

THE AWAKENING OF YUCATAN

An Interesting Article From The Pan-American Magazine for October 1916 Concerning The Land and The People Who Furnish Material For Binder Twine

By George Miner.

If cleanliness is next to godliness, then the people of Yucatan must all be saints. To be sure they do not look exactly like saints, but they do look clean and what is more they are clean. From the humblest peon to the richest planter personal cleanliness is almost a religion with them. Bathing is part of their daily life just as much as eating and sleeping. The person who does not take at least one, and generally two, baths a day is a very rare exception; more than that, they put on a clean and fresh suit of clothes every day. Not the upper classes alone, but the common people also, the laborers in the fields and on the streets.

When a laborer comes home from his work in the evening the first thing he does is to take the hot bath which his wife has had prepared and waiting for him. Then he puts on a clean suit of clothes. To be sure it consists of nothing but white cotton trousers, shirt and jacket, but it is fresh and as clean as a hound's tooth. Then he sits his modest little supper of corn or beans, which is all he wants or cares for, gets out his guitar and strums plaintive melodies as he swings in a hammock under the palm trees while a round, white moon set in an indigo-blue sky casts wavering black shadows all around as the cooling trade winds waves the branches.

These men are not evil-minded. They are not trouble-makers or bandits. On the contrary they are as peaceful, hard working a peasantry as can be found anywhere in the world. For centuries they were kept in dense ignorance and many of them in slavery. Ever since Montezuma and his countless Spanish followers swept over the Peninsula bringing death and desolation the Maya Indian has been subject to oppression. His lot under the long reign of Diaz was quite as bad as it was two hundred years ago under the haughty Spanish governors.

No effort of any kind was ever made to help or free him until the revolution came and the Constitution-ists secured the government of Mexico. Then General Alvarado, at the head of a hardy little army loomed on the scene, pushed off into the sea the corrupt and thieving politicians and the slave-owning aristocrats and began to set things right.

From that moment Yucatan began to wake up. Since then under the wise guidance of Governor Alvarado and his counselors Yucatan has been progressing and expanding. The magic touch of modern thought and methods held by the revolutionary leaders started the bud into full bloom.

To-day Yucatan has shaken off her stagnation and is simply striding ahead. The progressive spirit has taken hold of the people of all classes and prosperity is assured all over that great area of land reaching out to the south of the Gulf.

The first thing that General Alvarado did when he took command of the country and established himself in Merida was to abolish the evils. He did not wink at them or deplore them or start legislation about them. He simply stopped them. He abolished slavery with one word and made the peon free and independent. More than that, he also saw to it that they got good wages for their labor. The result is that the working classes are better paid in Yucatan now than they are almost anywhere else in the two Americas.

Formerly they were given just corn enough to keep them alive and not too much alive at that. Now they are getting wages that compare favorably with those paid in the United States. At first the slaves could not understand it. They did not know what money was or what use to make of it. Before they had been given their corn. Now they have to buy it and so they complained. Also they thought that they must spend or in some way get rid of all the money paid them as soon as they received it. You see they were perfect children in this respect. They had never had any money nor had their ancestors for many generations. So the only way to keep them out of debt and idleness and evil was to pay them off every night. The governor ordered this done and the custom is still in vogue at many haciendas, although the more intelligent Indians have now learned that a dollar is just as good a month off as it is five minutes after being received.

The habit of thrift and saving is gradually taking root. There is every reason to believe that in time these peaceful farmers will become as prosperous and as saving as the New Englanders or the Swedes. Their wants are simple and their pay big. Then the governor cleaned up the cities. Merida had fairly reeked with vice and corruption in the old days. White slavery was carried on to such an extent as was never dreamed of anywhere else, managed by a thoroughly organized syndicate of scoundrels from Cuba. I am happy to say that no native Yucatecan was engaged in this traffic. People who make every day and always wear clean clothes are sure to be more or less morally clean also. There is no red-light district in Merida to-day. Gambling was forbidden and stopped absolutely.

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Bull fighting and cock fighting were abolished and there was not the howl about it that one would have expected, for drunkenness was made impossible at the same time and perfectly sober people do not become very enthusiastic over bull or cock fights.

