

On the Edge of Mahogany Land

NATIVE HUT,
GUATEMALA



(Copyright, 1913, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
PORT BARRIOS, Guatemala.—I write you from the edge of Mahogany Land. This Mahogany valley, which lies at the foot of the Guatemala mountains, back of Port Barrios, has hundreds of mahogany trees, which are being cut down by the United Fruit company, that the land may be used for banana plantations. The mahogany is so valuable that it sells by the pound, and a few trees would make a good income. I have been in the mahogany country off and on ever since I left Panama, and I learn that valuable timber is being taken from the northern part of the Panama republic. I found them exploiting the forests in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and am told that many mahogany camps are now working in both British and Spanish Honduras. There are American lumbermen sending mahogany in Panama all along the west coast of Central America. The logs are sent over the isthmus by rail, and thence shipped to Europe of the United States. The trees they are now cutting here still lie in the clearing, but they will be taken by train to Port Barrios, and thence shipped.

Central American Mahogany.
The mahogany of this part of the world is the real article. We have a so-called mahogany in the Philippines, and there are false mahoganyes in Nigeria, Ceylon, Madagascari and California. The true mahogany, the wood which makes the finest furniture on earth, comes from this region. It is found in the lowlands along the east coast from Mexico to Panama, and also in Colombia and Venezuela, and in the islands of the Caribbean sea. The trees are magnificent. I have seen some 100 feet high and thirty-six feet in circumference. Not a few rise sixty feet above the ground before the branches begin and some are so large that five men, joining hands, cannot encircle them. There is no such thing as a mahogany forest. The trees do not grow close together, but at wide distances apart; and the mahogany hunters climb the highest trees of the forest and pick out the mahoganyes by their bright colored leaves. The leaves change from season to season and at times, they are as gorgeous as our leaves in autumn. The hunter marks the mahogany by the color and then leads the cutters through the jungle hacking to a road where the doomed tree stands. Often only two or three trees are found in an acre, but two trees per acre are enough to pay dividends. There is a record of one corporation which had a mahogany concession of about 25,000 acres, the total yield of which was only sixty trees or less than two per square mile. I doubt if it paid.

How the Logging is Done.
The ordinary tree ought to be at least a yard in diameter, and the average tree is usually one or two hundred years old before it is ready for lumber. The most of the wood is cut in the rainy season, but as the trees are felled their limbs are cut off and the logs are then taken to the nearest stream. They are rafted down to market, or they may go to the railroad and be taken to the ports on the coast. They are put upon shipboard as soon as they reach port to prevent their being attacked by the teredo and other boring insects. The wood is so valuable that it is handled like fruit, and a close record is kept of it from the forest to the hands of the consumer. One of the chief markets is London, and others are New York and New Orleans.

