

A MULE BACK TRIP IN BOLIVIA.

Through the Lonely Heart of the Andes—Government Highway to the Yungas Valley.

Special Correspondence.

Chulimani, Bolivia, Aug. 2.—The tropical valley of Yungas beyond the last Andean wall and down near the headwaters of the Amazon, forms one of the most important departments of Bolivia, because therein are raised most of Bolivia's articles of export and of home consumption. The round trip between the city of La Paz and Chulimani—the latter being the capital of the department—amounts to a distance of about 523 Yankee miles, reckoned by reducing the Bolivian league which is 6,100 English yards. Though all of Bolivia's cocoa and coffee, fruit, wines and sugar, are raised in Yungas, and though the government annually expends a large sum of money on the alleged road thereto, the only highway of centuries is mostly a narrow trail, cut round and round the edges of sky-clinging mountains—sometimes zigzag and to and fro across their perpendicular faces like the tacking of a ship, in places where neither man nor mule could climb straight up like a fly on the wall. But few places along the trail are wider than barely to allow two mules to walk abreast, and many miles of it compel single file procession. Horses are never used on this journey, for they cannot survive the rapid change between the regions of eternal snow and perpetual summer. While a horse might possibly reach the lowlands, if sufficiently sure-footed, on the return he would surely die of stroke, which in reality is heart failure brought on by lack of oxygen in the air.

Mules are employed instead of the sturdy little donkeys of the Indians, hundreds of them being constantly on the road, laden with every conceivable commodity. Llamas, those strange animals that are found only in the Andes, are also used as beasts of burden in the mountains, but they are never seen near sea level. At least so the Bolivian Indians believe. A degenerate species of the same animal is sometimes seen in "zoos," even in the United States.

STUPENDOUS HEIGHTS.

The wonder is that any road could ever have been made in these stupendous heights. If tourists make the trip they must attach themselves to some native party, or secure the services of an experienced Aorrierro (muleteer), who will supply mules for the travelers and several extra ones for carrying beds, provisions, and other luggage; besides moses or men-servants to do the cooking and act as guard. On the first day out from La Paz, about 15 miles from it but 4,000 feet above it—the highest point in the journey is attained. It is called Alto del Cruz and is fully 2,400 feet higher than the level of the sea. Peak or something over 17,000 feet above the stars that you are at home. The Alto extends almost to a dead level for several miles before the descent begins. At any time of year the traveler away up here is likely to encounter a snow storm, the big round flakes that look like hail, melting as they fall, wetting his garments through and through, while a stinging wind chills him to the marrow. In addition to the usual program, a thunder storm was thrown in for our entertainment, lightning playing in the clouds above, and hollow echoes reverberating from peak to peak. Of course our animals suffered severely, blood oozing from their nostrils, and were obliged to halt every few minutes, panting painfully, while we waited between the wet and biting cold had not a breath to spare with which to urge them onward. To add to the general melancholy of this desolate journey, we passed the body of a dead man lying prone across the road, with glassy eyes staring up to the cheerless sky. Whether he had been murdered or had died from natural causes, we dared not pause to investigate, for if the former, the finders of the corpse might be held for months in La Paz to give testimony in the Bolivian courts. A number of Indians, coming up the trail from the opposite direction, had just discovered the unfortunate, and to their care we left him.

WHERE LIFE IS CHEAP.

From time immemorial these lonely mountains have been infested with bands of highwaymen who trip the even the poor Indian on his little crockery, Yungas from the sale of his little crockery for the sake of the few dollars his half-yearly work has gained. The Indian highwaymen, though less numerous than those of lighter color, are more cowardly and much more to be dreaded, for they do not fight openly, but skulk like snakes behind the rocks and throw a stone at your head from a sling, with unerring accuracy of aim.

Their own battles with one another are always fought with stones and slings, a la David and Goliath, and very seldom does an Indian fail to bring down his man. Sometimes, after unusual atrocities have been perpetrated, troops are sent out to hunt down the assassins, and then for a time comparative safety is insured. A general robber-hunt and been made shortly before our journey, in which a large number was captured, and as soldiers were still continuing the search, we had no occasion for fear. In the prison at Chulimani we saw of the newly-captured bandit, three of whom were women, and a more villainous-looking group would be hard to find.

