

Uncle Sam's Fight With the Devil in the Panama Canal Zone

Culebra, Canal Zone, Panama. I HAVE headed this letter "Uncle Sam's Fight with the Devil." The title is sensational, but it fits the story. It is the fight of Uncle Sam for the souls of his canal employees. It tells how he has taken five or ten thousand men such as you find at a mining camp or on the frontier, has put them to work at high wages, and at the same time has kept them free from gambling, lust and the other vices which have heretofore been always associated with such organizations. When the French started this canal they baptized it in champagne. Their officials locked hands with Lucifer and Bacchus. They brought their mistresses with them from Paris, and graft and extravagance danced beside them over the Canal Zone on the road to bankruptcy and financial destruction.

Uplift Work at Panama.
So far, our canal has been built without graft. We have spent hundreds of millions and no one has charged that a cent or a dollar has gone into anything but the actual construction of the canal or the legitimate expenses connected therewith. More than that, the work has been done in a Christian way by a body of Christian men, whose conduct is morally as good as that of any social community in the United States or the world. This, it seems to me, is quite as wonderful as the building of the canal itself.

How has it been accomplished? It has been done by the marrying of business to Christianity: by bringing to the front the forces which make for good and as far as possible eliminating those which make for the bad, by throwing the Y. M. C. A. clubhouse and its attractions as open as the devil throws open the saloon, and by feeding the minds and souls of the men with the good rather than the bad.

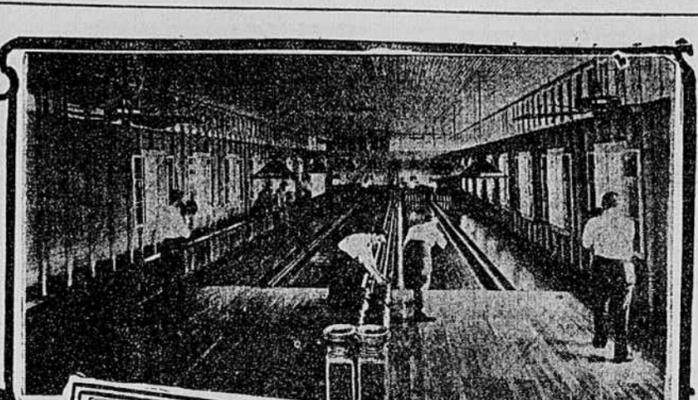
The result has been a social uplift rather than a social downfall, and scores of the employees who have come to Panama will leave here in a better state morally than when they arrived. This fight with the devil is still going on. It may be seen along every part of the Canal Zone to-day, and as far as it can see in every one of the canal towns the devil is getting the worst of the battle.

The Clubhouse for Canal Employees.
One of the most important features of the fight is the clubhouses which have been built for the canal employees. These have been constructed by the government, and the experienced secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. have been called in to run them. They are managed that they are largely self-supporting, and the Y. M. C. A. and the government unite in paying the deficit. I don't know how much they run short, but their operation last year cost more than \$120,000. A great part of this was made up of dues and other receipts. Each of the two thou-



"Twenty thousand games of pool are played in these clubhouses each year." Picture of poolroom at Gatun Clubhouse. The billiards of the Y. M. C. A. are more popular than those of the saloons.

THE SALVATION ARMY, WHO AID UNCLE SAM TO FIGHT SATAN.
sand and odd members pays \$10 annually, and the restaurants and billiard rooms bring in a considerable sum. There are clubhouses of this kind at every station of importance along the Canal Zone. There is one at Porto



PLAYING TENNIS AT GORGONA. ONE FEATURE OF THE FIGHT.

"WE GO INTO THE READING ROOM."
not only from the employees on the canal, but from the infantry and Marine Corps stationed here on the zone. **Concerts and Minstrels.** But there is a show going on now in the hall overhead. Let us go up. We find the room filled, and on the stage at the back a troupe of amateur minstrels is holding a performance. The men are canal employees with blacked faces. They look like the old-time minstrels of the United States, and do not wear satin suits as in the new-fangled shows of to-day. The jokes contain many hits on local matters, and bring down the house.

Low Prices

...ON...