When I say drunkenness was impossible I mean it, for it is impossible to get drunk if there is nothing to get drunk with. That is the condition in Yucatan. The governor took possession of all the wines and liquors and spirits. He did not confiscate them or empty them in the gutters. He locked them up in storerooms and told the owners that they still owned them and could sell them anywhere outside of Mexico, but that they could not sell them or even have them in their possession in Yucatan.

Nobody may bring any intoxicating liquor into Yucatan, or have it in their possession or drink it. Woe betide them if they do.

I have seen prohibition tried in many parts of the United States, but never with absolute success. Governor Alvarado made it successful in one day in Yucatan by going to the root of the matter. This does not impose any hardship on people who have been accustomed to taking stimulants, for beer may be sold freely and lighter wines can be had in the hotels and higher class restaurants by those who can afford it, for the wines are all imported and consequently expensive. Although there are several breweries in Yucatan making a fair grade of beer, it is by no means a cheap beverage, and the percentage of alcohol is so small that it is considered a non-intoxicating drink. That fact and its high price rob it of any effect it might otherwise have.

Probably there is less drunkenness in Yucatan than in any other civilized section of the world of the same size and population. It is a crime there and people guilty are put in prison and set to work. They are also put in prison and set to work for being idle; that is, being tramps or hoboes or lums or chronic loafers. Idleness there is as much of a crime as drunkenness, for in a country where there is work for 500,000 men laborers and idleness is a menace to the state. A man who can work and should work and will not work is made to work.

Work compulsory in Yucatan. The state is quite honest about getting this enforced labor. It does not steal it from the prisoners. It does

not confiscate a prisoner's time and the sweat of his brow and the strain of his muscles by any means. That would be reverting to the very slavery which Alvarado has abolished. It pays these convict laborers full wages, and good wages, too, so that when a prisoner's sentence has expired and he takes off his blue and white striped uniform he goes forth from the penitentiary with a good fat roll of bills in his pocket.

Almost coincident with these reforms General Alvarado started an educational campaign. Only the most casual attempt had ever been made at universal education in Yucatan. A half-hearted way the priests taught as little or as much as they saw fit and to whom they saw fit. The result was practically nil. There were few common schools; the children of the aristocrats and the wealthy were sent to Europe or the United States or Mexico City to school and of course were well educated. The higher class of Yucatecans are nearly all well read and highly cultured, but the masses were swamped in ignorance.

The governor gathered an army of school teachers. To get enough of them he had to import hundreds, many from the United States. These he scattered all over the broad peninsula and as every hacienda had a church and the churches had been closed he turned them into schoolhouses. Every child was compelled to go to school on Sundays until they learned the rudiments, as the benefit of the instruction was purely local no general tax was imposed to meet the expense. A much simpler and more straightforward method was adopted. Each hacienda owner was told he must pay the salary of the school teacher on his farm. In this way the burden was put just where it belonged.

A year ago this was started. General Alvarado then announced that wherever there was a child there must be a school. To-day there is, and there are more than 2,000 school teachers in the State of Yucatan alone. Last month the first teachers' congress was held for a week in Merida and every session was marked with enthusiasm and vigorous debates.

The little Maya children have proved adepts at learning. Many of them have made wonderful progress within the year, so that in some of the primary schools high school studies are now being taught. The "little red schoolhouse" idea has been planted in Yucatan and the coming generation will show the results of it. The educational campaign was carried still further by establishing schools for specialized instruction. The normal school was developed and enlarged and made a practical institution. An agricultural college was opened in the abandoned country palace of the archbishop and a training farm bought and operated in the foothills where all sorts of products can be experimentally planted. Experts in intensive farming were brought from Europe to conduct this system. The progressive spirit of this edu-

AN AUTO TRIP

From Wauseon, Ohio to St. Cloud, Florida, By Auto—An Interesting Account of a Trip Through the Sun-dry South—By H. A. LEE.

The following letter from H. A. Lee, who recently made a trip by auto to St. Cloud, Florida, to Vern Lee, of Morenci, will undoubtedly prove of interest to many Fulton county friends:

St. Cloud, Fla., Nov. 26, 1916.

Mr. Vern Lee, Morenci, Mich.

