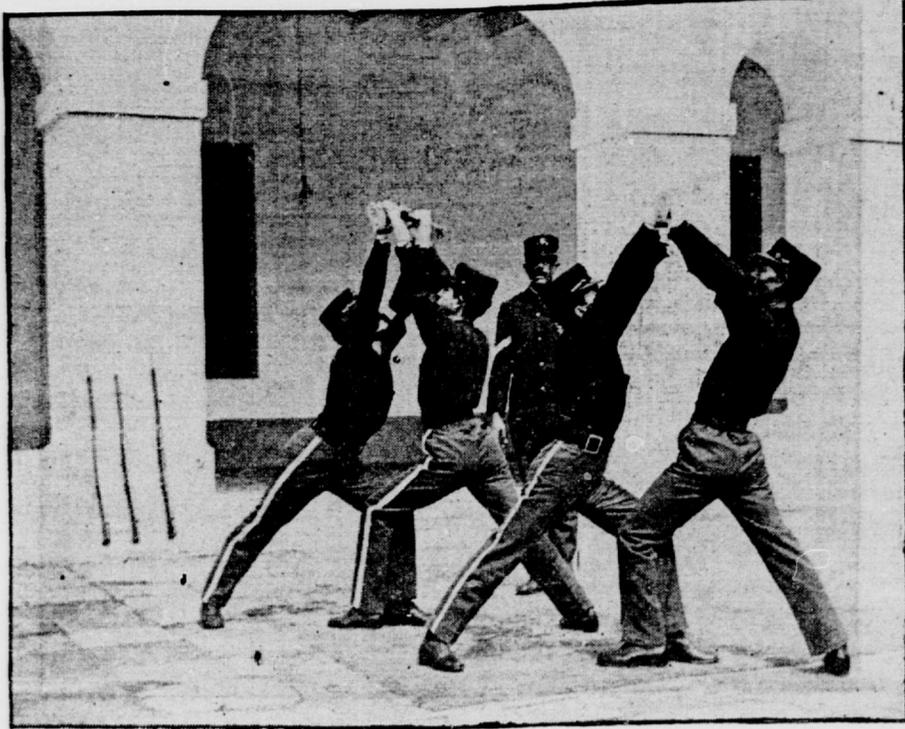


AMERICAN OFFICERS ARE MAKING STALWART SOLDIERS OUT OF FLABBY MUSCLED YOUNG PORTO RICANS

(Photographs by A. C. Haesebarth, San Juan.)



THIS MAKES THE SLIM WRISTS OF PORTO RICANS STRONG.

PORTO RICO SOLDIERS READY TO BEGIN "SETTING UP" EXERCISES.

Since being made to understand that they will not be molested so long as they observe the rules of good husbandry they are content, and have voluntarily offered to the committee over 1,000,000 acres of mountain land at an average price of \$250 an acre. The lumberman and the tanner have also fallen into the line of progression, realizing that not only will scientific forestry not destroy their business enterprises, but, by properly regulating the supply, will increase their water power.

There are within this region many accessible districts, alike in their general features, but each with distinct charms and advantages peculiarly its own. The Sapphire country, with its lakes and waterfalls, is perhaps the most Swiss-like. Good turnpikes and hotel accommodations are provided for the pleasure and health seeker. It is twenty miles from the railroad, but can be reached at any season of the year.

Ransom Talent, the mail carrier, is a unique product of the Carolina hills. Day after day, rain or shine, he has carried the mail over a twenty-four mile route for a remuneration of 49 cents a day! He lives in the cabin where he was born, with his sons about him. Except during the Civil War, he has never been outside of his native State, and knows little or nothing about the learning of the schools. Though uneducated, he is an educated man. His is a log house, but a royal company of books is sheltered there!

Schoolhouses and churches are not infrequently seen in the mountains, but the average mountaineer is not educated up to the idea of attending either. A school with two hundred names on its roll will, after the first week or two, have a daily attendance of perhaps ten pupils. At this rate education makes slow progress, having many lessons to be learned when the government makes of the region a national park.

