

WHY WOOD WAS PROMOTED

ROOT DETAILS RECORD. High Praise for Indian Campaigns—Work in Cuba.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Dec. 20.—In the course of the public discussion of the propriety of making Leonard Wood a major general the question has frequently arisen as to what services General Wood has performed which entitle him to this preferment. As the same question has arisen in the Senate, Secretary Root has addressed a letter to Senator Proctor, acting chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, which explains the administration's view. It is as follows:

War Department, Washington, Nov. 18, 1903. My Dear Senator: In compliance with your request, I transmit a résumé of the military record of General Leonard Wood, and a statement of the chief considerations which have led to his promotion as a major general.

This officer has been five times confirmed by the Senate upon appointments by President McKinley, as a general officer—twice as a brigadier general of volunteers, twice as major general of volunteers, and once as brigadier general of the regular army. Your committee is therefore probably familiar with most of the facts of his record, and I will not repeat them in detail.

First—His service as a general officer in command of troops, although serving in a commission in the medical staff during the Indian wars. Upon this service his superior officers have made the following remarks:

General Miles: "This officer served in the field under my command for several months during the terrible campaign against the Apache Indians under Geronimo. He is one of the most surprising, intelligent and fearless officers in the service, and competent to fulfill the duties of a field officer."

General Lawton: "When through exposure and fatigue the infantry battalion lost its last officer in the pursuit of Geronimo, Captain Wood volunteered to command it in addition to his duties as surgeon. In this duty Captain Wood distinguished himself most. His courage, endurance and coolness were beyond praise. I served through the War of the Rebellion and in many battles, but in no instance do I remember such devotion to duty, or such an example of courage and perseverance. It was mainly due to Captain Wood's loyalty and resolution that the expedition was successful."

General William M. Graham: "With a high sense of honor in all the obligations of his position, a conscientious and zealous officer in the discharge of duty. His physique is superb; his mental qualifications are of the highest order."

General George A. Fox: "He is one of the best officers in the Army. I have known him well for the past ten years and I know him as a man of the highest character, a good executive ability, experience and courage. He is one of the most reliable and safest colonels in the Army."

Upon these and similar evidence of fitness, President McKinley promoted General Wood colonel of the 1st Volunteer Cavalry in May, 1898.

PRaise FOR WORK IN SANTIAGO CAMPAIGN. Second—In the Santiago campaign Colonel Wood's service appeared to justify his promotion. He commanded his regiment at Las Guasimas on the 1st of June, and in the battle of San Juan, July 1, 1898, he was reported as having distinguished himself by his magnificent behavior on the field.

His division commander, General Wheeler, reported: "The magnificent and brave work done by this regiment, under the lead of Colonel Wood, testifies to his courage and skill. The brilliant and successful administration of this officer has been marked from the moment he reported to me at Tampa, Fla., but I cannot speak too highly of the efficient manner in which Colonel Wood handled his regiment and his magnificent behavior on the field."

He commanded a brigade in the San Juan fight July 1, 1898, and his division commander, Samuel R. Chamberlain, reported: "Too much credit cannot be given to the gallant brigade commander, Colonel Wood, who distinguished himself by his magnificent behavior on the field."

The following officers were conspicuous for their bravery and handled their troops so well I desire to recommend them for promotion: Colonel Wood, to be brigadier general.

The third promotion covers the command of the troops in occupation of the Province of Santiago and the administration of the military government of Cuba from December 19, 1898, to December 1, 1900. General Wood's appointment to this position appears to have been based upon the following dispatch from General Augustin: "I think General Wood by far the best man to leave in command of the city of Santiago, and perhaps of the whole district."

This important command carried with it naturally an appointment as major general of volunteers. This commission was issued on December 19, 1898. General Wood's appointment to this position appears to have been based upon the following dispatch from General Augustin: "I think General Wood by far the best man to leave in command of the city of Santiago, and perhaps of the whole district."

