

# HISTORY OF PANAMA

**Spaniards in 15th Century Landed at Site of Canal.**

**Tales of Rich Gold Deposits Were Responsible for Many Adventurers Leaving Home to Seek the El Dorado in the New World.**

Colon, Panama.—It was just for gold that brought the Spaniards to America in the fifteenth century. It was the same lust that led them to make many daring trips of exploration into the interior. An expedition set out from the island of Haiti one day in the year 1513. When the vessel was well out to the sea, and the wooded shores of the island had grown dim in the distance, the adventurers were amazed to hear muffled shouting from the hold and a noise of knocking. The sound was coming from one of a number of great casks, supposed to contain dried beef, and when the noisy cask was discovered and the end knocked off, a well-built young man, clad in the velvet garments gentlerfolk wore at that time, sprang out. Several of the adventurers recognized him as Vasco Nunez de Balboa, a young man known to many of the colonists of Haiti.

Balboa explained that he had chosen this way of coming aboard because his creditors were watching him so closely that he knew they would never have permitted him to leave the island openly, but would have caused him to be seized and cast into debtors' prison.

The destination of this party of adventure was Darien, near the site of the Panama canal. No man knew what lay across the isthmus, and indeed most Spaniards believed at that time that the West Indies were islands off the coast of Asia.

When the vessel which Balboa had boarded so unceremoniously reached the mainland of Central America already there refused to allow the captain of the vessel to come ashore, for he had an evil reputation. The other men, however, went ashore under the leadership of Balboa and at once began a trip of exploration. Balboa made an alliance with a powerful Indian chief who ruled that portion of the land, and married the chief's daughter. At the wedding feast the Indians brought rich gifts of slaves and gold, and were amazed to see

# QUAINT CUSTOM OF DUTCH

**Originated in 1622, When a Boy Discovered a Plot to Blow Up the Stock Exchange.**

Amsterdam, Holland.—Of the many quaint and curious customs, traditions and privileges prevailing in Holland none is more extraordinary than a certain privilege that has been enjoyed by the boys of Amsterdam for nearly three hundred years. At a fixed time each summer these boys gather by the hundreds in the great square called the Dam, situated in the center of the city. Each boy has a drum slung over his shoulder. Facing this square is the Stock Exchange, and, on the occasion in ques-



The Typical Holland Costume.

tion, just as soon as the day's business is over, as many of the boys as can crowd into the building. They proceed to the floor of the exchange, where pursuant to this odd custom they are permitted to march about, singing and beating upon their drums.

The origin of this custom, it is said, is as follows: One afternoon in the year 1622 a crowd of boys playing in the Dam lost a ball in the canal that in those days skirted one side of the square. One of the lads, while climbing in among the piles on which the building stood, found instead of his ball a boat moored in a dark corner and loaded with boxes of gunpowder. This showed clearly enough what was afterward ascertained with certainty, the intention of the Spanish conspirators to blow up the Stock Exchange while it was crowded, as it was every day, with the leading citizens of the city.

The boy who stumbled upon the gunpowder at once hurried to the town authorities with his news. The boatload of explosives was quietly sunk in the canal and the Spanish plot thus frustrated. When the burghesses asked the boy what reward he desired for the service he had rendered the town he replied that so long as there was a Stock Exchange in Amsterdam the boys of the town would like to be permitted to make the floor of the exchange their playground during a certain part of the year. The request was granted and so the custom survives.

# FIND TREASURES IN IRELAND

**Many Art Articles May Be Picked Up in Out of the Way Places.**

Dublin.—Many collectors whose purses are not large take delight in picking up simple treasures, such little bits of loot as are sometimes found in out-of-the-way highways and byways in Ireland, that sentiment of other days exists, amongst a peasantry noted for their feeling of romance and devotion, and, above all, for their sense of beauty.

They love still the Toby jugs and spotted dogs, the colored china cats and dogs, smiling swains and woolly sheep, which adorned their grand-sire's farmstead chimney pieces and dressers.

You may find them for the seeking in Irish cottages, along with skillets and copper warming-pans, "punch mudders" (sugar crushers), in Sheffield plate and the "sugar nippers," which call to your mind the time when sugar-loaf, an expensive luxury, was cut up by the housekeeper and stored away against a feast day.

Old brass door knockers, fast vanishing in these days of electric bells, iron "dogs," copper measures, even the brass amulets, to avert the evil eye, which bodeck the carter's team, are reminders of a less prosaic age—you may happen upon them in Irish homes, and bring them away if you know just how to coax an Irish man or woman into parting with their treasures.

