



TRIP TO THE SOUTHLAND.

Low Standard of Morals Prevails Among People in Canal Zone, Says Dr. Bitner.

By DR. H. F. BITNER

PART III. THE PEOPLE.

There are three classes or kinds of people—the Negro, the Panamanian and the Indian. We saw many negroes. Their black skins, curly hair and thick lips distinguishes them easily from the rest. The Panamanian is the result of the mixing of the Spanish with the native Indian. I suppose they are more Indian than Spanish and yet it is easy to distinguish the full blooded Indian from them. There are but few Indians in the city of Panama, but I was told that they are in the majority out in the country or as they say "in the bush."

The people have low standards of morality when compared with our own. They conduct a lottery in which the Government shares in the profits. Before every business place in Panama and Colon you find men and women sitting with lottery tickets displayed before them trying to sell to those passing by. They are said to work a few days and then loaf until necessity drives them to labor again. The government receives from the United States \$250,000 each year. This together with the ten millions received for the canal zone should help to make the finances easy, and yet we were told that they were in need of a loan of money to carry on their government. They do not scruple to ask two or three prices from any one whom they think is an American. They are not quarrelsome, and are easily governed if tact and firmness are used.

The soil so far as we could judge is largely decomposed volcanic rock. When the steam shovels were loading cars the rock material went trap dyke. In that hot moist climate it deteriorates rapidly and forms a very fertile soil. Near the Atlantic side I thought I noticed lime stone formations made by corals. Very little of the land is used to raise crops. They have land well adapted to raising sugar cane and yet they import most of their sugar. The President of Panama in an interview given a short time before our visit asked the Americans to send farmers to the canal to farm sugar cane. Although the people have been there four hundred years and have the land and the climate to raise sugar cane they lack the necessary energy.

They have many fine trees, large stately palm trees, coconut palms, date palms, and many others. The coffee tree grows there, so does the mango. The mango tree grows very large and has a wide spreading top. Its fruit is somewhat similar to our paw paw, only larger. We saw trees full of green fruit which looked as large as full grown cucumbers, perhaps not quite so long and a little thicker. Another tree very common in Cuba and I think it is also found on the isthmus, is the camphor tree. It has thick shining green leaves, is a large tree and valuable for shade on account of its thick foliage.

There are many bright colored flowers to be seen. I was much tempted to gather some and bring them with me to the states. It is not permitted at this time. There are very fine and rare orchids growing near Gatun. One of the Americans took great pains to gather a fine specimen and putting it into a large glass jar brought it with him. At New Orleans when we met the custom officers, he was next to me in line. I could not help but hear the conversation between him and the officer. When asked what he had in the jar he replied a rare orchid. He was told that it was against their regulations to admit any plant from the isthmus. He told them how carefully he had removed the earth and had the plant cleaned and washed and he hoped they would examine it with the microscope to see whether or not anything that might produce disease adhered to it. He was finally told to come to the Custom House where the final decision would be made. To show with what care they try to keep disease out of our country I need only say that we were examined five times by physicians while on the way.

The ships we traveled in belonged to the United Fruit Company's Great White Fleet. They were large, well suited for their purpose and under the American flag. Steel plates cover the entire outside of the ship and the frame work of the decks, cabins, and saloon was largely of steel. On our way from Colon to New Orleans we passed along the shore of a rather large island. We were told that it was Providence Island, and that it belonged to the United States of Columbia and that it was used as a penal station. Its valleys are especially adapted for raising pine apples and the prisoners are used in the cultivation of the finest pineapples in the world.

As we approached the mouth of the Mississippi, before we could see any land we noticed the yellowish muddy water on one side of a line and the deep blue on the other. The cry arose all over the

CENTRE COUNTY GRANGE.

Second Quarterly Meeting Held at Rock Springs in Leonard Grange Hall.

