

ALL AROUND CUBA

MORE EARTHQUAKES

On March 21st and 31st strong vibrations of short duration were experienced in Gibara, Oriente Province.

The shocks caused much alarm among the inhabitants who remembered the quakes of February 27th. Little damage is reported.

Puerto Padre, likewise in Oriente Province and on the North coast, experienced a strong earthquake with subterranean rumblings which, while it lasted but five seconds, excited the population considerably. Men and women rushed into the streets from their homes, the latter almost insane from fright.

At Cauto, also in Oriente Province, and on the same date a strong shock of two seconds duration intensely alarmed the populace. On the same date shocks were also felt at Nuevitas.

WATERMELONS FOR HAVANA

A few exhibits of watermelons were shown at the fair at the Isle of Pines recently, and that those who have raised these few will know how to do it for the Havana market; all watermelons being imported from May to October from the States. The large red meat, black seeded variety, thin rinded and weighing about 25 pounds up, are the best sellers. The dark green or black peeled variety is the one best liked. It is large and round and should be shipped in bulk to Havana and not packed in crates or barrels. They suffer less this way.—Isle of Pines *News*.

AVIATION IN CUBA

Some aviators will soon go to Cuba to inquire into the progress of military aviation there. The Cuban government bought a flying boat last spring for the use of its army, but so far as can be ascertained, no progress has been made in its use, though many aviators have made flights during the last year at various places in the island.

The Cuban schoolship "Patria," with the naval cadets aboard, will take an European cruise. It will be gone 147 days and will visit fifteen different countries. The trip is for the purpose of giving the cadets a chance to finish their naval education by a term at sea.

The New York Stock Exchange recently received applications to list the Cuba Company, \$2,500,000 7 per cent. cumulative preferred stock.

Five new schools are shortly to be established in Havana.

MRS. RYDER'S HUMANE WORK

The Band of Mercy in Havana, of which Mrs. Ryder is president, has secured new and more commodious quarters in Havana for its work.

A creche has been maintained for some time where a number of children are kept daily while their mothers are out at work. The older children are given schooling and the younger ones toys. The motto for the nursery is "That Other Woman's Child."

Stray cats and dogs, diseased and undesirable, are mercifully despatched.

The city officials and prominent men do not hesitate to unstintingly praise Mrs. Ryder's work. Mendez Capote, in an address at the opening of the new home on April 25th, said: "When you see a coachman get down off his box seat and unrein his horse when he arrives at his stand, that is Mrs. Ryder. When you see a mule standing in the stall, with a sore shoulder or back, instead of being compelled to work, Mrs. Ryder put him there. She keeps all the sick and crippled ones off the streets. A dozen persons will make angry protest if a driver is seen beating his animal because of Mrs. Ryder's teaching. One has only to remember conditions fifteen years ago and now observe them today to see what Mrs. Ryder has done."

SANTIAGO CUSTOM HOUSE

A recent report by Frederico Bolivar, Collector of the Custom House at Santiago, to the Treasury Department, concerns the conditions of the custom house building in that city.

Sr. Bolivar stated that, notwithstanding this building was a newly constructed one, and had cost nearly \$300,000, all the walls are cracked and are in danger of collapsing any day when many lives might be lost.

The Governor of Santa Clara Province has given permission to Senor Fidel Ruiz Turienzo to use for motor power the river "Jabacoa" at Rodas where the river joins the Damuji River. From newspaper statement it appears that a like authorization for the same purpose and at the same locality was also given to Senor Ignacio Lauza, but this concession was declared lapsed.

A telegraph line from Camaguey to La Gloria is a coming improvement. The Secretary of Government has made a recommendation to Col. Charles Hernandez, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, that \$4,000 be credited for new project.

CUBAN MINING MATTERS

A RICH COPPER MINE IN PINAR DEL RIO

The property is situated in the Province of Pinar del Rio, about five miles from the north coast, and is owned by Senor Manuel L. Diaz, a wealthy Cuban and a resident of Havana, says the *Engineering and Mining Journal* of New York.

The remarkable history of this mine is that it was brought to a producing basis and paid a profit within one year from the time of beginning the development. In other words this property not only paid for itself in that time but returned a profit to the owner.

