PENSION BUREAU'S CRUELTY.

Refusal of a Pension to Gen. Turchin and Then to His Widow.

(From the Chicago Tribune.)

In the National Cemetery at Mound City, Ill., inconspicuous among the headstones which mark the last resting place of many a weary soldier, stands a marble slab, upon which the stonecutter before many years must carve another date. It reads:

JOHN B. TURCHIN,
Brig. Gen'l, U. S. V.
Dec. 24, 1822. June 18, 1901.
NADINE,
His Wife.
Nov. 26, 1826.

A widow's last dollar went to the payment for this headstone which should keep the memory of her dead husband alive. For six months only the Government of an adopted country had paid a pension to this man who had won distinction and honors in fighting for that country's integrity. Then, sinking into that last sleep, this foster country gave him resting place among its dead heroes; left a place beside him for the wife when she, too, should answer that last call; allowed her to spend her last penny for a headstone for the man who had been a helpmate for more than 40 years; cut off the pension that so grudgingly had been given to the dead husband; and now, after these 40 years of domestic happiness, in which the faithful wife followed the husband in the field of war, tearing her skirts to ribbons, at times, in order to bind the wounds of the suffering soldiers, and in which she stood always as the comforter of the man whose name she bore—this wife is looking to the General Government for a pension of $50 a month.

And Senator Mason and Congressman Kern, of Illinois, "think the bill will pass."

"I have received a copy of the bill introduced in Congress by kind-hearted Senator Mason," wrote Mrs. Turchin, recently. "It brought from me the natural response of a broken-hearted woman—tears—Blessed be those who help not only those who have physical need, but bless many times more those who alleviate moral suffering."

WIFE'S CRUEL FATE.

For mental and moral sufferings have been the share of Mrs. Nadine Turchin since the death of her husband. That the technicalities of the Pension Office of a great Government have presumed to cast doubt on her relations to a life companion has wounded her sorely. With a spot reserved at the side of her dead where she, too, shall sleep, and with a blank bit of marble upon which the last record of "Nadine, his wife," one day will be chiseled, it had been a cruel fortune which would leave her dishonored because the records of a marriage in far-off Russia nearly half a century ago are not to be submitted in evidence.

But here and there through her years of poverty and sorrow she has received the balm which personal friendships have brought, and not the least of these was a letter received by her the other day in her poor home at Radom, Ill.—a letter written by Silas Howe, of Chicago, paying tribute to her and to the memory of her husband, inclosing, as many others have done, the gratuity which only a friend dares give to a friend. The letter reads:

"My Dear Mrs. Turchin: After seeing your name mentioned in a newspaper yesterday it takes my memory back to near 40 years ago, when I was a younger man than today and was a member of the 18th Ky. Inf., one of the regiments forming the brigade of which your beloved husband—Gen. Turchin, an officer we all loved—was commander. It also recalls to memory the 'General's wife,' patient and tireless, riding along, horseback, with the column of soldiers, accompanied by her orderly, 'Little Jimmie,' of Co. A, 18th Ky., through rain or sunshine or dust and smoke of battle, over mountains or through the woods of Tennessee and Georgia, during the memorable campaign of Tullahoma, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, speaking a kind word of encouragement now and then to a tired and weary soldier, cheering him up to renewed exertions in his weary march. Verily we had brave women in those days as well as brave men.

"Now that we are older I often live the old times over again and think of those that were with us and have passed over the river. And now, my dear Mrs. Turchin, I hope I may some day get to Radom and have the pleasure of seeing and talking with you, as nothing gives me greater pleasure than to meet an 'old comrade,' and such I consider you.

"With kindest regards for your health and welfare, I remain very truly,

"Silas Howe.

"To Mrs. Nadine A. Turchin, Radom, Ill.

"Kindly accept the inclosed remembrance in the spirit that it is given."

IN PATHETIC POVERTY.

This was the letter, opened the other day in a poor cottage in Radom, Ill. A gentle, patient, white-haired woman opened it. There are two rooms in the cottage, neither of which has a carpet. There is some fine old furniture, badly worn, but the index of gentility. Outside there are some pigs and a cow. There is a bell outside, by means of which she can summon someone if she should be in need of help. Otherwise, she is alone, saying nothing of her needs, saying nothing of the adopted country which indirectly seems to have forced her there after all the efforts of her husband and herself in its behalf.

