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The Trouble at the Panama Canal

"Slides" That Block It Are Movable for the Present and Have Been Foreseen

BY JOHN M. GOODELL Former Editor "The Engineering Record"

There is absolutely no reason for the people of the United States to feel worried about the so-called slide which will stop traffic through the Panama canal for some weeks. Ship owners who route their vessels via the canal have been warned repeatedly that the canal service is still liable to interruptions of this nature. If they run the risk of such delays as that now imposed upon them they have no cause for complaint if a slide closes the waterway to navigation. They take a gambling chance with nature when they tell their masters to take the isthmian route. Slides will continue to happen until the banks of the deep rock cut, where they occur, have assumed a slope of such an inclination that there will be no tendency for further sliding. Nobody in authority on the Panama canal has ever said otherwise. The material of the recent slide is being removed in such a comprehensive way that when the work is completed little more will be likely to break into the canal in great masses. But no man who has studied the nature of these interruptions to the use of the canal will hazard a definite statement of the date when all sliding will cease forever.

The latest slide is not a slide in the ordinary sense of the term, but is a break or collapse of an enormous mass of soft rock about twelve hundred feet long on one side of the canal and a shorter mass on the opposite side. There was a true earth slide of enormous dimensions about a quarter of a mile from the present break. That slide began while the French were digging the canal and continued intermittently until General Goethals decided it had caused bother enough. He ended the trouble there by washing away all the materials capable of sliding, employing the methods used in extensive placer mining operations. It is understood that he wishes to handle the present break in the same comprehensive manner, if it proves practicable to do so. It

will be more difficult to do this, however, because it is impossible to determine so accurately the extent of rock liable to break as it was to determine the extent of the earth liable to slide.

A rock break on the Panama canal is a phenomenon of an unusual character. The rock is soft, but looks like pretty fair stone when a fresh cut is made in it. It contains much more iron and much less alumina than similar rock usually contains and is poor, unreliable stuff. It would have proved impracticable to build a sea-level canal in on account of its inability to maintain the steep sides which would be necessary in a cut for such a canal. The rock is seamed more or less and loses its strength rapidly when air and water have access to it. In this way the rock in the banks and bottom of the canal becomes weak and finally a time comes when it is no longer strong enough to hold itself together. The weakest spot is usually in the bed of the canal, which bulges up, the rock passing in a few minutes from a solid condition into that of shattered mass of small pieces.

When this happens the rock at the bottom of the slopes, having nothing firm to thrust against, is slowly pushed into the canal by the enormous load behind and above it. The rock forming the exposed bank of the canal settles down somewhat as the crushed rock below it moves out into the canal. When the break comes to rest the lowest depression in the top of the moving mass is usually several hundred feet from the face. These breaks will continue until enough of the rock is removed to reduce the load on the soft, fissured rock in the bottom of the canal to an amount it can carry safely. The break that caused the present interruption to canal traffic came at a place where such an occurrence had been anticipated and confirmed General Goethals' wisdom in refusing to set any time limit for such things to cease.

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formerly squandered. If a man does not seek wisdom, he will never be very wise.—United Mine Workers' Journal.

The sane Hallowe'en idea seems to be right on the heels of the sane Fourth. Every automobile owned in Ottumwa should carry a pennant showing that fact. Every such automobile is an advertisement for Ottumwa. This city is growing rapidly right now and anything that advertises it will stimulate that growth.

Dinner Stories

"I've started a ten cent box for Christmas, dear," and the better half. "You won't forget it, will you?" "Me forget it!" replied the other



fraction. "Why, how can you say such a thing? Of course I won't forget it."

And he didn't. The very next day he shook four dimes out of the box to meet a deficiency in his cartage allowance.

The little boy had brought home perfect school reports for several weeks and then his marks suddenly took a tremendous slump. His father viewed the last one in evident disapproval.

"How is this, son?" he asked. "Teacher's fault," said the boy. "How is it the teacher's fault?" "She moved the little boy that sat next to me."

