# THE WEALTH OF SE CHUEN.

## THE REV. Q. A. MYERS TELLS OF ITS INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

### ALMOST LIMITLESS BEDS OF SOFT COAL—PROJECT FOR A RAILROAD—INTRODUCING AMERICAN GOODS.

The Rev. Q. A. Myers, for the last five or six years a missionary of the Methodist Church stationed at Shun King, fifteen hundred miles from Shanghai, in the extreme western part of China, was at the Methodist Book Concern yesterday, on his way home to Newport, Ind., where he will try to regain his lost health. Mr. Myers is a wide awake young American, apparently a keen observer, enthusiastic in his work, and will return to Shun King as soon as his health will permit. He is accompanied by his wife and child.

"Se Chuen, in which I have been laboring," said Mr. Myers to a Tribune reporter, "is doubtless one of the richest provinces in the Chinese Empire, and it is densely populated. No strictly accurate census has ever been taken, of course, but the lowest estimates place the number of people in the province at thirty million, and I would not be surprised if there were forty million. The western border of the province stretches out to Thibet, and wherever you go there are villages, villages, villages, with numbers of walled cities here and there for trade centres. Four or five years ago, when I made my first visit to Chen Fu, the capital of the province, it took ten days to go from Shun King, and I passed through seven walled cities. A walled city in China is a centre of commerce and wealth, as wealth goes in China, and the villages dotted in between these walled cities are in an almost continuous string. I went there with Mrs. Myers in February, 1894, and our house was the first foreign house built in Shun King. One could travel ten days into the interior then without meeting a single Christian.

THE FUTURE OF CHEN FU.

"Industrially Chen Fu is bound to figure prominently in the future of China. The Yang-tse River runs through it, and there is navigation for small boats a long distance up from Shanghai. This province is sure to be a live spot in the development of the empire, for the reason that almost limitless beds of soft coal underlie the neighborhood of Shun King. There is a great deal of mining done now, but all the coal is transported on the backs of coolies, who carry a basket with about sixty pounds in it through the mountains, where there are hills to be climbed, and about eighty pounds on the plains. In travelling about one passes thousands of these coal carrying coolies coming and going. They work for pitifully small sums, a few cents a day. This system of transporting coal will all be changed in a few years, as Pritchard Morgan, a Member of Parliament, of London, and capitalists associated with him have obtained a large concession from the Chinese Government, and they are not letting the grass grow under their feet.

"There is a good deal of rivalry in the province between the French and the English pioneer business men and promoters. Mr. Morgan seems to have obtained an extremely valuable concession. When I left Shun King a few weeks ago Mr. Morgan's engineers were hard at work in and around Shun King running lines, and no doubt getting an early estimate on the cost of a railway up the Yangtse Valley. I tried to get from Mr. Murdock, one of the engineers, who wanted to rent our house while I was away, some information with reference to his plans, but he was close mouthed. I guess he didn't want to run any risk of Frenchmen finding out what he was about. Doubtless for several years transportation of coal will be by way of the river, but in time the railway will be built, and it won't be so very long, either.

PLEASED WITH AMERICAN NAILS.

"Yes, American goods are beginning to be sent up the Yangtse. I was agreably surprised when I went out to a hardware store in Shun King just before I left to find on sale American screws and American wire nails. They are not very extensively used yet, as the Chinamen don't know much about them. The storekeeper told me, however, that several native carpenters had tried the nails and were greatly pleased with them. The screws they know nothing about. They understand the mechanical science of the wedge and lever, but the screw is a poser for them. They have to be shown its utility in order to know what it is intended for. If you'll pardon the feeble joke, I should say the American screw has worked its way in, and it's there to stay.

"Another surprising thing in the way of innovation is the way in which the American camera has caught on in the interior of China. The old saying is that it is the unexpected that happens. The American camera is the unexpected. The Chinamen of the better class are buying cameras right and left, and snapping their children and wives, just as we do here.

"American soap is another thing that is just making its bow in Western China. It is a stranger there at present. The ordinary Chinaman does not wash, or, at least, he does not use soap. The American article is getting recognition, however.

INQUISITIVE AS TO SOCKS.

"Socks and undershirts have a great future in Western China, if I mistake not. Over and over again, as I have travelled through the interior of the province, have I been approached by inquisitive Chinamen—and they are all inquisitive—who would take the liberty of pulling up my trousers leg and inspecting my sock. The well-to-do Chinaman wears socks himself, and spends a good part of his income for them, and he likes to know all about your socks. The American undershirt is something that interests him, too. There is no national prejudice against it. It is out of sight, of course, and as its primary object is to keep the body warm, the Chinaman will buy the American undershirt if he can get it cheaper than his home weaver can make it.