The portrait of Mrs. Turchin, printed by the Tribune, was made from the first and only photograph which she has ever had taken. The picture was made especially for the Tribune by a young Centralia photographer named Richards, who was induced by the Centralia correspondent of the Tribune to make an especial effort to get her picture.

Richards got M. D. Pawlowski, the Illinois Central Agent at Radom, to go with him to Mrs. Turchin's house as interpreter. A mile and a half from Radom the pair arrived at the widow's house. On seeing it Richards thought it was a barn, and was much astonished when his companion knocked to hear a small female voice answer. Pawlowski was forced to give his name before she would open the door so much as a crack. Then she let him in, because he is her conservator. He is the only living person whom she will admit, however.

Pawlowski took his young friend Richards in with him, much to the old lady's disgust, and they saw a little, dark, dirty room, filled with boxes of dusty books, a bed, a lounge and a table, all also covered with dusty books. Mrs. Turchin had to look through a great number of books before she finally brought to light a picture of the General.

Mrs. Turchin is 76 years old and has many peculiarities. She dresses roughly, wearing men's trousers under her skirts. When she was asked to have her picture taken she flatly refused. After much argument in Polish between her and Pawlowski she consented on the grounds that her old friends, the soldiers, would like to have a picture of her printed.

Her house is built of up and down boards, with batten strips, and has a lean-to. Mrs. Turchin lives in the two front rooms and keeps her cow and pigs in the lean-to.

The story goes back half a century and half way around the world.

John B. Turchin was born in Russia. He was of a favored class, was well educated, passed to the military schools, and was graduated as an engineer. In the Crimean war he won a Colonelcy and high honors. In 1856 he was given a year's leave of absence and came to the United States with a young wife. Mme. Turchin was the daughter of an aristocratic family and had been well educated. The two young people liked the United States and concluded to remain here. Col. Turchin attempted to resign his position in the Russian army, but in reply received notice that he had been declared absent without leave, and that the estates and records of himself and wife had been confiscated by the Government.

At the breaking out of the civil war the Russian Colonel was an engineer in charge of construction of the Illinois Central Railroad. The construction gangs were at Mattoon when Lincoln's first call for troops echoed through the country. Turchin resigned his position with the railroad company and enlisted for service with the Illinois Volunteers. He was commissioned Colonel of the 19th Ill., and he and his men, having only muskets for armament, were detailed to guard duty at Palmyra, Mo.

Here Turchin clashed with the War Department. He levied on the country around him for supplies, taking rations, horses and equipment, and issuing vouchers. His regiment broke up the Confederate enlistments; but Gen. Pope preferred charges against Col. Turchin. Gen. Fremont talked with Col. Turchin and tore up Gen. Pope's charges.

Mrs. Turchin was with her husband. She went with him to Pilot Knob, Mo., then into Kentucky, and she had started with the regiment for Washington when the train went through a bridge that had been wrecked near Vincennes on Sept. 17, 1861. Twenty-seven men were killed and 106 were injured in this accident, and as the good angel of the calamity, Mrs. Turchin tore up all but the dress she wore, making bandages for the wounded.

Instead of going to Washington the regiment went to Elizabethtown, Ky., and Gen. Buell made Col. Turchin the chief officer to Gen. Mitchel. Turchin captured Bowling Green and planned and carried out the raid, capturing the Memphis & Charleston Railroad from Decatur to Bridgeport.

As a Brigadier-General under Buell, Turchin's troops had poor rations and were ordered to forage. Buell had Turchin and his Colonels court-martialed, and while the trial was pending Gen. Turchin, at Huntsville, received a telegram from Mr. Watson, Assistant Secretary of War:

"We are advised that Gen. Buell, instead of guarding his communications, is court-martialing good, loyal officers, and I thought it unadvisable to send a Brigadier-General's commission to Huntsville, but have sent it to Chicago."

After Gen. Turchin's death this telegram was found among his effects. But on Aug. 19, 1862, he was "dishonorably discharged." His commission as Brigadier-General had taken effect on July 17, 1862, but acceptance was not filed until Sept. 1, 1862. Coming North, Chicago gave the cashiered soldier a demonstration and afterward Turchin served with Rosecrans and Garfield, organizing military divisions and fighting at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and in nearly every battle of the Atlanta campaign. Finally, just before the close of the war, he had to leave the army on account of illness.

