

ROOSEVELT MADE HIM "HERO OF MANILA BAY," SAYS DEWEY

Admiral, in Autobiography, Pays Tribute to His Foresight and Aid.

Criticizes "Red Tape" of Secretary Long and Rear Admiral Crowninshield.

THE autobiography of George Dewey, admiral of the navy, just from the press of Scribner's, promises to be the most interesting book of the season. Admiral Dewey's reminiscences of the civil war are entertaining and told in a straightforward, pleasing style that holds the attention of the reader and gives pen pictures of the stirring events of those earlier days. It is when he comes to deal with history leading up to and including the war with Spain that his autobiography becomes of intense interest, for he speaks plainly and expresses his opinions on matters that a few years ago would be discussed in naval circles only in the secrecy of the club or the wardrobe.

In the fall of 1897 Admiral Dewey says he knew that Commodore John A. Howell and himself were being considered for the command of the Asiatic squadron. The most influential officer in the distribution of assignments was Rear Admiral Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, "a pronounced bureaucrat," writes Admiral Dewey, "with whose temperament and methods I had little more sympathy than had the majority of the officers of the navy at that time." Dewey says Crowninshield would hardly recommend him to any command, "and his advice had great weight with John D. Long, who was then secretary of the navy."

Roosevelt Wanted Him.

Of Theodore Roosevelt, then assistant secretary of the navy, Dewey says "he was most impatient of red tape and had a singular understanding both

of the event or disaster to his ships. This he accomplished through a Chinese comprador, the supplies and haven of refuge being located at an isolated spot on the Chinese coast, China not being able to enforce the neutrality laws with any very great diligence.

In connection with part of his preparatory work Admiral Dewey expresses amazement at a cable from Secretary Long in which that official said, after reminding him of international law, that "only the Japanese ports are available as storehouses. Should advise storehouse at Nagasaki for the base of supplies or supply steamer to accompany squadron."

Admiral Dewey declared that if any nation would be scrupulous in the enforcement of every detail of neutrality it would be Japan, and, while it seemed hardly possible "that we could have made some secret diplomatic arrangement with her of which I had not been fully advised." In order to sound his ground Admiral Dewey cabled the American minister, who promptly replied that Japanese ports could not be used as a base for supplies.

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ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY.

without its magazines and shell rooms filled, but without a large reserve of ammunition within reach."

Admiral Dewey observes that in order to give our fleet commanders in foreign waters a position commensurate with the dignity of the country they represented "it had been for many years the unvarying custom that every commodore ordered as commander in chief of the Asiatic squadron should hold the rank of rear admiral from the moment his flag was raised. Explaining that this had been done for so long that it became to be looked upon as a right, Admiral Dewey mildly criticizes his superior officers when he wrote:

"It was a surprising innovation when Secretary Long informed me that in my case I was to hoist the broad pennant of a commodore and not the flag of a rear admiral. No one could have known better than Rear Admiral Crowninshield, Secretary Long's chief adviser," continues Admiral Dewey, "how subordinate this would make my position in all intercourse with the squadron commanders and officials of other nations, and particularly in case any necessity for combined international action should arise."

Slightly by Superiors. "This," continued Dewey, "was one of those little pin pricking slights which are bound to be personally unpleasant to any officer of long service."

When after his appointment to the Asiatic squadron, Admiral Dewey says, he began to study up the Philippines "and sought information at Washington I found the latest official report relative to the Philippines on file in the office of naval intelligence bore the date of 1876."

These memoirs indicate that the commander of the Asiatic squadron was not kept very well informed of events by his government. The decision to take his squadron to Hongkong was entirely on his own initiative, "without any hint whatever from the department that hostilities might be expected. It was evident that in case of emergency Hongkong was the most advantageous position from which to move to the attack." The first real step looking like action came in a cable from Roosevelt, Feb. 25, 1898, a message which, Admiral Dewey says, "bore the signature of that assistant secretary, who had seized the opportunity while acting secretary to hasten preparations for a conflict which was inevitable."

Dash For Philippines. Dewey's story of his preparations for that dash to the Philippines is intensely interesting. He recites his struggles to secure a supply of coal and gives a vivid picture of how he attempted and succeeded in obtaining a secret base, 7,000 miles from home, to which he could repair for coal or in

the event or disaster to his ships. This he accomplished through a Chinese comprador, the supplies and haven of refuge being located at an isolated spot on the Chinese coast, China not being able to enforce the neutrality laws with any very great diligence.