"The French are making progress in commercial enterprises. They recently made enormous demands on the Governor of the province because a French priest had been imprisoned by a mob. They wanted millions of taels and hundreds of acres of land. They have not secured what they asked for yet, but they may follow it up with bayonets."

# HORTICULTURISTS AT BRONX PARK.

## NEW-YORK SOCIETY ORGANIZED AND PLANS TO PROMOTE IT ADOPTED.

The New-York Society of Horticulturists was organized yesterday afternoon in the Bronx Park Botanical Museum. There were one hundred persons present in response to the call for the meeting sent out by Professor Nathaniel Lord Britton and Dr. Hexamer, of Stamford, Conn. James Hood, of Mount Kisco, presided, and Leonard Barron was chosen as temporary secretary. Dr. Hexamer read a resolution giving the objects of the society and providing for the appointment of a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws and also for the appointment of a Committee on Nomination of Officers.

The following is the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws: James Ward, president; Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton, P. J. Berchman, Dr. Hexamer, J. N. May, S. Henshaw, J. W. Withers, C. L. Allen, H. A. Siebrecht, J. De Wolff, C. W. Ward, G. T. Powell, A. L. Willis, A. Wallace, W. A. Manda, W. S. Clark, E. S. Miller, A. L. Don, J. H. Taylor, P. O'Marra, S. Thorne, D. Fowler, J. H. Troy, M. Hallock, A. T. De La Mare and J. Dallas.

The Committee on Nominations consists of Dr. Britton, Dr. Hexamer, J. N. May, S. Henshaw and J. W. Withers. This committee will also select a council, which will be divided into sub-committees on fruit, vegetables, flowers, forestry, membership and finance. Both committees will report at a meeting to be held on May 9 in the American Institute, Forty-fourth-st. and Third-ave.

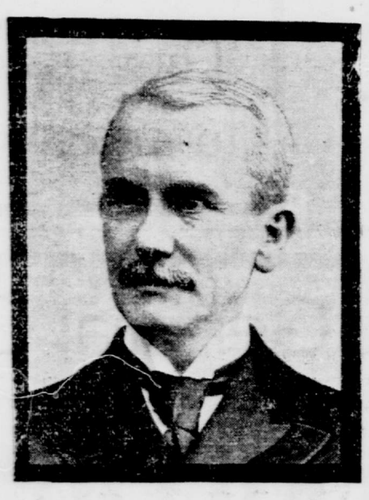
To become a patron of the society it will be necessary to pay $250. Fifty dollars will make one a life member, and the annual dues will be $5. The annual meeting will be held on the second Wednesday in May. It is the purpose of the society to have a flower show each year, to be held in the basement of the Museum in Bronx Park. Letters were read at the meeting from Spencer Trask and Samuel Thorne, who asked to be made members of the society and regretted their inability to be present. The meeting was held behind closed doors. At its conclusion Professor Cornelius Van Brunt gave an illustrated lecture on flowers.

# CHANCELLOR M'GILL DEAD

## THE WELL KNOWN NEW-JERSEY JUDGE PASSES AWAY AT HIS HOME.

### HIS WONDERFUL COURAGE AND WILL POWER GAVE HOPE UNTIL EARLY YESTERDAY—SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Alexander T. McGill, Chancellor of New-Jersey, died yesterday at his home, No. 270 Barrow-st., Jersey City. He had been ill for a long time, and his death was expected. The Chancellor displayed remarkable determination and zeal, and although weak and emaciated he insisted on performing his



CHANCELLOR ALEXANDER TAGGART M'GILL, of New-Jersey, who died yesterday.

duty as Chancellor, and affixed his signature to papers while propped up in bed. His wonderful courage and will power gave hope to his relatives until 3 o'clock yesterday morning, when a change occurred. He sank rapidly, and died a few minutes after 9 o'clock in the morning.

Alexander T. McGill was born in Allegheny City, Penn., in 1843. His father, the Rev. Dr. A. T. McGill, was at the time a professor in the Western Theological Seminary. In 1854 his father accepted a professorship in the Princeton Theological Seminary, and moved with his family to Princeton. In the old New-Jersey town the Chancellor's youth was passed. He was educated at Princeton College, from which he was graduated in 1864. He decided to study law, and entered the Columbia Law School. He was graduated in June, 1866. He became a student in the law office of Judge Edward W. Scudder, in Trenton, and was admitted to the New-Jersey bar as an attorney in 1867 and as a counsellor in 1870.

Early in Chancellor McGill's career as a lawyer his ability was marked, and Robert Gilchrist, then Attorney-General, invited him to become his partner and assistant. The young lawyer accepted, and in 1868 moved to Jersey City. The partnership with Mr. Gilchrist continued until September, 1876, when Mr. McGill withdrew and, with a lucrative practice, conducted a business alone. In 1878 he entered into copartnership with Isaac Taylor, and the firm was not dissolved until Mr. McGill accepted the appointment of Chancellor, and it was apparent that the duties of the office were so onerous that his private practice would have to be abandoned.

