

LUMBER CAMP SLAVES.

MEXICAN PEONS WHO ARE HELD IN PRACTICAL BONDAGE.

They are Lured Into the Deep Forest on the Guatemalan Frontier and Detained There at Timber Cutting - Few Ever Return - The Hardships They Undergo.

The announcement that a lumber company, with headquarters at Tacasco, Mexico, has paid the Guatemalan government \$125,000 in national currency for a five years' concession to cut mahogany and cedar timber on the banks of four rivers in that country calls attention to an unknown little corner of the world, says the New York Sun. The concession carries with it on its face the privilege of introducing the necessary labor. This means that the timber will be handled by slave labor, for slavery, though not a recognized institution, still exists there, to all intents and purposes.

The region of the four rivers is a vast and unexplored wilderness; the wilderness through which Cortez struggled on his way to Honduras after the conquest of Mexico. This tract is one mass of tangled, tropical forest. Twenty years ago the school geographies of Guatemala described it as a country inhabited by a wild, independent tribe of Indians, who recognized no authority but that of their chiefs. In the early part of 1890 the writer journeyed through this forest, traveling 10 days without seeing other human face than that of his mestizo servant. What has become of this population is a mystery, for the evidence of its existence still remains in ruined edifices, temples and idols scattered through the forests, now grown over with great trees.

Far up into Mexico the forest extends, and the pushing Mexican lumbermen penetrated the woodland wherever they could find streams to carry the lumber down and established their camps. Presently they overrun the frontier and brought on wars in 1884 and again in 1896, which in each case pushed back the Guatemalan frontier.

The first timber company that went into mahogany cutting on an extensive scale there got a concession from the Guatemalan government and struck in through the dense forest until they reached a large and placid stream, the River de la Passion, about which the valuable trees grew thick. To get the lumber out was the problem. Fashioning a canoe the explorers set out down the stream, which presently became narrow and swift, and rushed through a gorge to dash over a rock shelf in a seething torrent. Only by throwing themselves from the canoe did the men escape. A long time after the canoe was found on the gulf beach near the mouth of the river. If a boat could find its way to sea water, so could mahogany tree trunks. Camps were soon established there. Then came the question of labor.

It was not to be hoped that the sun-loving Mexican peons could be tempted from the social life of the villages and cities into the depth of the gloomy forest at any wages. Some other method must be found. The cunning monteros, as the mahogany hunters were called, devised a means of enslaving the peons. By the Mexican system a man engaged for certain labor and prepaid, is compelled to work out his wage. In any Mexican town it is easy to pick up peons, particularly at festival time, who will drink a little and then be ready to enter into any kind of a contract for the sake of money for more drink. With the amount advanced they buy a little clothing and a great deal of mescal liquor, and have a round of pleasure, at the end of which time they find their money all gone, and a squad of soldiers waiting to escort them to their respective camps.

By this means the mahogany cutters found they were able to extend their camps in the vast wilderness of both Chiapas and Guatemala, and there virtually set up a little principality of their own. Patches of forest are now cleared and planted in corn, and the peons are fed on this corn, which is first boiled in a weak solution of potash water made from ashes and then ground between two stones. An occasional wild boar or other game from the forest is their only change of food.

Few of the peons return to their homes. It is a long journey to the monteros' camp, a journey over a trail where every bit of food consumed on the way must be carried, and sometimes water, too, and the journey is one of days in a forest abounding in wild beasts. By the Mexican law the peon cannot be detained any longer than necessary for him to work out his indebtedness but what is the law's avail to the peon after he is once in the monteros' camp? His miserably insufficient food is credited to him at prices so high that he can hardly avoid running further into debt. Moreover, the monteros practice a system of treble entry book-keeping, by which though the peon's debt is constantly increasing instead of diminishing.

As an illustration of this system a story is told of a peon who, endeavoring to keep track of his account, provided himself with a little memorandum book, in which he requested the montero to mark down his indebtedness. Once having drawn \$5 from the montero he discovered that he was charged with \$15. He at once took the book to his master and required an explanation. The montero pretended to fly into a rage at the stupidity of the peon, and after swearing at him roundly, exclaimed:

"Don't you see, you fool, there were the \$5 you asked me for, and \$5 dollars which I gave you, and \$5 dollars to be charged to your account, and don't three fives make 15? Get out of here and go to work."

And they say that between the intervals of swinging his axe that peon is still trying to find out how three fives make 15 when he gets but one of them.

Women and even young girls are taken into this slavery, and in the Mexican towns there are ugly tales of kidnapping told.

