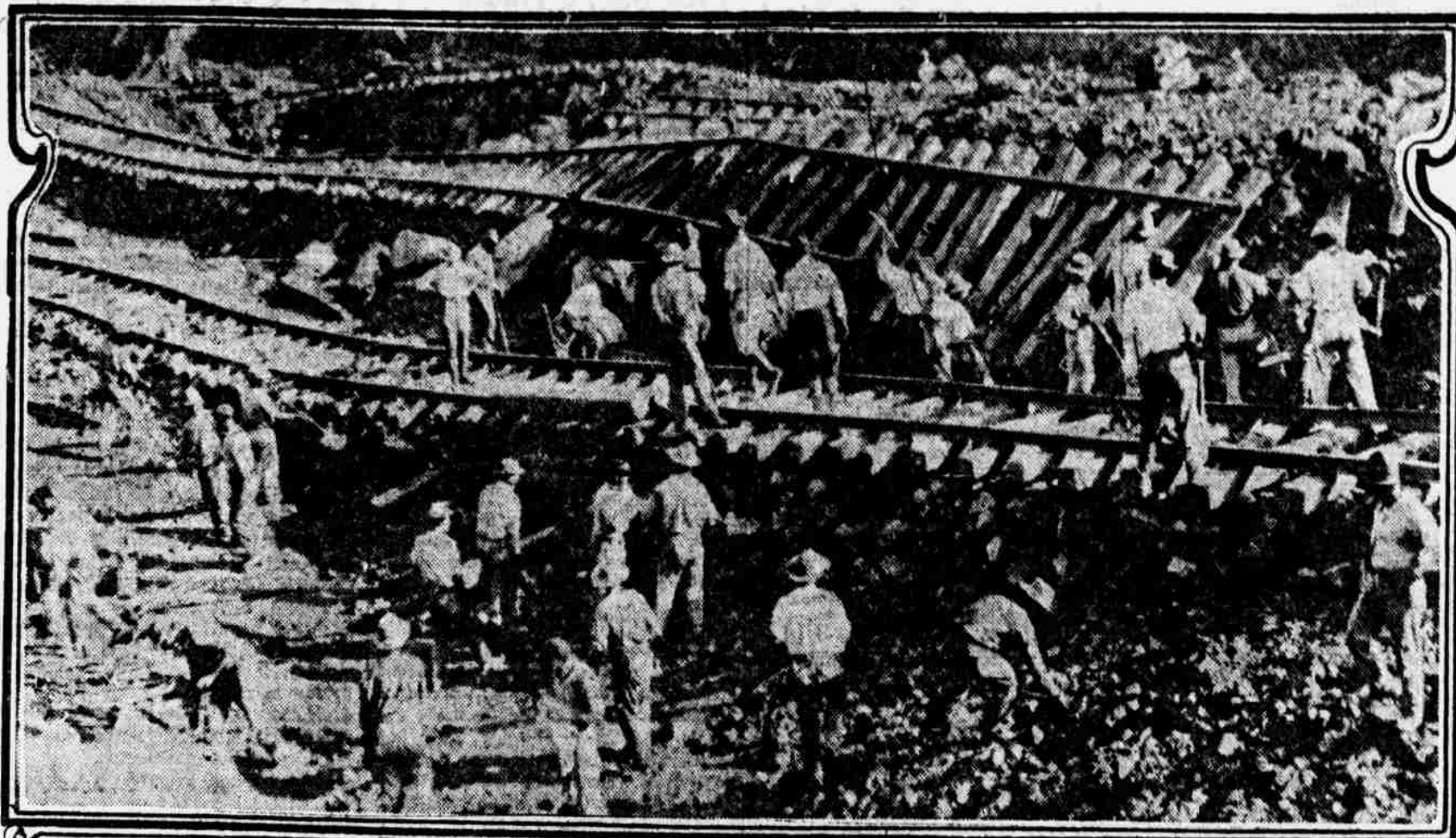


Dry Glaciers Feature Along Canal Route



RAILROADS AND TIES THROWN TO ONE SIDE

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

CULEBRA, Canal Zone, Panama.