Mr. McGill served the city of Bayonne as Attorney from 1872 to 1875. He was an active Democrat, and was elected to the House of Assembly in 1873 and was re-elected the following year. He distinguished himself as a legislator by his aggressiveness and tact, and was instrumental in obtaining amendments to the obnoxious Jersey City charter, which provided for government by commissions appointed by the Legislature.

In April, 1878, Governor McClellan appointed Mr. McGill Prosecutor of the Pleas for Hudson County. He was earnest, painstaking and successful, and skilfully prepared his cases. It was while Prosecutor that he declared that wife beating, then common, should be punished at the whipping post.

"It is no punishment," he said, "to send the despicable brutes to jail, where they are well fed and comfortably housed and have nothing to do. But it is a double punishment for the poor wife, who, after being beaten, is forced to struggle to support herself and children while her brutal husband is in jail." On completing his term as Prosecutor in 1878 he was appointed Presiding Judge of the Hudson County Court of Common Pleas. Before finishing the term of five years he was, on March 29, 1887, appointed Chancellor by Governor Green and showed such rare ability that he was reappointed in 1894 by Governor Werts. He was always gentle and courteous, but firm. The Chancellor, as a member of the Court of Pardons, distinguished himself by casting the lone vote against paroling the gang of ballot box stuffers sent to State prison from Hudson County. In 1892 he rendered the famous opinion dissolving the notorious coal combination. His decision in substance was that the New-Jersey Central Railroad Company had violated a duty it owed the State in practically leasing its lines to a foreign corporation.

In 1895 Chancellor McGill was the Democratic candidate for Governor, but was defeated by John W. Griggs, who had a plurality of 26,900. The vote was: Griggs, 162,900; McGill, 136,000.

The Chancellor was ambitious and an indefatigable worker. Even when his health was failing almost nightly the lamps would burn until dawn in his office at his home, where he was consulting authorities and preparing his decisions. He worked despite the warnings of physicians and the pleading of relatives and friends until his rugged constitution was undermined and he was left a physical wreck.

Chancellor McGill was happily married. During his boyhood at Princeton he met Miss Olmsted, a great-granddaughter of Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Mutual childish admiration developed into love, and thirty years ago, at the beginning of his enviable legal career, they were married. Mrs. McGill was a talented woman and a valuable aid to her husband in his work. They had no children.

# SILVER REPUBLICANS TO CHANGE NAME.

## THEY WILL CALL THEMSELVES LINCOLN REPUBLICANS HEREAFTER.

Minneapolis, April 21.—Formal announcement of the proposed change in the title of the Silver Republican party was made to-day in a document setting forth the party platform, issued by the executive agent, E. H. Corser. The announcement states:

"Lincoln Republicans" are to succeed "Free Silver Republicans" and the National Silver Republican party is to give way to the Lincoln Republican party. The party of one issue is to become the party of several issues, and the issue to which it owes its origin is to be pushed into the background. While changing its name, it becomes more Democratic than ever, and, its leaders hope, more able to render effective service to "the regenerated Democracy" than in 1896.

The transformation scene is to take place at Kansas City on July 4, when the National Conventions of both the Free Silver Republican and the Democratic parties are in session. It is alleged in the statement that the Republicans of to-day are different in all save name from the Republicans of Lincoln's time.

E. S. Corser, who issued the manifesto, has acted in the capacity of official intermediary between the National organizations of the various anti-Republican parties, and believes that the result of preliminary work accomplished by the Lincoln Republican League will lead to adoption at Kansas City by the Silver Republicans of a platform, the planks of which have already been formulated, glorifying Lincoln's memory, incidentally excoriating President McKinley and his Administration, and predicting the nomination of Bryan and Towne by the Democratic Convention. Lincoln Republican League workers have been especially active in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota, the latter State being the centre of the movement.

# THE PRINT CLOTH MARKET.

Fall River, Mass., April 21 (Special).—Brokers report that there has been another quiet week in the print cloth market. The total of sales may have reached 25,000 pieces, but could hardly have exceeded that amount. The trading has been confined to scattered small lots of odds. Standards have not been in demand for a period of many weeks. Since the price was advanced to 3¼ cents there has been no selling of spot standards. Some contracts have been placed, but they do not make a heavy total. Although business has been dull lately, there has been no inclination to shade syndicate prices. The quotation for regulars is 3½ cents. The mills, as a whole, have their productions quite well sold for some time ahead, and this fact keeps the market firm. The buyers have made no real effort to cut prices, apparently not wanting goods at any price. Wide goods have dropped off in price during the last month. There is little demand for them, but the production of these goods must be largely contracted for for several months. A stock is accumulating in some places, but contract deliveries hold down the surplus. Mill men expect another boom in business before present contracts run out, and say that increased export trade will help them. They are satisfied with the outlook.