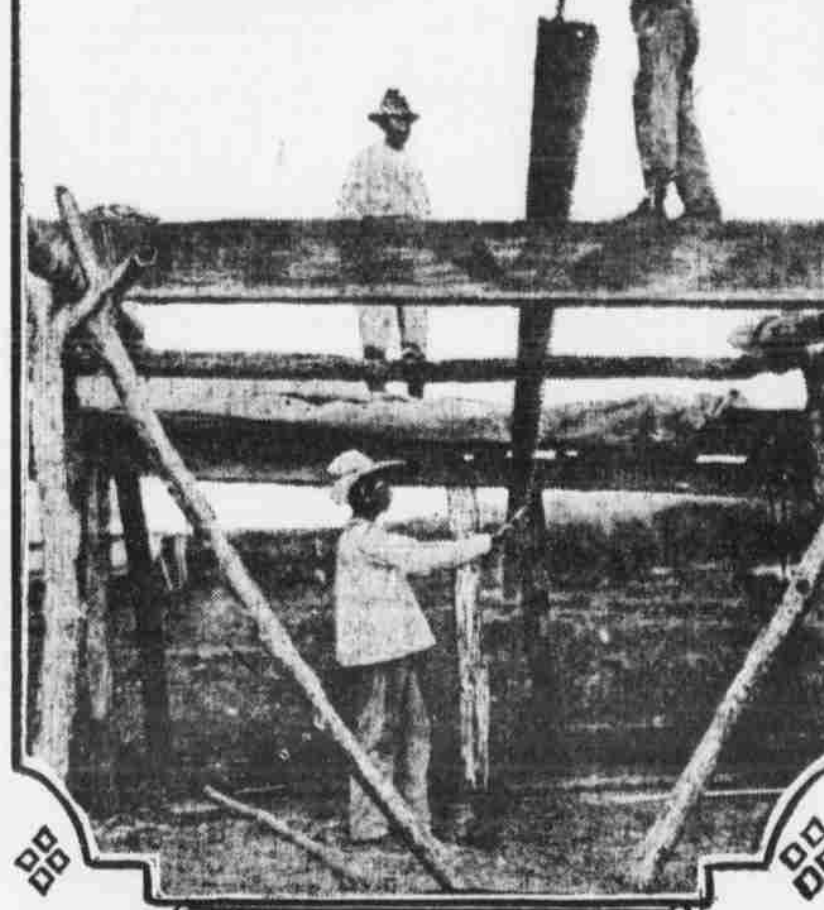
In the Woods of Honduras.
A great deal of our best mahogany now comes from British Honduras, and we get much also from the Honduras Republic. The British Honduras timber is exported from Belize, which is not very far from Port Barrios, and I am told that the wealth of that town has largely come from this trade. The forests are exploited by lumbermen, who hire gangs of natives for the season, and have the exporting houses to advance the provisions and cash to carry on the cutting.

Motherhood

The highest point of woman's happiness is reached only through motherhood, in the clasping of her child within her arms. Yet the mother-to-be is often fearful of nature's ordeal and shrinks from the suffering incident to its consummation. But for nature's ills and discomforts nature provides remedies, and in Mother's Friend is to be found a medicine of great value to every expectant mother. It is an emulsion for external application, composed of ingredients which act with beneficial and soothing effect on those portions of the system involved. It is intended to prepare the system for the crisis, and thus relieve, in great part, the suffering through which the mother usually passes. The regular use of Mother's Friend will repay any mother in the comfort it affords before, and the helpful restoration to health and strength it brings about after baby comes. Mother's Friend is for sale at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature.

BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Sawing Mahogany into Lumber



The labor contracts are usually made during the Christmas holidays, the men being hired by the year. Six months' wages are usually paid in advance, one-half of which is in goods and the other half cash. The lumbermen are as dissipated as are those of our own and other countries, and they usually have a carouse before they leave Belize, during which time the cash disappears.

They now leave and go into the woods, where they build camps of huts thatched with palm leaves, including a larger building for the store and dwelling of the overseer. The labor is divided into gangs, each of which has a captain. The work is done by the task. The best laborers are out at daybreak, and a good man can finish his task by 11 o'clock. He can then spend the rest of his day in hunting or fishing, or he can cut out of mahogany paddles and other things for which there is a ready market. The lumber camps are not pious places. Many of the laborers are rough, and there are frequent fights and considerable drunkenness. There are also bad women who follow the camps, and the crowd is not a Sunday school one. The overseers live well. Each has his own boat, with from twelve to twenty Indian rowers, and his own cook and Indian valet.

Felling Mahogany.
The green mahogany is not easy to fell and the bringing of a large tree to the ground is a day's task for two men. The cutting is done about ten feet from the base on account of the wide spurs which project from the trunk and a platform or scaffold has to be erected where the sawmen and axmen can stand. After the trees are felled roads have to be made to the rivers and the streams on the way must be bridged. Much of the wood is hauled upon rude trucks which have wheels of solid wood sawed from the end of a log and having iron boxes staked into the center. Much of the work is done in the night by torchlight of pitchpine. All this is in the dry season. The rafting is done in the late summer or fall and the camps break up about the middle of December. After that the laborers return to Belize and they then receive the balance due them, which results in another great spree.