Some forty years ago Leonard Grange was organized at the solicitation of Hon. Leonard Rhone and Capt. W. H. Fry, and these two gentlemen were the only ones of the fifty or more members of the order who assembled there on Thursday at the meeting of the Centre County Pomona Grange who were present or had a part in forming the organization in the days when the Grange was in its infancy. Leonard Grange hall is located just a bit to the north of Rock Springs, the head of Spruce Creek, that flows into the Juniata. It is just where the "Glades" country quits, and Spruce Creek Valley begins, and where Capt. Fry made mud pier, a long while ago. It is a beautiful, picturesque spot—Rock Springs—where Pipsisseway, the king of the Susquehanna, and his beautiful Queen Meadow Sweet, heard the shrill cry of the jealous Silver Eagle: "I'll kill him, I'll kill him. Meadow Sweet will yet be mine!" where Pipsisseway issued his decree to "kill every Kish-acquillas, take no prisoners;" from which was gathered over one hundred scalped and mutilated corpses and thrown into the great spring, as told by Shoemaker, so that the putrifying carcasses of the king and picked warriors might taint the water and make it unfit for drink, as it flowed through the rich Kishacquillas region. After viewing these historic Indian days spots, and searching for the definite site of the warrior's lodge, a hundred yards from the spring, the body of Grangers was called to order with these officers in the chair: Worthing Master, A. W. Dale; Overseer, C. R. Neff; Lecturer, F. W. Smith; Chaplain, G. L. Goodhart; Steward, George W. Gieseler; J. Cloyd Brooks; Mr. J. Cloyd Brooks; Gate Keeper, Christ D. Keller; Florer, Mrs. Samuel Durst; Cerer, Mrs. D. W. Bradford; Pomona, Miss Mary Dinges.

Various reports were read during the session among them being the quarterly report of the Grange Encampment and Fair committee, which stated that it was proposed to erect a large exhibit building for horses and cattle; the report of the insurance company by its secretary, David K. Keller; the report of the Patrons Co-operative Creamery Company; the report of the Patrons Rural Telephone company.

The recess for the noon luncheon gave the members not only an opportunity to satisfy their hunger from a table heavily laden with the choicest products of the farm, but to engage in social intercourse, stroll over the surrounding country, and take a side trip to Penn. Furnace and club house.

The afternoon was given over largely to the discussion of questions for the good of the order, and conferring the fifth degree on a class of eight or ten members.

Fully nine tenths of the members of the order in attendance who were obliged to use a conveyance in reaching the meeting place, did so in automobiles, and this indicates that many farmers are prospering and are using a portion of their surplus in the purchase of luxuries.

The names of the members in attendance are attached:

- PENNSYLVANIA FURNACE: Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Campbell, D. S. Peterson, J. S. Miller, Miss Gertrude Miller, S. Y. Elder, Miss Sara McWilliams, Isaac Campbell, Miss Isabel McCracken, Miss Mary McCracken.
FINE GROVE MILLS: Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Fry, Capt. W. H. Fry, Luther Dale, Foster Musser.
STATE COLLEGE: Mr. and Mrs. Sam'l Cori, Miss Dale, Mr. and Mrs. Newton, Miss Vida Cori, D. L. Bartges, Harry Koch, Mrs. John S. Dale, William Cori, Mrs. Ezra Tresler, John J. Jaquish, Miss Bertha Cori.
CENTRE HALL: Mr. and Mrs. Sam'l Brooks, Miss Mamie Brooks, J. J. Arney, P. H. Luse, Wm. H. Homan, Robert Campbell, D. L. Bartges, C. R. Neff, T. C. Bartges, James Grove, Jacob Sharer, G. W. Grove, Gardner Grove, J. T. Potter, D. K. Keller, W. A. Krise, J. Cloyd Brooks, C. D. Miller, Mrs. W. F. Keller, Ralph Luse, Mrs. D. W. Bradford, L. Rhone, Mrs. Milford Luse, G. W. Gieseler, Isaac C. Neff, Ray Durst, Miss Mary Dinges, Elliot Smith, Miss Ruth Brooks, S. W. Smith.

(Continued from previous column.) ship "we are about to enter the waters of the Mississippi," and soon the ship plunged into the muddy water, but strange to say the propeller which was low down in the water turned up the dark blue water thru the yellow. This proved that the Mississippi's water formed only a thin covering over the waters of the gulf.