I want to tell you something about the dry glaciers of the Culebra cut, the mighty masses of earth and rock which are sliding down into the big ditch that Uncle Sam is gouging out of the Andes. It is hard to understand them without being on the ground. But if you will take your foot in your hand and come with Colonel David D. Gaillard, the famous engineer who has charge of the Culebra division, we shall go through the cut and look at them with our own eyes. There are plenty in sight even as I write these lines. There are two places nearby where more than 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth and rock are now moving. The material in action is equal to a solid block 300 feet square and 300 feet high. Build it up as a cube and its base would be more than two acres and it would rise to the height of a thirty-story flat. That enormous quantity of rock is advancing at the rate of almost two feet per day and since the beginning of our digging we have had thirteen or fourteen times as much as that mass to take care of. The total has been over 13,000,000 cubic yards or enough material to make a wall three feet thick as high as a two-story house reaching all the way from New York to Chicago. It would make four mighty pyramids as big as Gizeh, and, all told, considerably more than the excavation we have yet to make. In other words had there been no slides the excavation for the canal would have been done long ago. As it is we have 11,000,000 cubic yards to dig and of this something like 4,000,000 are the direct result of the slides.

In the Culebra Cut.

But let us climb down into the Culebra cut. As we stand here on the heights we can see it stretching to the right and the left until the windings of the mountains hide it from view. It is altogether nine miles in length, and about 300 feet deep. In some places the cutting back that has been made on account of the slides is almost 2,000 feet wide, at the top and the sloping goes down in ledges to the bottom of the canal, where the width is 300 feet. Looking at the country the edges of the ditch are ragged and hilly. In some places the mountains rise high over it, and in others they slope down and then rise again.

It is impossible to conceive the vast amount of earth that has been taken out. The figures convey no idea of the concrete dimensions. I will only say that up to a year ago, we had taken out enough earth and rock to have built a wall 200 feet high, twelve feet thick and long enough to reach from the capitol to the White House in Washington, or enough to have made six pyramids the size of Cheops and left something to spare. In one month we have taken out enough stuff to fill a ditch three feet wide and three feet deep from Boston to Chicago, and most of that was of such a nature that it had to be blasted. If you should blast out a tunnel over a thousand miles long and so big that a hog could crawl through it you might have some idea of the work Uncle Sam did in that month.

Dynamiting the Andes.

As we pick our way down into the cut we can see the mighty work everywhere going on. Flying trains of earth are moving this way and that. Scores of steam shovels are puffing and groaning as they drop the earth and rock on the cars, and everywhere are gangs of negroes who are drilling the ledges and putting in dynamite to break up the earth for the shovels.

As we start we pass the pipe line which carries the air for the drills. This is ten inches in diameter, and it runs from one end of the cut to the other. It is fed by three air compressors, each of which has a dozen furnaces fed by fuel oil, and which are so powerful that they can compress 11,000 cubic feet of air every minute. The air feeds the drills and keeps them chugging away day and night boring the holes for the blasting. It drives the augers, each as big around as your leg, down into the heart of the Andes, cutting holes from fifteen to thirty feet deep, in which the dynamite is sunk to tear up the rock.

