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NO. 19

A TRIP TO THE SOUTHLAND.

The Workings of the Wonderful Locks in the Panama Canal Minutely Described.

By DR. H. F. BITNER

PART II IN THE CANAL ZONE.

Wednesday morning, April 21st, we arrived at Colon. An early breakfast was served so that we left the ship at 7 a. m., after having passed the medical inspection. In a party of four we hired an automobile to take us to Gatun. A good road leading around hills and knolls covered with the rank vegetation, brought us to the great dam and the locks at Gatun. The dam crosses the Chagres river, from a hill on one side of the river to the Canal locks on the other side. It is one hundred and five feet high, one and a half miles long, a half mile thick at its base; 300 feet thick at the water line and 100 feet thick at the crest. It took 22,000,000 cubic yards of material to make this dam. The spillway, or place where the surplus water runs over the dam, presented, when we were there, a magnificent sight. A second Niagara Falls was at once suggested. An immense volume of water tumbled down upon the solid concrete base and sent the spray flying in all directions. The Chagres river is not a small stream but a large river. A large power house is situated at the base of the spillway, and part of the water is used to generate electricity to work the engines and lock apparatus, as well as for light and other purposes. This dam across the river forms a lake which is more than 32 miles long and covers an area of 164 square miles.

A soldier of the U. S. Army accompanied us as our guide and explained how the dam was made and gave us the facts stated above. We were fortunate in reaching the locks just when we did, for a large ship was just entering the lower lock. We saw the huge gates, each weighing over 500 tons, open noiselessly and without any visible connection with any opening machinery. Then four electric engines, two in front and two behind the entering ship pulled the ship into the first lock. The gates behind the ship were then closed and a number of places in the bottom of the lock seemed to open to let the water in to the lock. I counted six such places, three on each side; they seemed to be round and about ten feet in diameter. There may have been more, it was raining at the time and we could not see distinctly to any distance. The two engines that were fastened by heavy cables to the rear of the ship stopped the ship when it was in the lock and prevented it from injuring the gates. The water soon filled the lock and raised the boat to the level of the water in the next lock. The next gates were then opened and the ship towed into the second lock. The three locks at Gatun raised the ship 85 feet above sea level and it can then sail thru the lake for 32 miles to the first lock on the Pacific side. The channel through the lake is indicated by buoy carrying a lantern on one side and a white post on the other. The ship sails thru between these two guides, the lantern shines upon the white post and makes it visible. We tried to get passage on a ship going through the canal, but were unable to do so. Nothing but freight ships passed through during the two days we were there. The gates are so massive and the number of men and engines used so many that no small boats can go through by themselves. The fare is \$1.20 per ton. If the ship we came on to Colon had passed through it would have cost over \$4000. Small boats that want to go through wait at the entrance until a large boat enters, or there are enough small boats to make it worth while to open for them. The locks are large enough to accommodate several boats at the same time. All the gates are double, so that if one set breaks down or is out of order the other can be used.

After seeing Gatun we took the Panama railroad, now owned and operated by Uncle Sam, and continued our journey along the canal to Panama, on the Pacific side of the Isthmus. We stopped at a number of places but did not leave the observation car of the train. Most of the way the railroad runs parallel to the canal, but at the Culebra cut it turns to the left and after passing along and between low mountains it enters a tunnel at Goldhill and emerges not far from the locks on the Pacific side.

(To be Continued)

Millions Will Have Rural Mail Service.
Albert S. Burleson, postmaster general, has announced that more than one million more persons will get rural mail service before July 1 through extensions of routes without extra cost to the government. This will be accomplished through the elimination of duplications and unnecessary service.

After July 1, by the motor vehicle service authorized by the last congress, rural mail facilities will be extended to many additional persons.

WHAT CONSERVATION MEANS.

Forester Ludwig of Boalsburg Takes Exception to Article Concerning Denudation of State Forest Lands.

The following letter was received at this office and was written by Forester Walter D. Ludwig of Boalsburg, in which he takes exception to an article printed in these columns April 29th, concerning the cutting of timber by the state off mountain lands which were taken over by the state for the purpose of reforestation. The letter is so complete in itself that no further comment is necessary.