The most valuable truth we learned in all of our trip was this, "There is no land like the United States, no state like Pennsylvania, and no town like Centre Hall in all the world." Our land, our state and our homes are far more beautiful, more prosperous, more civilized and in every way more desirable than can be found anywhere else.

(The End.)

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL SCHOOLS.

Paper Prepared by Member of Graduating Class Who was Unable to Deliver it on Commencement Occasion.

The Reporter herewith publishes in part the oration of Carl Atmar, a member of the 1915 class of Centre Hall high school, who because of physical weakness, was unable to deliver it on the occasion of commencement. His subject was "Improvement of Rural Schools."

"One of the important questions before the American people today is the problem, how to improve the rural schools. There are a great many defects in the school system which could be eliminated. One of the defects that could be remedied is the lack of good school building; another is lack of adequate preparation of teachers; another almost total absence of equipment. The introduction of better heating and ventilating systems; more frequent scrubbing and dusting; better judgment in the selection of school house sites, and maintaining the surroundings in keeping with the dignity and importance of an educational center are conditions that could easily be bettered and thus aid in cultivating an interest in study.

"To obtain a good healthy educational spirit; co-operation between teachers, directors and parents; an ideal course of study are more difficult problems.

"A school manager for a whole district might be a means of securing better results, for a manager can oversee a few schools better than the county superintendent a great many. He should also be allowed the privilege of attending the meetings of the school boards and have a voice in choosing the teachers. Such a person would have the school at heart and would aim to secure better results.

"Another way of improving the rural schools, and one which has been tested and found satisfactory in progressive communities, is by centralization or consolidation. Consolidation is a plan to reconstruct the rural schools on a new foundation which will re-establish the ancient principle of "equal rights to all." It contemplates the abandonment of many small rural schools scattered throughout rural communities and the maintenance of strong, well graded schools at points centrally located. What consolidation really means is this: Take for an example a township in a reasonably well peopled section. We find it subdivided into possibly nine or ten districts with school houses approximately two miles apart, each of the well known box car type, dilapidated and unsightly; the lighting is faulty; good ventilation is unknown; modern sanitation is out of the question. Here a young underpaid teacher keeps school for a short term every year trying to teach the whole curriculum from the A B C's to the high school branches. The attendance is irregular and interest is poorly sustained; teachers change with every term and at each change the children are put back to go over again the work of which no record has been kept. In this way they "mark time" until they either grow too old to continue in school or drop out from sheer lack of interest. And here let it be understood that such conditions are very common in this immediate community.

"To revert: Consolidation will change all this. The nine or ten one-room schools will be closed, and instead a modern school will rise, near the center of the township which will afford good opportunities for practical preparation for living. The school will be hygienic, and have modern equipment and better teachers. The course of study will be graded, recitation periods longer, interest well sustained, years in school much longer. Pupils living at a distance will be conveyed to school in suitable vehicles, avoiding exposure to inclement weather. Finally consolidated schools can offer ample opportunities for thorough work in nature study, school gardening, and elementary agriculture, as well as in manual training and domestic economy.

"There are different kinds of consolidation. The first is partial consolidation. By partial consolidation is meant the grouping of two or more schools at strategic points in the township, without aiming at ultimate centralization of all schools in the township at a geographical center. This form of consolidation is practiced where the size or shape of the township makes transportation of all pupils impracticable. Another type of consolidation is closing the rural schools and conveying the pupils to a neighboring village, providing the village is not so large that it will crowd out the rural interest.

"The last and most practical form of improvement is by means of complete consolidation. Complete consolidation

(Continued on inside page.)