For a while he and his wife lived in Kenwood. He was immigration agent for the Illinois Central Railway, and as such one of his greatest efforts was in founding a colony of Polanders at Radom, Ill. Soon afterward he moved to Radom, and several years ago he and his aged wife were in actual want.

REFUSED A PENSION.

In their distress the General applied for a pension, but the "dishonorable discharge" of the Department stood against him. Finally Senator J. B. Foraker, who was in Gen. Turchin's Brigade, took up the pension matter, and by special act the pension was granted in January, 1901. Before this aid came the old man had been forced to earn a living by playing the violin in public. On April 9, 1901, however, he was adjudged insane, and on June 18 he died. The Grand Army Post at Nashville, Ill., had charge of the funeral, and southern Illinois comrades, with the 19th Illinois Club, of Chicago, raised money for the burial.

Widowed and in need, Mrs. Turchin spent her last money to prove her love and loyalty to the memory of her husband. Then J. L. Davenport, Acting Commissioner of Pensions, refused to pay the General's pension to Mrs. Turchin because proofs of their marriage could not be produced. It was through Col. L. Krughoff, of Nashville, Ill., that this money finally was drawn from the Pension Department, and when application was made for a pension for the widow, the "dishonorable discharge" again was in the way. Under date of Aug. 28, 1901, H. Clay Evans, Commissioner of Pensions, wrote to Mrs. Turchin:

"Your above-cited claim for pension under the date of June 27, 1900, is rejected on the ground of no title, the soldier not having received an honorable discharge from all enlistments for service during the war of the rebellion."

Grand Army men took up the cause of the widow, and when the corrected record, done by act of Congress, was forced upon the attention of the Pension Bureau, the Department asked for proof of marriage to Gen. Turchin. Mrs. Turchin, old and troubled, had forgotten dates. Affidavits of soldiers would not do. Russian records had been destroyed. Witnesses to the ceremony were scattered or dead.

SENATOR FORAKER'S EVIDENCE.

The Department had won, when Senator Foraker, after writing a letter inclosing $100 to Mrs. Turchin, wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Pensions:

"Dear Sir: I herewith inclose a communication addressed to me by a number of citizens of the State of Illinois, among them the Hon. John C. Black, in behalf of a pension for the widow of the late Gen. John B. Turchin. I served in Gen. Turchin's Brigade. He was pensioned shortly before his death by special act of Congress, which I introduced. All the matters referred to in this letter were gone over in connection with that legislation. The Congress by favorable action passed judgment that should be conclusive and binding. Mrs. Turchin, the present applicant, accompanied Gen. Turchin on his campaigns. I knew her as his wife, and every man who belonged to his brigade admired her as much as they admired the General. She was with him constantly in the field, shared with him all the privations of the camp and all the dangers of battle. She ought to have a pension for her personal services, but surely there ought not to be any question about granting her a pension as the widow of Gen. Turchin. I account it a shameful disgrace that this poor old woman, the widow of such a gallant and heroic soldier as was Gen. Turchin, should be allowed through technical quibbling and higgling to suffer on, day after day, at the point of starvation. I know your personal attention cannot have been called to this case, otherwise such an abominable ruling would not have been made. I do not hesitate to ask your special and immediate attention to this. For years, while the Pension Bureau was higgling around about a pension for Gen. Turchin I assisted him from time to time out of my own funds. Finally, the Government came to his rescue, and, now that he is dead and gone, please let the Government do its duty and at once, before it is forever too late, to the noble woman who has survived him. It will be impossible to get affidavits of persons who witnessed the marriage, but if you want affidavits that she was the wife of Gen. Turchin, and has been his faithful and devoted helpmate through all the 40 years since the war commenced, they can be furnished by the hundred. Please consider all this as sworn to if that will do any good.

"Very truly yours, J. B. Foraker."

Senator Foraker and Senator Mason have put a bill through the Senate, allowing Mrs. Turchin $50 a month. Congressman Kern is confident that a similar bill will pass the House. But is it likely to be after the little cottage at Radom is deserted; after the gentle, patient face has gone from its windows; and after some friend has paid for cutting a last date in the marble slab in the Mound City Cemetery?

