

trumped up by a few "boosters," made up of "The French Canal Company, the capitalist Junta in Panama, and Theodore Roosevelt."

Naturally the French Canal Company were anxious to regain even a portion of what they had spent in their unfortunate undertaking; naturally also, the Panama financiers, some of whom were Americans, were solicitous for the impetus to business, and the increase in value of property which must come from the running of a canal across Panama; and naturally, also, a man of Col. Theodore Roosevelt's temperament was not averse that his regime as President of the United States should be marked by the inception of an undertaking which must mark an epoch in the history of the world.

The method of carrying out the "revolution" was ingenious to an extreme, if, so far as the Colombians were touched, as indifferent as ingenious.

In 1846 a treaty between the United States and Colombia had been ratified, providing for the joint sovereignty of Colombia and the United States over any canal that might be built in Panama, and guaranteeing the neutrality of the Panama Railroad, and in 1902, in accordance with this treaty, the United States had actually, by military intervention, established that neutrality, enabled Colombia to crush a serious revolution. In 1903 this treaty was still "good."

Now, the plan hatched up by the Junta in Panama was that on a given date Panama should declare its independence from Colombia; that the United States should recognize this, prevent Colombian troops, by virtue of maintaining the "neutrality" of the railway, from being transported across to quell the rebellion, and finally sign a treaty with the new "Republic," granting certain privileges and obtaining the right of way for a canal. This done, the United States could, in accordance with the Spooner Act, buy the French canal interests.

This plan was carried out almost to the letter. The scheme was proposed by Mr. Gabriel Duque to Secretary of State Hay, who, while committing himself but little, advanced no objection. On October 2nd, two Colombian gunboats in the harbor of Panama, understanding that a revolution was afoot, asked the Panama railroad for coal to

go to Buenaventura for troops to add to the Panama garrison. The superintendent of the road said that the coal was at Colon, thus heading off the immediate arrival of troops from the Pacific side. It now remained to carry out a similar coup on the Atlantic side, and the opportunity soon presented itself. All unsuspecting, the Colombians now sent two ships from Cartagena to Colon, and here, leaving their troops on board, the Generals went ahead to take charge of the garrison at Panama. They were at once arrested, as was also the Governor, while, zealously guarding the "neutrality" of the railroad, the officials on the Atlantic side would permit no troops to cross.

Now the "murder was out." The Colombians were quick to see that the fight was to be with the United States, and hesitated, their fears being confirmed by the speedy arrival, within a few days, of the United States vessels, Dixie and Atlanta, with troops. All unprepared as she was, there was nothing left for Colombia but to withdraw. Two days later the United States recognized the independence of Panama, and within twelve days the United States Executive had secured from the new republic a treaty providing for the cession of the canal zone, ten miles wide. In return, the United States promised to maintain the independence of the "Republic of Panama."

This treaty, it is true, was not ratified until February 23rd, 1904, but, as Col. Roosevelt explained, eight years later, "I took Panama and left Congress to debate the matter afterward." The canal zone, in short, had been acquired by a trick.

The sum of \$40,000,000 was paid by the United States to the "Interests" in Panama; \$10,000,000 to Panama, as an "ease to the national conscience" of the United States, Mr. Scott considers. No reparation has, as yet, been made to Colombia.

Having acquired the canal zone, President Roosevelt now threw his influence on the side of having the canal run along the Panama rather than the Nicaragua route; also he favored the lock-type rather than the sea-level type of canal. Grass was not suffered to grow long under the feet of the Americans. Almost immediately the beginning of the great work described in last issue was on.

Since people, as a rule, wish to know

about the most spectacular parts of any great work first, the preliminaries in regard to the making of the canal were not touched upon in last issue. These, however, being quite as important as the actual excavation and construction in the great task, may now be explained.

Profiting from the experience of the French in their losses through malaria and fever, it was recognized that the first thing that must be done was to house-clean the canal zone.