Woman's Missionary Society Convener.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of West Susquehanna Chapter held its fourteenth annual session in Trinity Reformed church, Centre Hall, on Thursday and Friday, May twentieth and twenty-first. The sessions which were four in number were devoted to the regular business of the society together with several entertaining and instructive addresses by members of the society and others. The address of welcome on behalf of the local society was delivered by Rev. P. R. Jones, pastor of the local congregation. This address was responded to by Miss Lydia Gutelius of Millinburg. Miss Gutelius' address was very well received by her hearers. A due, "Ode sweetly solemn thought," was well rendered by Mrs. A. M. Schmidt, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. E. S. Kremer of Centre Hall; they were accompanied by Miss Rebecca Kremer, Dr. O. K. Spierard of Millinburg delivered a very pleasing address on the subject, "The new note in the missionary challenge of today."

The session on Friday morning was given over wholly to the transaction of the business of the society, such as the reports of officers and delegates. The afternoon session in addition to being the continuation of the business of the morning session was augmented by the reading "Foreign missionary work at home," by Mrs. A. M. Schmidt.

The closing session on Friday night was one of interest to all whether members of the society or not. A recitation, "Do missions pay," was very pleasingly rendered by Mrs. Alice Parvin of Millinburg. Mr. U. R. Swengle offered a solo, "More love to Thee O Christ," which was well received by her audience. Miss Anna Froehlich of Lock Haven presented some very good thoughts in her talk on "Work that wins." Mr. Harry N. Baesler, wife of the pastor of the Second Reformed church of Harrisburg, gave a very fine address in which she showed what the society was accomplishing and just what proportion of the contributions was spent in the various lines of endeavor in which the society is engaged at the present time.

The local society tendered a reception to the visiting delegates on Thursday evening immediately after the close of the session for the day. Refreshments in the form of ice cream and cake were served.

The delegates present from the different societies follows: Mrs. W. R. Swengle, president; Miss Margaret Horn, Lewisburg. Mrs. Lauretta Lashaw, Harrisburg. Mrs. Catharine Phillips, treasurer, Ansonburg. Mrs. A. M. Schmidt, Bellefonte. Mrs. L. Mothersbaugh, Mrs. Jacob Meyer, Boalsburg. Miss Mary Meyer, Miss Sophronia Fye, Coburn. Mrs. Marion Heller, Mrs. Margaret Thompson, Williamsport. Mrs. Harry Baesler, Harrisburg. Miss Ida Nihart, Mrs. Peter Knecht, Mrs. Sitzer, Mt. Bethel. Mrs. L. J. Selber, Mrs. L. M. Romig, Sellersgrove. Mrs. Alice Parvin, Mrs. L. T. Musser, Miss Lydia Gutelius, Millinburg. Mrs. Edwin T. Rhoads, Lewisburg. Mrs. Anna Froehlich, Mrs. W. T. Knecht, Miss Mabel Myers, Mrs. E. C. Achenbach, Lock Haven. Mrs. Kate Yearick, Mrs. Mand Yearick, Mrs. McKibben, Parvin. Miss Eva Meyer, Rebersburg. Miss Mary Houts, Freeburg.

The delegates were very hospitably entertained by the good people of Centre Hall. The officers of the society for the ensuing year are Mr. U. R. Swengle, who was re-elected president, Lewisburg; Miss Lydia Gutelius, vice president, Millinburg; Miss Mabel Meyers, secretary, Lock Haven; Mrs. Catharine Phillips, treasurer, Ansonburg.

Dr. Holtz, Lecturer. "Grip, Grit and Gumption" is the subject on which Dr. Earl Douglas Holtz will speak in Grange Arcades, Thursday evening of next week—June 3rd. He is the last attraction on the Centre Hall Lecture Course and will prove a fitting climax to the season of high art which is near its close. The scores of press notices commenting on his various subjects indicate that he is a man of power who has a burning message which he delivers in a pleasing manner.

The following press notice shows how the subject which he will give here, has pleased others:

"The third lecture held in the Baptist church was given by Dr. Earl Douglas Holtz. The subject, 'Grip, Grit, and Gumption' was well chosen and handled with a force of ability and eloquence that held the audience in rapt attention. The lecture was interspersed with interesting humorous illustrations and anecdotes, and the audience not only felt highly entertained but greatly benefited by having heard him."—Aurora (Net.) Republican

Those who were "up in the morning" on Thursday discovered a good size frost. Little or no damage was done to vegetation, however.

