

# A Continent Totters and Still Nobody Bothers

## Guatemala Destroyed by Earthquake, and Rehabilitated Through Agency of American Red Cross, But Because There is a World War on Nobody Seems to Know Anything About it

(By John Ritchie, Jr.)

One of the most interesting of American achievements and one whose details remain hidden in official records, is the rescue of the earthquake levelled city of Guatemala from the famine and pestilence which would a short half-century ago have followed infallibly in the wake of the disaster. The splendid results redound to the credit of the Red Cross, which was instantly active, but four Americans in its service, gathered at the spot as soon as it was humanly possible, were the mainstay that set in motion the local forces that have saved the stricken city from impending doom. Stuart of Boston, O'Connor of Chicago, Struse of New York and Tolman of West Virginia, are names that Guatemala has inscribed on its roll of highest honor.

Picture to yourself a country where the ground rose and fell like a great wave of the sea, with a crest a foot high and was width of those city blocks. As this ran across the city observers saw the houses in rows tumbling down, one after another, like the child's blocks, "dobles" substantial brick structures, stone schools, churches, aid hospitals and public edifices. There were smaller shocks that completed the ruin, with little tremblings running through the intervening months, and this is an important city. Everything in the way of public works was ruined, water mains were broken, and sewers disarranged. Then not least in the problem, there was lack of leadership in co-ordinated effort at relief.

The loss of life was not great, a couple of hundred in all, but the people of the city were rendered homeless and were driven away from those places that were familiar to them. They huddled hastily in spots outside the city where there was room and waited for whatever help might be sent their way.

Guatemala has had no real census and vital statistics are an unknown quantity. The population of the state is approximately five millions and in the city there are about one hundred and twenty thousand with three-fifths of them Indians. The population is composite: Indians, natives who are a mixture of Spanish, Indian and negro; the upper classes, who are generally Spanish, and there are several thousand Germans. It is interesting in the light of the commercial ubiquity of this people to know that the electric and telephone systems are German-owned.

The big shock that levelled the city of Guatemala came on Christmas, there was a second one of importance on Jan. 3 and a third eleven days later. The party from the United States was assembled, collected its material and landed in Guatemala on Jan. 23, which was quick work that took every advantage of existing circumstances. Meanwhile the United States Government had sent to the scene a fast naval vessel carrying 400 tents, while the Red Cross ordered in Panama a beautiful supply of provisions, more if proved that were really needed, but it was an error on the safe side, and readily to be converted into cash for the construction of some new hospitals. There was also on the spot a committee of citizens, with an extraordinary long list of honorary officials, committee heads and sub-committee men, but till the arrival of the Americans it was in doubt as to the precise direction in which to bend its efforts.

The conditions that Stuart describes make it a marvel that there were not serious outbreaks of disease. The houses were destroyed and the people were living in camps hastily constructed out of whatever of the debris could be put to this use. Shacks were set up in whatever spaces seemed to be free from further disturbances, and here the modern corrugated iron and the antique tin ran a close race for temporary roof covering. The houses were all one, whether of the adobe type or the imposing structures of masonry. Even churches and public buildings were utterly destroyed, a few of the ruins being left behind shown by the remains of the Church of St. Sebastian and the new Normal Art School. Here it is interesting to note that wood and reinforced concrete stand the strain of the earthquake, facts of value to those building districts subject to earthquake shocks.

At its best the old water supply of Guatemala City was far calculated to awaken the enthusiasm of the sanitary engineer. There were picturesque features in the great arched conduits extending across the country, built after the Roman models by the old Spaniards and replaced by the musical appellations Pinote and Misco. Great sections of the masonry of the arches were thrown to the ground and the supplies in consequence no longer flowed to the city. Another spring, the Acatan, which collected the waters of half a dozen small streams, led across a deep valley, where it was broken, while the fourth, the Minca, although diked into the city, was much disturbed by the quake.