In the spring of 1899 General Wood's commission as major general of volunteers being a temporary one, he was nominated by the President as brigadier general of the regular army, and his last year's service as military governor was under the administration of the Secretary of War, acting for the President as Commander in Chief. The high estimate placed upon his services as military governor is shown in the published orders of the War Department containing the enclosed report of the President, and the Presidents under whom the services were rendered.

THE MILITARY RULE IN CUBA. What was done in Cuba by the American army has been the subject of much discussion. It is frequently supposed that many who look back upon it in the light of its simplicity and success, and who are inclined to regard it as a simple and easy job, and the members of your committee who were concerned in government during that period, and who are familiar with the facts, and the difficulties of the situation, and the anxieties which accompanied the discharge of our national obligations in that island, the serious nature of the situation, and the responsibility which it imposed upon us, will be able to appreciate in case of erroneous judgment or feebleness of execution, and the satisfaction which we derived from the successful result, and the high order, and involves the exercise of many of the most important qualities of a general officer.

It is of great importance to the country that among its general officers men who measure up to the performance of such a duty, and the successful administration of such a policy, should be regarded as a title to military promotion. Upon a review of General Wood's entire military record, it will be fair to say that no officer of the Army below the grade of major general has held more important commands, or discharged more distinguished services, or demonstrated to a higher degree the possession of the qualities which fit a man to render valuable services to the country as a general officer.

Will you permit me to add an observation upon the principle which should govern in the selection of officers to follow in making appointments to general officer?

The law which recognizes seniority alone as the title to promotion up to the grade of colonel shrouds that rule when it deals with general officers, and imposes upon the President the duty of selecting the best men for general without expressing any limitation upon the class from which he is to select. The selection of a man for a selection to be made two different considerations always present themselves to the appointing mind. One is the desire to reward merit, and the other is the desire to do the things that ought to be done in the future of the country.

THE ASSAULT ON MAX NORDAU. Paris, Dec. 20.—It has been learned that Louban, the Russian who attempted to kill Max Nordau at a Zionist hall last night, is one of the Zionists who insisted on the acquisition of Palestine, and that he and his fellow conspirators at Berns were antagonistic to the plan advocated by M. Nordau and others to establish the new Zion in Africa.

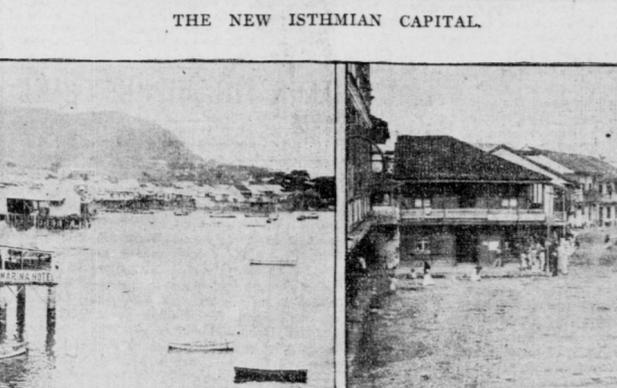
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A merry Christmas from Sunny France. Delectable Perfumes, Myrtle, Aglaia, and Violette Celestee. At all dealers.—Adv.

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VIEW OF THE WATERFRONT OF PANAMA.



THE WATERWORKS OF PANAMA.

REVISION FOR DREYFUS.

Positive Statement of Result of M. Mercier's Investigation.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Positive announcements are made this morning by the "Soleil" and the "Lanterne" that Victor Mercier, one of the directors of the Ministry of Justice and reporter of the Dreyfus Commission, has concluded his report, and that it recommends a revision of the case.

HITS DAUGHTER'S HEAD.

Miss Helen M. Gould's Gardener Stumbles Over Body on Track.

The mangled body of Miss Susan C. Berger was found late Saturday night on the New-York Central Railroad tracks nearly opposite Lyndhurst, the country home of Miss Helen M. Gould at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, by her father, Henry Berger, who has been employed by Miss Gould for twenty years. He unexpectedly stumbled over her head, which had been cut off. Miss Berger had been to this city with her sister buying Christmas presents, and scattered on the tracks the broken hearted father found the gifts which she had intended for her parents, brothers and sisters.