Needlework pictures, samplers, stray bits of lustrous ware, above all the perfect Irish paste buckles and other ornaments are not less costly than in England, but you may get bargains in such things as "brand tongs" for picking up live bits of coal to light the pipe, wooden "pigpens" for drinking milk out of or measuring butter, pewter dishes, spinning wheels, bellows, wooden coffee-mills and platters.

Besides, you may happen on knife and salt boxes, quaint glass tavern mugs, china cottages for pastilles, night-light shelters, or saving banks.

To Investigate Quaker City Evils. Philadelphia.—The work of investigating the social evil problem has been apportioned among six committees, by the vice commission recently appointed by Mayor Blankenburg. It was also decided to engage an expert to direct the investigation.

# MURRAY HAS PLAN

**Controller of the Currency Is After Dishonest Bankers.**

**He Would Have Duplicate Reports Made to His Office—Some of the "Tricks of the Trade" and How They Are Worked.**

Washington.—The federal government has not yet found a way to prevent dishonest men from stealing from national banks, though it has worked at this problem for several years. L. O. Murray, controller of the currency, has, with the hope of aiding bank officials to detect dishonest employees, called attention to some of the latter day methods of "beating the banks."

Henry M. Dearing, cashier of the Albion National bank at Albion, Mich., is serving a term in prison. A search of the cashier's desk, after the closing of the bank, disclosed leaves removed from the loose leaf individual and savings depositors' ledgers carrying credit balances aggregating \$185,817.41, which, of course, represented a shortage in cash of an equal amount. This method of "covering" had been in vogue since the bank began business. The cashier told the examiner that he found no difficulty at all in deceiving the directors. The bills receivable were added by him on the adding machines; the list was checked with the notes by the directors, but at no time, the cashier explained, did the directors check the total of the adding machine list with the general ledger. The assistant cashier said that practically all of the manufacturing customers' notes owned by the bank were forgeries.

Earl Stannard, bookkeeper of a national bank at Pomona, Cal., is under arrest for abstracting more than \$150,000 of the bank's money. One of his methods was that of extracting the clearings items from the morning mail before they were seen by the cashier or others and destroying all items in favor of an oil company in which he was interested. Of the fifty-six pages of inactive accounts, thirty-six were falsified for a total of more than \$100,000; not for more than three years had the active and inactive ledgers been footed and balanced on the same day.

F. T. Arnold, cashier of the First National bank, of New Berlin, N. Y., is awaiting trial because of an estimated shortage of about \$150,000 in the deposit account. He issued certificates of deposit which he failed to register, or if registered the entries were for a lower amount than the face of the certificate called for. It is understood that no one but Arnold was allowed to make any entries in the certificate of deposit register, which is wholly in his handwriting and presents many evidences of erasures and changes in figures. He concealed his stealings in several other ways.

George W. Coleman, bookkeeper of the National City bank, of Cambridge, Mass., kept a small personal account on the individual ledger. He would "kite" his own checks through a Boston curb broker and take them from the mail as they came back from the clearing house. The cashier never saw the contents of the clearing house, and posted the totals of the letters in the cash book. The general ledger and general cash book were kept by the cashier.

Within five years Coleman looted the bank of more than \$200,000, and is now serving a long term in prison. The directors noticed the reduction of the deposits in the bank and attributed it to competition. The defalcation was not discovered until the books were examined by the auditors of the Harvard Trust company, to which concern the directors had agreed to sell out.

All such unfortunate occurrences as these and many that have preceded them may be avoided in the future. In the opinion of Controller Murray, if the national banks will co-operate with his office in a plan which he has just suggested to them. This is nothing more than the simple device of sending to his office a carbon copy of the semi-annual report made by the examining committee of the board of directors of each bank—the report which says in black and white what the directors think of their own bank.

# PRODUCTION OF GOLD SHOWS BIG INCREASE

The report of George E. Roberts, director of the mint, just issued, gives an extensive review of the production and distribution of gold during the twenty-one years beginning with 1890 and ending with 1910.

The gold production is shown to mount steadily upward, save for the interruption caused by the Boer war, from \$113,000,000 in 1890 to \$454,000,000 in 1910. The review then undertakes to trace these new supplies of gold into use, showing the estimated consumption of the industrial arts, the absorption of Asia, the amounts taken by new and developing countries, and finally the amounts that have entered into the bank reserves of the important commercial countries.