# IN HISTORIC BALER.

## OCCUPATION OF A FAMOUS TOWN BY A FORCE UNDER GENERAL FUNSTON.

Manila, March 15.—There are hundreds of miles of the Pacific coast of this island unknown to our Army, hundreds of miles where we have no garrisons, a long stretch of coast familiar only to such naval officers whose duty has led them to patrol or sound the eastern side of Luzon. There are very few towns or villages on this coast, and one can cruise along it for days, seeing no sign of human occupation. Down south in the Camarines and Albay provinces there are a few ports on this Pacific side, such as Legaspi, Tobaco and Daet, and those we have lately occupied and garrisoned, but with those exceptions and that of Baler the Pacific coast of Luzon Island is practically unknown to our army of occupation. General Funston last month led an expedition into Baler, on the Pacific side and a little north of Manila, and left there a garrison of the 34th Volunteer Infantry. A Spaniard in Spain or here in Manila would never think of calling this little hamlet simply Baler; with him it would be "Baler, so heroically defended by the Spanish soldiers," or "Glorious Baler," and to-day if a soldier of Spain can truthfully say "I was at Baler," he at once becomes great and envied in the eyes of his companies; he is the subject of a hero worship of a distinctly commercial and gratifying character—it is considered an honor to drink with a "hero of Baler."

THE SIEGE OF BALER.

During the summer of 1898 the Spanish forces at Baler were having their customary trouble with the Filipinos in that vicinity. Some of this Spanish garrison was withdrawn, others were killed until finally about fifty Spaniards, commanded by a captain, withdrew with a year's provisions into the now historic Church of Baler, and there they were besieged by the rebels for eleven months. This garrison, reduced to thirty-three souls, surrendered to the Filipinos, with all the honors of war July 2, 1899. In the summer of 1899 the head of the Spanish army in the Philippines realized that the resistance of this Baler garrison was needless and rather out of place, insomuch as the United States had vanquished Spain, declared her sovereignty over the Filipino people and was engaged in quelling their revolt. It was, consequently, decided to communicate with this garrison, explain to them those facts and order them to quit. With this end in view Lieutenant-Colonel Aguilar arrived off the town of Baler May 30, and, explaining his mission to the Filipino officer commanding that district, received the latter's permission to land and communicate with the besieged Spaniards. Early one morning Colonel Aguilar approached the church with a white and a Spanish flag, only to be told by the guards to come back that same afternoon at 3 o'clock, as the commanding officer, Lieutenant Saturnino Martin Cerezo, had been up all night, was then sleeping and could not be disturbed. At 3 o'clock the Colonel received the privilege of speaking to the Lieutenant and handed him a letter from the Lieutenant's commanding officer directing him to place himself under Colonel Aguilar's orders. The Lieutenant refused to follow these orders, and even after he had been shown newspapers which proved that his resistance was needless and inopportune, he still declined to surrender or leave the church he had so long defended. "I have provisions enough to last my garrison until August 15; not until these are exhausted will I surrender," he said. Colonel Aguilar returned to Manila without accomplishing the object of his trip.

Later, in July, a Spanish commission from Manila went to the Filipino lines to try and bring about the release of the 6,500 Spanish prisoners still held by the rebels. Their efforts were unsuccessful, except in the case of the defenders of the Baler garrison, numbering thirty-three all told. This band had surrendered July 2, their ammunition and food being exhausted, and their captors had conveyed them, with "the most kind and considerate treatment to wonderfully brave and determined men," to the town of Cabanatuan. Captain Las Morenas, Lieutenant Alonso and thirteen privates had either died or been killed during the siege. The survivors returned from Cabanatuan to Manila with the Spanish Commissioners, and here they became the heroes of the hour among the Spanish residents.

FUNSTON'S EXPEDITION.