It was therefore a city of one hundred thousand practically without water. When the relief party arrived there was no opportunity for the people to bathe, or to wash clothes, and domestic water was scarce. Mr. Stuart tells of seeing an old woman fill the cover of a power as it ran along the street and dip the water from it for a drink. Naturally this was one of the first

duties of the new-comers, to attend to the water supply. Wooden flumes were constructed to repair the aqueducts and the reversed siphon in the Acatan supply was mended. Meanwhile Stuart recommended the President Manuel Estrada Cabrera, that pipe be ordered from New York, and on the next steamer there came five miles of spiral steel water pipe, the joints of which can be quickly bolted together. This was laid on the ground through the streets and furnished at frequent intervals with outlets for the public supply.

The Reservoirs a swimming tank.

But there remained one other drawback to the supply of domestic water the difficulty in preventing pollution. The aqueduct forming the reservoir was being used for bathing, and on any evening they could be found refreshing themselves in its cooling flow, while about the Acatan reservoir there were favorite laundry spots, and it was impossible in the time to undertake to re-educate the people. The Red Cross therefore furnished two chlorination plants, and the swimming material now on hand will serve to keep these waters free of pathogenic bacteria for a full year to come.

One of the important things was the establishment of camps with the United States Government. The erection of such a camp, with the work laid out that it is within the capabilities of the laborer to be secured in Guatemala, was indeed quite a trick. It is thus described by Mr. Stuart in one of his letters before returning: "This morning I undertook a hundred tents on the Campo del Marte for the Guatemalan Government. It is no little task to erect even one, and I have to lay out the whole camp with streets, cook stoves, latrines and police tents, and then trench the whole thing. I hope to set it done in two weeks, as I have the gangs pretty well organized. First I go ahead with the transit and gang and set the corner stakes for every tent; then a second gang comes along with a long rope in which I have tied properly spaced small holes, for the centre pole. Following are the men to open and set the tents." In this same order of simplicity was arranged the trenching of the latrine to avoid surface flow into them in case of storms, the building of the latrines, bath-houses and washhouses and garbage boxes, following which was the installation of the water system for the camp.

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### MINERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Calgary, Aug. 29.—The strike of coal miners in the Brule Mine province, Edmonton district, has been settled, according to advices received in Calgary. Practically 500 men were affected by this walkout which lasted for several days.

REMOVE GERMAN PAINTINGS Associated Press. Honolulu, T. H., Aug. 29.—Large oil painting of Marshall Blicher and Frederick Wilton, 111 of Prussia, presented to King Kamehameha III of Hawaii nearly a century ago by the Prussian government, have been removed from the wall of the capital building here.

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## SAYS ONTARIO AND QUEBEC ARE LOSING RURAL POPULATION

### Drastic Measures Needed, Declares Engineer at Municipal Convention

### RAILWAY SITUATION Speaker Suggests That Conference of Cities be Called

By Courier Leased Wire Toronto, Aug. 28.—Warning that Ontario and Quebec are losing their rural populations, and some drastic measures must be taken by these provinces, was given this morning by Noulan Cachon, consulting engineer of Ottawa, in an address before the Ontario Municipal convention this morning.

Mr. Cachon said: "Ontario has been losing rural population for years. Quebec has lost a million or so of its population to the English and French who? Because life was apparently more profitable or more attractive elsewhere—yet severe economic loss for Canada.

"We have to compete for people the same as in any other harbor. We must provide attractive alternatives to 'free homes' in the wilderness, if we would not lose much that we might get and wish to retain what we have."

Dealing with the radical railway situation in the city of Hamilton, Mr. Cachon said: "At the last session of the Dominion Parliament, Senator Lynch-Staunton endeavored on behalf of the city of Hamilton to introduce an amendment to the Railway Act enabling the forces to deal equitably with such cases—but it was 'gassed.'"

"The discussion was not long; can be found fully in Hansard of April 19, full of interest to municipalities. It is apparently to call a conference of railways with the city to work out a solution, but power will have to be obtained to force compliance with a solution—more power to the Railway Commission."

"The Ontario Association of Municipalities could endeavor to obtain the necessary amendment to the Railway Act."