The copper stained outcrops were called to the attention of the present owner, who, upon the advice of the engineers, decided to investigate this deposit by driving a few exploratory adits into the hillside. The strike of the orebody is a little north of east, and the dip about 65°. The ore lies between a slate foot wall and a sand-stone hanging wall. The various adits have opened first an oxidized zone, then an enriched zone of various copper sulphides and, below, a zone of chalcopyrite and pyrite containing from 14 to 16% copper over a width of 40 feet and a length of 300 feet, so far as developed.

Development work was begun in January, 1913, and in December a shipment was made that returned the owner over \$43,000 after paying freight and smelting charges. At present, the ore is shipped from the Bay of Santa Lucia, being lightered out to steamers. The net returns from ore shipped up to April, 1914, have been over \$340,000. Every cargo shipped has averaged over 20%, except the last shipment, which contained some run-of-mine material from the lower zone averaging between 15 and 16% copper, bringing the average of the cargo down to about 19%. The ore contains an ounce or two of silver, but very little gold.

A steam plant, compressor and machine drills are now on the ground, and a vertical shaft will soon be started, the extraordinary developments of last year having warranted equipping the mine for a large production. The success of the mine in Pinar del Rio has resulted in many denouncements in that part of the country. The owner of the above-mentioned mine, however, has secured several thousand acres so that he is amply protected in the development of that property, and there is little chance of trouble from adjacent owners.

A RIDE TO THE MINES

Antilla, Cuba, January 15th.—I have been the guest for the day of the Spanish-American Iron Company at Felton. A railroad auto-car was ready for me at 7.30 and we started on our 13-mile ride to the foot of the incline at Piedra Gorda (Big Rock). Those who have enjoyed a morning ride in the tropics will understand what this meant. The car was open and the view unrestricted. Panoramas flashed before us, showing fields of palm and tangled jungles with orchid-covered trees. We crossed the Mayari River on a modern steel bridge, and from it had an entrancing view of the town and valley of the same name. At Piedra Gorda we were transferred to the "incline car" for the first leg of the lift. This is a stretch of 2,000 feet at a grade of about 25%. There is then a small dip and we were attached to the 7,000-foot cable. Much of this grade is 25% and every foot opened up some new beauty.

From the top we had an unbroken view of 30 miles, taking in Preston and the cane fields under cultivation belonging to the United Fruit Company, and covering 30,000 acres. Horses were ready, and after lunch we took a ride over the mine works. A strata of serpentine rock underlies the ore deposit. This deposit ranges from 10 to 30 feet in depth and is a surface proposition. That is, the only thing to be cleared away is the vegetation to begin operation. They have three drag buckets, with a capacity of one and one-half yards each, and a four-yard shovel.

I was allowed to examine the ponderous machine which handles the 14,000 feet of 3½-inch cable and the system of handling the loaded and empty cars, and I look upon it as one of the wonders of the world. It tried my nerve a bit to stand on top of a loaded ore car and feel it pitch over the crown and start on its descent. This was extremely rapid, reaching the bottom in four minutes, and the sensation must be similar to that of a flying machine stunt when the gasoline runs short.

The car was ready to carry me back to Felton, and the return was just as fascinating as the morning trip had been.—J. Frank Lanning in the *Pittsburg (Pa.) Gazette*.

CUBAN IRON-ORE TITLES

Havana Correspondence of the *New York Engineering Journal*.

Interest attaches to a recent development in the protracted litigation involving some of the Cuban iron-ore deposits. The litigation originally involved the titles and was based on the fundamental question as to whether the clay iron ore, a residual product from the decompo-



Pier of the Spanish-American Iron Company at Felton, Nipe Bay, Oriente Province. The pier is one-eighth of a mile long, built out far in the bay because of shallow water

sition in place of the basic country rock, was "ore" within the meaning of the Spanish law, or whether it was a ferruginous clay—clay not being subject to denouncement as iron ores are: This subject was investigated by universities of Europe and America for the various parties in interest and it seemed to be clear that the clay iron ores of eastern Cuba were ore, applying to them the test of chemical and physical changes in the formation which had taken place and considering them in the line of their scientific origin and relations. This question was not, however, judicially passed on. Recently, however, other factors entered into the case which may have application throughout all of Latin America as regards the validity and procedure of titles of certain deposits. As is already known, the laws of the Latin-American countries are based on Spanish common law, just as the laws of the United States, where not otherwise enacted into statutes or regulations, or by court decision, go back to statute regulations of the time of Queen Elizabeth and to subsequent English decisions.