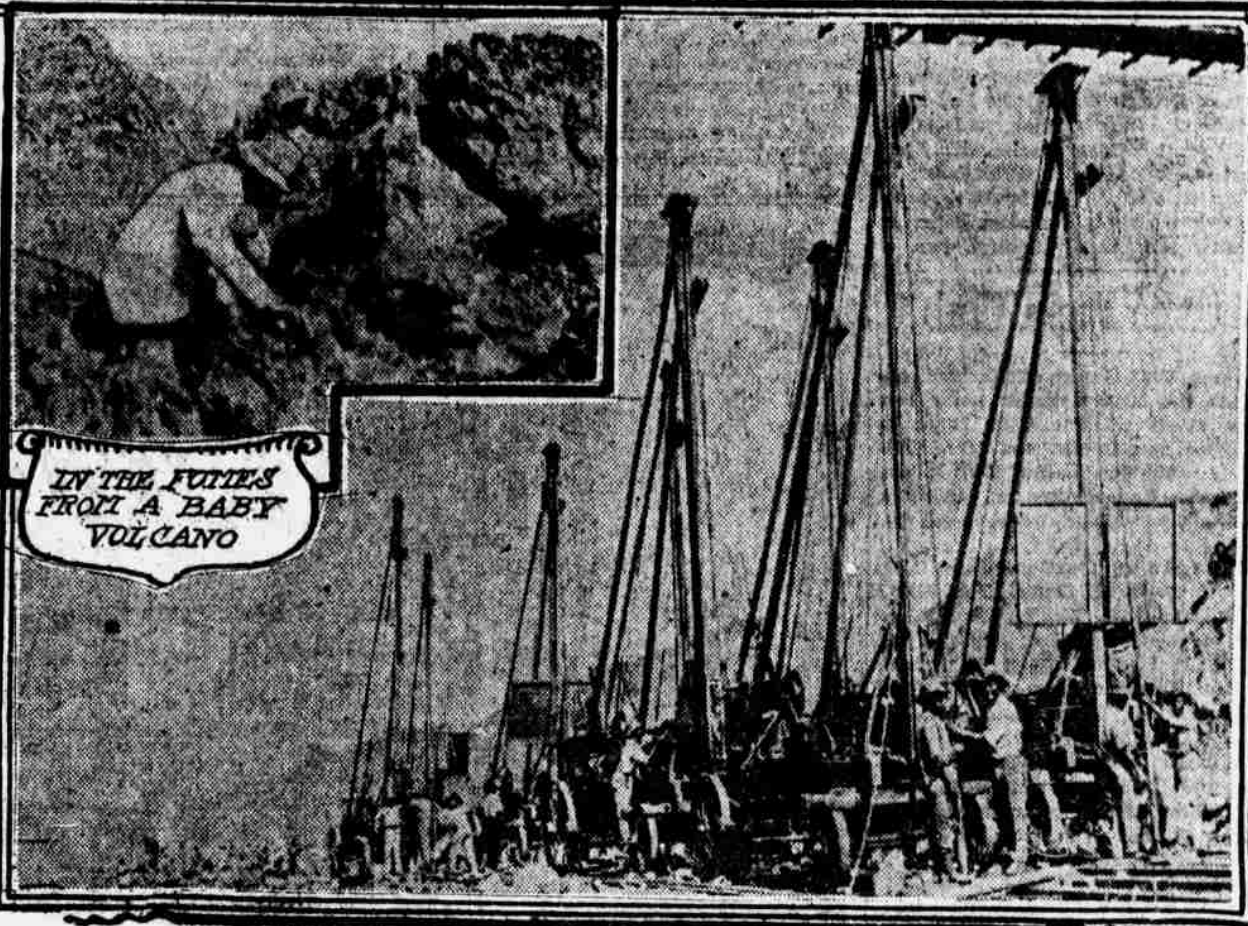
"Last year," says Colonel Gaillard, "the holes we put down, if joined end to end would have reached 900 miles. They would have equaled a pipe running all the way from Philadelphia to Chicago, or if sunk straight through the earth would have reached almost one-fourth of the way to the center."

Mighty Cockroach.

These surface slides have carried down great masses of material. Take the Cucuracha on the east side of the canal. The word Cucuracha means "cockroach," and this cockroach is the biggest of its kind upon earth. It covers an area of forty-seven acres and forms a great mass of earth which has broken off 1,800 feet from the center line of the canal.

It began when the French were still working, and it has caused us trouble ever since we started to dig. We have already moved out of it a mass of earth amounting to 2,000,000 cubic yards, and it is still active. At one time it came toward at the rate of fourteen feet every day. Nevertheless the steam shovels ate it up as it came, and there is no doubt but that the shovels and dredges will be able to take care of it and all other slides of the future. The ordinary slide can be handled by one shovel, and this is so even when the slide is a long one. At Las Cascadas a shovel moved up and down a slide 100 times going back and forth and chewing off its toes as they were pushed into the cut.

There is a big slide on the west side



IN THE CUTS FROM A BABY VOLCANO

GANGS OF NEGROES DRILLING LEDGES

and can be easily caught. The loss from this source was considerable, but this pink paper can be seen a great distance, and now whenever we catch a man with dynamite so wrapped we arrest him."

How the Earth Slides.

As we make our way down into the cut we can see cracks everywhere. In some places they are so wide that you could put your foot in them, and others would hold only your finger. There are cracks all over the hills, and some of them mark out bodies of earth which will have to be moved, as they are already sliding down into the ditch.