We just arrived at Turpening's home yesterday, had a fine ride and better roads than I expected—pulled my trailer all the way. The south Georgia sand was the worst; it was fun to pull up a mountain and coast down, sometimes nearly a mile without using anything except the brakes. The first stop we made was Fort Wayne, Indiana, then through Cambridge City. Our second camp was Cambridge, some hills. We were rained in one day. We found fine land big corn, good roads. The people own the roads and you can turn out on either side so they have the middle, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and the first part of Georgia were the same then they began to turn out at the first signal the rest of the way. In Georgia three or four teams and a load of logs would turn out and wait for you to go by, without a signal.

I started to tell you our route—Cottersville, was our third camp, at New Albany we stopped for a while, crossed the Ohio river into Louisville, Kentucky, camp four. Our next camp was in front of an old southern plantation, ten miles out of Bowling Green fine people, a large brick house built over one hundred years, brick was shipped from England. When you get to Cave City inquire for better roads to Bowling Green, Kentucky. We stayed in Nashville, a fine city, it rained and snowed, went to Murfreesboro, Tennessee where our soldiers fought an awful battle and routed the rebels from the court house, we could see where they had repaired with new brick and mortar. A southerner explained it as he saw it, he feels better over it now than he did then. We went from there to Fayetteville, stayed over night, it froze ice. We went over the mountains crossed the Tennessee river on a ferry and stayed over night at Guntersville, Alabama, went over sand mountains following General Sherman's march and camped on one of his camps; saw some old forts and a southerner showed us an old unexploded shell and gave us a history of the scenes at that time. The 16th went in our sixth camp in front of D. E. Harris', an old southern soldier, he brought us some fresh sausage for breakfast—we could hardly get away for visiting with him.

Our route, Albertville, Base, Atlanta, Massholes, crossed Coosey

FARMERS WILL STUDY COSTS

Winter Courses in Farming at the College of Agriculture, Columbus, Opening January 2nd To Deal With Economical Production of Food Stuffs

Providing for thirty-one different subjects directly related to farming, winter courses in agriculture to be opened by the College of Agriculture at the Ohio State University, Columbus, on January 2 for farm men and boys, will deal with problems confronting Ohio farmers in producing grain, livestock and dairy products economically. Because there will be an unusual demand for livestock and even food-stuffs when the war closes, the farmers who give attention to the economical production of products now will reap greater profits later, it is claimed.

Farmers point out that even though farm products are selling high, greater attention must be given to more economical production of farm products to make as much money as when prices were normal. The high cost of production rises even faster than the

VALENTINE-TOLEDO

Possessing almost the magnitude of a three-ring circus, "A World of Pleasure," one of the latest and greatest of the New York Winter Garden colossal entertainments, is due to reach Toledo on Sunday evening, December 17th, for one performance at the Valentine Theatre. With a company of over 125 people, a special train of eleven pullman and baggage cars, two huge glittering acts and nine stupendous scenes, it bids fair to be the most important event of this city's theatricals, and its engagement here will be a gala affair. In "A World of Pleasure," the Winter Garden producers have outdone all their previous efforts. No expense, care or time has been spared in making it the last word in musical comedy perfection. There are stars galore, each one seemingly more fitted than the other to entertain. As stellar fabric the following names are submitted by the producers as samples: William Norris, the comedian who has made musical comedy patrons laugh for years; Conroy and Le Marie, past masters of black face comedy; Margaret Edwards, a sixteen year old dancer accredited with being the most perfect physical type extant; the talented Courtney Sisters, America's most appealing singing comedienne; Wanda Lyon, that decidedly pleasing blond young lady, whose voice and good looks are a never-failing source of appeal; McNahon, Diamond and Chaplow, gradu-

ates from vaudeville, who know so well the art of entertainment; Collins and Hart, whose burlesques are a never failing source of delight; Franklin Batie, a graceful dancer; and Rosie Quinn, that captivating miss who never fails to win the hearts of all who see her.

FARM SALE
I will sell at public auction on Thursday February 1st, 1917. My farm of 45 acres, located two miles East of Otolake. Good eight room house, barn and other outbuildings, land well tilled and fenced, some fruit, well watered. Will also sell personal property consisting of live stock, hay, grain, farming implements and etc. Will be glad to have you come and look the property over before the sale.