The twenty-one years are divided into two periods, the first ten years, 1890-1899, and the second of eleven years, 1900-1910. The production in the first period is estimated at \$1,960,000,000.

During the second period of eleven years production amounted to \$4,637,000,000.

about doubled during the period under review.

The country which appears as the largest factor in the absorption of gold and in the expansion of credit during this period is the United States. The banks and government treasury increased their gold holdings by \$702,927,944, the national banks increased their note circulation \$557,800,000, and the national and state banks together increased their loans and discounts from \$5,167,895,610 to \$12,855,503,194. The gain in gold was 106 per cent and in bank loans 115 per cent.

# BOYS SWAT 21,450 FLIES.

Layton H. Burdette of the Industrial Home school, winner of the first prize in a "swat-the-fly" contest last summer, now leads the competitors in the Washington anti-fly campaign for this season. His score is 11,600 flies killed during May.

William Steiner of 1320 N street northwest, with a total of 9,850 flies destroyed, is second in the race.

Health officials are gratified at the high scores being made by the leaders in the race. Burdette and Steiner together have destroyed more than 20,000 flies. The enormous size of the fly population ultimately to be developed in Washington this season practically is incalculable, they say.

Dr. Murray, supervisor of the campaign, estimates that on a conservative basis, 5,000,000 descendants will spring from one female fly between now and the end of the season. On the assumption that half of the 20,000 insects destroyed by Burdette and Steiner are females, the number of flies prevented from coming into existence, as a result of their slaughter, Dr. Murray estimates, approximates one hundred billion.

With the activity of Burdette and Steiner already assuring Washingtonians of being swayed by fewer flies by millions this summer than otherwise would have been the case, health officials say that the five months' campaign, begun in time to strike a deadly blow at the fly when he contends against unfavorable conditions for existence at the beginning of spring, will make the national capital free of the pest by fall than it ever has been, and the beneficial results undoubtedly will extend over into next season.

# HOW BIG FORTUNES MELT.

The filing of heavy claims by physicians against the estate of the late Thomas F. Walsh of Washington, D. C., and Denver, was alluded to the other day by a Colorado mining man.

"The doctors' bills," he said, "may be entirely correct and I do not mean to criticize them. Mr. Walsh was a very rich man, but even the biggest fortunes melt under systematic assault or improper management. His \$5,000,000 estate could have been easily wrecked by the purchase of a few more baubles like the Hope diamond, for which young McLean and his wife, who was Evelyn Walsh, are said to have paid \$150,000, and which was worn by Mrs. McLean for the first time at a brilliant reception given by her last winter. But before the young matron could wear the stone as her own she and her husband were sued for it in the District of Columbia and great trouble and inconvenience were caused them."

# "Movies" Men Balked.

There is one place on earth, anyhow, where moving picture men can't get, and that is in the White House grounds. A moving picture concern dressed up a rube farmer, and undertook to engineer him upon the White House portico, so that a policeman might yank him off the steps, to show a crank trying to make his way into the White House. The policemen were there all right, and they nabbed the pseudo crank, but the moving picture machine "never got no picture." They begged and implored to have it all done over again with the real White House policeman, but that is not what the bluecoats down at the White House are paid for.

# Plea for Revaccination.

American Medicine makes a strong plea in behalf of revaccination. It says that the "perfect protective power of revaccination does not seem to be as widely known as it should be and there is urgent need of more publicity of the facts, now that there is a recrudescence of the anti-vaccination delusion." And, adds this standard American medical journal, "a primary vaccination causes only an evanescent immunity in many cases, and it is this fact which has been used so effectively by the anti-vaccinationists to convince the unreasonable that there is no immunity at all."

# Would Have to Wait.

Mr. Marks was discussing the advisability of erecting a tomb for the several generations of the immediate family. Little Elizabeth listened impatiently. Finally she said with flashing eyes: "No, sir. I shall never go into a tomb with my grandmother. When the resurrection day comes, she'll keep hanging on to me and saying: 'Wait, Elizabeth; you must let the others go first,' and I'll never be resurrected."

# Uncle Sam's Big Family.

The total population now living under the American flag is 101,000,000, according to corrected figures announced by the census bureau the other day.

# Ragtime Stops Court.

While a street piano played ragtime outside, Judge De Lancy suspended juvenile court in Washington the other day to teach six prisoners how to play "run-sheep-run."