In Spanish Honduras.
I understand there is a great deal of mahogany yet uncut in Spanish Honduras or the Honduras Republic. Mahogany grows in the valleys all over that country, and especially in the lowlands along the northern coast of the Caribbean sea.

It is near this coast, running inland fifty or more miles, that the chief banana plantations are, and not far from the sea in the same region are immense coconut groves with tens of thousands of bearing trees. The most of the banana industry belongs to the United Fruit company, and that company has a line of steamers which ply regularly between Port Cortez and New Orleans, calling at Port Barrios and Belize on the way. The shipments of bananas amount to 2,000,000 bunches and upward per year, which means an aggregate of more than 300,000,000 bananas per annum. The business is carried on about the same as it is in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama. The plantations have many little railroads for carrying the fruit. They are divided into farms, and each farm is a settlement of its own. The overseers are Americans, and the labor is largely done by negroes from Jamaica and the other islands of the West Indies, who come here for the purpose.

Making a Banana Plantation.
The process of making the plantations is about the same everywhere. The jungle has to be cut down, and this means the felling of trees from three to ten feet in diameter and the cutting out of underbrush and bananas through which it is impossible to go without a machete or axe. As soon as the land has been

cleared, it is burned over and then the markers go through and stake out the holes where the plants are to be set. The banana plants come from sprouts of the older trees and they are set out about as far apart each way as the trees of the average peach orchard. They are planted among the half-burned logs and grow without cultivation. The only thing is to keep down the weeds, when the logs will soon rot away. I have seen plants growing among trees as big around as a flour barrel, and in going over the plantations have had to keep to the paths in order to make my way through upon horseback.

About a year after setting out the bananas they are twenty or thirty feet high and are ready to fruit. Each tree bears but one bunch of bananas, and when this is taken off the tree is cut down and the sprouts which have grown up about its roots are left to produce the next crop.

Banana Settlements.
It is a big task to start a banana plantation, and the plans must be carefully made. The estate is first surveyed and paths and roads are laid out, the same being connected by tramways and railroads. And then the farm settlements have to be built and in each there must be a store, a carpenter shop and a blacksmith shop and also the stables and the homes of the workmen. Some of the managers and overseers bring their wives with them from the United States and they must have comfortable homes screened with wire netting.

Some of these houses here are beautifully finished and well furnished. They have the latest magazines and papers, and in some of them you will find many novels, histories and scientific books. Many of the white employees have hobbies. One may be an ornithologist, another a bug-hunter and there are no end of collectors of orchids and other strange flowers. At the Virginia banana plantation near here they have quite an aviary, containing many of the quaint birds of Guatemala. These include the wild turkey, which has a brilliant yellow color, the tuma with its gorgeous plumage, and the policeman-bird, which makes a terrible screeching if strangers come near the house.

I do not know just how many thousands are planted to bananas in Spanish Honduras, but the Guatemala estates belonging to the United Fruit company cover tens of thousands of acres, and the worst cases were cured by it here last winter. "From your druggist get one ounce Tonic compound (in original sealed package) and one ounce of syrup of Sarsaparilla compound, and put them into a half pint of good whiskey. Shake the bottle and take a tablespoonful before each meal and at bed-time." Results come the first day. If your druggist does not have Tonic compound in stock he will get it in a few hours from his wholesale house. Don't be influenced to take some patent medicine instead of this, based on having the genuine Tonic compound in the original, one-ounce, sealed, yellow package. Published by the Globe Pharmacological Laboratories of Chicago.—Advertisement.