C. W. KENNEDY.
36-e o w 1-26-17

Inactivity Causes Constipation

Lack of exercise in the winter is a frequent cause of constipation. You feel heavy, dull and listless, your complexion is sallow and pimply, and energy at low ebb. Clean up this condition at once with Dr. King's New Life Pills, a mild laxative that relieves the congested intestines without gripping. A dose before retiring will assure you a full and easy movement in the morning. 25c at your Druggist.

Tribune ad's get results.

Of course we deliver, right up to 10:00 o'clock Christmas Eve. You tell us when and where and we will do the rest

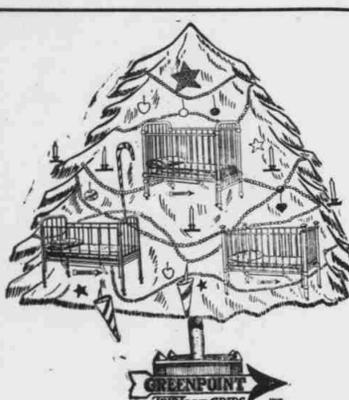


What Shall We Give?

Let the Furniture Store Help You Decide

Gifts bought here are so useful and desirable. Look over the list, every gift bought here means enjoyment the whole year through.

- PICTURES FOR EVERY ROOM**
found here. New designs in mouldings. Excellent subjects.
25c to \$3.00
- SMOKER STANDS—WHY NOT?**
get him one this Christmas.
See them priced at
\$1.65 to \$6.00
- MAGAZINE RACKS**
Something you will always enjoy.
\$2.00 to \$4.75
- FOOT STOOLS AND SLIPPER BOXES**
make presents that are so acceptable.
\$1.00 to \$3.75
- REED SEWING STANDS**
So useful and so pretty for Christmas gifts. Do not fail to see these.
\$5.50 to \$6.50
- SELECT A RUG—WHY NOT?**
We show a good assortment in all grades.
\$1.50 to \$35.00
- PEDESTALS AND TABOURETTAS**
Always suitable gifts. We show them in many styles of construction.
50c to \$3.50
- IT SHOULD BE A VAC SWEEPER**
this Christmas sure. Your wife will be delighted. A gift most highly prized.
\$3.50 to \$8.50
- BISSELLS CARPET SWEEPERS**
\$2.50 to \$4.00
- ELECTRIC STAND LAMPS**
Our display will surely please you.
\$4.00 to \$20.00
- CEDAR CHESTS AND SHIRT WAIST BOXES**
These make fine gifts for mother, wife or friend.
\$2.00 to \$14.75



For The Little TOTS

- Make the little tots happy with furniture this Christmas.
- Beds \$5.50 to \$10.00
- Rockers \$1.40 to \$3.75
- Chairs \$1.50 to \$2.00
- High Chairs \$1.25 to \$3.75
- Carrages \$14.50 to \$25.00
- Go-Carts 79c to \$13.50

UMBRELLA RACKS AND COSTUMERS

Why not buy one this Christmas. A useful present for every home.
\$2.00 to \$4.25

Hurry That Christmas Picture To Us For Framing

We Are Open Evenings Now Drop In

Come to Wauseon to do your Christmas Trading. Finest assortments. Best of service and you will "Do Better This Side of Toledo."

MUSIC CABINETS FOR CHRISTMAS
What better selection for daughter or friend.
\$8.50 to \$15.00

HAT RACKS AND MIRRORS
Our Christmas display will please you.
75c to \$10.00

AT LEAST ONE ROCKER THIS CHRISTMAS
We are showing over 50 styles for Christmas trade.
\$1.25 to \$20.00

BUY THE LIBRARY TABLE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
Our display will appeal to you.
\$10.50 to \$30.00

SELECT THE DAVENPORT NOW
So useful and so pretty for the home. Why not this Christmas?
\$28.50 to \$45.00

BOOKCASES AND WRITING DESKS
Could you think of a more appropriate gift?
\$6.50 to \$25.00

FOR THE DINING ROOM
Make it a Christmas gift. Dining Table, Buffet and Chairs.
All Prices

SELECT YOUR BED ROOM
outfit for this Christmas season. We are showing handsome suits.
All Prices

A NICE DRESSING TABLE
for a gift for her. Nothing could be appreciated more.
\$10.25 to \$21.50

Give Furniture This Christmas and Select it Now

IVES-PIKE COMPANY

FURNITURE UNDERTAKING

Give Furniture This Christmas and Select it Now