There is one great crack here at Culebra which incloses four acres, comprising 1,000,000 or more cubic yards, which are already moving, although so slowly as to be imperceptible. The crack is about a foot wide and it steadily grows. Another movement of the same kind is apparent at Empire, where Colonel Gaillard has his headquarters, workmen in pointing to it facetiously say that Mother Earth is about to take her revenge on Engineer Gaillard for the scars he is making upon her old body at Culebra.

Watching a Slide.

Indeed, most of such slides occur at that time, although there are some also in the dry season. I watched one such mass of earth moving today. It comprised about 1,000,000 cubic yards, equal to a block 300 feet square and 300 feet high, and was going forward at the rate of eighteen inches per day. As I stood in the bed of the canal the place where the clay joined the rock could be plainly seen. It was a sort of a hollow in the hills where the rock of the cut had been blasted off after so that one could follow with his eye the line where the clay ended and the bed rock began. There was a ninety-five-ton steam shovel at the foot of the rock, and it was catching the earth as it fell and loading the cars. It was working just fast enough, I was told, to keep the stuff from the slide out of the way. I could see the earth fall now slowly and now in great masses, continuously dropping down into the cut.

Where Rock Moves Like Water.

Shortly after this I went with Colonel Gaillard to one side of the canal where the rock was such that the strata could be plainly seen. The walls of the cut contained many different layers of rock of varying degrees of density, lying one upon the other. Here was a stratum of shale, then one of lava, and above it one of limestone or a layer of volcanic dust hardened to stone. There were also strata of lignite and other soft rocks.

What She Wants.

"I want you to build me a fashionable home."

Slides Can Be Controlled.

Slides of strata such as I have described are common, but the engineers know how to control them. They have occurred so often that they are now taken as a matter of course. The hump I saw today will be all out of the way

Squeezing Old Mother Earth.

In addition to these surface slides or flows there is another class of earth motion which is carrying great masses of rock into the canal. These masses do not come from the top, but from the strata of which the canal banks are made. Sometimes they come from below the canal bed and force themselves up in humps through it, overturning steam shovels and throwing down the railroad tracks.

Investigate a Geyser.

In going through the cut with Colonel Gaillard the other day I climbed the side of a hill to the place where the steam was pouring forth like a geyser. The smell of sulphur and brimstone was strong, and I had to get windward to prevent being overcome by it. The colonel warned me also that the gas might be poisonous. I reached down and put my hand in the steam. It was scalding. At that place the ground was yellow with sulphur and the steam was coming out over an area of several square yards. Colonel Gaillard took a manila envelope and held it over one of the cracks, and the heat was such that it destroyed it. It even charred a piece of white pine lumber, although it did not bring it to a blaze.

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Of

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Because of a late spring the stock in our drapery department is much larger than it should be at this time of the year. In order to reduce it we have decided to break away from the common and accepted form of after-inventory sales, and to place on the bargain altar an immense line of goods we have at prices far below the regular figures. Nearly all cuts are from one-third to one-half of the regular retail price.

In this stock are large and varied selections of lace curtains, in all sorts and kinds, in the very latest styles; plain, fancy and colored scrims in all the newest patterns and designs; cretonnes, chintzes and figured sunfast mercerized over-drapery goods, in both 36 and 50-inch widths. These goods are all very different from the ordinary so-called sale goods, as they were bought for our regular retail trade and do not include any odds and ends or dropped patterns of old stock, but are all good, new patterns in the latest styles.

Any one who has any need or will have any need in the next three months' time for anything in the way of lace curtains, cretonnes, scrims and over-drapery goods cannot afford to miss the bargains in this great sale. We note a few of these immense bargains:

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A Big Line of Swiss and Muslin Curtains—Bought to retail at \$1.50 to \$2.50 pair; on sale, pair..... **85c to \$1.20**
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Suitable for Bed Rooms, Living Rooms, Dining Rooms or any room in the home in large variety of designs. Applied Border Scrim—Worth \$11, on sale..... **\$5.50**
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Cretonne and Taffeta Cloth—Worth 40c per yard, on sale, per yard at..... **15c**
LOT NO. 3.
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About 25 Patterns of One and Two Pair Lots of Lace Curtains—In all styles and prices, all on sale at—
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