being the usual choice.

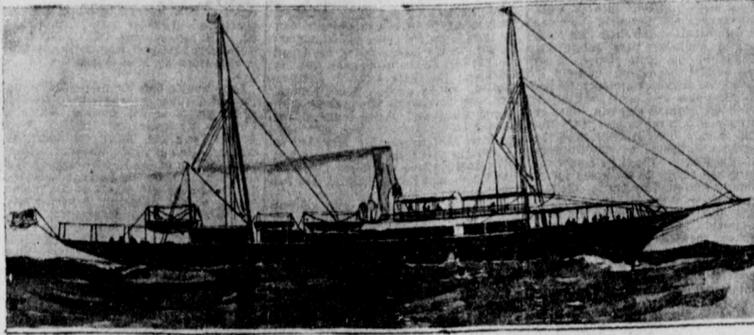
The owner of San Bernardo, Senor Ysaac Montenegro, is also owner of two other haciendas, both situated in Nicaragua. He is a man of 50, sparsely built, with red hair and a decidedly homely face, but possessed of a business capacity that pleases one. Two of his haciendas came to him from his father, one he made. All are producing cheese, milk and meat, but the latter is not a successful business. He was very kind to our party, giving us all we could use of the products of the ranch in cheese, milk and meat, and would not take any compensation when we left. "I am pleased to be in a position to aid you gentlemen in your great enterprise. I only wish that I could do more. I wish you pleasant and successful trips." His English was much better than our Spanish, so with him we used our native tongue.

Saturday night we reached the hacienda Salda, still in Honduras, but near the Nicaraguan line, and pitched our tents in an open place near the house. The mandador, the person in charge under the owner, was not at home when we arrived, but on returning next morning, he came direct to our tents, having heard already who we were, and asked us if he could do anything for us. "We have plenty of milk, and the men are now killing a beef, and you are welcome to all you wish of both," he said.

**GNATS AND MOSQUITOES.**

But for two things our stay would have been pleasant. These two things have been the pest of our life and the lives of our animals for the last two weeks. I refer to mosquitoes and gnats. Up to the rainy season we had ticks with an occasional scorpion or centipede thrown in; but from the rainy season, until we reached the dry lands of Nicaragua, the mosquitoes and gnats have shown us how miserable life can be made. Before we reached Honduras from El Salvador they began their work, and with the advance of the season they grew like numbers and boldness. Unlike the civilized mosquitoes of the north, these do not retire when day comes; and neither do the gnats retire when night comes. In traveling through some of the dense forests, our horses would be almost covered, so that they became unmanageable, desiring to lie down and roll, or rush into a thick brush to scratch them off. The natives do not seem to be bothered nearly so much as we are. In the midst of one of these forests, when it was a question with us whether we could go along or not, we met a native woman with a basket of eggs on her head and a naked child in her arms, going along without concern ex-

## WHERE COLOSSUS MORGAN WILL EVOLVE BIG PLANS.



J. P. MORGAN'S STEAM YACHT, 'CORSAIR'.

Here is a striking snapshot of the steam yacht Corsair, belonging to J. Pierpont Morgan, the Napoleon of finance. Here the great millionaire is in the habit of staying when he desires to be shut out from the rest of the world. It is a perfect place of refuge, quite out of reach of inquisitive and bothersome reporters and people with an axe to grind.

the river, and getting out would have been next to impossible, owing to the swiftness of the stream.

### GRAND AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.

And now we are fairly in Nicaragua, in some respects the most interesting of all the Central American republics. A look at the map shows that Nicaragua is shaped like a triangle with its base on the Caribbean sea. It contains about 79,000 square miles of land, and had at the last census, 369,000 inhabitants. It is easily seen that much of the land is uninhabited. Two ranges of mountains extend through the republic from northwest to southeast, thus forming a basin in which is located the great lakes. The rivers on the Pacific slope are short and inconsiderable with the exception of the Rio Negro, which drains a larger country and empties into the Gulf of Fonseca. The rivers on the Atlantic coast are somewhat larger, and some of them, especially the Rio Grande, is navigable for some distance. San Juan del Sur is the most important of all the rivers, not alone because it is the outlet of the great lakes, but because it will be utilized as a part of the great ship canal when that passageway for vessels is made. But the most interesting part is the basin, which comprises the two great lakes, the larger of which, Nicaragua, is about the size of Salt Lake, 90 miles long and 35 wide, while the smaller is a little larger than Utah lake, being 32 miles long by 16 miles wide. These are beautiful sheets of water surrounded by a beautiful country. There are many other lakes as well, but they are much smaller, and many of them are merely extinct volcanoes having filled with water. Some of them, it is claimed, have connection with the ocean, as their waters are a little salt. The waters of some are said to be medicinal, especially for all kinds of skin diseases.

### INDUCEMENTS TO SETTLERS.

There is much good public land in this republic, especially on the Atlantic side, much that is good for agriculture as well as for stock raising, and the bona fide settlers these lands can be had for little or nothing. The government offers free of charge over two hundred acres to all who will make Nicaragua their home. There are also large tracts of land that can be purchased cheap.