Prescription that Soon Knocks Rheumatism

The most logical treatment for rheumatism is through the blood. The poisons that settle in muscles, joints and back, causing severe pain, must be dissolved and expelled from the system or there can be no relief. This prescription from a noted doctor is said to be working wonders all over the country. Hundreds of the worst cases were cured by it here last winter. "From your druggist get one ounce Tonic compound (in original sealed package) and one ounce of syrup of Sarsaparilla compound, and put them into a half pint of good whiskey. Shake the bottle and take a tablespoonful before each meal and at bed-time." Results come the first day. If your druggist does not have Tonic compound in stock he will get it in a few hours from his wholesale house. Don't be influenced to take some patent medicine instead of this, based on having the genuine Tonic compound in the original, one-ounce, sealed, yellow package. Published by the Globe Pharmacological Laboratories of Chicago.—Advertisement.

Philadelphia, one banana and still left some to spare.
At New Orleans the fruit is landed in the same way, being there transferred to cold storage cars, which take it to all parts of the Mississippi basin. The bananas for the eastern part of the United States usually go to the seaports of the Atlantic.
Object Lessons for Central America.
This work of the Americans on the banana plantations is a series of object lessons in sanitation, agriculture and business management for the people of Central America. Most of the estates have large hospitals and the employees are taught to take care of their health. The workmen's houses are raised upon poles, the vegetation being cut away and the lands drained to get rid of the mosquitoes. The laborers are made to keep clean, and they are shown how to treat themselves for tropical diseases. The United Fruit company has been fighting the hookworm, and it has its doctors giving medicines and treating the numerous natives among its employees who are so afflicted. Every patient who comes to the hospital on account of malaria or other fevers or on account of wounds received is treated also for hookworm. I am told that this is doing great good and that an increase in the working efficiency of the men has come from such treatment.

Loading Fruit by Machinery.

I have been much interested during my stay in Central America in the handling of the banana crop, and especially in watching how the negroes transfer the fruit from the cars to the ships. At Port Limon, Costa Rica, this is done by machinery. The fruit is carried from the plantation over the railroad in leaf-lined cars to the side of the ship as it lies at the wharf. The tracks are so laid that the railroad of bananas is parallel with the steamer, and the fruit from a half dozen different cars can be transferred to the ship at the same time.

The loading is by movable carriers which run upon wheels. Each carrier is a long belt about two feet in width, an arrangement that one end of it rests over the opening into the hold, and the other out on the wharf. This belt moves by machinery, and the bananas, thrown upon it by laborers, are carried into the hold. I have seen four rivers of bananas thus moving for hours, carrying fruit into a ship.

The men are so trained that the stream of fruit is continuous, the management knowing just how many bunches one man can carry in an hour, and how long it takes to unload each car.

The ship upon which I came here had in its hold 25,000 bunches of bananas bound for New Orleans. Each of these bunches had at least 150 individual bananas, and altogether they were enough to have given every man, woman and child in New York, Boston, Chicago and

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Farm Methods in Central America.
The Americans are introducing our farm machinery. They have American plows and carts and also American hoes and other farm tools. As to the native methods, everything is rude. I see the farmers still using the one-handed plow of the Scripture, shod with a strip of pointed iron about as big as your hand. This turns the soil both ways and only scratches the surface. The most common cart here has wooden wheels with spokes in the center for the axle, and it is drawn by oxen yoked by their horns. The loads are pulled by the head instead

of the shoulders and necks, and the treatment of the animals seems cruel to an extreme.
American axes are gradually coming into use, but the most of the cutting of the lighter sort is done with the machete, much like a corn cutter. Every native Central American carries a machete. It is a good weapon of defense against man or beast, and it enables him to make his way through the jungle. It cuts his grass for hay and the green corn for his cattle. After the cattle are dead, the machete chops them up to make beef and is also employed in hog killing. It serves to cut out the weeds from the corn patch and with it the native punches holes in the ground where he drops the grains of corn at planting time. He then covers the corn with his heel and sifting down, lets nature do the rest.