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Austin P. Quinly, the newly-appointed Corresponding Secretary of the Department of Massachusetts, Ladies of the G. A. R., is the wife of Austin Quinly, who served on the U. S. S. Kearsarge from 1861 to 1865, and was in the engagement with the Confederate Alabama at Cherbourg, France, June 19, 1864. Mrs. Quinly has filled various offices and rendered valuable services in all the patriotic associations connected with the civil and Spanish wars, being an active worker for the army as well as the navy. She is a resident of Salem. She is serving her third term as Commander of the Ladies' Veteran Navy Association, the only ladies organization of its kind in the State.

Gen. Augustus P. Martin, formerly Mayor and Police Commissioner of Boston, died at his home in Dorchester, March 13, of heart failure, at the age of 67 years. He went out in 1861 in Battery C, 1st Mass. L. A., which was in Griffin's Division of the Fifth Corps. He rose to be its Captain, and it was known by his name.

March 6 Gen. J. Wm. Hoffmann, a prominent citizen of Philadelphia, died there, aged 79. In 1861 Gen. Hoffmann recruited Co. E, 23d Pa., and was later appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the 56th. He assumed command of Gen. Heath's Brigade after the latter had been wounded. While in command of the 56th Gen. Hoffmann began the battle of Gettysburg. He was brevetted Brigadier-General in August, 1864. Gen. Hoffmann was prominent in Masonic circles and was a member of the Loyal Legion.

Col. Henry Hitchcock, brother to Secretary Hitchcock, died in St. Louis March 18. He was eminent as a lawyer and political leader and President Harrison offered him a seat on the United States Supreme Bench. He entered the army in 1864 as a Major and Judge-Advocate, and made the march through Georgia and the Carolinas. He was 71 years old.

Col. Benj. Brooke, President of the Survivors' Association of the 124th Pa., and well known among grain merchants, died March 12 at Philadelphia, Pa., aged 62 years. His first service was as Sergeant of Co. D, 124th Pa.; later he recruited Co. B, 203d Pa. He was twice wounded and was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel. He was Director of the First National Bank of Media and President of the Media Gas Company.

Opposition to Thad Mahon.

The Huntingdon (Pa.) Journal (Rep.) comes out strongly in opposition to Representative Thad. Mahon's renomination, and says:

"Mr. Mahon is a man of average intelligence, and perhaps of average industry, but neither has been directed to advancing the interests of his constituents. On the contrary, during his entire Congressional life, they have been devoted solely to building a political machine which he designs to keep him in Congress until the sound of Gabriel's trumpet. Congressmen who have special fitness should be kept in Congress; but a Congressman whose highest thought is devoted to the business of a patronage broker, who has been given 10 years in which to show special fitness for service, and who has failed so conspicuously as Mr. Mahon to show any reason for continuance in public life, should step down and out. If he declines to retire by the door, and in a graceful manner, the window is open and the district should see to it that he makes a rapid exit through that."

Work of the Pension Office.

The report of certificates issued for the week ended March 15 shows:

Army invalid: Original, 8; increase, 224; reissue, 28; restoration, 2; renewal, 34; supplemental, 3; duplicate, 35; accrued, 149. Total, 483.

Army widows, etc.: Original, 43; reissue, 5; renewal, 47; supplemental, 1; duplicate, 6; accrued, 1. Total, 103.

Navy invalids: Original, 1; increase, 4; reissue, 1. Total, 6.

Navy widows, etc.: Original, 3; increase, 1; accrued, 2. Total, 6.

Army invalids (war with Spain): Original, 83; increase, 2; reissue, 4. Total, 89.

Army widows, etc. (war with Spain): Original, 26; reissue, 1; accrued, 1. Total, 28.

Navy invalids (war with Spain): Original, 4.

Navy widows, etc (war with Spain): Original, 2.

Army invalids (act of June 27, 1890): Original, 362; increase, 742; additional, 185; reissue, 20; restoration, 1; renewal, 34; supplemental, 11; duplicate, 48; accrued, 168. Total, 1,571.

Army widows, etc (act of June 27, 1890): Original, 355; reissue, 2; restoration, 1; duplicate, 5; accrued, 7. Total, 370.

Navy invalids (act of June 27, 1890): Original, 16; increase, 21; reissue, 2; duplicate, 3; accrued, 14. Total, 56.

Navy widows, etc, (act of June 27, 1890): Original, 19; accrued, 1. Total, 20.

Mexican War survivors: Increase, 7; reissue, 51; duplicate, 3. Total, 61.

Mexican War widows: Original, 10; increase, 1; duplicate, 1. Total, 12.