REST AND FOOD.

At intervals all along the uninhabited part of this strange highway the government has had places of shelter erected for man and beast. These are called tambo (fac-similes of the missions of Mexico), and each in charge of a family, who is well paid for it, will supply food for the mules, and generally something edible for the human guests. But in every instance the mules get the best of it. Of course the traveler has brought his own mattress and blankets and store of provisions and some sort of amateur cooking contrivance by which he can at least make a cup of tea. But you can easily imagine that after a long day's ride in the mountains the average explorer does not feel much in the mood for cooking, the extraordinary altitude being to tumble a mattress down anywhere, roll himself up in a blanket and make mutual calculation of his blisters and bruises, while the tambo keeper proceeds to prepare for him whatever the pleasure. On the first day's ride from La Paz, though one is unused to the saddle, the extraordinary altitude, and the terrible roads—thirty-three miles must be made to reach a sleeping place, the only alternative being a night in the open air.

ANDES' GRANDEUR.

The greatest artist that ever lived could not convey with brush and colors an adequate idea of the awe-inspiring grandeur of the Andes; and certainly no pen-picture can do them faintest justice. Moses may have beheld similar sights on cloud-wrapped Sinai, when the glory of heaven was upon it, as he listened to the voice of the Lord. As our journey led near to the Bolivian headwaters of the Amazon, we crossed the last interior spur of the Andean system. Not many of the Anglo-Saxon race have ever penetrated these immense recesses of the mountains; and of that number few were women. This seventh range

shows for three hundred miles, a succession of sharp, snow-capped peaks, each presenting to the westward a sheer cliff, many a thousand feet high, which looks like a gigantic sugar-hat split in the middle, the fallen half piled below in a chaos of slate-like debris. Seen from a distance, their bare and totally inaccessible sides look black as ink, in contrast with the interminable snow-fields above, which the foot of man or beast has never trodden. Occasionally a condor is seen—the pet's "proud bird of the Andes"—slowly circling to his home above the clouds. For most of the way the road winds round and round the mountain side at an enormous height, up and down, and sharply curving, sometimes being a regular series of stairs cut into the solid rock. One or two of these stair-like passages is several miles long, with abrupt turns and zigzags, up and down which our beasts picked their way with utmost care.

In this sort of traveling the great point is to gain perfect confidence in your animal, and be sure that the saddle girths are kept as tight as he can bear them, to fix your eyes on the heavenly views, regardless of subsidiary things. Not an easy thing at all times, to keep your head in the clouds while maintaining a firm seat on the back of a mule which insists on walking on the every edge of the trail, its every step dislodging earth and stones that roll down in an immeasurable distance the third of striking bottom is not heard. Perhaps the greatest danger on this road is that of meeting a party coming from the opposite direction. Even a few miles a wider place has been hollowed out, and all travelers are expected to pause here and blow horns to signal their presence to those who may be coming. Worst of all, cattle are sometimes driven over wild bulls for the plazas de toros, and the foremost bull is likely to dispute the passage with any comer.

Such a spectacle and cascades as come tumbling down from unknown heights, to the valley, far, far below, some of them rivaling in magnificence our own Niagara, or anything the Yosemite can show, while the river which fills the center of the narrow, winding valley, so far below our aerial track that it is in reality a raging cataract, dashing over giant boulders with a noise like thunder, for more than 50 miles outdoing the rapids above Niagara. There are mountains on every hand, mountains everywhere, stretching away to the horizon; while the nearest range on the opposite side of the valley, parallel to this we are slowly traversing, appears almost near enough to toss a stone from one to the other. When the lowlands are reached, comes the new experience of fording the many small rivers that flow into the larger ones; but we found it preferable to most of the bridges along the route—ramp structures swung from tree to tree, and swaying like cradles beneath us. At one point the road lies for a number of miles directly through the bed of a river, whose clear waters, not deep, but rapid, foam noisily over slippery rocks.

BEAUTY INDESCRIBABLE.

