

PANAMA and its PEOPLE

By FORBES LINDSAY



Country Seat



The Cathedral, Panama



Central Plaza Panama



Panama Day and City Administration Building in Foreground

The people of the States have always entertained an exaggerated idea of the unhealthfulness of the Isthmus of Panama. Even in its worst days it was less disease-ridden than many other parts of the South American continent. As in all tropical regions the native of the temperate zone can only avoid illness by observing commonsense precautions and maintaining a temperate habit in the matters of diet and drink. At present the Canal Zone and the cities at either end of it are perfectly sanitary and not unpleasant places of abode. The hospital statistics show that the men engaged on the canal enjoy a degree of good health that compares favorably with the experience of the populations of the large cities up North. But their appearance is sufficient evidence on this point. A more hearty and vigorous lot it would be difficult to find anywhere. They live clean, well-regulated lives. Their hard work is alleviated by a wholesome amount of leisure and entertainment. They enjoy two conditions highly favorable to the maintenance of good health—interest in life and freedom from worry. The character of the work insures the former and the high salaries the latter.

During the first four months of the year the climate of the Isthmus is not unlike that of one of the eastern States in summer. The thermometer registers about 80 degrees at midday and falls to about 60 degrees in the evening. Sleep under a blanket is comfortable at night and the early mornings are delightfully cool and bracing, especially on the Atlantic side of the divide. The air from the Pacific does not seem to be as heavily charged with ozone. In the wet season, extending from about the first of May to the end of the year, rainfall is abundant, and the humidity excessive, but the men seem to go through it without any serious difficulty. The temperature varies hardly more than to degrees in its maximum the year round, the mean being 80 degrees.

The physical aspects of the country are diversified. In the Zone hills and valleys predominate, with stretches of level savanna upon the borders. The province of Darien is for the most part mountainous wilderness and thick jungle. Some portions of it are practically unexplored and rendered uninviting by the hostile attitude of the Indians that occupy it. The impression prevails that rich gold deposits exist in this region and at least one paying mine is in operation.

The provinces of Chiriqui and Veragua, and especially the former, are marvelously endowed with natural resources that are just beginning to attract the attention of the world. The hardwood timber in this territory is worth

millions of dollars and its rubber is equal to the best of the Para variety. In the hills coffee of the best quality is grown and the plains, with their frequent streams, afford ideal cattle ranges. Doubtless, under development, this region will yield many valuable crops that have not as yet been thought of, but which will be cultivated under the stimulus of the extensive market that the opening of the canal must create. There are already in Chiriqui a few Americans making money and enjoying life in its salubrious climate. The Panama government is anxious to see their number increase, by immigration of the right sort, believing that the resultant leaven will be advantageous to the national growth and prosperity. The influence of the United States and its territorial interests in Panama insure exemption from revolution or invasion and guarantee the observance of the rights of Americans. Not but what the Panamans may be depended upon to do the fair thing. Their leading men are actuated by the best spirit and the people in general display a marked tendency toward improvement and progress. It is not too much to expect that within a year the Panamans will have attained more nearly to the United States standard in government and business methods than any other nation on the South American continent.

About 20 years ago Chiriqui became suddenly famous on account of the curious relics which were unearthed from the guacas, or graves, which are the only traces of their existence left by the people who lived in this region at some prehistoric period. Many years ago an Indian accidentally uncovered one of these guacas, which contained a number of gold ornaments. Immediately thousands of dollars' worth of gold ornaments are believed to have been found but they were melted and sold for their weight in coin. At length the attention of archaeologists was attracted and systematic digging was instituted, but the graves had become scarce by this time. Many articles of ancient workmanship and quaint design were, however, secured by the various expeditions of the world.

It is a remarkable fact that the people who constructed these sepulchres left no traces of their occupancy on the surface of the ground, although it appears to be a universal human trait to erect monuments, if they be but mounds of rough rock. The graves were made by lining the sides with slabs of stone. In this receptacle were placed the stone implements, earthen cooking utensils and various vessels of pottery. In a few instances articles made of bone and copper articles were added. Now and again, gold ornaments formed part of the collection. These took the conventionalized forms of animals, the tortoise, scorpion, eagle and lizard being represented in castings that display an astonishing degree of expertness. But of all the various shapes assumed by these curious articles of worship or adornment, that of the frog is most frequently depicted, leading to the surmise that the reptile was held sacred by these people. Rattles, bells and whistles are also numerous among the articles found.