The Editor,
The Centre Reporter,
Centre Hall, Pa.

Dear Sir:

In last week's issue of your paper there appeared an article entitled "Denuding State Lands" to the effect that the State Forestry Department is being criticised for cutting timber from the State forests and that when these lands were purchased it was generally understood that the State intended to reforest the hill and mountain sides, etc.

Any criticism directed at the State Forestry Department for the cutting of timber from the State forests is made without a true knowledge of forestry practice and what conservation means. Conservation of our natural resources means not the absolute non-use of such resources but the wise use of the same; and forestry is one branch of conservation. Scientific forestry means the continual production of a crop of trees on land which is not suitable for agriculture or grazing and is a business and must be conducted as such as any other business. The forests must be put in such condition that a perpetual crop of trees will be produced. As a merchant or other business man aims to dispose of his undesirable stock, so must the forester dispose of those trees which are a detriment to the other trees. As the farmer cuts and harvests his grain when ripe, so must the forester harvest his crop of trees when mature so that he can produce another crop. If the farmer allows his ripe grain to stand too long in the field, it will decay and be worthless. Trees grow, reach maturity and die unless they are cut when ripe become worthless for any purpose. Generally trees should be cut when they have reached that point where they no longer return a reasonable rate of interest on the investment. Is that not purely a business proposition? Who would continue to hold a \$100 bond which had matured and no longer bore any interest? In Continental Europe where forestry has reached its highest development an acre of State forest yields from \$3 to \$10 net annually. Think of it. These countries have been practicing scientific forestry for hundreds of years and they regulate the forests so that a crop of trees is produced and cut each year.

Your article says further that it was generally understood that the State purchased these mountain lands to reforest them. Very true and how can this best be done? By allowing the trees to stand until they fall down from decay or die in their struggle among each other for light and moisture? Certainly not. Or by cutting such trees as have matured or are so close and crowded together as to interfere with the growth and development of all? Assuredly yes. As the farmer thins out the beets, spinach and other garden vegetables to increase the growth of the remainder, so must the forester thin out the trees so as to give the young growth a chance. Will such cutting denude the state or other lands? Until forestry principles were put in practice it was the general rule for lumbermen to remove everything, young and old, leaving nothing to reforest the land. The forester requires that some trees be left standing, generally those trees under a certain diameter as eight or ten inches, so that these trees will grow and furnish a new crop to be harvested.

There can be no practical forestry without regulated cutting of the trees. In time and under forest management our State forests will be made to yield a net return per acre each year without reducing or impairing the forest growth. This is the end for which the Department of Forestry is striving and no one need be alarmed that "there will be little left after the State's woodsmen leave the forests."

Very truly yours,

WALTER D. LUDWIG, Forester,
Boalsburg, Pa., May 3, 1915.

Mother's Day.

On Sunday evening Rev. R. R. Jones in the Reformed church delivered a sermon appropriate to the day—Mother's Day. The music was also of a character especially fitted to the occasion, and was furnished mainly by the junior element. The opening was a quartette by Misses Verna and Ethel Rowe, Lena Emerick and Rebecca Kremer. A tenor and alto duet and chorus by Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Kremer, Mrs. John H. Puff and William Booser, with Miss Rebecca Kremer as accompanist, was later rendered as was also a chorus. Each number was greatly enjoyed and was the cause of favorable comment.

In his sermon Rev. Jones accomplished his aim to elevate motherhood. He called attention to the general rising level of woman, and gave her first place in Christendom. He regretted the attempt of the florists to commercialize the day, and made it plain that one's mother could be honored without a hot-house bouquet on the lapel.

May court opens Monday.

Program for commencement.

The exercises incident to the local high school commencement will be held in the Grange Hall, Friday evening at eight o'clock. The commencement speaker will be Prof. J. T. Marshman of State College who has acted in that capacity in many commencement exercises. He is a forceful and entertaining speaker. The program follows:

PROGRAM.