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Long's Instructions Criticized. "If I had acted on the secretary's advice," said Admiral Dewey, "not only should we have given offense to a sensitive nation, but our squadron might have suffered a good deal of inconvenience." Dewey also writes that he declined to comply with the department's instructions to man and arm the Zafiro and Nanshan, supply ships that he bought. To do that, he said, would have given them the status of American naval vessels and subject to all neutrality laws.

Thus after many vicissitudes and many anxious moments of waiting the squadron finally started toward Manila bay. Admiral Dewey corrects the popular belief that the entrance to Subig bay was not mined. "A Spanish officer assured the executive officer of the Concord that eighty mines had been planted at the entrance. Some fifteen others which the Spanish had neglected to plant were found later by our officers in the Spanish storehouse at the Subig bay naval station," was Admiral Dewey's comment on this subject.

Stopped Only For Powder. Admiral Dewey punctures a story circulated at the time of this battle, when he was reported to have with-



THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

drawn his ships after the enemy had been practically put out of commission in order that his men might have their breakfast. The admiral denies being quite so nonchalant as all that.

When the enemy seemed to be whipped, although that knowledge was not definite, the report was brought to Admiral Dewey that there remained only fifteen rounds per gun for the five inch battery. Alarmed by that report, which subsequently was shown to be an error, Dewey says he withdrew temporarily for a redistribution of ammunition, if necessary.

"I knew," said he, "that fifteen rounds of five inch ammunition would be shot away in five minutes; but, he added, "even as we were steaming out of range the distress of the Spanish ships became evident."

Why He Cut Cable. According to the statement of the admiral, the cutting of the cable at Manila was not due to any desire or purpose to remove himself from his superiors at Washington. The reports current at the time must have been known to the admiral when he wrote his autobiography.

The reasons assigned were in the line of military precaution only. In command of the city by sea, but not able to land forces until several months later, Dewey sent word to the captain general that if he were permitted to transmit messages by cable to Hongkong the captain general also would be permitted to use it.

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Citation for Hearing on Final Account and for Distribution.

(First Pub. Sept. 25)
ESTATE OF BRITTA HAGGBERG.
State of Minnesota, County of Mille Lacs. In Probate Court.
In the matter of the estate of Britta Haggberg, decedent.
The state of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent:
The representative of the above named decedent, having filed in this court his final account of the administration of the estate of said decedent, together with his petition praying for the adjustment and allowance of said final account and for distribution of the residue of said estate to the persons thereunto entitled.
Therefore, you, and each of you, are hereby cited and required to show cause, if any you have, before this court at the probate court rooms in the court house, in the village of Princeton, in the county of Mille Lacs, state of Minnesota, on the 20th day of October, 1913, at 10 o'clock a. m., why said petition should not be granted.
Witness, the judge of said court, and the seal of said court, this 22nd day of September, 1913.
WM. V. SANFORD,
Probate Judge.

Citation for Hearing on Final Account and for Distribution.

(First Pub. Sept. 25)
ESTATE OF PETER J. HAGGBERG.
State of Minnesota, County of Mille Lacs. In Probate Court.
In the matter of the estate of Peter J. Haggberg, decedent.
The state of Minnesota to all persons interested in the final account and distribution of the estate of said decedent:
The representative of the above named decedent, having filed in this court his final account of the administration of the estate of said decedent, together with his petition praying for the adjustment and allowance of said final account and for distribution of the residue of said estate to the persons thereunto entitled.
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WM. V. SANFORD,
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FORMER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN D. LONG.

of the importance of preparedness for war and of striking quick blows in rapid succession once war was begun. With the enthusiastic candor which characterizes him, he declared that I ought to have the Asiatic squadron." Admiral Dewey tells how Roosevelt asked him if he had any political influence and his own expression of disinclination to use it.

"I want you to go. You are the man who will be equal to the emergency if one arises. Do you know any senators?" Mr. Roosevelt is quoted as saying.

Admiral Dewey said his heart was set on having the Asiatic squadron, as it seemed to him the country was inevitably drifting into a war with Spain.

"In command of an efficient force in the far east, with a free hand to act, in consequence of being so far from Washington," he writes, "I could strike promptly and successfully at the Spanish force in the Philippines."