General Funston, in whose territory Baler is situated, decided to occupy the town, and insomuch as rebels in strong force were reported in that vicinity and it was known that the church was well adapted to a strong resistance, he took with him three companies of the 34th Infantry and a Hotchkiss gun, all under the command of Colonel L. W. V. Kennon, of the 34th Regiment. Information was obtained as to trails and passes, the expedition had sixty pack mules to carry stores and supplies, and General Funston himself had a personal escort of fourteen picked and mounted men. The expedition started from San Isidro, proceeded to Bongabong, and from this latter point struck into new country, then traversed for the first time by American soldiers. This march was like many our troops have already made and will again make in Luzon; the trails were very rough and precipitous; it rained daily and the ground was muddy and slippery; vines, creepers and a thick jungle vegetation impeded the march of man and beast, and travel was hard and exhausting. The long line of pack mules wound up and down the sides of gullies and ravines, packs became disarranged at the most inopportune moments, the big mules stumbled and fell and crashed through the bushes, and went plunging down a hill as steep almost as the side of a house. Five of the animals broke their legs and had to be shot. This kind of rough travel lasted for two days. Then the expedition crossed the top of that particular mountain range, and on the third day came to a river flowing toward the Pacific. This stream, swift, winding and crowded with bowlders, some as big as a cottage, was the next line of march. Men and beasts slipped over the smooth, round stones; men were swept from their feet by the current, and horses and mules often came down with a crash of falling packs and broken girths. The tropical jungle shaded the river, and down this arcade of cool, green shade the command stretched in a long line, fell and splashed and spluttered to a continuous accompaniment of dashing water and the click of iron hoofs. Along the river banks were occasional short stretches of road, and these were used as far as practicable. On one of these roads were found the first sign of the enemy in the shape of a deserted stone trench. The country people of this locality reported that the American troops were expected (it is such a simple matter for the enemy to send native runners ahead giving notice of the soldiers' approach), and that the rebels had left but the day before.

The first night on the river was spent at a hamlet called San José, and on the following day, the fifth since the expedition started, the deserted town of Baler was entered and occupied. Deserted, with the exception of two native families, who, under the protection of white flags, explained they were of another tribe and locality and had had nothing to do with the revolution.

THE CHURCH OF BALER.

The church of Baler was the object of immediate interest and examination. Its walls are four feet thick at the base and taper to two feet at the top. The outside of the walls was found to be pitted all over with bullet marks, and the zinc roof of the building was actually like a sieve. The walls also bore evidences of projectiles from cannons, and a few hundred yards away five old smooth bore guns were found. Inside the church the most noticeable thing was a vast accumulation of sardine cans, indicating that the Spanish garrison must have lived almost entirely on sardines. The formation of the land there is such that good water can be had four feet from the surface of the ground, and thus, by shallow wells, the besieged procured their water supply. The church was loopholed for rifles, and its doors were heavily barricaded with stones. A line of intrenchments surrounded the building at a distance of about seventy-five yards, and from their position and construction they were evidently built by the Spaniards. The rebels had trenches facing those of the besieged garrison, but it is said that during the latter part of the siege the rebels occupied the Spaniards' trenches and the latter were confined to the church itself. That the rebels made strenuous efforts to effect the capture of this position was evidenced by correspondence found in Baler which had passed between rebel officers. One letter was from the Filipino officer commanding that district to the colonel conducting the siege, urging him to do all in his power to bring about the surrender of the Spaniards. The colonel replied that he considered the church impregnable; that all his efforts to storm it had been unavailing, and that he had tried bribery, spies and treason with a like result. He had sent a message to the garrison by a Spanish priest and the garrison had promptly kept the priest among them.

Baler is about a thousand yards from the beach and the breaking surf is audible in the church. Colonel Kennon found a line of trenches a mile long facing the sea at the edge of the sand. These had evidently been constructed by the insurgents with the idea of repelling a possible American attack from the sea.

A chartered transport from Manila with stores and supplies for the troops met the expedition at Baler, and to unload this vessel the native stevedores were paid 10 cents gold a day. They were so glad to get work at this wage that as soon as the news of the chance to earn a peseta got abroad through the countryside there immediately appeared enough applicants for work to have unloaded a dozen ships. This hope of getting work did more to bring the townspeople back into Baler then any other thing. But it must not for a moment be supposed that the Filipinos as a race clamor to be allowed to work hard for 10 cents a day. Far from it. The trouble in Baler was that the natives were unsophisticated, ignorant of American liberality and had had no money for many months. Following American occupation they foresaw the speedy arrival of a vessel from Manila with foodstuffs and clothes for sale, and the men longed for a Manila cigarette and the women were tired of last year's skirts; hence their desire for a few 10 cent pieces.

Colonel Kennon made careful topographical drawings of Baler and its surroundings, and these, with his maps of the country over which the command had come, will be of great value should American soldiers have to campaign through the same country again. When this work was completed General Funston, his staff and Colonel Kennon boarded the transport and returned to Manila, while two companies of the 34th Regiment, under Major Shunk, remained to garrison Baler. The third company returned to San Isidore the way they had come.

# WORK OF THE SIGNAL MEN.

## DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF THEIR LINE OF DUTY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Manila, March 15.—The Signal Corps of our Army in the Philippines, Colonel Allen at present commanding, have in operation to-day 1,551 miles of wire on Luzon and the Visayan Islands; they have established 160 telegraph offices, and with a total muster of 331 men and twenty-one officers this Department handles 135,000 messages a month, the messages containing twenty to a thousand words each. Every officer on the system receives daily at 11 a. m. the official time from Manila.