Mr. Mold, the undertaker, was a hustler. In his opinion even a funeral could be made a thing of beauty, if not a joy forever. He stood on the curbstone, surveying with much pride a glorious motor hearse, his latest innovation.

"What do you think of it?" he asked a friend. "Pretty smart, eh?" "Splendid, old man. People will be simply dying to ride in it."

Jenkins had ceased to complain, but one evening his troubles as a straphanger got so bad that he felt bound to expostulate.

"Excuse me, sir," he said to the man sitting by him, "but would you mind moving your portmanteau from the gangway? I really can hardly find room to stand."

"Move my portmanteau!" gasped the stranger. "Those, sir, are my feet!"

"Is that so?" said Jenkins. "Then perhaps you would pile them one above the other."

OTTUMWA TO SEND 100 SCHOOL TEACHERS

A large number of the teachers in the local schools will attend the State Teachers' association meeting in Des Moines, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. Already about 100 have enrolled for the meeting and during the three days a number of the teachers who do not go to Des Moines expect to visit schools in other cities to see the methods in vogue there. Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Chicago and Indianapolis are among the places where schools will be visited. The days during the state meeting will be held holidays in all the public school buildings of Ottumwa.

Superintendent H. E. Blackmar, who is president of the Superintendents' club, will leave here Wednesday to attend the session of that organization which will be held the day before the convention.

TO ASSIST FATHER MURPHY.

Iowa City, Nov. 2.—The Rev. Father Peters of Iowa City, ordained at Davenport during the current week, will become assistant to the Rev. Father Murphy at Clinton, according to Bishop Davis' intentions, says the relative of the young priest in Iowa City. He expects to assume his new duties at once.

LIBERTYVILLE.

Mrs. Alta Peters of Bloomfield, visited a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Jack Coleman. Mrs. Duskin and Mrs. Morley entertained their Sunday school classes together at the home of Mrs. Morley Friday evening. Refreshments were served and a fine time is reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Higgins very successfully carried out a surprise on Mrs. Higgins' father, J. S. Higgins, Thursday at a big dinner to his sixtieth anniversary at the Higgins home near Libertyville. Mr. Higgins was presented with a beautiful pair of gold glasses by his children. Those present were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Hyde of Brighton, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Higgins of Fairfield, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Will Nordyke, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Higgins, Chris East and Abe Drakes of Libertyville.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Yeager and children of Hedrick spent Sunday at the Emmie Wilson home. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson accompanied them home as far as Ottumwa.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Copeland spent Tuesday visiting in Mt. Pleasant.

The first number of the lecture course will be held at the M. E. church Thursday, Nov. 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Bunch of Beloit, Kan., left last week for their home after an extended stay at the Henry Rodabaugh home.

Mrs. Wallace Davis was hostess to the birthday club Thursday at her home near Libertyville. Each took well filled baskets and a picnic dinner was enjoyed at the noon hour. Fancy work was the attraction of the afternoon and at late the ladies departed for their homes all voting a pleasant day. Those present were: Mrs. McCloun, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. Pierson, Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Simons, Mrs. Teshe and Mrs. Young of Fairfield, Mesdames Leedy, Vought, Yost, Cleasby, Davis, Elder, Colton, Riggs, Hoffmann, and Mrs. Davis of Libertyville.

Miss Nell Warren left Wednesday for Martinsburg where she will nurse an appendicitis case.

MAN MIGHT HAVE KNOWN SLAYERS

THEORY ADVANCED BY DAVENPORT POLICE IS THAT GALLAGHER RECOGNIZED THEM.

SPOKE BUT FEW WORDS

No Eye Witness to Shooting of Ottumwa Man by Footpads But Neighbor Was Soon With Him.

That James Gallagher of Ottumwa, who was shot and killed by footpads in Davenport early Sunday morning may have known his murderers is the theory upon which the authorities in that city are now working. Gallagher's statement to the patrol officers who rushed him to a hospital there after the shooting has given Acting Police Chief Schlueter of Davenport, the impression that the victim was acquainted with his assailants and a rigid search is being made all over the city in an effort to determine the whereabouts of every person with whom the slain man was acquainted.