Indian Wars (1832-1842)—Survivors: Original, 1; accrued, 4. Total, 5.

Indian Wars (1832-1842)—Widows: Original, 4; increase, 2. Total 6.

Totals—Original, 937; increase, 1,004; additional, 185; reissue, 114; restoration, 4; renewal, 115; supplemental, 15; duplicate, 98; accrued, 351. Total, 2,823.

Marvelous Growth of Hair.

A Famous Doctor-Chemist Has Discovered a Compound That Grows Hair on a Bald Head in a Single Night.

Startling Announcement Causes Doctors to Marvel and Stand Dumbfounded at the Wonderful Cures.

The Discoverer Sends Free Trial Packages to All Who Write.

After half a century spent in the laboratory, crowned with high honors for his many world-famous discoveries, the celebrated physician-chemist at the head of the great Altenheim Medical Dispensary, has just made the startling announcement that he has produced a compound that grows hair on any bald head. The doctor makes the claim that after experiments, taking years to complete, he has at last reached the goal of his ambition. To the doctor all heads are alike. There are none which cannot be cured by this remarkable remedy. The record of the cures already made is truly marvelous, and were it not for the high standing of the great physician and the convincing testimony of thousands of citizens all over the country, it would seem too miraculous to be true.

MISS HISLOP, of New Zealand, and Her Marvelous Growth of Hair.

There can be no doubt of the doctor' earnestness in making his claims, nor can his cures be disputed. He does not ask any man, woman, or child to take his or anyone else's word for it, but he stands ready and willing to send free trial packages of this great hair restorative to anyone who writes to him for it, enclosing a 2-cent stamp to prepay postage. In a single night it has started hair to growing on heads bald for years. It has stopped falling hair in one hour. It never fails, no matter what the condition, age, or sex. Old men and young men, women, and children, all have profited by the free use of this great new discovery. If you are bald, if your hair is falling out, or if your hair, eyebrows, or eyelashes are thin or short write the Altenheim Medical Dispensary, 6444 Rutterfield Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, enclosing a 2-cent stamp to prepay postage, for a free package, and in a short time you will be entirely restored.

CONGRESS.

The Senate Passes the Presidential Protection Bill and the Bill to Abolish the Rest of the Spanish War Taxes. The House Passes the River and Harbor Bill.

The Senate occupied itself all of last week, after the disposition of the Ship Subsidy Bill, in the discussion of the bill to protect the life of the President and the bill to repeal the balance of the Spanish war taxes.

The bill for the protection of the President was passed on Friday by a vote of 52 to 15. There was no division on party lines, the discussion all through having been devoted to the consideration of legal points.

The bill was passed, providing that anyone who shall kill the President, or any other public official in line for the Presidential succession, or any sovereign of a foreign country within territory of the United States; or shall attempt to kill any of the persons named, shall suffer the death penalty; that any person who shall aid, abet, advise or counsel the killing of the persons named, or shall conspire to accomplish their death, shall be imprisoned not less than 20 years; that any person who shall threaten to kill, or advise or counsel to kill the President, or any official upon whom the duties of the President might devolve, shall be imprisoned not to exceed 10 years; that any person who shall aid the escape of any person guilty of any of the above offenses shall be deemed an accomplice, and shall be punished as a principal. The Secretary of War is directed to furnish a Regular Army guard of officers and men to protect the President, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe.

The bill to repeal the war taxes was passed without division, the one speech being a few remarks by Mr. Tillman in opposition to the removal of the tax on tea of 10 cents per pound.

On Friday, after voting upon this measure, the Senate adjourned over until Monday of this week.

The House of Representatives spent the entire week in discussing the River and Harbor Appropriation Bill, which finally passed, just as it came from the committee, carrying $60,688,267. A considerable proportion of this amount, however, is not immediately appropriated, but authorizes continuing contracts upon large Government works.

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.

It seems certain that Secretary Hitchcock, of the Interior Department, will soon retire. Nothing indicates that the relations between the President and Secretary Hitchcock are not entirely cordial, or that the latter has been requested to resign, or is immediately contemplating resigning, and yet that there will be an early change in this Cabinet office seems inevitable. The pressure upon the President to make a change in the Interior Department comes mainly from Western Senators and Members, and there is hardly a day when some complaint against the Secretary is not received at the White House. The breach between the Western Republicans and Mr. Hitchcock is growing wider every day, and many of them have urged the President to select a new Secretary, declaring, at the same time, that they have no candidate to present for appointment.