After the mahogany trunks are cut and trimmed by the slaves they are stamped with name and date and set adrift in the river. Some of the logs take as long as four years to make the trip; others never are found. Nevertheless, the traffic is highly profitable, as the monteros pay no wages, and the expense of keeping the peons alive on corn is very small. Occasionally a log drifts down the river with some poor peon's message of appeal for release from bondage nailed to its surface.

HOW AGUINALDO WAS CAPTURED.

Gen. Funston Tells the Story in His Official Report Just Received.

A description by Gen. Funston and Capt. Hazzard of the capture of Aguinaldo was received recently at the war department in the mail from Manila. Gen. Funston says:

"On Jan. 14 a special messenger of Aguinaldo's headquarters at Palanan, bearing letters to different generals of his command and to insurgent chiefs, asking for reinforcements to be sent him, gave himself up to Lieut. Taylor of the 24th Infantry, who immediately sent him to me at San Isidro. He also had valuable correspondence which gave us information as to the whereabouts and the strength of Aguinaldo's band at that time. We found among them one in which Baldomero Aguinaldo was ordered to take command of the provinces of central Luzon and requesting him to send as soon as possible 400 armed men to Aguinaldo's camp.

"Then and there I conceived the idea of arming and equipping a number of native troops to pass off as these expected reinforcements, and to make an endeavor to trap Aguinaldo in his lair. The expedition was made up of four Tagalos, who were formerly commanding officers in Aguinaldo's army, and who selected 78 men of the Maccabebe scouts, all of whom could talk the Tagalo. I obtained a number of captured insurgents' uniforms and 10 Maccabebes were equipped with Remington and Mauser rifles.

"We embarked on the gunboat Vicksburg and landed on March 14 at 2 o'clock in the morning. The expedition was nominally placed in command of Hilario Elchido, ex-insurgent colonel. After marching 20 miles we reached the town of Casiguran. We had sent word to the president of the town through native messengers that reinforcements for Aguinaldo were on the way through his town. The president was completely deceived. My troops had captured some months ago some official paper of Gen. Luciano, bearing his official stamp and seal. In order to make the deception all the more complete we succeeded in forging the signature of Luciano to letters to Aguinaldo. These letters were sent ahead and we followed.

"The trip to Aguinaldo's camp was a most severe one upon the men. Our food supply was entirely exhausted and my men were so weak that when we reached within eight miles of Aguinaldo's camp we could go no further. We therefore sent a messenger ahead to Aguinaldo's camp informing him of our plight and requesting that he send us food before we could go further. This was supplied, and the disguise and ruse adopted by us had been complete. As we had told Aguinaldo that we had American prisoners he sent word that they be given their liberty.

"As the Maccabebes approached the town the troops of Aguinaldo's bodyguard, consisting of 50 men, were drawn up in parade to receive the supposed reinforcements. The men who posed as officers of our expedition marched into the camp and paid their respects to Aguinaldo, who received them in a large house built on the bank of the Palanan river.

"After the exchange of courtesies the officers excused themselves from Aguinaldo and his staff for a moment, stepped outside, and ordered their Maccabebe troops drawn up into line and commanded them to commence firing into Aguinaldo's troops. The rout of the insurgents was complete. The ex-insurgent officers, the five Americans and several Maccabebe scouts immediately made a rush for the house which was used as Aguinaldo's headquarters, and took him prisoner.

"Aguinaldo, when first taken prisoner, raved and swore at the deception practised upon him, but later accepted the situation with dignity."

An Anecdote of Victoria.

Many people seem to remember only by an effort that the Empress Frederick was the princess royal of England. She herself never forgets it. It was a grievance of the German court that the wife of their crown prince always remained "die Engländlerin." Bismarck was never tired of growling at it. Her easy, informal manners were always scandalizing the stiff Prussian court. Soon after her marriage she shocked the lady-in-waiting by carrying a chair across the room for herself. The lady protested. It did not become a princess of Prussia, she remonstrated, to carry her own chair.

"Well," replied her mistress, "the princess royal of England doesn't mind doing it. In fact, I have often seen my mother carrying two chairs."



Decorative Key Boards.

Key boards are among the latest popular decorative fads and have a certain utility. A panel of polished wood has a cross piece of the same at the upper end, in which are small hooks, to hold the keys. On the surface of the panel a large key is painted, bearing a painted ribbon. Over each hook there is a special design to designate the door or drawer to which that key belongs. Some of these are comic, others sentimental. Latch keys are illustrated by silhouettes showing forgotten latch keys, unsteady hands, etc. There are often two cross boards with hooks for large keys below and small keys above. Floral designs are favorites.

A Summer Dining Room.