### GETS THE BEARS DRUNK.

And Then the Wily Doctor Calmly Saunters Out and Shoots Them.

A few days ago Ota Harriet of Menominee, told the Sentinel a story of two trappers.

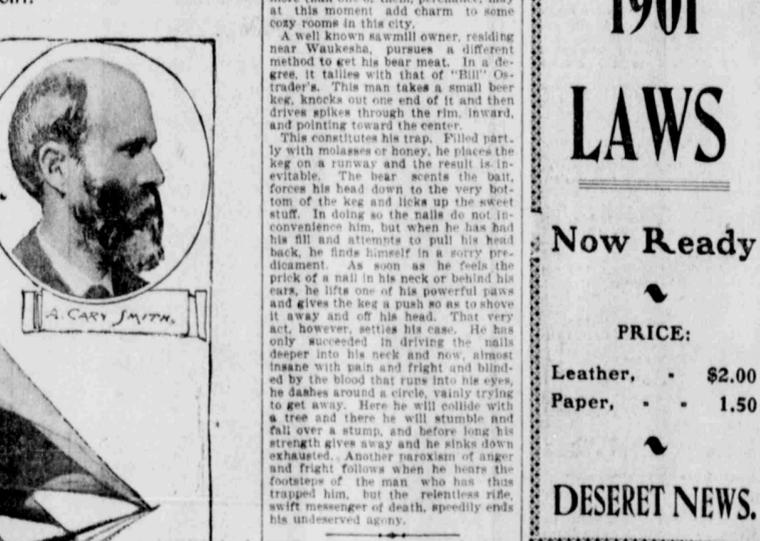
One of the finest bass fishing grounds in Wisconsin is found in Post Lake. This fact was one of the reasons that induced an old physician to pull down his deaconship and settle on the western bank of the lake. But, ardent fishermen though he may be, the old doctor has a few other duties to perform, and bears of which there are plenty in that locality.

No one will deny that his method is original. The fact that he is a total abstemious, from choice and conviction, every now and then the doctor comes to the railroad station near by and pays freight on a few kegs of whisky and molasses. Of what quality depends on the bear, for many miles around he knows every bear runway and during the season he makes regular visits to them and chuckles to himself when he finds a fresh track. That night Master Bruin will suddenly come across a gallon jar half full of molasses, an ill-boding prescription from the doctor. Of course, he is too cautious an animal to take the bait carelessly. He sniffs at the jar at once. He sniffs at it for a while, but finally he tastes and pretty soon the contents of the jar have found a safe hiding place within the innermost recesses of his huge carcass. With a grunt and a loud smack of satisfaction, Bruin trots cheerfully off, but soon he longs for a safe place in which to lie down and take a nap. The fact of the matter is that he has a little "jag." But he doesn't know it. The next night, to his surprise, he again finds a keg with molasses in it. This time he does not hesitate so long, but drinks down the sweet mixture. The third night generally finishes the business. There is more whisky than molasses in the keg that night and Bruin finds it convenient to lie down on the spot and take a nap.

Shortly after sunrise the next morning the doctor wanders down that way and claims his prey. While yet unconscious from the effects of the liquor, the rifle ball crashes through Bruin's brains. A few muscular contortions, and all is over so far as he is concerned. His skin will be exchanged by the wily doctor for a \$25 draft, and more than one of them, perchance, may at this moment add charm to some cozy rooms in this city.

A well known sawmill owner, residing near Waukesha, pursued a different method to get his bear meat. In a degree, it tallies with that of "Bill" Ostrader's. This man takes a small bear keg, knocks out one end of it and then drives a spike through the rim, inward, and pointing toward the center. This constitutes his trap. Filled partly with molasses or honey, he places the keg on a runway and the result is inevitable. The bear, seeing the bait, forces his head down to the very bottom of the keg and licks up the sweet stuff. In doing so the nails do not inconvenience him, but when he has had his fill and attempts to pull his head back, he finds himself in a sorry predicament. As soon as he feels the prick of a nail in his neck or behind his ears, he gives up his powder puff, and gives the keg a push so as to shove it away and off his head. That very act, however, settles his case. He has not succeeded in driving the nails deep into his neck and now, almost insane with pain and fright and blinded by the blood that runs into his eyes, he dashes around a circle, vainly trying to get away. Here he will collide with a tree and there he will stumble and fall over a stump, and before long his strength gives away and he sinks down exhausted. Another paroxysm of anger and fright follows when he hears the footstep of the man who has thus trapped him, but the relentless rifle, swift messenger of death, speedily ends his undesired agony.

### WE'RE TO MAKE WILLIAM A YACHT.



H. Carry Smith, a prominent New York naval architect, has been honored by an order from the German Emperor for a schooner yacht 120 feet on the water line. This is the first time a Yankee firm has been commissioned to build a yacht for the Kaiser.

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GEO. A. LOWE.

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