TO DRINK OUT OF GLASS SLIPPERS.

Cinderella was wondering why the slipper was of glass when she picked up the morning newspaper.

"Of course," she exclaimed, "the prince wants to drink out of it."

Soon after she found it a perfect fit, though protesting it was really so big that it hurt her.

A GOOD RECORD.

From Tit-Bits.

"Three knots an hour isn't such bad time for a clergyman," smilingly said the minister to himself, just after he had united the third couple.

TRAINING NATIVE TROOPS

UNCLE SAM MAKING STURDY AMERICAN SOLDIERS OUT OF THE FLABBY PORTO RICANS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 20 (Special).—Those who have visited West Point and seen a company of cadets going through a "setting up" exercise will at first wonder if these young men are training for war. At the command of their officer they bend their backs, twist their arms and legs and perform other such contortions that when they are at last ordered to face about and mark time one believes that they will never again untangle themselves.

But it is such training as the "setting up" which makes the soldier out of the ordinary citizen. Rigorous and unnecessarily severe as these exercises may seem, they are to prepare a youth for the greater hardships of his future life. Instead of wearing down a man's constitution it builds it up, hardens his muscles, expands his chest, starts his gastric and pancreatic juices into healthful activity, and transforms a fat and flabby youth into a well rounded man.

The results of vigorous exercise in the making of an American soldier are more strikingly illustrated than usual in Porto Rico at the present time. Here the United States Government has undertaken to organize a regiment of native troops, to dress them in the blue uniform of the United States army, and at the same time to teach these raw recruits that the uniform by no means makes the soldier.

The material which is being utilized in this interesting experiment—for it is regarded as an experiment until these fellows show what they can do under actual fire—is of the crudest sort. The young men who have enlisted come for the most part from the country, where the degree of civilization at the time the island became a possession of this nation was even lower than that of the cities. Such a youth has been raised with no definite standard of cleanliness and in a home where the rules of sanitation are practically unknown. The boy has also never been taught to exert himself, except to obtain the bare necessities of life. Work was regarded as a sort of nightmare, to be shunned as far as possible, and the tropic sun was so bountiful in its supply of fruits and nuts that it seemed per-

fectly natural to think labor becoming only to certain insects.

As a consequence, the native Porto Rican youth is flabby, undeveloped and possessed of little endurance. Many of his kind have a tendency to petty thievery, moroseness and untruthfulness, moral qualities which closely reflect the looseness of his physical makeup. At first the American officers questioned the possibility of moulding this putty sort of youth into a thoroughbred soldier, hardened to exposure, strong and with endurance to withstand the hardships of camp life or the march. But in the three years which have passed since the work of transformation began military officers who have watched the training of the native troops regard his development as highly satisfactory.

The movement to establish a body of native troops was set on foot soon after the Spanish War by General Guy V. Henry, the first American Military Governor of the island. He suggested that two battalions be formed, and his suggestion was supported by President McKinley. General Henry argued that in case of a future war the island of Porto Rico would be especially exposed to attack by a foreign power, and should be prepared to defend a land invasion. Native troops would in such an emergency, he said, be far superior to soldiery from the United States, for the reason of their acquaintance with the island and their immunity to tropic diseases.

In three years' time two battalions have been organized, consisting of 986 men, who are divided into separate detachments. Three mounted companies are posted at the San Juan barracks, three at Cayey, one at Mayaguez and one at Ponce. All are under the command of Colonel James Buchanan, whose quarters are in the historic Casa Blanca, built by Ponce de Leon.

"The Porto Rican," said one of the officers in command here, "will develop into a good soldier. He is tractable, obedient and proud of his uniform. I believe that he would be loyal in time of war, though, of course, that quality of his character is yet to be tested. On the whole, he has more virtues than faults, and is not generally as apt to get into trouble and the guard-house as is the enlisted American.