It is highly probable that the mineral resources of Panama will be exploited in the near future. Gold, copper, manganese and coal are known to exist in several parts of the country, but as yet very little of its area has been subjected to a geological survey. When the canal comes into operation a great demand for coal will arise and the island of Muerto, on the coast of Chiriqui, which is said to be a solid mass of it, should prove a valuable source of supply. American capital and enterprise may find a favorable field here and in other directions. Fruit growing will surely become one of the chief industries of the land. The country about Chiriqui Bay is already devoted largely to this business, but with improved transportation facilities the entire region along the Costa Rican border—which is as rich as any in the tropics and capable of easy development—will become one vast fruit orchard.

One does not get a correct estimate of the Panamans from travellers who make flying visits and only come in close contact with the lower classes in the capital. You cannot know any people until you have entered their homes and eaten with them. Moreover, the Panamans, while always courteous and genial, have the dignified reserve that characterizes races of Latin extraction. The well-to-do cre-

ole families are educated and refined. The children are sent to the best colleges of Europe and America and usually speak English fluently and correctly. In many respects the habits and customs of the natives differ from ours, of course, and in not a few might defer to their example with advantage to ourselves. For instance, Americans on the Isthmus would do better to adopt the practice of taking breakfast at about the middle of the day, instead of eating a heavy meal immediately after rising. Then we might take lessons from the Panamans in politeness and self-possession. A Panama gentleman maintains his equanimity under the most trying circumstances and he cannot be made to understand our word "hustle." There does not appear to be any good reason why he should. He gets through his day's business quite as expeditiously in his own calm and deliberate way as he could by following our fussy fashion. Thanks to hard efforts, Panama is to-day as clean and orderly a city as any may find on the continent. Although, as to the latter condition, the people are naturally disposed to be

quiet and law-abiding. Any disturbance that may occur is occasioned by foreigners. The natives are exceedingly abstemious in the matter of liquor and, although the saloons are numerous and everyone drinks to some extent, excess is extremely rare. During the two weeks of my recent visit I was on the streets of the city at all hours of the day and night, and upon the occasion of a festivity, but I failed to see a single man showing signs of being affected by strong drink.

IS NOW A LOST ART.

The Fine Temper of the Old Damascus.

The fine temper of the old Damascus sword blades is a lost art, and it is claimed that never again will swords be made to cut so keenly as those made by the ancient armors in that Old World city. But none the less modern civilization gets along fairly well. Swords are of little moment nowadays except to adorn the persons of military officials, and for commercial purposes the present processes of tempering

steel appear to be amply sufficient. But one ancient secret which was possessed by the Egyptians under the ancient Pharaohs and by the natives of Peru under the Aztec monarchs, whose line ended with the unfortunate Montezuma, was the hardening of copper and tempering this metal until they were able to cut the hardest of stones, such as the porphyry and hard granite. It is claimed they even carved the emerald with tempered instruments of copper.

This tempering of copper, now that the metal is being turned out profusely by the Egyptians in modern civilization. Humboldt, that curious and brainy scientist, once attempted to analyze the chemical constituents of a chisel made of copper found in Peru among other relics of the lost race of the Incas. He learned that a small percentage of tin was mixed with the copper to temper the chisel. Yet despite the efforts of Humboldt and many a later scientist to find how to produce copper chisels that will cut granite and porphyry, the secret of the vanished Aztecs has never been recovered. There may have been some other rare metal used in combining the copper and the tin which Humboldt missed in his comparatively crude analysis of the chisel found in the old silver mine of ancient Peru.

An Important Requisite.

Some years ago, many farmers along the line of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway brought suit against it, and engaged a young lawyer named Brown. Judge Gantt, who was presiding, was compelled to throw many of the cases out of court because they were improperly brought. Brown was mad all over. Swelling with indignation, he arose and said: "Your honor, will you please tell me how it is possible in this court to get justice against a railroad company? Judge Gantt quietly ignored the contempt of court shown by the lawyer and asked: "Do you wish an answer to that question, Mr. Brown?"

"Yes, sir," defiantly replied the indignant lawyer; "yes, sir, and I will like to know how a farmer can get his case out of court so that it will be heard."

Judge Gantt smiled and said: "Well, first, Mr. Brown, I'd advise the farmer to hire a lawyer."

American Royalty.