When once in the valley, no words can tell the beauty and luxuriance of the tropical vegetation in solitudes where "Near to Nature's heart" is not an empty ideal. There are groves of wild banana trees, whose broad leaves of brightest green are each large enough for a tent; towering palms of many species, wonderful orchids, shining foliage, beautiful flowers, and enormous ferns whose perfect fronds wave high over head. And then the birds of brilliant plumage—parrots, macaws, parakeets, cardinals, the monkey chattering among the trees, gorgeous butterflies as large as the palm of your hand, beetles dressed in green and blue and gold, jumping birds like living jewels and other wonders encountered at every step.

A portion of the road to Yungas capital is a mere footpath running between orange and lime trees crowded so closely together as to rake off our hats with their branches and render imminent the fate of Absalom. The lower hillsides are mostly laid out in terraced slopes for the cultivation of cocoa, the great industry of the valley. Except in two or three villages, there are few habitations in all this long distance, but it is one of the most interesting being generally of aristocratic structure, merely poles stuck into the ground, patched with grass and walled, if walled at all, with fern leaves interwoven. "Where every prospect pleases, and only man is vile" might well be sung of Yungas.

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FOR HEADACHE. FOR DIZZINESS. FOR BILIOUSNESS. FOR TORPID LIVER. FOR CONSTIPATION. FOR SALLOW SKIN. FOR THE COMPLEXION.

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MONDAY, SEPT. 21st. WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23rd. THURSDAY, SEPT. 24th.

Magnetic Millinery Fresh With Europe's and America's Last Touches.

UNRIVALED Display of Artistic Marvels from the World's Greatest Style Creators most Strikingly Exhibited. Never before have the styles been so attractive, so becoming, as those shown this season. The endless variety of Beautiful Headwear gives ample opportunity for everyone to be suited, not only in the more elaborate productions, but in the medium priced hats as well. In Ready-to-Wear Hats our variety is unsurpassed in both style and price.

Gorgeous Garments

The season for women's fashionable fall outer wear is now at its height, and our showing is now at its best. The most correct fashion thoughts find their truest expression in the elegant creations assembled here. A walk through the Great Section devoted to Women's Outer Garb would afford real pleasure and surprise, as the style showing is sufficiently important and grand to be classed as an Opening Display, but here it is but an incident of our regular course of business. 'T would be well for any intending purchaser of Woman's Outer Garb, be it for a modest priced garment or the richest manufactured, to see our stock in its present completeness.

A FEW SPECIALS IN LADIES' Dress and Walking Skirts.



Ladies' wool Melton walking skirts, prettily stitched, flared bottom, inverted plait back; you would consider them a bargain at \$5.00, our price this week—

\$3.50

\$5.00

Just received a line of black dress skirts, 9 gore with flared bottom, medium weight, trimmed with black taffeta silk ribbon throughout lined with percale lining, length 40 to 44 inches, special

\$4.50

A NEW SAMPLE SKIRTS in Beau de Soie Silk. This skirts are full flare, 9 gore, trimmed with fancy medallion and applique, the usual price \$12.50, while the last—

\$9.50



Women's and Misses' Fall Tailored Suits!

This great department is now stocked with new fall tailored women's and misses' suits. Never before have the styles been so beautiful and the assortment so great.

At \$11.00 Tailored walking suits of the latest fancy mixtures, fabrics unexcelled for richness and durability 30 inch coat box front lined with heavy Italian lining, 7 gore skirt; just a few of them.

At \$13.50

NEW FALL BLOUSE SUIT, swaggar new to waist, new gore shape trainless skirt, colors dark grey, blue and tan.

At \$18.50

A SWELL, COLLARLESS BLOUSE SUIT, double plait front forming a handsome panel effect, satin lined to waist, trainless skirt plaited skirt, a winner at above price.

At \$22.50

A LONG CORSET COAT SUIT, made of fine taffeta silk lining, turn over cuffs, a 7 gore trainless skirt in navy blue and black.

THE NEW AUTUMN WAISTS.

We Mention the Price of a Few of This Interesting Collection.