W. H. & F. M. S. CONFERENCE.

To be Held in Lutheran Church, Centre Hall, Thursday and Friday, June 3 and 4.

The Northern Conference of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran church will be held at Centre Hall, in the Lutheran church, Thursday and Friday of next week. A large number of delegates are expected.

The officers of the conference are Mrs. M. D. Geesey, president; Mrs. F. W. Smith, vice president; Miss Ophra Gramley, secretary; Mrs. M. D. Geesey, treasurer.

The program follows: THURSDAY EVENING, 7:30 O'CLOCK. Anthem.....Choir. Devotional.....Rev. D. S. Kurtz. Greetings.....Mrs. D. S. Kurtz. Response.....Miss Elizabeth Kern, Lock Haven, Pa. Conference Sermon.....Rev. Walter H. Traub, State College, Pa. Offering. Announcements. Hymn. Benediction.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9:00 O'CLOCK. Devotional.....Mrs. M. D. Geesey. Enrollment of Delegates. Appointment of Committees. Officers Reports. Messages from Department Secretaries.....Mrs. J. L. Metzger, Mission Band. Mrs. B. F. Boster, Home Dept. Miss Ophra Gramley, Young People. Miss Carry Meneche, Magazine.

In Memoriam.....Mrs. G. S. Frank. Election of Officers. Adjournment. FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 2:00 O'CLOCK. Praise Service.....Mrs. B. F. Boster. Roll Call. Minutes. Report of Committees.....Mrs. T. S. Minary, Box Work. Mrs. S. W. Smith, Literature. Children's Hour. Paper.....Mrs. Atkinson, State College, Pa. "The Obligation of the Church in Giving to Missions". Notes from General Convention.....Mrs. A. E. T. Schum. Offering. Hymn. Adjournment.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7:30 O'CLOCK. Praise Service.....Mrs. W. M. Roarick. Address.....Mrs. P. A. Hellman formerly Mrs. E. E. Nebel, Monrovia, Liberia, Africa. Offering. Report of Resolution Committee. Minutes. Doxology. Benediction.

I. O. O. F. Will Celebrate.

At a meeting of a committee on arrangements of the Centre Hall Lodge, I. O. O. F., plans were outlined for a big Fourth of July celebration on Grange Park. Of course, the celebration will not take place on the fourth, for that day falls on Sunday this year, but Saturday, the third day of July, will be taken up with all the amusements and fun-making features that can be crowded into it. Invitations will be extended to all the lodges throughout the valley to help make the affair a success. Some of the features planned for the day are a festive parade in the morning, followed by a number of contests, the winner of which will in each event receive a premium of some value. These contests especially designed for the Rebekahs have also been planned. Two good baseball games, a trap-shooting contest and various other sports will occupy the afternoon. A special feature of the day's celebration will be the appearance of the Sunbury O-phanage band of twenty-five pieces. These charges of the lodge are experts with musical instruments and will entertain the occasion. They have agreed to arrive in Centre Hall Friday evening previous to the day of celebration and render music on the diamond. A festival in the evening will close the festivities. It will be possible to secure meals on the ground.

Remarkable Horse Shooting Record.

To replace 60,000 old horse shoes in three years at the mill is making the fire fly, but this is the record of Ammon Wilt, a well known blacksmith in Lock Haven. Mr. Wilt placed all the discarded horse shoes on a pile in his shop and this small mountain of steel has grown to a height of thirteen feet and is twenty-eight feet in circumference. It is estimated that there are from 25 to 30 tons in the pile or about 60,000 shoes in all. When market conditions improve in steel of this kind Mr. Wilt will dispose of the horse shoes. For one year Mr. Wilt and his assistant, Lloyd Swop, kept a daily record of the number of horses that had both shod and the total amounted to 3,411 horses. The largest number in a single day was 40 horses.

County Grange Will Meet.

