

Excavation for Spillway, Gatun

The Gatun Dam has a well-established position as the bugaboo of the canal. The Chagres used to be the arch-bogey, but now the structure which is designed to restrain that vexatious stream has usurped the first place in the interest and apprehension of the public. The criticisms and suspicions that have been directed against the great dam can only be accounted for by the fact that it is the key to the whole plan and the most essential feature of it. feature of it. Any discredit that can be cast upon it affects the entire look level project, and so the opponents of the canal concentrate their attacks on what they consider the most vulnerable quarter. The average individual, lacking technical knowledge of the subject, is prone to accept these strictures. To him

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After a Blast special board of engineers was solely to restore public confidence, and none knew better than the men engaged on the work that the visiting commission could not make any sort of effective investigation in the time allowed to them. A month or two would have been necessary for the accomplihment of such a task. As it was they were compelled to rely upon the statements of the engineers on the line, which there is no reason to believe were in the slightest degree perversions of the

> The work on the canal is proceeding with admirable smoothness and dispatch. The men on whom the chief responsibility rests are proving themselces to be quite equal to the task, and, if allowed to proceed without unnecessary interruptions, such as the recent "investigation," will complete it in the time set by them—that is to say before the close of the year 1915. It has been, so to speak, uphill work until the present. We are just at the point of starting down grade. Absolutely all the data necessary is in hand. The ground is ready for the work of building the consents at years.

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