### FIRE PREVENTION UNDER DISCUSSION

### Fire Chiefs of Dominion are in Conference at Toronto

Toronto, Aug. 29.—Fire prevention and inspection was the subject dealt with this morning by the Dominion fire chiefs in session at the Exhibition grounds. A full attendance was noted and the subject discussed in details from various angles by various members who had prepared papers on the subject after which an open discussion took place.

It is a well prepared paper Chief Teneyck of Hamilton dealt with the subject from a general standpoint. Had many suggestions which would, in the opinion reduce the waste. He advocated compulsory inspection of risks by insurance companies before accepting business and that insurance companies pay their agents salaries instead of commissions and that a risk be insured for but two-thirds of its value. He also thought it would be beneficial that all companies carry insurance be obliged to notify insurance companies when their stocks were reduced.

Restrictions regarding smoking around garages legislation regarding the thawing of frozen pipes, electric and steam fitting were other subjects he dealt with.

Chief Smart of Calgary dealt with the subject of prevention from a standpoint of co-operation with the business public summing up in six pertinent suggestions.

## SHOPPING

### Afternoon in Town, Behind the Lines

By Capt. Alured F. Ozanne.

The duties of the Mess Secretary of a British unit in France or Flanders may be onerous, but they have their compensations, and among them not the least pleasant is the excuse which they provide for an occasional afternoon off, in order to get into Poperinghe to "get things for the mess." On these occasions the life of the Secretary is really quite worth living.

See him standing under the arch at the entrance to the barn, waiting for the car! All the morning the Huns have been shelling the road between his battery and the village, and now the sixty pounders and the long 6-inch naval guns along that road are busy "getting their own back." Now and again the big 12-inch howitzer, which lives behind the barn, adds its quota to the deafening din.

The car comes along, and the mess butler, formerly head-waiter in one of the chief hotels in Manchester, is seated in front with the driver. "All ready, Sir," says that worthy. Field Cashier, first, says that the secretary as he steps in, and off they go.

The car negotiates the shell road to the village and comes to the Ypres-Poperinghe road. Soon it is clear of the gun-lines, and passes through the camp areas where once it stops in comparative luxury. Once it stops to pick up an infantry officer who is walking into Poperinghe, and soon it is making its way through the narrow Ypresstraat towards the Grande Place. There it stops to let down the grateful infantry officer, and then it makes for the Proven road.

There are several commissions to be executed in this direction. There is money to be obtained from the Field Cashier, pay for the battery and advances for the officers. This done the Seige Park has to be visited, for here live the Army Service Corps officers who are attached to our battery for Mechanical Transport duties. Last our friend the secretary should feel unduly anxious of their lot, they hasten to inform him that they had a "hell of a time" bringing ammunition into Ypres "the night before last." Two lorries done in and a third one "ditched."

Now for Poperinghe! The car runs along the broad Proven road, the roadside covered with little huts called "Villas," although they do not look a bit like villas. It passes Estaminets, which bear the legend "Drank Huis," where they sell thin Flemish beer "and comes finally, to the Rue D'Abbele. Here progress is of necessity slow, and the car shakes unpleasantly as it crawls at

the tail of a long procession of mule-drawn ammunition wagons. Suddenly there is a distant boom, a hissing shriek and then a crash. The civilian population make for shelter. The secretary and the other occupants of the car do not worry, they are accustomed to these things, and where they live the shells come over in batches of four or five at a time.

The car pulls up at the Expeditionary Force Canteen. A shell fired from a long-range German gun comes over every five minutes, but the queue of officers waiting to be served remains steady, although the target is in the immediate vicinity and the canteen is merely a wooden hut. The mess secretary lays in a store of tinned salmon, tinned lobster, potted meats, various soups, herrings in tomato sauce, tinned mescal and tobacco, and he prepares to take his departure the butler suggests buying vegetables in the Rue D'Abbele, but the street is now "out of bounds" on account of the shelling.

Half way down the Switch Road a shell bursts not twenty yards from the car, and several splinters whiz past, but no one is hurt. Near the Proven road the Secretary stops the car. "You can go back to the battery, I shall walk. I'll see about the vegetables," he says. One does not get a chance to visit Poperinghe every day, and there are hot baths going at the Club. Besides, there is always the prospect of a lift on the way back.