The Davenport Times has the following: Nine suspects were lined up at police headquarters Monday, and Frank Risler, who is thought to have been held up by the same men who shortly afterward murdered Gallagher, attempted to identify some of them. The attempt was a failure, however, Risler declaring that none of the suspects were the ones who robbed him Saturday night.

There were no eye witnesses to the actual shooting, but J. M. Buzzard, 1356 1/2 West Second street, who heard the victim's cries for help and reached his side just after he had dropped, stated that he saw two dark forms moving through the alley east of the Kohrs Packing Co. office.

Spoke Few Words. According to a few words spoken by Gallagher as he lay in the street, he passed about 12:15 o'clock and attempted to hold him up. He was turning to escape them when one fired the bullet entering the right side, about one inch above the nipple, penetrated the lung and came out near the backbone. The bullet was found by Dr. E. O. Ficke, who was called to attend him at Mercy hospital a short time later, in Gallagher's clothing.

Mr. Buzzard, an employe of the Kohrs Packing Co., had just arrived in his room at Second and Fillmore streets, when he heard a shot, followed immediately by a call of "Help! Murder!" He ran at once to the window and looked out and saw Gallagher stagger diagonally across the street. He came down stairs then and ran to Gallagher's side. Just before he reached him, however, Gallagher collapsed and sank to the pavement, face down.

Buzzard turned him over and lifted his head to his knee, at the same time asking what was the trouble.

Gives Description. "They got me," gasped Gallagher, as the blood began streaming from the wound in his lips. "They tried to hold me up and one of them shot me." He then told Buzzard that the men had jumped out at him, and described one as being short and heavy set and wore a cap. The other was tall and wore a dark slouch hat. The smaller of the two men is the one who fired the actual shot, according to the dying man's statement.

Police on New Theory. Late last night the police department began work on a new theory and an investigation was started that is expected to result in every friend and acquaintance of the dead man being subjected to rigid inquiries.

According to Patrol Driver A. E. Sanford Gallagher's statement at the hospital gave him the impression that the victim of the murderers was acquainted with his assailants, but lapsed into unconsciousness before he could tell their names.

"When we reached the scene of the shooting, Gallagher was unconscious," said Sanford last night, "but on the trip to the hospital the air rushing through the patrol wagon, seemed to revive him and he was conscious when we carried him into the hospital. He told us in reply to our questions, his name and where his relatives lived. We then asked him how the shooting occurred and he replied that two men attempted to hold him up. When he was shot, he remarked, 'It was a dirty trick for those fellows to do.' The manner in which he said this struck me as peculiar and at that time I wondered if he knew the men, but immediately after he asked to have a priest sent to him and seemed to be suffering, so I did not question him further."

County Attorney Henry Jebens began work on the case yesterday and has secured the names of several persons who were near the scene of the tragedy. He will assist the police in the examination of the suspects.

To Trace Victim's Movements. Captain Schlueter detailed several of his men last night for the purpose of discovering Gallagher's movements through the evening. According to his brother, Thomas Gallagher, the victim of the killing, left the Eagles' club rooms about 11 o'clock Saturday night, but after that time no one, so far as can be learned saw him. It is in hopes of determining definitely whether or not Gallagher walked home alone, that this investigation is being conducted. It is hoped that the movements of the slain man between the time he left the club rooms and the time he met his death can be traced.

There is little doubt in the minds of the police that the same men who are help up Risler are the ones who are responsible for the slaying of Gallagher. Risler reported his case to headquarters at 11:45 o'clock and said the men had disappeared west. Less than half an hour later, came the re-

SENTENCE LAD; THEN PAROLE HIM

Robert Lester Hartley has been given a five-year indeterminate sentence at Anamosa by Judge Seneca Cornell for breaking and entering a box car and stealing foodstuff from it. The sentence has been suspended and the lad paroled into the custody of Rev. Isaac Williams.