It appears that the records discovered in Spain disclose decisions and regal decrees made about 800 years ago which define denounceable ores in a manner which would exclude from that class deposits of material which can be moved from the surface without mining, and which are found loose on the surface. Specifications were made later to apply to gold placer deposits. It is well known that the tin placer deposits in Mexico are not denounceable and belongs to the owners of the lands, whereas gold placer deposits under specific law are denounceable.

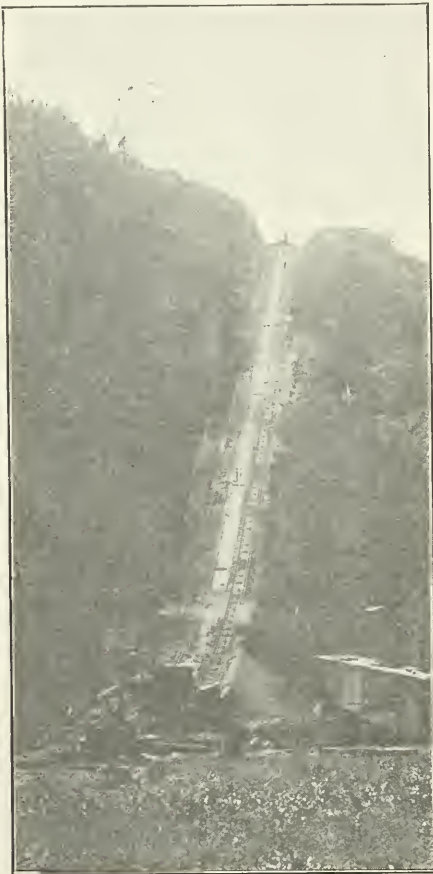
If this Spanish common law is effective and can be applied to the residual deposits of eastern Cuba, then the titles which were based on denouncement will be adversely affected and the equity of the deposits will be confirmed as part of the land title. This question has not been adjudicated and is only presented for discussion, but it is obvious that its confirmation or

denial in the Cuban issue will automatically extend its scope to all the Latin-American countries, in so far as subsequent legislation or decisions have not superseded this ancient regulation and interpretation.

NEW COPPER DEPOSIT FOUND

Dr. Narciso Alfredo Portas y Rojas, Mayor of Pinar del Rio, has laid claim to new copper lodes in that province. Dr. Portas is now the largest possessor of mineral lands in that section.

According to Cuban mining laws, the owner of the land has no claim to his property beyond the top soil. If valuable mineral is discovered on his land by an outsider, the latter immediately claims it, draws a line around the section, and then waits for the former to buy him out, which he is forced to do to retain his own rights.



Inclined railway for the removal of iron ore to the coast from the mines of the Spanish-American Company at Daiquiri.

An unusually interesting article, showing the rapidity with which extensive iron ore properties in the island are being developed, was printed in the April issue.

DECREASE IN IRON EXPORTS

There was a decrease in the iron ore exports from Cuba during 1913. This was due to the slackening of the demand from the United States, where all the iron ore mined on the island is sent. Iron, as usual, was by far the most important mineral product. The total exportation for the year was 987,654 tons. Copper ore showed a slight increase. The output of the year was 74,000 tons. A small amount of gold ore was exported, its value totaling something over \$200,000. This gold came from the mines at Holguin.



Pidanse catálogos "CR" y precios al Representante general para la Isla

SR. L. A. BUCHACA, AGUIAR 92, HABANA

ALABAMA COAL TO CUBA

A coal operator of Birmingham, Ala., has closed a contract with several customers in Cuba for Alabama coal. It is stated that the coal is for experimental purposes, and that if the tests come out as are expected an order will follow for more than 100,000 tons.