The Centre County Pomona Grange will meet in the hall of Edward Grange on Tuesday, June 1st. All members of the Grange are cordially invited to attend this meeting. There will be two sessions—morning and afternoon.

The Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a year.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Don't forget the festival in Grange Hall Saturday evening. Ice cream, cake and strawberries.

Saturday is Memorial Day. Don't forget to unfurl Old Glory to the breeze.

John Van Peit of Bellefonte was a visitor at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Susanna Spangler, Thursday.

C. M. Smith, the new merchant at Coburn, has an advertisement in this issue. His keynote is "Quality Goods."

An nine-pound baby girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Weaver on Thursday morning. Mother and child are doing nicely.

Millhelm wants to dispense with the dust nuisance also and is raising funds through voluntary contributions for the oiling of the street.

Two automobiles came together on the diamond in Millhelm one day last week. No one was hurt and the only damage done was a bent mudguard.

Dr. Dixon was re-appointed as Commissioner of Health of the state of Pennsylvania, his nomination having been confirmed by the state senate last week.

Henry W. Shoemaker has added a beautiful brown lynx to the fine collection of animals at the park at McElhattan Springs, Clinton county. The animal was brought from Wisconsin and weighs 95 pounds.

The much-talked-of elk that has been loitering about the foot of Tussey Mountain for the past few months, has been joined by two other elk and the three were seen quite recently at Colyer. The new additions are a cow elk and her calf.

J. C. Bible and Peter Smith, both of Centre Hall, made a trip to Bellefonte on Monday. Mr. Smith is acting in the capacity of a jurymen at the second week of court. Owing to his dislike for train riding he induced Mr. Bible to convey him to the county seat by horse and buggy.

Rev. R. R. Jones issued this week the "Reformed Church Bulletin," the same being Vol. 3, No. 4, thus completing the third year of its publication. The Bulletin is serving a very useful purpose in the Reformed charge, supplementing in an effective manner Rev. Jones' pulpit work.

Mr. J. J. Glann and two children of Hunt-dale are at the home of the former's mother, Mrs. Mary Goodhart. Rev. Geier, who is attending the sessions of the 127th General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, at Rochester, New York, will arrive on Saturday and preach in the Presbyterian church on Sunday.

Mr. J. D. P. Smithgall and her two interesting children, of Franklin, arrived at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Susanna Spangler, on Friday, to spend the summer months. Prof. Smithgall will, at the close of his school term in June, enter Columbia University at New York to take advanced work in his profession.

Loss.—I. Frank Mayer, the auctioneer, of Lemont, on Thursday of last week, lost his pocketbook, containing about fifty dollars, on use road between Lemont and Susquehanna. There was about twenty-five dollars in bills and a check to the same amount. Mr. Mayer offers a liberal reward to the finder if he communicates with him.

It seems that while we're waiting for a chance to swat the fly, the time may profitably be spent in dealing a death-swat to the filthy caterpillar. Every where may be seen trees stripped of their foliage and two or three, and sometimes more, caterpillar nests loosed to their capacity. A simple remedy and a sure one, is a kerosene-soaked corn cob, fastened to a long stick, lighted and applied to the nest. Now is the time to do it.

The speed of automobiles through Centre Hall ought to be cut in half. The gait at which the average car travels endangers the lives of children, makes it unpleasant for any one who chances to be on the street. There is much comment and criticism on the speeding question, but no attempt has been made to abate the nuisance. It may require the cost of the life of some innocent one to force action, but such a lesson will come sooner or later.

The funeral of Perry W. Breor, on Saturday, was largely attended. Among those from a distance were the following: Morris Breor, Camder, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Breor, Horsehead, N. Y.; Elias Breor, Axe Mann; Mr. and Mrs. Willis Breor, Salons; Jacob Metzler, Williamsport; Mr. Samuel Hanz and daughter, Mrs. Helen Rohr, Honerville; Misses Kathryn and Minnie Muss, Millhelm; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rouse, Ansonburg; Mr. Ephraim Shook, Ralph and Bruce Shook, Penn Hall.

(Continued at foot of next column.)