The idea that a dining room should be treated in a somewhat heavy and subdued style dies hard. Thus it is that a white and yellow dining room is still something of a novelty. When its windows give on a green and shady prospect the effect of the yellow dining room is really quite enchanting. An apartment of this description in a cottage on Long Island has the walls paneled to within seven inches of the tops of the doors, and all the woodwork is painted ivory white. Above the panelling is a stencilled frieze in shades of daffodil, orange and chestnut.

The rug is in shades of brown and dull, soft blues. The tiled fireplace is in yellowish brown. The chair seats are of chestnut-brown leather. The window hangings are of daffodil yellow and white.

Gas Stove "Don'ts."

Don't buy a small gas stove unless your family consists of two persons. A four-hole stove, with a top about 24 inches square, is so serviceable that it pays whether a family be large or small. Such a stove costs only \$12. See that the stove you buy has an attachment for lighting the oven from the outside. It is much superior to and safer than the old method of reaching in with a match.

Don't try to bake beans, beef a la mode or such dishes as need long hours of slow cooking, in a gas stove. It is cheaper to buy them. Never put two dishes such as pie and molasses cookies to bake at the same time. They need a very different heat, and the cookies would be burned black long before the pie was ready. You can simmer corned beef or soup as slowly on a gas stove as on the back of a coal range. Every good gas stove has a simmerer. It consumes the smallest imaginable amount of gas and can be left unattended safely for hours half turned to cook the soup stock or to keep a double boiler at steam heat. Don't burn gas when the flame is red, or when it blows. Turn it out, let the gas flow a few seconds and relight. The flame must burn blue to do good service; if it is red the cooking utensils will get smoked black.—Good Housekeeping.



Orange Float—Boil one quart of water with the juice and pulp of two lemons; when boiling add one and one-half teaspoonsful of sugar. Dissolve five tablespoonsful of cornstarch in one teacupful of cold water, stir into the boiling syrup and stir all the time for five minutes; when cold pour over six sliced oranges and add the beaten whites of two eggs, flavored with a half teaspoonful of vanilla and sweetened with a tablespoonful of sugar.

English Preserves—The juice and yellow peel of three oranges, removing all the white; five pounds of gooseberries, one and one-half pounds of seeded raisins and four pounds of sugar. Top and stem the gooseberries and put them, with the raisins and orange peel, into a meat chopper and grind fine. Add the juice and sugar and stew gently about 40 minutes, stirring frequently. Put into small jars or tumblers, and when cold pour over melted paraffine.

Fruit Custard—A delicious fruit custard may be made by boiling one quart of milk in a double boiler. Beat two eggs very light and stir into them four tablespoonsful of sugar and one tablespoonful of flour. Add to this a little cold milk, then stir it gradually into the boiling milk, stirring until it thickens, set it away to cool. When cool, flavor with vanilla. Have ready in sauce dishes strawberries or sliced oranges or any fruit in season, and pour the custard over it. This is a very simple and palatable dessert.

Braised Spanish Onions—Peel some medium-sized onions, which should be all the same size; set them in warm salt and water for half an hour; boil them in salted water for an hour if large, or less according to size, as they must only be partially cooked. Remove them from the water, drain them and set them in a white fireproof dish with some butter; bake them for at least an hour, or until they are tender and brown, basting them with the butter occasionally. Send them to table in the dish they were baked in.

Hair Falls

"I tried Ayer's Hair Vigor to stop my hair from falling. One-half a bottle cured me."
J. C. Baxter, Braidwood, Ill.

Ayer's Hair Vigor is certainly the most economical preparation of its kind on the market. A little of it goes a long way. It doesn't take much of it to stop falling of the hair, make the hair grow, and restore color to gray hair.
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If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address: J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Liver Pills

That's what you need; something to cure your biliousness and give you a good digestion. Ayer's Pills are liver pills. They cure constipation and biliousness. Gently laxative. All druggists.

Want your mustache or beard a beautiful brown or rich black? Then use BUCKINGHAM'S DYE for Whiskers. 50 Cts. per package. Sold by all druggists.

Lightning and the Trolley.

During a thunderstorm at any time of day, says the Kansas City Star, the lights in the trolley cars of the Metropolitan system are always turned on by order of the company. There are two reasons for it. One is for the protection of the car and the other for protection of the passengers. When the lights are on and the car is at a standstill the trolley pole becomes a lightning rod. When a car is in motion, the electric current which leaves the power house and is carried along on the trolley wire, passes down through a wire in the trolley pole into the motors of the car, setting them in motion, and then down through the wheels into the rails, by which the current returns to the power house. Thus the trolley wire, the car, and the rails form a complete circuit. When a car is at a standstill the connection between the trolley and the motor is cut off, breaking the circuit. However, turning on the lights has the same effect as putting the car in motion, that is it completes the circuit. That is the exact reason why the lights are on during a thunderstorm.