* * *

There is talk of ex-Senator Carter, of Montana, and Assistant Attorney-General Van Devanter as Secretary Hitchcock's successor. Judge Van Devanter was formerly Chief Justice of Wyoming.

* * *

Rev. Edward Donnelly, Portland, Ore., was in the city last week, on business for the church. He is a priest of the Catholic Church, and a very earnest comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic. He served in the navy in the war of the rebellion, and afterward studied for the priesthood.

* * *

Comrade D. S. Orcutt, 11th Pa. Cav., has been visiting in the city. He is with the St. Charles Hotel, Pittsburg, Pa.

THE PANAMA ROUTE.

Why Should We Not Own It in Fee Simple?

Frederic C. Penfield, formerly United States Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General to Egypt, makes a suggestion in the February number of the North American Review, which seems well worthy of serious consideration. "Why not Own the Panama Isthmus?" he asks. Comparing the practicability of the Nicaragua and Panama Canal routes, respectively, he concludes that every circumstance favors the acceptance by the United States of the opportunity recently offered it to purchase the rights of the French company in the partly-constructed Panama Canal. But, Mr. Penfield contends, absolute ownership of the soil should be a prerequisite to our building a canal; we should have untrammeled control where we build or manage a canal. Now, Colombia is in a condition of dire need, and we could afford to pay her all that her rights in the isthmian territory are worth. Such a step in practical expansion would be an achievement with lasting good results. Annexation to the United States would be pleasing to the people of Panama, and it would mean to the isthmus an administration that would secure property and life and equal rights to every dweller there, and to every user of the canal. As it is, our Government is pledged by treaty to preserve order on the isthmus. Mr. Penfield pleads that it is as necessary for us to control the country through which our canal is to run as it is for England to control Egypt.

"The great material success of Disraeli's career was his action in buying Ismail's shares in the Suez Canal Company. With Continental agents at Cairo ready to purchase the discredited Khedive's shares on the following day, Disraeli, without the formal sanction of his Government, stepped in one night and captured the securities by cable for £4,000,000. England has ever since controlled the canal, and her shares have now a market value of £20,000,000. It will be recalled that nearly every public man in Great Britain, Disraeli included, opposed the building by the French of the Suez Canal, pooh-poohing the suggestion that it was demanded by commerce, or that it could ever be made to pay. Since Disraeli's day British statesmanship has woven around the country through which the Suez waterway runs a control amounting to colonial rule. Had not the canal of De Lesseps developed into a convenient short-cut for Europe to Britain's richest treasure-house, India, England would never have gone to Egypt with her civil servants and her army of occupation."

South Dakota Affairs.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Corps 7, Arlington, is prompt with a report, as usual. They have served a supper, with the proceeds of which they are to purchase a lamp to place in front of their hall. The comrades are struggling hard to keep up their Post, and the W. R. C. are trying equally hard to help them. But there are so few of them, and many of them are so old and feeble that they cannot hold office. The Post and Corps always work in perfect harmony, so that it is always easy to help them.

Robert Anderson Corps, Aberdeen, numbers 61 members in good standing, and is alive in the work for the cause that we are pledged to support. They have held a rummage sale, also served a turkey dinner, realizing $135, which goes to swell the fund that they are raising for a monument for the Soldiers' Circle in Riverside Cemetery. They now have in the fund nearly $300.—MATTIE H. SHELDON, Department Press Correspondent, St. Lawrence, S. D.

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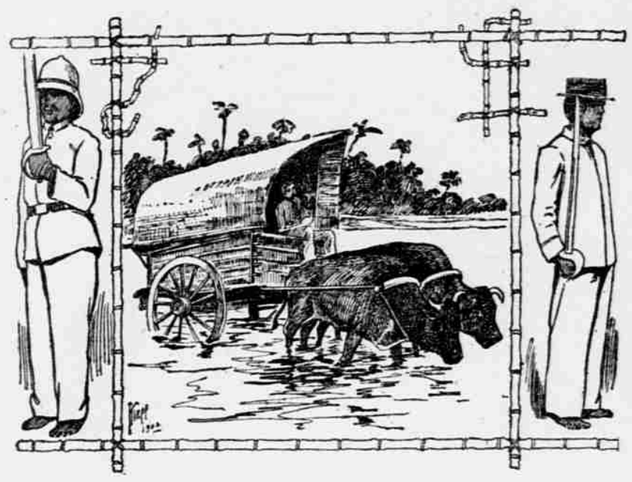
ACROSS PANAY.