Ladies', Misses', Children's and Boys' FOOTWEAR

A better opportunity to purchase better shoes made to sell at higher prices has never been offered in Richmond—fashionable, seasonable, dependable shoes—the regular stock of the Seymour Cycle standard. All sizes and widths. A gain in quality and a saving in price.

It will also pay you to visit my Bargain Annex Department where thousands of saving opportunities are offered. Watch my windows.



we have a clubhouse at Gorgona, patronized by the men at work in the shops; another at Empire, at the beginning of the Culebra cut, and one here at Culebra, about midway of the cut. There is also a clubhouse on the Pacific division of the canal, at Corozal.

Inside the Clubhouses.
I wish I could take you into these buildings. They have all the conveniences and comforts of our men's clubs at home. These houses are great pavilions surrounded by wide verandas, so that they are cool and airy. The walls are veiled in woven wire netting to keep out the mosquitoes and everything is so large and roomy that it is cool day and night. All of the buildings have reading rooms and libraries. They have poolrooms and billiard rooms. They have bowling alleys and gymnasiums, as well as rooms for checkers, chess and other games. Each house has its own refreshment rooms, and in the lobby there are cigar and candy stands.

Let us take a look at the clubhouse here at Culebra. It stands high above the great cut, and so commands it that you can see for several miles the work going on beneath you. The building is about 200 feet long and 50 feet wide. We go in through the wide front door, which leads to the lobby or office, which is also the library. The library contains about 1,000 books, consisting largely of biography and fiction, and is well patronized.

The books drawn out at Culebra this month numbered 70, and those distributed throughout the whole zone were more than 3,000. **But listen to the music!** It comes from that photograph there at the right. On the opposite side of the hall is an upright piano, which we may hear later on.

Passing through the lobby we turn to the right and go into the reading room. This is filled with men in easy chairs reading and chatting. They are in their shirt sleeves, and look very comfortable. At one end of this room are two men playing chess, and at the opposite side several are writing.

The scenes are for all the world like those of a big city in the United States. The tables are covered with magazines. Seventy-five of the best periodicals and journals are taken, and one can find everything here from science to fiction. As to the writing tables, 1,000 letters are sent out from this room every month and from the seven clubhouses 3,000 or 10,000 are mailed home in that time.

But let us go to the other side of the hall and enter the billiard room. Every one of these clubhouses has billiard tables and cues. The game keeps the men out of the poolrooms of the saloons, which were nightly filled with employees before the clubhouses were started.

The members pay 30 cents an hour for the use of the club tables. They are good players too, and they have billiard tournaments Saturday nights, when the men come in crowds to look on. If you would know just how popular this form of amusement is I would say that 7,000 pool games were played here at Culebra last month, and that a similar proportion was played at the other clubhouses. The canal commission and the Y. M. C. A. believe that pool and billiards are good exercise, and they encourage them. In the meantime the patronage of the poolrooms of the saloons has fallen to nothing. There are about a dozen such in Culebra, and I could not find more than a couple of employees in any of them.

Baseball and Bowling.
Among other popular amusements here are baseball and bowling. Every clubhouse has its bowling room, and there are bowling clubs, which contend with one another. There are bowling tournaments, in which expert tenpin men of the different canal settlements come together and compete, and there are duckpin tournaments as well. There are also weekly meetings at the various towns, where the best duckpin men and the best tenpin men compete, and it is impossible to appreciate the rivalry as to such matters.

Every settlement has its baseball club and there is also an Isthmian basketball league. The baseball clubs of Culebra and Empire play each other several times every season, and it is the same with the other towns along the line. Every place has its own team and its regular days of practice, and there are athletic meets, which are attended by the expert gymnasts from all parts of the isthmus. At these meets the program includes the hundred-yard dash, the mile run, the relay races, the shotput and the pole vault. The prizes are medals of gold, silver and bronze, and the competitors are

the clubs. Indeed, I may say that the clubs are an absolute necessity to efficient labor on the canal. They have aided in making the employees contented and have also done much for the high moral standing of the American community.