Should lightning strike a trolley wire the flood of current would be carried with a rush to the nearest car. If this car should be in motion or the lights be turned on so that the circuit with the rails is complete, there would be a chance that the extra current of the lightning's stroke would pass down the trolley pole and through the car into the rails without doing any harm. The principle is the same as that of a lightning rod, which carries the electricity of a bolt of lightning into the ground. But when there is no connection the current of a bolt of lightning would burn out the motors of the car, and if strong enough, would shatter the car and injure the people who might be riding in it.

The United States produces 2,220 pounds of grain for each inhabitant; England 360 pounds.

Commuters' Cars.

When English commuters can't get the accommodations that they want on their trains going to and from their homes and places of business, they club together in an organization and pay an extra sum to the railroad company for the privilege of riding in a special car. Every weekday the members of the Lytham, St. Anne's and Blackpool Traveling Club go from Blackpool, the Brighton of the North of England, to Manchester, 50 miles distant, in cars which were built specially for them. These cars are called the club train, though they are not coupled in one train, but join trains which leave at different hours.

The Blackpool Line, running between Manchester and the watering place, always had its cars filled in summer with tourists, much to the inconvenience of business men and regular travelers. So the first class season ticket holders asked the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co. if better accommodations could not be furnished, and in an effort to do away with the trouble the company reserved certain compartments in the railway carriages for the regulars. But this didn't please the transients, and was discontinued. So the regulars organized themselves into a club, which was guaranteed to contain at least 40 members, and which now contains 60, and then went to the railway company with a definite proposition. They agreed to pay an extra fare if a certain number of saloon carriages should be placed at their exclusive disposal.

The company accepted the proposition and built three special carriages, each seating 35 persons. They are fitted with lounges and armchairs. A smoking room occupies the center of the 50-foot car, and at one end is a compartment especially for an attendant, who is supplied by the company, and who provides light refreshments for the members of the club and attends to the wants of the travelers. No friends or guests of the members are allowed to travel in these cars. The election of new members is in the hands of the president, secretary and a committee, and to a committee of at least eight members is given the right to expel any member whose conduct shall make it desirable that he should cease to be a member of the club.

The Prayer Before Gettysburg.

General Daniel Sickles tells a story illustrating the tenderness of President Lincoln's heart as well as his faith in Providence and his beautiful optimism. After Sickles had been wounded at Gettysburg he was removed to Washington, and the President called on him at the hospital.

When the general described the battle and the awful slaughter, "Lincoln wept like a child." "While the two armies were converging," said Lincoln, "I went into my room and prayed as I never prayed before. I told God that if we were to win the battle He must do it for I had done all that I could. I went from my room with a great load lifted from my shoulders, and from that moment I never had a doubt as to the result. We shall hear good news from Grant, who has been pounding away at Vicksburg for so many months. I am in a prophetic mood to-day, Sickles, and I say that you will get well." "The doctors do not say so." "I don't care, Sickles; you will get well." And that afternoon, General Sickles goes on to say, a telegram was received from General Grant, announcing the fall of Vicksburg. His own recovery soon followed.

The Purity, Simplicity and Effectiveness of Garfield's Headache Powders make them the most desirable agency in the cure of pain. Too much importance cannot be attached to the fact that these Powders DO NOT HARM.

If a man doesn't want to be robbed of his good name he'd better not have it engraved on his umbrella.

FITS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. King's Great Nerve Restorer. \$2.00 a bottle and treated free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 191 Arch St., Phila. Pa.

An exposition of British products is planned for next winter in St. Petersburg.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Western Siberia affords a good market for American manufacturers of milk cans.

Pico's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAROZZI, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

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W. H. Griffin, Jackson, Michigan, writes: "Suffered with Catarrh for fifteen years. Hall's Catarrh Cure cured me." Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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Take Garfield's Headache Powders. The ingredients are simple, and carefully selected from remedies that are known to be pure and effective. Send to Garfield Tea Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., for samples.

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From the Atlantic ocean to the head of Lake Superior a vessel may sail in Canadian waters a distance of 2,230 statute miles.

PUTNAM FADELESS DYES are fast to sunlight, washing and rubbing. Sold by all druggists.

In a certain Western State there are two families, one named Day and the other Sunday. They are neighbors. Mr. Day is the father of seven girls, while Mr. Sunday has an equal number of boys. Four of the sons have married Sundays, another is engaged, so it now appears that "every Day will be Sunday by and by."

Ladies Can Wear Shoes

One size smaller after using Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It makes tight or new shoes easy. Cures swollen, hot, sweating, itching feet, ingrowing nails, corns and bunions. At all druggists and shoe stores, 25c. Trial package FREE by mail. Address Allen B. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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