# WOMAN AS A WHALER TAKE EQUAL SHARE

**ACCOMPANIED HER FATHER SINCE FOUR YEARS OLD.**

**Norwegian Girl Gives Up the Sea to Take Up Duties of a Wife—Grieves Because She Never Shot a Whale.**

Miss Hjordia Ingebrigtsen, the daughter of a Norwegian whaling captain and the only woman in the whaling fleet, not long ago was married in Brooklyn to John Ramberg, an architect of Regina, Canada. The bride had just returned from a trip to Seattle, where she went with Capt. Otto Sverdrup of North Pole fame, and his daughter, Miss Anhdild Sverdrup.

On the way back she visited Montreal and renewed acquaintance with her childhood's friend, John Ramberg. When the two became engaged to be married the whaling master's daughter decided that she did not want to go home and hem table cloths and embroider lingerie for a year or two, according to the custom of Norwegian maidens about to be married, so the two were married quietly at the home of the bridegroom's brother, Ola Ramberg, in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Ramberg has accompanied her father on his whaling voyages since she was four years old, and declares she cannot breathe in a city. She thinks American women paint and powder too much and care too much for dress. Her own fresh cheeks owe their color to the hot sun and salt sea winds, and her eyes have caught the sparkle of the waves.

Captain Ingebrigtsen was one of the first to try whaling in southern waters, which has brought Norway wealth in the last decade. His daughter was with him on his last trip to Angola, Portuguese South Africa, with headquarters at the whaling station Port Alexandra. She lived for ten months on board the little 90-foot vessel, and in all that time did not see a white woman. Her one grief is that she must abandon whaling without having shot a whale.

"Father did promise that I should shoot," she said, "and the men were always begging me to do it, because I had promised them double shares if I got a whale. But whenever there was one in sight we were all so excited, and there are such enormous values involved—a whale may be worth as much as \$25,000—that I was afraid to try. It would have been so dreadful if I should have missed it."

"It is the most glorious thing you can imagine to go out at dawn and see the sun coming up and the whales jumping clean out of the water."

"The newly-mated whales are the easiest to get. The male usually lies on one side and looks at the female and waves his tail. We shoot the female first, and then it is easy to get the male, for he never leaves her. Usually two or three other males, friends of the family, will come to see what is the matter, so in that way we get four or five at a time. I used to think it was terrible at first to see them suffer, but I had to learn to think of it as a part of the day's work."

Mrs. Ramberg has accompanied her father on his trips since she was four years old.—New York Herald.

# One That Didn't Count.

Mayor Blankenburg, at a dinner in Philadelphia, praised the Quaker City ardently. "I must even praise," he said with a smile, "our exclusiveness—we carry it so far, you know. Birth is not enough with us; residence is equally important, and they who live above Market street are doomed. Here, surely, is exclusiveness with a vengeance."

"They tell a story about a dinner in Rittenhouse square. At this dinner, as the fish course began, one woman whispered to another:

"Dear me, there are thirteen at table!"

"But the other woman smiled and answered, calmly:

"Compose yourself, my dear Mrs. Caddisbiller Waddle. Mrs. North-Broad is not really one of us. She lives uptown, you know."

# Sad Case of Mr. Chaik.

In the '60s there lived in old Wyandotte a family named Chaik, relates the Kansas City Star. John Chaik, son of Ransom, was missed by his playmate for one or two lovely summer days, a distinct loss in Boyville. When he appeared again the mother of the playmate inquired as to his pals and was contented. He reported that he had been ill with cholera morbus.

"Well, John, that is pretty severe," said the lady.

"Yes, ma'am," with a complacent air of martyrdom. "I tell you it's awful when it gets among a person!"

It was the sad fate of Ransom Chaik to be killed in a railroad accident.

When the news was broken to his wife she exclaimed:

"I am so thankful father took a bath before he started!"

# Medicinal Value of Spinach.

Spinach contains the largest percentage of iron of any vegetable. It is spoken of in Proverbs as "the broom of the stomach." It cleanses the system of those accumulations which correspond to ash and cinders in a furnace and which have the effect of making the fires burn low and finally of putting them out. Spinach, as also dandelion, has a marked effect upon the kidneys; it keeps the system comparatively free from disease.

# TAKE EQUAL SHARE

**PRAY FOR HELP, BUT DON'T WAIT FOR IT.**

**Episode of Bill Bunker and the Bear Shows That Providence Must Not Be Expected to Do All the Work.**

"There is an old saying," began Hamkins "to the effect that Providence most generally helps the critter who helps himself, and I never run across this remark in print or hear it quoted without being sorter reminded of Bill Bunker and the bear."