This accordingly was done, Colonel Gorgas being sent out almost at once with a large corps of men. Under his direction war was made on the mosquitoes, the carriers of yellow fever, by pouring coal oil upon all standing pools and slowly running streams; the great undergrowths of tropical plants were kept down, hundreds of men being employed upon this task alone; and sewers, waterworks, and street-pavements were laid in all the towns and villages where the employees must live. . . . So successful has the work of Col. Gorgas been, that it has been demonstrated beyond chance of doubt that, by exercising proper care and cleanliness, tropical regions may be made quite as healthful as places of residence as anywhere else on the globe. This discovery alone promises tremendous economic advantages. It heralds the ultimate development of all tropical and semi-tropical America. Indeed, only last month Colonel Gorgas, with his staff, sailed to Guayaquil, where, at the request of Ecuador's Government, they will carry out sanitary improvements. A joint resolution, giving him leave of absence, was introduced in the United States Congress.

To the chief engineers who planned and carried out the great work, too much credit cannot be given. Two of them, it is true, Wallace and Stevens, resigned because of exasperation at the delays caused by the "red tape" that required certain procedures before matters could be rushed at the Isthmus, but they laid the foundation upon which the final Chief Engineer, Col. Goethals, has been able to perfect the magnificent structure. The entire work, it may be noted, has been carried out under Government supervision.

The question of salaries is always interesting in connection with any great work of this kind. That paid to Col. Goethals has been \$21,000 a year; the under engineers receiving in proportion.

Other employees receive from \$50 to \$200 a month, according to their services, the total pay-roll amounting to \$150,000,000.

In addition to wages, the employees have been furnished with free quarters, partly furnished, and supplied with electric lights and shower-baths; with club-houses, schools, and churches. In the warm climate, cotton clothes are sufficient, hence comparatively small expenditure on clothing has been necessary. There is, moreover, no tariff at the Canal zone, hence, in many ways, the people live more cheaply than they could in the United States. The employees have, in short, lived luxuriously, and their working hours have been reasonable. Mr. Scott concludes that on their return to the wages and conditions of living that await them at the end of their services in Panama, most of them will experience a rather rude jolt.

(To be continued.)

Winter Evenings in the Country.

[A paper given by Miss M. McIntyre, at a meeting of the Lobo Branch of the Women's Institute.]

It has been said "God made the country and man the town." If this is true, how fortunate those who are born in the country, near to God and nature, for all lives, though we do not always realize it, are greatly influenced by environment. William Cowper says:

"Tis pleasant, through the loop-holes of retreat to peep at such a world; to see the stir of the great Babel; and not feel the crowd."

After the strenuous labors of the day, everyone welcomes the long, quiet evening, when we are at liberty to choose what we shall do, or where we shall go. We now feel the need of something enlivening, entertaining, which will put aside the perplexities of the day, something which will divert our thoughts, broaden our ideas, and make us stronger, wiser, and more able to meet the duties of the morrow. All require this diversion, whether it be in the home, concert-hall, or spending the evening with a friend, when the events of the day are discussed, something beneficial heard, or confidences exchanged. James Russell Lowell says:

"What so rare as a day in June?"

But listen to Cowper's "Winter Evening":