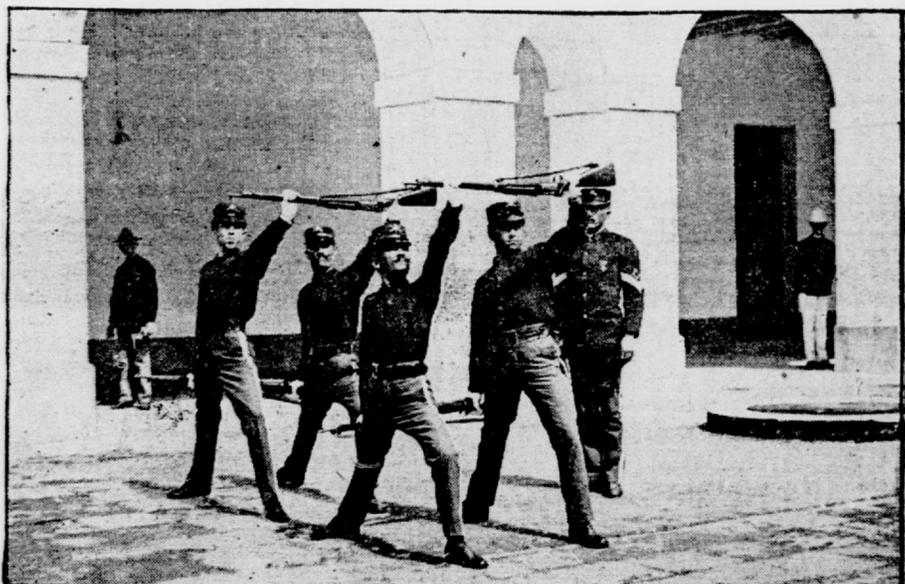
Besides a certain tendency to laziness, petty dishonesty and underhandedness, Porto Ricans are inclined to be wasteful of government property. But these faults in the men whom we are training are disappearing. Flagrant violations of regulations are exceedingly rare.

"All the commissioned officers and the first sergeants of the two battalions are Americans, and the wisdom of this is constantly apparent. A Porto Rican does not like to take an order from a native superior, but seems anxious to obey his American officer. The native officer is more apt, also, to be unreasonable or overbearing toward a private of his own race."

The hard training which is now being given to these black haired recruits, it is believed, will to some extent overcome a certain sensitiveness which is a marked characteristic of the Porto Rican. He is naturally given to brooding over things, to fancying grievances, to becoming envious and, last of all, to committing suicide. A striking illustration of this trait in the Porto Rican character was shown some time ago in the case of a young soldier who had been reprimanded for some act of carelessness. Out of spite he first retaliated by committing a worse breach of discipline. It appears that one of his friends had killed himself, and he was told that because of his own misconduct he could not attend the funeral. He then fell to weeping when the burial party went to the cemetery, and as soon as it returned he stepped out into full view, put a pistol to his mouth and sent a bullet through his brain. Such suicides among these troops, it is said, are not infrequent.

It is believed by some authorities that one reason the Porto Rican is so prone to melancholia and suicide is that his body is undeveloped from lack of exercise. Accordingly, his nervous system is not counterbalanced with a sufficient ballast of flesh. If such is the true hypothesis of the situation, his army life will effect a natural cure. In the course of the last three years the weight of the average private has been increased by exercise from 105 pounds to 130 pounds, and his chest measurement has been increased three or four inches. Some of the "stunts" which have produced these results include the knapsack drill, a sort of leapfrog known as a "foot and a half" and in times of recreation baseball, boxing and bowling. Baseball has become an especially popular game.

In San Juan the soldiers are housed in the old Spanish Ballaja Infantry Barracks, which were built by Spain in 1872. The structure, standing near the Morro Castle and overlooking the city, has a great courtyard, large enough to accommodate an entire battalion formation. Here the boys are put through all kinds of exercises, with the gun for an Indian club, and they are compelled to bend, squirm and twist so as to bring every muscle into vigorous action.



PORTO RICAN CHESTS EXPAND AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF THIS.

BATHER HARD ON PORTO RICAN LEGS AT FIRST.