"Bill was a pious sort of an old farmer and trapper who lived in a clearing in the woods down east somewhere—might's well call it Maine. I reckon, seein' that's the biggest state and there's the most room there—and whenever he got into a tight place the first thing he allers thought of was callin' on the Lord to help him out. Got so he sort of depended on the Creator that way instid of pitchin' in and helpin' hisself, which was a mighty shiftees way of doin' business, es most anybody with any gumption could 've told him. He orter sensed it for hisself, but it seems he didn't—not till later on at any rate; and then it come about in this way:

"Bill was out in a stump lot one day, quite a piece from the house, when he ketches sight of a big bear comin' fer him at full speed. He had left his gun leanin' ag'inst a pine stump at the further side of the lot, and it was too late to go after it now, specially es the bear was coming from that direction; so he shuts his eyes and begins prayin' fer deliverance from the animal that is makin' fer him.

"But when he opens his eyes later on and looks up, the first thing that greets his vision is that bear still comin' fer him, so he shuts his eyes and repeats his petitions once more."

"Again openin' his optics he sees the bear still saunterin' in his direction at a two-forty gait and gittin' closer every minute."

"At this juncture Bill begins to realize it is high time he was standing on the defensive, unless he wants to get chawed up by the bear, so he whips out his huntin'-knife, gets a firm grip on the handle, squares off ready for action and then speaks up loud and says:

"O Lord, I see it is about time I was doin' 'uthin' fer myself in this matter upon which I have bin addressin' you, so if you can't help me, please don't help the bear, and in just about two minutes you'll see one of the liveliest old scrimmages right here in this clearin' that you ever laid yer eyes on!"

"How did it all come out? Well, Bill won the fight, and he says he is convinced that Providence was on his side after all; and that little bear episode, so to call it, taught him that even when you pray for assistance, it don't pay to set down with your hands folded and depend on the Lord to do all the work."—Will B. Gidley.

# An Anti-Druggery Club.

Six women in Chicago have organized a club to lessen household cares. The club is the possessor of an electric vacuum cleaner, one electric washing machine, two electric irons and a fan for drying the washing.

The only dues are those required for the upkeep of these labor savers, and this amount has been estimated to be about 3 cents a week. The initiation fee consists of the price of the apparatus divided into six equal parts.

The members arrange their work so that a small boy may take the apparatus around to each in turn. They live in one neighborhood, so the affair is easily arranged. How practical; how easily the idea could be expanded to take in any number of housekeepers. What a help it would be in solving the servant problem.—American Clubwoman.

# Ancient Linen Found.

Excavators in Egypt have recently found sheets of linen in tombs that date back to the eleventh dynasty, or 2,500 years B. C. The cloth is still clean and white and the fiber as sound as it ever was, although it must have been woven 4,500 years ago. This linen is older than the flax. It was woven 2,000 years before Confucius was born and more than 1,700 years before Rome was founded. We speak of some of our institutions as "venerable," but they are all in their babyhood compared with these linen scraps.

# Fate's Dispensation.

The eccentricities and the unfulfilled wishes of the German financier Strousberg, the king of German railways, are brought to mind by the sale of his sarcophagus.