Hartley, indicted as Lester Hartley, upon the charge of perjury in connection with the Chester Smith case heard last term, has been released from that charge. The county attorney made a motion saying that he considered the evidence insufficient. The court has been busy today with the Weirsmith vs. Weirsmith divorce case. It has been on trial for the past three days.

A number of other divorce matters were settled Saturday afternoon. A decree has been signed in the Minnie Jones vs. Earl Jones case and in the cases of Adda M. Carter vs. Alfred E. Carter, Bertha M. Blake vs. William O. Blake. They have been ordered in the actions entitled Melvina Brown vs. Elza Brown and Gladys Cottrell vs. Jess Cottrell.

LITTLE GIRL HURT BY AUTOMOBILE

Lena Gear, five-year-old daughter of William Gear, 308 South Iowa avenue was painfully and perhaps seriously injured when a car belonging to Forrest Crowe, rural route No. 8, backed into her at Iowa and Hayne streets this afternoon about 2:45 o'clock. Mr. Crowe was endeavoring to get the engine to run by pushing the machine backwards. The little girl's hand was badly cut and it is feared she is internally injured.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT BLOOMFIELD CHURCH

Bloomfield, Nov. 2.—The special revival meetings opened at the M. E. church Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Goff, evangelists, Miss Alice E. Wilson and W. L. Rugg are the workers in charge. Sunday evening a large attendance was present.

ELDON MAN HURT IN A RUNAWAY

Douglas Leando, Nov. 2.—James A. Trot of Eldon was seriously injured in a runaway accident at Leando about 3 o'clock Monday afternoon by being thrown from a spring wagon while his team was running away.

Mr. Trot who is about 75 years old, was in Leando on business, accompanied by his son, and David Nicklin, all of Eldon. The patient was able to be moved to his home in an automobile.

ELDON

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Cook and children spent Sunday at the parental W. K. Lutz home.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Isbell and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Weber drove to Oskaloosa Sunday.

Miss Ruth Wilkinson spent Sunday with her parents near Laddsdale.

Omar Cressap had the misfortune to run a nail in his foot while at work.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stein of Ottumwa came today to attend the trainmen dance Monday night.

H. O. Cran of Fairfield spent Sunday at home.

Ed Easton of Trenton, Mo., is lying off for a week, visiting home folks.

The Fortnightly club entertained at a masked Hallowe'en party Saturday night at the Masonic hall. The hall was beautifully decorated in the regular Hallowe'en style. About all the members and guests were masked and Fred Shore was winner of the first prize for being best masked.

The evening was spent in fortune telling and playing progressive bridge and rook. Mrs. Ed J. Moore and Mrs. Ira Israel were the very adept fortune tellers. A very sumptuous buffet luncheon was served. Each club member having invited an extra couple, there were about seventy-five in all present, who departed at a late hour declaring this one of the best masquerade parties of the season.

Miss Teresa Colut who has been here for some time, went to Keosauqua today.

Allen Van Dyke of Muscatine, arrived in the city today.

Miss Velma Delia Beatrice Shaffer died in the Ottumwa hospital Sunday morning. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Shaffer, being five years, five months and twenty-five days old. Her funeral was Monday at 2 p. m. interment in the Bethlehem cemetery.

Dave Nicklin, justice of the peace, removed his office Monday morning to the Lucas building on Main street.

Racon Armentrout had the misfortune Monday to severely crush his right hand while uncoupling the engine on the K. D. passenger. He caught his hand in the coupling chain and tore the flesh off all fingers and it is feared he will lose some of his fingers.

The Misses Hayden entertained the senior and junior classes at their home on Main street, at a masked Hallowe'en party. There were about twenty guests and a fine time was had. A delicious luncheon was served.

The funeral of Mrs. Bird Kuhns who died in Nara Visa, N. M., was held at the Christian church Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

HE WAS THE STAR BOARDER.

Davenport, Nov. 2.—Michel Gomez, who eloped with the wife and two children of Valentine Rambriez, has been arrested at Richmond, by local detectives. Gomez was the star boarder on the Ramirez home. All the parties are Mexicans.