A visitor to one of the hotels at Carlsbad, Germany, tells the story of a gentleman to whom the servants and the proprietor paid the most profound attention. He was royally treated, rather to the neglect of the rest of the guests. Every time he came out of the hotel door a strip of green carpet was rolled down in front of him, and the attendants would take off their caps and bow in the most deferential and obsequious manner. Neither the visitor thus so strangely honored, nor the other guests could make out what this deference meant. At last someone looked in the printed register, or "kurgast list." There was the entry: "James the 1st, King of Buffalo, N.Y." It was the native printer's rendering of the American name—James I. King, Buffalo, N.Y.

A Compromise.

This little three-year-old hungry American was with his mother at the home of a neighbor. The neighbor's little boy was eating a piece of chicken. Hubert wanted a piece, but it was all they had. He then asked for a bite, which the little fellow objected. The two mothers then took a hand, and amidst many "yes's" and "no's" on their part, Hubert silenced the whole business by saying: "Well, just let me smell the bone." The bone was handed to him, and he very soberly took a long, delicious smell and handed it back.

An Envyable Man.

Brown—That fellow Blinken is certainly a wonder.
Green—What's the answer?
Brown—Why, he possesses the ability to look interested—and at the same time he doesn't hear a word—when other people tell him their troubles.

London is rejoicing in a new catch phrase which is quite as silly as such things generally are. "You wait till Saturday, you beast," is the latest. The man with horse sense knows when to say nay.

HIS FORGOTTEN WIFE.
Mr. Hawkins Had Much to Say About Her Failing.
New York Post.
"You're sure that you have everything?" said Hawkins to his wife after he had arranged all of her various articles of hand luggage in the car in which she was to ride from Buffalo to Omaha.
"Yes, dear; I think that I have every single thing; but let me look in my handbag again and see if by any chance—O George; if I haven't left my hand mirror on my dressing table. I just knew I would forget something!"
"So did I," said George. "But it can't be helped now. I'll do it up and send it on to you as soon as I go home. I wonder if a woman on earth ever started on a journey without forgetting something!"
"I thought I had everything, and—if I haven't come away and left all three of those new magazines I was going to bring with me. Isn't that too provoking?"
"Well, you'll have to buy some more. Anything else forgotten?"
"I hope not. It always upsets me so to get ready for a journey, and I—why, George, if I haven't left all three of my rings in the bathroom! I took them off when I washed my hands just before I started. You must mail them or express them right away, for—where under the sun could my wife have been this morning? They must have been very far afield, for I have come away and left my brand new silk umbrella at home. Of course I will want it during the next six weeks. I am to be gone. I don't see but you'll have to express it to me for its cost. So and I don't want to get another or—"

"O, I'll express it, of course. Nothing else to do, but it does beat the hand the way you women forget things. I don't know what would become of us men if we didn't keep our wits about us any more than you women do, for—there's the conductor's 'All aboard!' Goodby! Send me a list of all the other things you have forgotten! Yes, yes, I'll send—goodby! Take good care of yourself, and don't forget your things when you leave the train! Goodby!"
"It does beat the hand how a woman will forget half her little belongings when she starts on a journey," said Hawkins as he walked toward his car. "I don't know what I would do if I gave her her ticket! Of all the fool things that ever a man did! To stand there gabbling to her to minutes before the train started, and then to walk off with her ticket here in my pocket! I think I'd better hire some one to kick me! Now I reckon I'll be getting a letter, a yard long from my wife reproaching me for my vagrant memory!"

A Lady Volunteer.
The Halleyburian.
Rev. Dr. Peer, of New Liskeard, has returned home after a visit to California, and tells of an interesting experience while on the train near Omaha. It was Sunday, and Mr. Peer offered to conduct a religious service in the Pullman, and the passengers readily agreed.
"Mr. Peer stationed himself against the wall of the car, with a lady seated on either side of him," says the New Liskeard Herald, "and before proceeding with the service he asked if one of the ladies would lead the singing. When the lady to his right volunteered to sing, the first selection was 'Nearer My God to Thee,' and before the first verse was half completed the only singer was the volunteer soloist."
"She completed the hymn alone," said Mr. Peer, "and there was not a dry eye in all that crowd of people when she finished, for the singer was no less a personage than Madame Melba, one of the world's greatest soprano singers, who was travelling with her husband to Omaha!"