Teaching Stock Farming.
The Americans here are teaching the natives something of stock farming, and the day may come when meat from Central America will reduce our big butcher bills. In Costa Rica there are large ranches belonging to the banana plantations where working cattle for the plantations are reared. The United Fruit company has some dairy cows and its men tell me that the grass there makes excellent beef. Indeed, there is money to be made in raising stock all the way from Panama to Mexico. These highlands have fine pastures, and the stock brings good prices. In upper Panama they are now raising beef for Colon and Panama City, and the future meat supply of the canal may come from here.

Costa Rica has live stock numbering more than half a million, besides mules, sheep and goats, and Honduras has almost a half million head of cattle alone, and a large number of mules, pigs and sheep. It has 100,000 acres devoted to pasture.
Here in Guatemala the cattle are fewer, but the grazing grounds on the high plateau are of great extent, and well-fitted for sheep, cattle and hogs. Nicaragua has more than 1,000,000 of cattle and Salvador in proportion to its size has more live stock than any other Central American republic.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

BACK TO LAND MOVEMENT

Inability of City Man to Grasp the Charm of Early Dawn.

Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture, said the other day: "It has become the fashion for everybody to declare that the profit from the high cost of living all goes to the farmer. We hear on all sides about the farmer's automobile and talking machine, his Persian rugs and player piano, his wife's fur, his daughter's college education and so forth and so on."

"We must take these statements with a grain of salt. I wish the farmer all the success in the world, but there's far more accuracy in a story I heard the other day than in all this talk of rural luxury and opulence."

"A city chap, the story ran, went on a farm to help with the harvesting in return for his board."

"The first morning when the farmer called him, it was so dark and frosty that the city chap couldn't resist another brief snooze before getting up. But he was, at that, out in the field by 1 o'clock."

"Fine morning," he said to his employer, genially.

"Through the dim dawn light the farmer scowled at him."

"It was," he said. —Chicago Post.

Quaker Quips.

Help others and others will help themselves.

It's practice that makes perfect, not preaching.

Some people only seem happy when they have had news to tell.

Sometimes it's business and not superstition that prompts a man to put off till Saturday what he might begin on Friday. —Philadelphia Record.

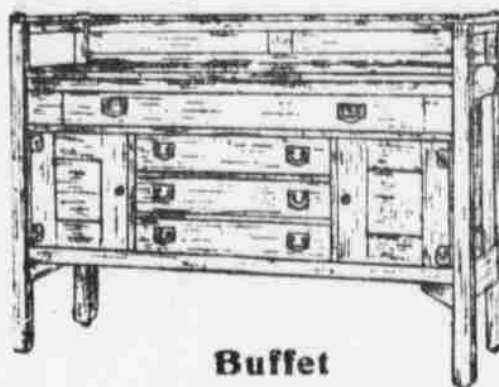
January Special Furniture Sale

A Sale Worthy the Name

Offering substantial savings on desirable furniture. \$12,000.00 worth of the

famous Stickley Bros.' "Quaint" Furniture in fumed oak for the Dining, Living Rooms and Library on sale at a saving of one-fourth, together with hundreds of furniture pieces and suites for Parlor, Library, Living Room, Dining Room, in all woods, showing a positive reduction of a fourth and a third.

Note the examples of superior bargains this sale offers.



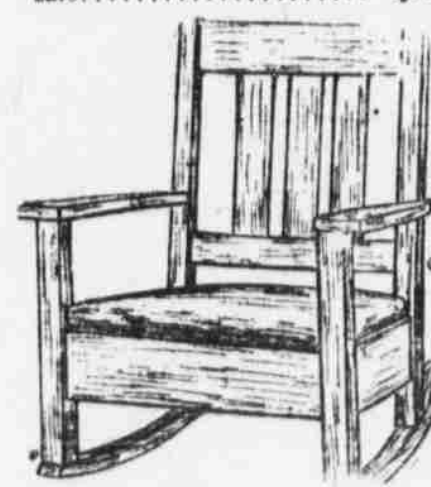
Buffet

Fumed oak, hand wrought copper trimmings, 60 inches long, 23 inches deep, 44 inches high; regular price \$76.00, January Sale price \$57.00