Two hours later a car journeying along the Poperinghe-Ypres road overtakes an artillery officer who is carrying a parcel and two copies of "La Vie Parisienne." The car stops. "Can I give you a lift?" asks an officer, and the secretary jumps in.

### LENIENTLY DEALT WITH

St. Thomas, Aug. 29.—Bert Nealon was fined \$10 and costs by Magistrate Maxwell this morning on conviction of obstructing a Dominion Policeman in the discharge of his duty. Nealon was warned by his Worship that he was being dealt with very lightly and a further charge of this kind would mean a much heavier sentence. Frank Lorian, another young man, who was in company with Nealon when the offence occurred, is summoned to appear on a similar charge next Tuesday.

### FRENCH PROFESSOR AT R.M.C.

Kingston, Aug. 28.—M. C. Baudier, of the staff of the college at Caen, France, has been appointed successor to the late Major J. M. Lanos, as professor of French in the Royal Military College. Prof Baudier arrived with his family yesterday.

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### WESTERN CROP DAMAGE REPORTS GREATLY MAGNIFIED—WANT 10,000 HARVESTERS AT ONCE.

Reports previously published regarding the damage by frost to the crops in Saskatchewan were unduly pessimistic. Frequent showers and favorable weather have changed the outlook and it is apparent that the great Province of Saskatchewan will have a normal crop. This is evidenced by Western demands for harvest laborers as not less than 10,000 are required immediately for harvesting. Every young man and those more mature, in every community in Ontario, including our own, should get away and can make this a great opportunity to serve the country in a practical way, and at the same time be of invaluable benefit to himself. It means an interesting, long distance journey at low fares, and a chance to see and study the immense new country served by the Canadian Northern—the People's Road. Final excursions, by Canadian Northern trains leaving Toronto 10 p.m., August 28th, 30th, September 4th and 11th. Harvesters from outside points to use connecting trains to Toronto.

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## PERON ICA

### Enemy is Sm Men and Victo

London, Aug. 29.—Hunt reports that front from Bapaune Germans have been with great loss and material. Reached the west opposite Brie and taken Ham.

The occupation Bapaune was at night in the enemy's hands. The British admit the enemy in their official states that "the race in front of the Bapaune and

Other Place Field Marshal reported to have Guilleumont and western outskirts. British patrols. Les Breaux and places are all so. Immediately the British have named Beaulencourt (some are moving back).

The British the high ground court and have Transloy.

The British section also gained ground. Since August 29, the British 29,000 prisoners. Hold Crossing.

The text of the report reads: Successful attack August 28 by the First British Army the enemy's position. Somme battlefields. On the whole pannes southward were forced to retreat. As well as killed, ground was gained in last March. Reached the west opposite Brie and taken them.

"North of Ham on the general line, Beaulencourt, Sharp fighting of front to-day, and have been inflicted German infantry delay our progress.

"This morning the enemy took possession of the enemy's positions on the east.

Victorious at the enemy still maintain his position after hard fighting. Ecourt St. Mien, les-Cagnoul, in hood the Canadian, made progress many prisoners.

"North of the operations to-day to re-establish on Gre which they were enemy's counter-attack. We gained the day on the Lawe River, north also east of Nissey. Fought hard.

The text of the reads: "South of the tained our position and are advancing." "North of the the neighborhood the British took on the battle front." "In the British Scarpe River the strong counter-attack night east and Artois, east of and in the vicinity of the were withdrawn the enemy after."

"During the night posts west of the were withdrawn of repeated hostilities."

A B "The number of killed and wounded was 900. In the same guns have been taken south of the taken an active occasions and valuable and gall operation to the arms."

How Hun Berlin, Aug. 29 communication headquarters says: "Southeast of ments developed. Porefield fighting of our new line and Peronne and fantry fighting t. Albetts."

"Between the Aime especially French and American, which very es. So far more reported shot to."

The Earlier "The main thrust was directed Wurttemberg re sides of the A. Seven times the vain. Tanks are again on and now by infantry in de attack was arrested our machine gun which drove up. Where the enemy position our con