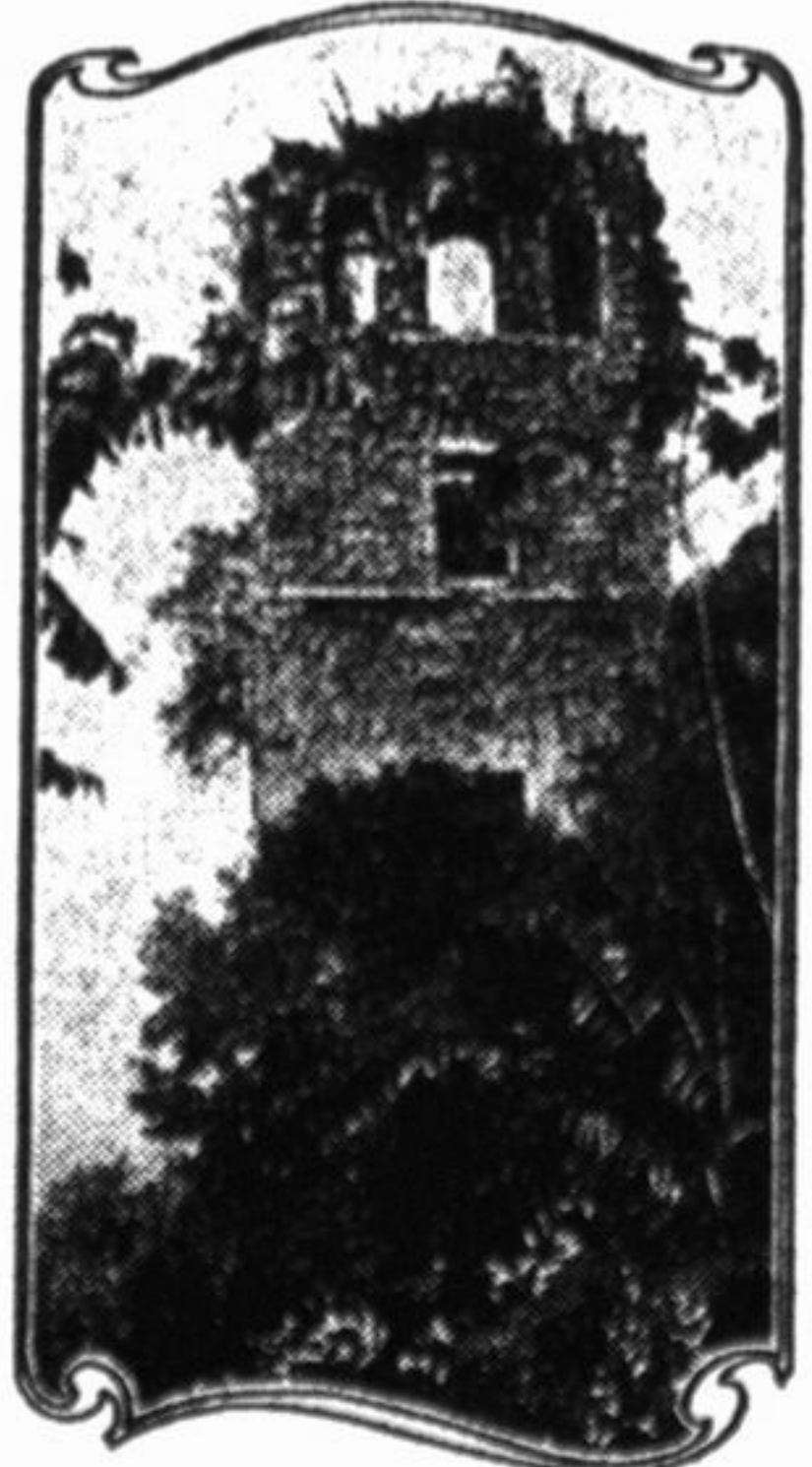
In the days of his prosperity he had commissioned Begas, a German sculptor of renown, to fashion it of bronze, but the millionaire died poor and friendless. The sarcophagus had not been paid for and it remained in the studio. Now it has been sold for 45,000 marks, but the name of the purchaser has not been revealed.

# An Illustration.

"The fable of Yemsa must have been intended as an satire on the incapacity of the feminine sex."

"How so?"

"Why, she was born of the earth."



Tower of the Castle of the Old City of Panama.

how the eyes of the Spaniards glittered at sight of the yellow metal and how they quarreled over it.

At once Balboa fitted up an expedition to cross the mountains to the land of gold. With him he took 200 men and a pack of savage dogs, which should attack unfriendly Indians.

Balboa called the new ocean the South sea, because he was looking toward the south when first he saw it. But he and his followers, though they had discovered a new ocean, failed to find the land of gold for which they had set out. He then returned to Darien and sent word to the Spanish king of the great discovery which he had made. Then he caused for small ships to be taken apart and carried across the mountains, believing that somewhere on the other side of the new ocean lay the El Dorado. These vessels were set up again and launched, the first European ships to dip keel in the great South sea. But before Balboa had equipped them fully and put out to sea his enemies, hurrying across the isthmus, captured him, accusing him of plots against the king. There was no evidence of any such plotting on Balboa's part, but those were lawless times, and the men of Darien were jealous of Balboa. In less than 24 hours he was tried, found guilty, condemned to death and beheaded.

# Turk Blows Up House.

Pottsville, Pa.—John Turk of Tuscarora was informed that a violent shock would exterminate the bed-bugs which recently have been bothering his sleep. Taking the advice at face value Turk secured a quantity of dynamite, placed it under the bed and exploded it. The shock exterminated the insects, also the bed and the house in which the bed once was. When Turk came to he was sitting in the middle of the road.