PROGRESS OF WORK ON PANAMA CANAL

The grand total of Canal excavations during the month of August was 6,723,178 cubic yards, which is 89,062 cubic yards less than the total for July, and 1,123,159 less than the highest record, that of July, 1908. The amount excavated from the Canal prism was 2,830,869 cubic yards. There was taken out by seam shovels 1,004,791 cubic yards. To the number of cubic yards excavated by dredges, the month of August shows a decrease of 138,176 cubic yards from the previous month. In the Atlantic Division the total excavations were 1,190,073 cubic yards, 6,472 more than were removed in July. Of this total 1,104,052 cubic yards were taken from the Canal prism elsewhere than in the Canal itself, and 86,021 from the Olape Diversion, which is outside the Canal prism. In the Pacific Division the total excavation was 818,726 cubic yards, 150,329 less than were removed in July. Of this total 144,696 cubic yards were removed by steam shovels, and 674,030 by dredges. A total of 75,344 cubic yards of concrete placed in the Gatun Locks, 3,493 cubic yards of concrete in the Sipway, and 375,332 cubic yards of fill were added to the Gatun Dam during the month.

The highest point in Canal excavation was reached in March, 1909. Since that time there has been a gradual diminution in the monthly total. The period of easy digging is almost past. Dredges and steam shovels are constantly less exact and more rough day by day. Then, too, several comparatively small pieces of work were completed, and the general field of work has been narrowed. In October, when the work is continued on the same scale as heretofore, there is no diminution in the output.

Compared with August, 1908, the excavation in August, 1909, showed better work than even the number of cubic yards were removed. In January, 1908, 82,481 shovels were at work and in August, 1908, only 84 shovels. The chief difference, however, is in the falling off in car service, due to the long haul now made by freight trains to Gatun, 104,5 miles beyond Tabernilla, whereas in 1908 the nearest point was to Tabernilla—Canal Record.

The British government after prolonged negotiations, has completed arrangements to take over all the canal stations of the Marconi wireless system, with the exception of two small stations, which company is retaining for its projected transatlantic service.

The Mexican volcano, Colima, is in eruption, throwing clouds of smoke and ashes over the surrounding country. Lava is reported to be filling the neighboring valley.

All efforts to bring about a settlement of the street car employees strike in Omaha have so far been ineffective.

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