Guarding a United States Army Train—Transporting Stores Under Difficulties.

We left Iloilo at daybreak, so as to get a good start on the road before the sun was high. The train was made up of 10 wagons, two mules each, 12 teamsters, two extra mules, an escort as guard, made up of eight privates and a Corporal, and one officer in charge.

We were to go straight through the enemy's country, after leaving Molo, and a sharp watch was ordered to be maintained. We had stores for the troops in the interior, consisting of fresh potatoes, shipped from the United States. In addition we had Commissary sales stores valued at several thousands of dollars, some ordnance stores, and general Quartermaster's supplies for distribution among the troops. Trains of this kind are started out of Iloilo every few weeks for the purpose of taking supplies to the garrison in the interior. The garrison along the coast can be reached by boat. We arrived at Oton at noon.



A PANAY BULL CART AND TYPES OF NATIVE REBELS.

At Oton the rebels had put up a good fight before they were driven out, and we examined the intrenchments they had occupied, made by using some sand-bags and sandstone.

The President of Oton cared for our men in that he sent some rice, good water and tea to us, while he ordered out his police force to get some grass for the mules.

There are many rivers to cross in the Philippines, and there is often trouble getting over, as most of the rivers have to be forded. I have seen many a good horse go down and swept away. The horses ford the current well enough until it is sufficiently deep to strike them on the sides and cause them to go over, in which case they get frightened and trouble ensues.

I saw one of the horses of the advance guard get thrown over by the current and horse and rider went down and out of sight for nearly a minute before rescued.

At some crossings they had bamboo rafts, and with these we got the wagons over, one at a time. We sighted Tigbauan about dark, and here we had quite an accident just at the river crossing, for as one wagon and mule were crossing a deep part of the river the raft began to settle, and the mules started forward into the river when the outfit was in the center of the stream at the deepest part.

These mules knew their business. These army mules were old-timers, and it was not the first time that they had gone down with a frail raft. As soon as they struck the water they began to swim. The teamster remained cool, and let the mules have their own way. The mules not only kept themselves afloat and made good progress toward the opposite shore, but they took the heavy wagon of stores with them.

As soon as these noble animals reached the opposite shore they proceeded to shake themselves, and then calmly waited until other mules were attached to haul the outfit up the bank to the level of the road. All hands then set to work to get the water out of the goods in the wagon. The mail bags were flooded, and other articles, such as stationery for the troops, were spoiled, while the canned and bottled stuff was not injured.

We stopped at Tigbauan over night, camping on the plaza. Next morning we went out and got corn and rice, and these, together with our regular rations drawn at Iloilo, made a good breakfast. The Commissary boxes in the wagons were filled with food for the troops, and, of course, we could not touch these. We arrived at Leon the following day without accident.

The teamsters engaged in the Philippine service are a hardy lot, and when it comes to fighting they are always ready. They do not believe in devoting much time to keeping their rifles in clean condition for inspections, like the soldiers, but they always have their rifles at hand ready for service, often with both magazine and chamber filled.

We stopped over night at Leon, leaving the stores there, and returned to Iloilo by the same route, once more in readiness to go to another post with stores.

About the worst country in the world for an American to get a carriage ride is in the Philippine archipelago. The horses are all sore-backed and diseased, while the rigs that the Spanish and natives have used for years are ready for the junk pile. One cannot ride a mile without getting out and patching up some portion of the harness, carriage or other fixings. Everything is tied up with strings and wires, and there is no such thing as pleasure in a carriage trip. It is also necessary to get out and help over rough places in the roads. The horses are balky and the native drivers ignorant.

The only reliable outfit is the bull cart. The little bulls of the islands are very tough and are far better trotters and more reliable than sore-backed horses. The bull carts are used for freighting purposes, mostly, but in my experience in carriage touring on the islands, I have frequently found it necessary to discard the horses and engage a bull cart in order to reach my destination.

PHILIPPINES.

Teacher—What zone is this in which we live?

Johnny—Temp'rate.

Teacher—Correct. Now, tell me what is meant by a "temperate zone?"

Johnny—It's a place where it's freezin' cold in Winter an' red-hot in Summer.

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