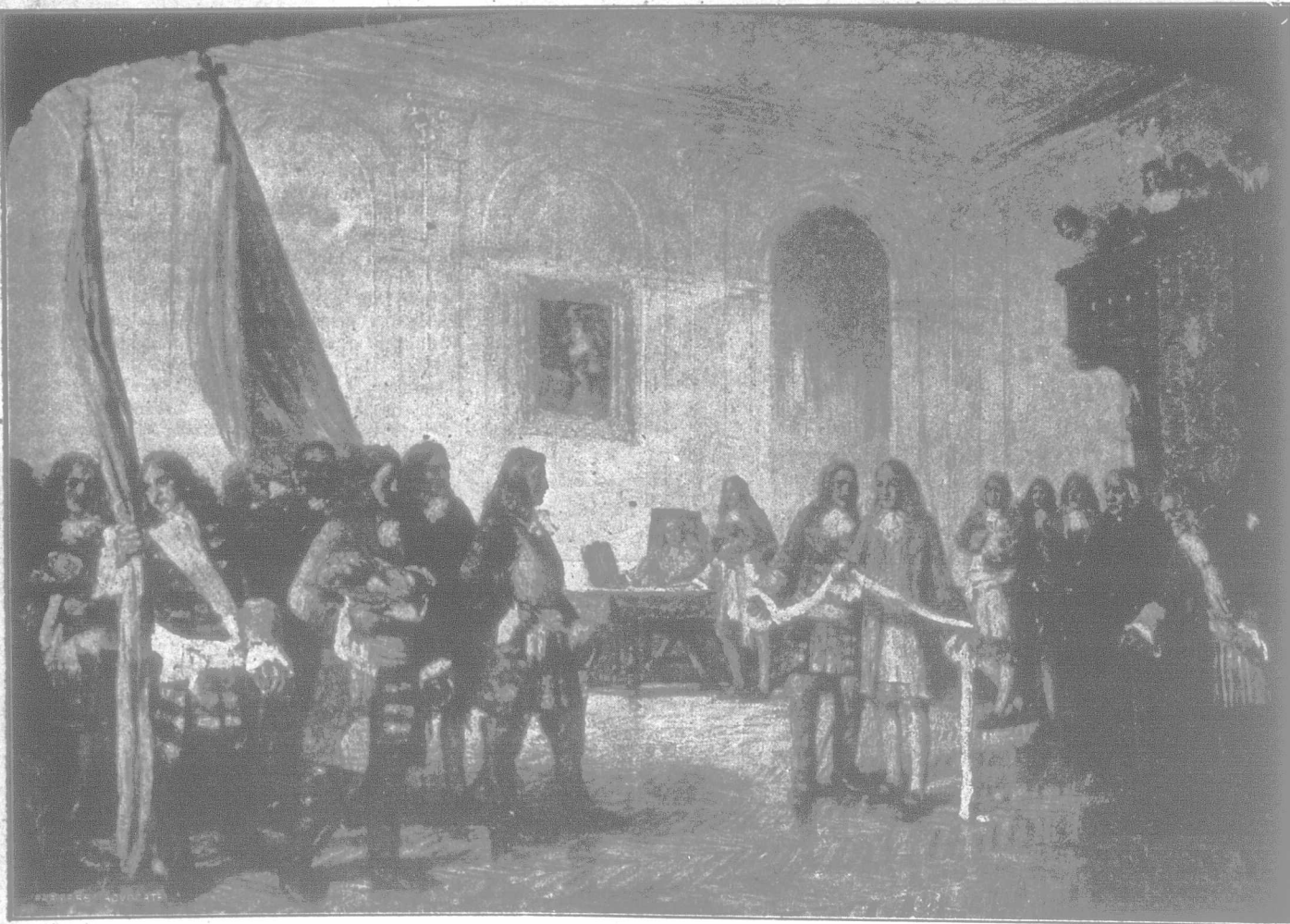
"And while the bubbling and loud hissing urn
Throws up a steamy column, and the cups
That cheer, but not inebriate, wait on each,
So let us welcome peaceful evening in."

And Longfellow:

"The lamps are lit, the fires burn bright,
The house is full of life and light."

At any rate, what so cozy and comfortable as the long winter evenings, spent with music, reading, or congenial companionship? Surely the woman with suffragette ideas has ample scope here. Why would she fight for Rights on the streets when she has the moulding of young characters in her home?

In the living-room of the home the fire burns brightly; methinks no winter evening would be complete without a fire, I mean an open one. The favorite papers, books and magazines, are by the lamp; the work-basket, games, and individual fancy of each member of the family are exhibited here. "Many men have many minds." To the dreamer it is enough to sit and watch the fantastic leaps of the fire, while the thoughts are far away. What of that? "Bobbie Burns," the best of poets, built "castles in the air." The student is reading and remembering, storing knowledge that will make him famous, perhaps. The industrious wife or sister is busy with needle or knife fashioning a fancy or useful article. The politician is comfortable in his slippers, and deep in the events of the day. Perhaps it is necessary that lessons be studied or patching and mending done, but as a general thing the evening ought to be a time



"Frontenac Receiving Sir William Phipps' Envoy."

From a mural decorative picture for the home of the late Sir Edward Clouston, painted by Mr. William Brymner. This picture was exhibited recently at the Royal Canadian Academy Exhibition, Ottawa.