Overture by Bellefonte High School Orchestra
Grand March
Introduction.....Rev. W. H. Williams
Music
Salutatory.....Carrie Sweetwood
Music
Oration.....William Bailey
"Abraham Lincoln"
Music
Essay.....May Royer
"Value of Education"
Music
Oration.....Carl Auman
"Improvement of Rural Schools"
Music
Essay.....Mary Dinges
"Julius Caesar"
Music
Oration.....James Keller
"Good Citizenship"
Music
President's Address.....Grace Ishler
Address.....Prof. J. T. Marshman
Music
Presentation of Diplomas
Benediction.....Rev. F. H. Foss

CLASS DAY PROGRAM

This (Thursday) evening the Class Day exercises will be held in Grange Arcadia. The program follows:

PART I

1. A humorous class song.....Class
2. Class History.....William Bailey
3. Class Will.....James Keller
4. Class Poem.....Carrie Sweetwood
5. Song by undergraduates.

PART II

Class Play, "Why Not Jim".....Class
Farewell Song.....Class

Reformers to Have Pipe Organ.

A pipe organ will be installed in Trinity Reformed church, Centre Hall, as soon as the congregation decides on the make of instrument desired.

The thought of possessing a pipe organ has long been cherished by the Reformed congregation but the securing of sufficient funds stood in the way. A communication to Andrew Carnegie, however, resulted in receiving notice that the philanthropic Scotchman would be ready to donate \$750 provided the congregation would contribute an equal amount. At the meeting on Friday evening it was found that sufficient money had been pledged to make the purchase of a pipe organ a possibility.

The Reformed church is also considering installing electric lights and with the addition of these two improvements this church will be one of the finest to be found anywhere in a town of equal size.

Centre County Picnic at Philadelphia.

The directors of the Centre County Association of Philadelphia held a meeting May 3rd and decided to hold the next annual picnic on the third Saturday of June, (June 19th).

A committee consisting of Ira D. Garman, Hon. Chas. R. Kurtz, Dr. S. C. Gray Mattern and Dr. John C. C. Beale, met the Philadelphia City Council Committee and made a plea to have the Liberty Bell stop at Bellefonte on its trip to the Pacific Coast in July and during the Home Week celebration.

DR. J. C. C. BEALE, Sec.

Country Club Knocks Out Hoops.

The Board of Governors of the Clinton Country Club at a meeting last week voted to so amend the by-laws as to do away hereafter with the serving of intoxicating liquors at the Club. Although in the past beer only was served and comparatively little drinking was done, the action taken places the club for good and all on the "dry" list.

The sentiment of the stockholders as to their wishes in the matter had been sounded, and these returns showed an overwhelming desire for the abolishment of the sideboard. All those who favored making the club dry made known their views, while in a great many cases the known-to-be "wet" failed to evince enough interest to respond for or against it.

Examination for McAllister Scholarship.

The examination for the McAllister freshman scholarship in the Pennsylvania State College will be given, under the direction of the faculty, June 10 and 11. The examination is open to both sexes and, as heretofore, will comprise English grammar and composition, American history, algebra and plane geometry.

Discovered Speakeasy.

The State College Times says it is in possession of evidence, that were it placed before the district attorney or government officials, would send the party to the penitentiary for a term of years. This party has been running a speakeasy for some time in town and has been furnishing liquor to young men as well as regular boozers.

Millintburg is considering the matter of building an additional reservoir, to cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

BOALSBURG HIGH SCHOOL.

Holds Graduating Exercises Wednesday Evening for Class of Threes.

In no rural section does a better educational sentiment exist than in Harris township, with Boalsburg as the educational centre. The school board in this township has long had representative citizens on it whose chief qualification for that particular office was their belief in education, at the same time standing guard over the financial interests of all concerned—yet at no time in the recent past has there been a more successful school board than that which has long had Harris township as its chief qualification for that particular office was their belief in education, at the same time standing guard over the financial interests of all concerned—yet at no time in the recent past has there been a more successful school board than that which has long had Harris township as its chief qualification for that particular office was their belief in education, at the same time standing guard over the financial interests of all concerned—yet at no time in the recent past has there been a more successful school board than that which has long had Harris township as its chief qualification for that particular office was 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