Library Table

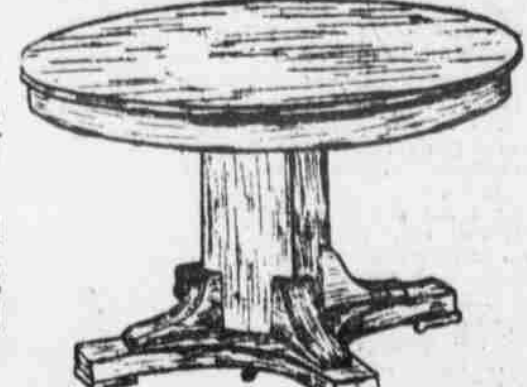
Quaint style fumed oak, corner posts, extended above table top, rounded off end, one large drawer, has undershelf, 42 inches long by 28 inches wide; regular price \$24.00. A big bargain January sale. \$17.50



Rocker and Arm Chair

Heavy, large size, fumed oak with deep cushion of Spanish leather; each piece sells regularly at \$18.00. January Sale. \$13.50

\$27.50 Dining Table, fumed oak, round top, 48 inches in diameter; January Sale \$20.00
\$15.00 Library Table, fumed oak; January Sale \$10.00
\$20.00 Library Table, mahogany; January Sale \$14.25
\$89.00 Library Table, solid mahogany; January Sale \$48.00
\$62.00 Buffet, fumed oak; January Sale \$46.50
\$50.00 Bookcase, fumed oak; January Sale \$37.50
\$53.00 Leather Sofa, golden oak frame; January Sale \$39.00
\$110.00 Sofa Bed, golden oak frame, genuine leather upholstered; January Sale \$87.00
\$60.00 Couch, fumed oak; January Sale \$45.00
\$70.00 Mahogany Davenport, 5 feet long, denim covered; January Sale \$53.00
\$24.00 Rocker, mahogany frame, tapestry seat and back; January Sale \$16.00



Dining Table

Round top, 54 inches in diameter, heavy design, pedestal base, soft brown fumed finish, extends to 8 feet; regular price \$38.00, January Sale price \$27.50



Library Table

This is a high grade fumed oak, heavy mission table; large drawer has writing bed with inkwell and pen backs, one small drawer at each end; 45 inches long, 28 inches wide; regular price \$30.00, January Sale \$21.00



Rocker and Arm Chair

Good, generous size, with high back. Seat and back fitted with Spanish leather loose cushion; frame of soft brown fumed oak. Regular selling price \$30.00, January Sale price, either chair or rocker, \$22.50

\$45.00 Rocker, denim upholstered, mahogany frame; January Sale \$27.50
\$60.00 Rocker or Arm Chair, solid mahogany, loose cushion seat and back covered in heavy green panne velvet; January Sale \$36.50
\$25.00 Settee, mahogany, denim seat; January Sale \$16.50
\$24.00 Settee, solid mahogany, panne velvet seat; January Sale \$18.00
\$48.00 Serving Table, solid mahogany; January Sale \$24.00
\$150.00 Sofa, red Morocco; January Sale \$75.00
\$44.00 Settee, mahogany, cushion seat silk velvet; January Sale \$29.00
\$138.00 3-piece Bed Room Suite—dresser, chiffonier and toilet table—Toona mahogany; January Sale \$103.00
\$85.00 3-piece Suite, mahogany, finish frame, genuine leather upholstered; January Sale \$57.00
\$125.00 3-piece Mahogany Finish Suite, heavy design, genuine leather upholstered seat and back; January Sale \$84.00

Three-Piece Suit

Mahogany finish, with mahogany panel back; upholstered in highest grade genuine black leather; settee, rocker and arm chair. Regular selling price \$49.00; January Sale \$35.00

OSTERMOOR MATTRESSES

We offer a few in January Sale on account of ticks being slightly soiled from broken packages.
\$18.00 Ostermoor. \$13.75 \$30.00 Ostermoor. \$17.75

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Company