This 1,551 miles of wire was first laid in the wake of our advancing soldiers, thus keeping our firing line in communication with corps headquarters in Manila; then, when time permitted, the light copper wire used for quick running during marches and fighting was replaced by an iron wire on temporary poles, and eventually this second wire was replaced by a heavy iron wire, well strung on strong poles. Thus the 1,551 miles of wire has actually been laid three times; the third and last time they were erected in their present substantial manner. Our Army, on July 31 of last year, had only 129 miles of wire in operation, and during the months of August, September, October and November, 320 more miles were added to this original 129; during December, 1899, the Signal Corps set up 415 miles of wire; during January, 1900, 402 miles, and during February, 285 miles, these figures giving the total distance in operation to-day. The central office of this entire system is, of course, in Manila; here eight trunk lines converge, and preparations are making to receive four more trunk lines this month.

PERILS OF LONELY PARTIES.

These are bare and dry facts, and their consideration will lead to the conclusion that the 351 men of the Signal Corps have done and are doing a good deal of work out here. Add to this that the first field wires are laid right along with the advance of our troops into hostile country; that sometimes the Signal Corps men get ahead or separated from the column and must shift for themselves unprotected; that the second and third lines are often built through country abandoned by our troops and overrun with roving bands of insurgents and cutthroats; that the enemy are continually cutting the lines, carrying away bodily lengths of half a mile or more, which must be immediately replaced; that in doing this repair work the Signal Corps must of necessity operate in small parties and the enemy are always lying in wait for small detachments of American troops in order to wipe them out; add, furthermore, that the country through which these lines run is most difficult for the construction and maintenance of telegraph wires, and some appreciation of the work done may be had. It can be called hazardous, to say the least.

When General Grant advanced from Angeles into Zambales Province last December Lieutenant W. H. Stamford and ten men of the Signal Corps accompanied his expedition, running their field wire and keeping the column in communication with its base. At a point half way between Florida Blanca and Dunilupihan, a distance of eleven miles, Lieutenant Stamford's supply of wire gave out, and he and his ten men camped alone with the end of their line to await a further supply, while the column pushed on into Dunilupihan. An instrument was attached to the line, and Angeles promised more wire early the next morning. That afternoon Lieutenant Stamford's men did a little scouting through the neighboring country, and discovered two hundred and fifty insurrectos camped less than a mile away. They had remained carefully hidden while General Grant's column was passing, but later showed an unfortunate tendency to wander through the country. Lieutenant Stamford realized that if they discovered his camp they could kill his entire party before help could get to him. Then he was glad that he had taken the pains to hide his field wire as well as possible as he went along, and there was just so much less chance of a wandering rebel discovering it and following it up until he came to the signal men. Lieutenant Stamford and his ten men removed to the shelter of a bamboo grove, carrying their instrument and line with them, and prepared to pass a vigilant night. The Americans took advantage of such natural defences as the bamboos afforded; the Lieutenant placed his sentries with studied care, and the whole party were glad when the short twilight thickened into night. All night long they watched and waited, and nothing happened; they dared not light fires, and had to eat travel rations cold. They queried Angeles as to when they could expect the new wire and reinforcements, and Angeles answered, "Early this morning." No one slept that night. Morning came and the day grew hotter, while in the shade of the bamboos the ten signal men, hungry, tired and still on the alert, awaited an attack, for they had seen the enemy coming in their direction. The strain was intense; at 11 o'clock the instrument between Lieutenant Stamford's knees began to tick. The expectant men read the sounds; it was the official time from Manila.

Not having caught sight of Lieutenant Stamford's party, the enemy did not attack him; at 1 o'clock the reinforcements and wire from Angeles arrived, and two hours later Lieutenant Stamford and his detail were in Dunilupihan and General Grant was in communication with Manila.

STOPPED WORK TO FIGHT.

Upon another occasion Lieutenant Stamford and his ten men had been some five or six miles ahead of the main column all the morning; they stopped to rest just outside of Florida Blanca. Here they were joined by Captain Rumbold, of the 22d Infantry, and a detail of men. Rumbold asked for news of the enemy; Stamford told him he had not seen them. Rumbold passed on ahead, looking for them, and Stamford's men returned to their work, which happened to be in an open field. Suddenly the enemy opened on Stamford's party, the bullets combing the grass beside them. The signal men went on with their work, but when they heard Captain Rumbold's detail firing not more than five hundred yards away the temptation for a fight was too strong, and they got permission to drop their tools and assist their companions. They deployed and took an active part in the engagement, which resulted in the killing, among six others, of an insurgent captain who wore the sword and pistol of Ensign Wood, killed some weeks previously when the rebels surprised the gunboat Urdaneta in the Orani River.