White marseilles waists, with two box pleats in back, two inverted pleats in front, yoke effect, trimmed with large pearl buttons; all sizes at—

\$1.25

OUR CELEBRATED DERBY WAIST, made of heavy oxford, 4 rows inverted plaiting in front, new stock collar, large pouch sleeves, trimmed with large pearl buttons; all sizes at—

\$2.25

NEW SILK WAIST in fine taffeta silk, stitched in front and back in colors, plain navy, tan, pale blue, old rose and black

\$3.50

NEW BLACK SILK BEAU DE SOIE WAISTS, neatly trimmed with large or small tucks, satin-covered buttons; all sizes; prices \$4.50, \$5.00 and—

\$6.00

FUR NECKWEAR—A superb assortment of scarfs, long boas and collarettes in sable, mink, martin and near seal; prices ranging from \$2.50 to—

\$35.00

Excellent Values In The New Autumn Silks and Dress Goods.

The response to our offerings of strictly High Class Silk and Dress Goods has been most flattering. The economies of the artists of the mode might make us vain of the good taste exhibited in our general collection, yet we halt not, but keep adding everything in all the most novel and approved styles, to our Silk and Dress Goods section. A perusal of the following items will be interesting.

Fine Black and Colored Silks.

BLACK TAFFETA SILKS—Good wearing, reliable black taffeta silks for skirts, petticoats, linings, coats and fine dress wear in widths of 19, 23, 27 and 36 inches, selling at \$6, \$5, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75 and intervening prices per yard.

NEW NOVELTY SILKS—A magnificent variety of new novelty silks for waists and full costumes, new ideas and exclusive designs, included among them are Bayadere stripes, two toned broad effects, broadened Surahs, gun metal, dotted and broadened taffets and many other varieties in prices from

\$1.00 to \$4.00.

COLORÉD PEAU DE SOIE—A new line of solid colors in all silk Peau de Soie, a very pretty silk for waists, in all colors, including ivory white, cream and black, a very beautiful quality, regular price \$1.00, selling at—

85 cents.

NEW COLORED DRESS GOODS

AT 38-inch Zibelines. AT 38-inch Hop Sackings. 38-in. Fancy Crash Suiting. 38-inch Granite Suiting. 38-inch Storm Serge.

THESE QUALITIES COME IN ALL THE LATE SHADES AND COLORINGS.

We open this week for your inspection exclusive and imported high class dress patterns in name Zibelines, Camels' hair cloth, Illuminated Zibelines, Fancy Hop sackings, Illuminated Flannel, etc.

These are exclusive Dress Patterns. The Styles and Colorings are perfection.

NEW BLACK DRESS GOODS.

EXTRA VALUES—Black Novelty and Plain Granites, strictly high grade, pure Australian wool, Priestley's and Lupin weaves. Meaning perfection in style and wearing qualities. Full assortment ranging from (per yard)—

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EXTRA VALUES—Black Velles and Etamines, both plain and Novelty effects. The products of the best mills of the world, unsurpassed as a dress fabric for afternoon and evening gowns. Full assortment, ranging in price from (per yard)—

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EXTRA VALUES—Camels' Hair Zibelines and Cheviots, both plain and Novelty weaves, extra heavy satiny effects, the long-haired kind, made by Priestley and Lupin, weaving perfection, in dye style and wearing qualities unsurpassed for tailor-made gowns and skirts.

\$1.00 to \$2.50.

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SPECIALS FOR NEXT WEEK.

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Ladies' \$2.25 Kid Lace Shoes, \$1.79

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Ladies' \$3.00 Kid Extension \$2.25

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Artistic and exclusive patterns, textures which have brought expressions of praise from every woman who has visited this department.

Our imported Waistings and Flannels are marvels of Beauty, our Domestic Flannels are exquisite. We have made more than Ordinary Efforts to surpass any display heretofore presented in this city. Not only that, but we have made price attractions equally deserving your attention. Introductory Specials for this week.

The Latest White Pileed Mar-

seilles Waistings in exclusive designs:

Value 25c at.....20 cents

Value 30c at.....25 cents

Value 40c at.....40 cents

Value 70c at.....60 cents

Value 75c at.....65 cents

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Unlimited assortment of all the popular styles at prices making them the biggest values ever shown.

Here are four Novelty Special features for the Season's Opening Sale.

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Latest Styles, Newest Shades and Patterns, Autumn Goods, Popular Goods and Popular Prices. A few of our many Money Saving Values.

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