The Boy Scouts of Panama.
Connected with these clubs are uplift movements of various kinds and among others that of the Boy Scouts. We have now seven companies of these scouts on the zone. Each company has a piece of land for a clubhouse which has been given by the canal commission and the boys have erected their own clubhouses. The lumber being given by the canal authorities. The most of them have eight by ten foot shacks, very roughly finished. The scouts are to have a charter from the national headquarters of New York City and they are to be known as the Isthmian Scout Commission. Not long ago General Baden-Powell, the commander-in-chief of the Boy Scouts, visited the Isthmus. A number of the boys went to Colon to meet him, and the general went over the work with the scout master and expressed himself pleased.

The Churches of the Isthmus.
A good fight with the devil is being waged by the Christian churches which have been organized since we began our work here. There are now forty churches on the Canal Zone. The first authorized was the Roman Catholic chapel in the hospital grounds at Ancon. That was begun in 1906, and in the year following church and lodge buildings were constructed at Gorgona and Cristobal. Since then land has been granted for churches of many denominations, and the government has sold building material at cost to those who wish to put up such structures.

The commission requires that there shall be regular chaplains for the Ancon and Colon hospitals, and the pastors or priests have to visit the wards of the hospital daily and also to hold services over such of the patients as die. I have before me a list of the churches of the zone. They are of almost every denomination, but there seem to be more Episcopal and Catholic than of any of the others. There are fifteen chaplains in the commission, of whom four are Episcopalians, four Baptists, three Roman Catholics, two Methodists, one Wesleyan and one Presbyterian. There is a Methodist Episcopal church in the city of Panama, to which the communicants from Ancon are carried in government carriages every Sunday.

In addition to the regular churches, considerable mission work and church extension work is being done. There is one West Indian mission at Empire, which has 150 communicants, and there are other missions patronized by the West Indian negroes. There is a colored mission at Culebra and a Young Men's Colored Institute there.

There are also a number of Sunday schools on the zone, some for negroes and some for whites. The negro Sunday schools are the oldest, those for white children dating back only to 1905. The white Sunday schools are fourteen in number, and their enrollment is something like 700.

The Salvation Army.
The Salvation Army began its work here eight years ago, when one of the soldiers from Jamaica came and submitted a plan of salvation to the governor of the zone. He was given a house in Cristobal and later on the commission appropriated several thousand dollars for a building there. This contains a restaurant, a kitchen, a reading room and a dormitory, including bath and toilet rooms. It has also living apartments for the commander and his son.

The Salvation Army work is confined almost entirely to the negroes, although at its quarters some whites are occasionally registered. During one week the guests included Americans, English, Scotch, Scandinavians, Russians, Bohemians, Jamaicans, Chileans, Peruvians and Barbadians. More than 50 per cent of the men who come to these quarters pay back what they receive before leaving the isthmus, and the institution is self-supporting. Lodging costs 25 cents a night to those who can pay, and the others have their beds free.

In addition to the quarters at Cristobal, another salvation building is to be erected at Panama, and outpost work is carried on also at Gorgona and Empire. (Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

FRECKLES

May Worst Month for This Trouble—How to Remove Easily.

There's a reason why nearly everybody freckles in May, but happily there is also a cure for these blemishes, and no one need stay freckled.

Simply get one ounce of othine, double strength, from Tragle Drug Co. and apply a little of it at night, and in the morning you will see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the light ones have vanished entirely. Now is the time to rid yourself of freckles, for if not removed now they will stay all summer, and spoil an otherwise beautiful complexion. Your money back if othine fails.

Hamilton Watch History

The first Hamilton Timekeeper was begun in the early spring of the year 1892 and completed late in the fall of the same year. The fourth Hamilton Timekeeper to be made was purchased by Mr. Edwin Paul, a conductor on the Pennsylvania railroad, and if you were to ride from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, Pa., to-day on Mr. Paul's train you would be running on the time of that same Hamilton Timekeeper.

The Hamilton Timekeeper was originally a railroad watch made for the use of railroad men. Now, every business man who appreciates an absolutely accurate timekeeper may have a **HAMILTON WATCH**. Let us sell you one. \$15.00 up. **Smith & Webster** Time Specialists, 612 East Main Street.