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LOST IN THE JUNGLE.

By A. ALLEN CHAMBERLAIN. In that chain of mountains sometimes called the backbone of the American continent, and of which our Rockies form an important part, the lowest of a range of mountains, called the Cordillera, extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, where it spreads itself out into a perfect labyrinth of lower hills, with a few prominent peaks here and there almost to the Atlantic sea. Well over toward the Pacific coast the two large lakes of Managua and Nicaragua, and from the latter comes the largest river of that country, the San Juan, in a westerly direction to the Atlantic.

Through this country it is proposed to cut an interoceanic canal, by the natural waterway of the San Juan, Lake Nicaragua, in connection with short artificial passages, locks, etc. Several important estimates and surveys have been made for this purpose, and one of the routes finally decided upon was one four years ago, and during the winter of 1885 a more extensive survey of this line was made. It is with this last survey that we are here to-day concerned.

The corps of engineers, assistants, etc., being broken up into several parties and stationed along the route of the canal, the work in hand was divided up among them. These parties, however, were not to be separated, and the only means of communication between them was by the river, the San Juan, which country being an almost impassable swamp, with here and there a narrow strip of swampy woods, full of punas, chachales, and other animals, and with a few small streams, made travel through the dense forest, and the knowledge of the route, which was the only means of communication between the parties, was of the utmost importance.

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Which of the parties was at the light near Ball Creek, Ky., yesterday, a west-bound freight train struck a washout, causing a fearful wreck. The engine and nine cars were piled up almost out of sight on the creek bottom. The engineer, fireman and brakemen were hurled back; the wrecked bodies have not been recovered.

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