Lieutenant Stamford proceeded with General Grant's column, running wires from Dunilupihan into Orani village and Balanga. Whenever he could get time so to do he replaced his field wire with the secondary iron wire. At Dunilupihan the wire again ran out, and Stamford hit upon the ingenious device of unwrapping some captured bamboo cannon, which the insurgents strengthen with coil after coil of tightly wound wire, taken from former Spanish supplies, and using the wire thus obtained to continue his line into Orani. This is surely making use of whatever possibilities the enemy gives you; but the enemy rather got even again when they cut out wire from our lines, chopped it into fine bits and fired it out of smoothbore cannon at the signalmen who came along to repair the break.

Going into Orani for the first time with his wire Stamford found the town to be reoccupied by the insurgents, our troops having cleared out two days before. The Lieutenant had not heard of this and marched right into the village streets before discovering his error. He then turned around and marched back again to Dunilupihan. The natives along the road evidently knew of his predicament, for they were sullen and surly, and Stamford was convinced they would destroy the lines he had that day constructed as soon as he was out of sight. So at the hamlet of Hermosa he stopped his ten men and called for the Mayor.

"If I find my wires have been cut or tampered with," said the lieutenant, "I'll burn down your whole village when I come through here to-morrow."

The threat worked, and the wire was not molested. Such threats sometimes work pretty well. Here is another instance. Two Signal Corps men were captured and held prisoners in the woods not far from a small town garrisoned by our troops; the Mayor of this town was loud and cringing in his protestations of adherence and loyalty to our forces. Still, some men doubted his disinterested sincerity. He was sent for and told that if the two captured signalmen were not set at liberty in twenty-four hours his town would be burned and he himself would be killed. He protested his ignorance of the rebels' whereabouts, that he could not communicate with them, and that they would surely kill him if he ventured into the brush. But, just the same, the two men were in camp within the twenty-four hours' time specified to His Honor the Mayor.

WITH GRANT'S COLUMN.

After General Grant had taken the town of Olangapo and Subig, on Subig Bay, Lieutenant Stamford went out from Manila to establish a telegraph line between Subig and Iba, a town forty miles up the coast, occupied and defended by General A. S. Burt and the 25th Infantry. Stamford started out to do this work without any wire, depending on wrapped cannons, old Spanish lines and what he could capture from the enemy until his proper supplies came from Manila. He found enough to keep his men busy during this interim. At this time the insurgents were reoccupying towns the American troops had previously held in that vicinity with forces of from two hundred to four hundred men, and were thick all along Stamford's route. Captain Leonnaeuser, of the 25th Regiment, realized Lieutenant Stamford's danger if he should go out with his customary ten men, and allotted him a guard of thirty-two men from his regiment. With these and his ten bullock carts loaded with supplies and his Macabebe laborers Stamford had a fair sized party for the construction of this Subig-Iba line. The line was rapidly constructed from Subig to Castellejos, to San Marcelino and to San Narcissus; here one evening after a hard day's work the rebels in force attacked the Signal Corps detachment, and there was a hard fight of three hours before the enemy had had enough. In this fight our men were much handicapped and disheartened by their defective Krag-Jorgensen ammunition.

On the Subig-Iba trail, about three miles out of Subig, there is a deep and narrow cut in the rocks commanded by the surrounding hills, and through this cut runs the trail. It was here that Lieutenant Schenck, of the 25th, was ambushed and killed, and the spot is popular with lurking bands of rebels. Coming through this pass soon after his San Narcissus fight, Stamford's party was ambushed by the insurgents. The enemy had the tops of this cut lined with heavy timbers and rocks ready to roll down on our men when they were in the pass, and when they opened fire from behind these protections their rifles were so close that the powder burned our men on the faces and hands.

These are but a few of the features of the work of establishing that 1,551 miles of telegraph wire. Such occurrences could be multiplied without end.

Other Signal Corps details in other parts of the island here had similar experiences. Lieutenant Stamford's work around Orani and Subig is taken as an example of the whole. And the Signal Corps has lost two men killed and six wounded and taken prisoner, so the danger is not fanciful or unreal.

SPREADING A NETWORK OF LINES.

There is a commercial cable from Manila to Iloilo on Panay, from Iloilo to Negros Island and from Negros to the island of Cebu. Our wires in these Visayan islands amount to 120 miles. From Iloilo we have a line to Capiz, through the interior and then down the coast back to Iloilo; on Negros we have lines north and south to Manalpa and Jamamallan respectively. On Cebu we have a line from Cebu, the capital, to the interior of the town of Karkat.

Not far from Cebu are the islands of Samar and Leyte, recently occupied by the 43d under Colonel Murray; these latter islands will be placed in communication with Manila by running a cable from Cebu to the island of Bohul, then a land wire across Bohul, again a cable to Leyte and land wires to the principal towns thereon. From Leyte the line will get to Samar by cable across the narrow straits of San Juanito, and in Samar it will run as far north as the town of Calbayog. This new branch will be about two hundred and fifty miles long.

