

park. One is to be the Convalescent Hospital for which the city has suffered so long. Thousands of patients who have only half recovered are sent away from the city's hospitals every year because of the other thousands who are always waiting to take their places. A place of rest where they can pick up strength for two or three weeks would mean to them what nothing within their reach now can give—often enough life itself. The other is to be the hospital for the little crippled sufferers from bone tuberculosis, to whom the seashore holds out the only promise of relief and cure. It will be remembered that some years ago private charity raised a sum of over a quarter of a million dollars to build this hospital. The city was to furnish the site. It has never done so. The money is in the bank yet, while the five thousand little cripples in our tenements suffer without hope. The Parks and Playgrounds Association has seized upon the present opportunity to take a vigorous stand for the acquisition of a park now, before the closing of the corporate stock budget puts it off for another year. A Seaside Park Committee of influential citizens has been appointed and is conducting an active campaign. While its members favor the Rockaway Beach site, as for many reasons the logical one, the demand of the Committee is for *a park now*, while the city has what may be its last chance to acquire one. In that there is much reason. Practically all the seaside property within reach is now in private hands, mostly unwilling to part with it. Values are advancing rapidly. Three years ago New York could have bought for a million dollars seashore lands for which now three times as much money is asked. The very Rockaway site is a part of this land. As to the need of a people's seashore park there is no question. It is great now, and it will be greater as the city grows. Alone among all the world's great seaboard cities, New York has neglected this opportunity, as it has let so many others pass in days gone by. It planned so badly (or rather it ~~did~~ not plan at all) that when the great crowding came in Manhattan and room had to be made, it was compelled to buy parks and playgrounds at the rate of a million dollars a block. The Mulberry Bend of a scant

three acres cost the city a million and a half. Shall we repeat these costly errors? is the question put by the advocates of the seaside park; or shall we learn from them? The answer will mean much to the metropolis, much now and more hereafter. The Committee, of which Jacob A. Riis is chairman, announces that it is in the fight to a finish—that is, till the seaside park has become a fact.



THE STAVRIOTÆ The twentieth century is bringing greater privileges as regards freedom of religious worship. A striking proof of this is seen in Asia Minor. That land has been the scene of many martyrdoms and massacres, often of special vindictiveness because of the suspicion that some of the Mohammedans secretly favored Christianity. The suspicion was justified. Two and a half centuries ago the Greek inhabitants of a number of villages not far from Trebizond, notably the village of Stavri, were forcibly "converted" to Mohammedanism. They were compelled to adopt Mohammedan names, to worship in mosques, and to serve as soldiers at a time when only Mohammedans served in the army. Yet these people also worshiped in underground chapels; they kept the Christian sacraments in secret; they had their Christian names, which they secretly used. A generation ago the Stavriotæ—the inhabitants of Stavri—attempted to throw off their guise of Mohammedanism, but the attempt was checked. Five years ago the attempt was renewed, but in vain. With the establishment of the Young Turk régime and the proclamation of greater religious liberty, the Stavriotæ saw their chance to be recognized as Christians, and a year ago last winter actually prevailed upon the Governor of Trebizond to send an official request to that effect to the Central Government at Constantinople. The following spring the Government granted the request. But the Governor of Trebizond waited *nine months* before communicating it to the Stavriotæ! However, all's well that ends well. The Stavriotæ may hereafter live openly as Christians, and a constitutional régime ends an injustice and tyranny that under a dictatorship had lasted two hundred and fifty years.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CANAL

Not only Congress but the American people should at once be awakened to the vital necessity involved in the problem of the management of the Panama Canal after it is built, and for this reason I wish that the article on another page by Mr. Talbot, setting forth the views of Colonel Goethals, could be distributed as a tract everywhere. The building of the Panama Canal is one of the really great feats (not too numerous) with which mankind can be credited during its history, and second only in importance to its construction will come the question of its proper management. Hitherto everything done in connection with the Canal has reflected the very highest credit upon the people of the United States. The whole history of the undertaking, from the acquisition of the Panama strip to the extraordinarily successful initial and preliminary feat of Colonel Gorgas in perfecting sanitary conditions—a feat without which no further work on the Isthmus could have been attempted—and then to the extraordinarily successful management of Colonel Goethals, has been the history of a monumental achievement in which the highest efficiency has been combined with the highest and most sensitive integrity and disinterestedness. Not one touch of scandal has been connected with the work at any stage, and the only people who have ever been discredited in connection with it are the very few who have attempted to start slanderous stories about some feature of it. The Bishop of British Honduras, Bishop Bury, in an English magazine, the "Treasury," for January last, gave a very interesting account, not only of the titanic work of building the Panama Canal itself, but of the extraordinary success of the Government in caring for the moral and physical welfare of the army of employees who are doing the work. Bishop Bury has had large experience with what has been done by civilized nations in tropical countries. His concluding paragraphs are as follows:

There can be few places where more is done for those engaged in a great undertaking than on the Canal Zone, and I have never yet seen a work where, as far as one

can judge, it has been more the wish and intention of those responsible to "do the thing thoroughly."

The utmost care is taken to keep the place morally wholesome and clean, and, as the Governor appears to be clothed with really absolute and despotic authority, he takes care to keep all the "undesirables" at a distance. This, of course, is not easy, but I am assured that there are a number of officials always on the lookout, and that bad characters, as soon as known, are at once "fired"—a very expressive term for being effectually got rid of and sent off.

It was a great pleasure to me to meet Colonel Gorgas, the medical member of the Canal Commission, under whose superintendence the work of "cleaning up" has been so effectually done, and yellow fever completely banished, and malarial fever brought down to a very low margin, compared with other days.

Colon and Panama have both been rejuvenated, from a sanitary point of view, and altogether I can imagine Panama becoming just the place for a rest cure, and taking its place as one of the health resorts of the world.

This enterprise—and I know of no other of anything like the same magnitude of which it can be said—has aimed from the first at promoting (1) the efficiency of those engaged in it, (2) their physical well-being, and (3) their moral and spiritual good. No one ought to deteriorate there! On the contrary, I can imagine a young man going there, and perhaps being a little bit "slack" in character, but returning to the United States, when his work is done, more efficient, better in health, and braced up in his moral tone; and this, I know I am right in saying, was President Roosevelt's aim when he determined that the Canal should be acquired.

It is most interesting to go and see how, as it has been said, the Americans are "making the dirt fly" at Panama, but to me it has been of the very greatest interest to see how that is being done, and done very thoroughly and encouragingly in a sense of which the inventor of that phrase probably never dreamed.

Mr. Talbot's article incidentally furnishes a fresh illustration of what was really done by myself as President on the occasions when I was denounced as acting "unconstitutionally." After Mr. Stevens's resignation (as to the details of which, by the way, Mr. Talbot is in error), I became convinced that it was imperative that there should be a single head on the Isthmus. Congress clung to the plan of a seven-headed commission. But the President had very great power, implied in the mere fact of being President, which he could use with the utmost advantage if he were willing to take the responsibility and to