A Good One On Mischa Elman.
Mischa Elman's success cannot have been altogether without alloy, for people will still persist in regarding him as an infant prodigy, in spite of his long trousers and stand-up collar. Mischa Elman detests this, and he will have felt particularly indignant with the lady in Boston, the other day, who, after he had finished playing, rushed up to him, exclaiming in a voice choked with emotion, "Oh, you are a wonderful boy! I wish you were my boy!" The violinist has great objection to being called a "boy," and does all he can to escape from the attention of the ladies. When he first came to England, a gentleman acted as his guide at all his concerts, and if ladies pestered him for kisses, he used to point to his conductor and say: "He kisses, I play!"

Mercy A Theory.
It was at an evening party. A young man with a tall collar and pale hair was reciting a poem. He had ground out 47 stanzas and the end was hot yet.
"What's going on?" whispered the guest who had just come in.
"Rhymer is letting out his latest poem," answered the pessimistic person.
"What's the subject—the motive?" queried the late-comer.
"I have forgotten the subject," replied the p. s., "but I suspect the motive must be revenge. At least, I can't see any other reason for it."

Known By His Friends.
Savannah News.
A forlorn-looking man was brought before a magistrate for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. When asked what he had to say for himself he gazed pensively at the judge, smoothed down a tannant of grey hair, and said:
"Your honor, Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn! I'm not as debased as Swift, as profligate as Byron, as dissipated as Poe, or as debauched as —"
"That will do," thundered the magistrate. "Thirty days! And, officer, take a list of those names and run 'em in. They're as bad a lot as he is."

Largest Barometer.
Father Aliani has recently constructed at Faenza, the birthplace of Torricelli, the largest barometer ever made. The tube, instead of being filled with mercury, contains purified oil, rendered free from air, and he has thus been able to obtain a column 11.25 metres in height, whereas with water the height would only have been 10.32 metres.

One Way to Save Work
As every woman knows who has to take care of every room, that is the worst part of all, for the housewife. Most people know, too, that floor dust is a vehicle of dirt, and that dust from having its own way with floors, even with the gradual hand-sweeping and carpet-sweeping of rugs and hardwood floors; for not every home can afford such floors, even if they were easy to keep clean or new-looking, as they certainly are not. Yet the solution of the dust problem is made easy by this newly-applied and quick-drying floor finish, any woman can have which will be easy to keep clean, and more satisfactory than a painted, oiled or waxed floor.



Even the soft-footed Soles Floorglaze give a beautiful, glossy surface that will show no signs of wear after years of severe service. But best of all, it can be easily washed, cleaned and polished with soap and water. The use of Floorglaze is an insurance against dirt, and carpets and rugs, and disease as well; it saves a vast amount of time, some housework, and it is good for outdoor use. A little of this most useful enamel covers 500 sq. ft. Floorglaze is sold in time from a pint to a gallon in size, by most reliable dealers in paint and is made by Imperial Varnish & Color Co., Limited, of Toronto, who will gladly send you a free booklet worth reading.

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Not Realistic.
Author (after first performance)—Well, what do you think of it, old man?
Critics—Oh, I like it well enough—with the exception of the villain's part.
Author—What's wrong with it?
Critics—It is shy of realism. Why, he doesn't smoke a single cigarette.

Accidents are often caused by weak ankles and weak eyes. These are a sure sign of kidney trouble (in a dangerous stage) and can be cured by contents of one bottle of St. Regis Lumbago Cure. Half teaspoonful night and morning. For sale at all drug stores.
Women who wear tight shoes usually have narrow soles.

EVENING GOWN WITH TUNIC



POSED BY MISS RAY GILMORE OF ANNA HILL CO. PHOTO BY JOHN TEEBEE.

The chiffon tunic, draped over this richly embroidered white satin gown is extremely delicate and graceful, and gives the wearer a statuesque appearance. The tunic is weighted by its border pattern of outlined with silver cord and tanzit together below the left hip with bands of silver and silk embroidery matching those on the skirt. The gorges as embroidery which ornaments the petticoat and forms the broad stomacher on the bodice is the Japanese kind. Many of the Parisian frocks are now sent to Japan to be embroidered by the clever natives.

DYSPEPTIC

FOOD DOES YOU NO GOOD.

Half the time you're afraid to eat, your tongue is coated, mouth tastes bad, stomach is bloated. If you want to get well stop using dyspepsia tablets and go to the source of the trouble before it is too late. Strengthen your stomach, cast out the bile, regulate the bowels—do this and dyspepsia will be no more.

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