With the idea of eventually placing the island of Mindanao in communication with the corps headquarters in Manila, a cable will be laid from the southern end of Cebu Island to the northern shore of Mindanao; from those landing points on Mindanao wires will be run to Cottabatto, Iligan Misamia and Nakajalar Bay; this projection will require about two hundred more miles of wire.

There are 1,433 miles of wire on Luzon, and the island is thoroughly well covered; from the twelve trunk lines there are many ramifications running into practically every town where we have garrisons. Going south from Manila our lines entered well into Taybas and Laguna provinces. This southern line will be soon extended through the Camarines provinces north and south and into Nueve Caceres, Abbay, Legaspi and Sorsogon on the southern end of Luzon. From Manila north the long line of the Cagyan Valley will soon be completed, and then Aparri on the extreme northern coast of Luzon will be in communication. Another line up the western coast of the island already extends as far north as the town of Laoag. In Manila itself the Signal Corps operates a local system of wires for the use of the several Governmental departments here located, as well as an official telephone system.

The Signal Corps has had and is still having much difficulty in securing good telegraph operators. A good operator can do pretty well at home, and this service in the Philippines is not attractive enough to draw good men from positions in the United States.

# "ST. LOUIS CHRONICLE" BURNED OUT.

St. Louis, April 21.—The plant of "The St. Louis Chronicle," occupying the three and four story buildings at No. 14 to 18 South Sixth-st., was practically destroyed to-day by fire, that is supposed to have originated in the boiler room. The interior of the building is a complete wreck, and the typesetting machines, the stereotyping machines and whole fonts of type in the advertising department of the paper are destroyed. The loss, it was stated by the management of the paper, will be at least $50,000, covered by $21,000 insurance.

# MORE WATER FOR BROOKLYN.

## CONTROLLER COLER WILL REPORT FAVORABLY ON PROPOSED NEW CONDUITS.

Controller Coler said yesterday that at the next meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment he would report in favor of the issue of bonds for the proposed new 48-inch water conduits from the Milburn pumping station to Spring Gate station, Brooklyn.

The new conduits will cost about $1,000,000, and will give Brooklyn an additional water supply of twenty million gallons daily. They will greatly relieve the pressure for more water in Brooklyn. The new conduits have been approved by the Board of Public Improvements.

# NAVAL STORES.

The markets were all quiet, but prices were quoted practically on the basis of the previous day. Quotations follow:

TAR—Regulars, $1 90; do oil bbls, $3 90.

SPIRITS TURPENTINE—31@31½c.

ROSIN—Common to good strained, $1 70; E, $1 75; F, $1 80; G, $1 85; H, $1 90; I, $2 15; K, $2 30; M, $2 60; N, $2 80; W G, $3; W W, $3 25.

STOCK ON HAND.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rosin, bbls | 19,517 |
| Spirits turpentine, bbls | 461 |
| Tar, bbls | 2,274 |

Wilmington, April 21.—Spirits turpentine firm, 47@47½c; receipts, 11 casks. Rosin steady, unchanged; receipts, 10 bbls. Crude turpentine quiet, $1 85@$3 15; receipts, 14 bbls. Tar firm, $1 30; receipts, 163 bbls. Receipts in crude, 14 bbls.

Charleston, April 21.—Turpentine firm at 46½c. Rosin firm, unchanged.

Savannah, April 21.—Spirits turpentine firm, 47½c; receipts, 1,031 bbls; sales, 298; exports, 1,053. Rosin unchanged; I and above quiet; H and below firm; receipts, 1,817 bbls; exports, 5,302.

London, April 21.—Turpentine—Spirits, 41s 6d@41s 9d.


B. Altman & Co.

(Third Floor.)

UPHOLSTERY DEPARTMENT.

EIGHT HUNDRED YARDS OF TAPESTRY, FOR FURNITURE COVERING WILL BE OFFERED ON MONDAY AT LESS THAN HALF ORIGINAL PRICES.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO RE-UPHOLSTER FURNITURE (DURING THE SUMMER SEASON ONLY) IN WORKROOMS ON THE PREMISES.

SLIP COVERS MADE TO ORDER OF IRISH LINEN AND FRENCH AND ENGLISH CRETONNES, COTTON DAMASKS, ETC.

LACE CURTAINS CLEANED AND STORED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

(First Floor.)

WHITE NAINSOOK ROBES (Unmade),

EMBROIDERY, AND LACE AND EMBROIDERY COMBINATIONS,

$4.25, $6.50, $7.90, $9.85

Heretofore $7.00 to $23.00.

IMPORTED NAINSOOK ALL-OVERS,

EMBROIDERY AND LACE COMBINATIONS.

95c., $1.25, $1.45, $1.75, $2.25

Heretofore $1.25 to $4.50.

(Second Floor.)

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