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision for over 30 years. Allow no one to deceive you in this. Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments, and endanger the health of Children—Experience against Experiment.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher In Use For Over 30 Years.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTE BOOK

BY LEE PAPE

Us fellows have got a noo club up, meeting in the room awn top of the place were Sam Krausses farthir keeps his automobile, awn akount of Sams farthir saying we cood, and yestidday we awt met up there to decide wat name to give the club to call it by, Puds Simkins starting by saying I say we call ourselves the Yung Athletes.

No, sed Sid Hunt, we wont awtways be yung, we mite want to keep this club up aftr we are awl in lawng pants, and then we wood haft to change the name.

Thats rite, sed Sam Krauss. Then just call ourselves the Athletes, sed Puds.

Its to lawng of a word, and evvrybody mite not no wat it means, sed my cuzin Arlie.

Ill tell you a good name, lets call ourselves the Nights of the Round Tabl, sed Sid Hunt.

No, thats to sissy, sed Reddy Mery, wats the matter with calling it the

MAN'S INFLUENCE ON FELLOWSHOWN

Evangelist BUCK TELLS MEN OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD NEIGHBORS.

Evangelist Buck's message last night at the revival service in the Main Street M. E. church was taken from the text, Romans 14:2. "For none of us liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself," was an unusual strong sermon, showing the influence man has on his fellows and how God holds man responsible for the impressions he makes on the lives of others.

The music is one of the big features of the meetings, the large chorus is doing splendid work, under the leadership of Prof. Faust.

The Sunday school orchestra will play tonight. On Wednesday night the Ottumwa string quartet will play beginning at 7:30.

Buckshot. Greed makes a man's heart so little that if you would take 745 of them and string them together with a hair there would be room enough for them to rattle and that is all.

There are enough orphans in this world made so by liquor to belt this old world around and across the seas four times. Think of it.

When you stick your little old head up against God you have to give up and you might as well give in first as last.

God cannot push you into Heaven lackwads. That is not God's way. When you surrender everything to God that moment you become a child of God and bless your sweet soul you will know it the minute you become a child of God.

No man goes through life without influencing everyone whom he touches. We are just as responsible for what we make other folks do, as what we do ourselves.

In the evening when the newspaper is thrown on your porch, you walk out and pick up the world.

No character ever touched the world with the strength like that of Jesus Christ.

If you get the Son of God in your life folks will feel you around.

EASTERN FIRM IS GIVEN WAR ORDER

Sharon, Pa., Nov. 2.—The Driggs Seabury Ordnance Co., today began work on a contract for 116,000 six inch shells for a foreign government, whose name was not announced. The value of the contract was said to be \$2,000,000. Other orders for munitions already booked are expected to keep the plant in operation for many months.

SHERIFF GUTHRIE GETS CAR OF BOOZE

Albia, Nov. 2.—Sheriff Cal Guthrie took his car and went out in the direction of Eddyville last Saturday and picked up a wagon load of booze which Thomas Wignall was taking from Eddyville to Maple. The sheriff superintended the rest of the delivery and the booze is now in the basement of the court house and the driver is out on bail.

HEDRICK.

Lester Trout of Mason City was the guest of Hedrick friends Saturday. Miss Verle Wade of Richland visited at the A. J. Anderson home last week. The two trains that were taken off the M. & St. L. several months ago will be put on again Nov. 8. C. Milligan, wife and son were in Rochester, Minn., last week. Miss Mildred Neff visited at Ames over Sunday. Penn college foot ball team won from Hedrick high school Friday, the score being 24 to 0. Mrs. D. C. Dickey and daughters visited in Fremont over Sunday with Mrs. Dickey's mother Mrs. Milligan. Wayne Smith was in Chicago last week. Misses Helen and Emma Messerschmitt and Miss Eva Lawson attended the skating rink in Sigourney Saturday evening. Dr. W. W. Davis visited at his home in Oskaloosa over Sunday. Mrs. A. Mathews and family drove to Mt. Pleasant in their car Sunday. Mrs. J. M. Gardner of Ollie is the guest of her daughter Mrs. C. E. Nez.

Men who beg are usually those who