FEVER CLOSES CUTLER.

School Begins Holidays a Week Earlier Than Usual.

It was learned yesterday that a mild outbreak of scarlet fever among the pupils had caused the closing of the Cutler school at No. 20 East Fifth-st., for the Christmas holidays about a week earlier than usual. The cases were five in number, and of such a mild type that physicians who were called to attend to some of the patients at first diagnosed the disease as measles. Dr. Cutler decided, however, not to run the slightest risk, and therefore closed the school for the holidays. The first cases developed at intervals, and a week ago yesterday the illness of a fifth pupil was diagnosed as scarlet fever.

HELD COURT BY INCENDIARY FIRE.

Judge Saves from Lynching Negro Charged with Destroying Barn.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 20.—To save Charles Bynum, a negro, from lynching, Justice Morris of Driver, Va., held court at 2 a. m. by the light of the fire which destroyed the barn of John L. Bond. Several fine horses and a number of vehicles and farm implements, together with several thousand pounds of cotton, were destroyed. The negro was held for court.

WOMEN APPEAL TO SENATOR PLATT.

Old Tom, the Faithful Express Horse, Will Now Go on a Pension.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Wilkesbarre, Penn., Dec. 20.—Old Tom, a horse which for nineteen years has drawn a wagon in this city for the United States Express Company, will be retired after Christmas and spend the rest of his days in ease.

THREE BEARS WERE KILLED.

The Rev. Mr. Engle Shot Two in the West Virginia Mountains.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Cumberland, Md., Dec. 20.—A successful bear hunt on Harper's Knob, Tucker County, W. Va., ended yesterday. The Rev. S. M. Engle, Presbyterian pastor at Parsons, killed two bears. The Rev. L. F. Leener, of Horton, W. Va., and Dr. William Carwell were in the party. Dr. Carwell killing the third bear.

THE ASSAULT ON MAX NORDAU.

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CHELSEA PIERS FOR SHIP TRUST

A GERMAN LINE ALSO NEGOTIATING TO TAKE ONE OF THEM.

Pennsylvania and New-York Central Trains Will Ultimately Deposit Passengers at Ship's Side.

The American, White Star, Atlantic Transport and Leyland steamship lines are all soon to surrender their present piers and move to the Chelsea section on the North River, immediately south of Twenty-third-st., where the city has built handsome and commodious new piers. The change is part of a plan to enable the Pennsylvania and other Southern and Western lines, and the New-York Central Railroad, to unload passengers directly from the cars at the ship's side.

TERMS SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES.

The arrangement appears to be a most favorable one for the city from the point of view of financial return, and it seems to be satisfactory to the steamship lines. It will greatly facilitate their business. Furthermore, it is expected that the move will permit all these lines, at a not distant date, to take passengers direct from Pennsylvania Railroad passenger trains. The New-York Central is in position to send express trains from the north direct to the boats by using its tracks in Eleventh-ave. The Pennsylvania company may use these same tracks. The American Line for some time has, it is said, been running special trains from Philadelphia on the morning of sailings, transferring the passengers across the Hudson by ferry.

KILLS WHOLE FAMILY.

Shoots Wife, Three Children and Himself—No Money for Christmas.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 20.—Roscoe W. Derby, a machinist, about forty-five years old, exterminated his family early to-day by shooting his wife, his three children and then himself. The estate is believed to have been due to despondency over poverty and the near approach of Christmas. The wife was killed first, while sleeping at her husband's side in bed; two of the children were killed as they ran through the house in the darkness of early morning, endeavoring to escape from their parent, and the third child was killed in bed. Derby then went into the bedroom, where his wife had been killed, and, lying down at her side, fired a bullet into his own brain.

BURGLARS FIGHT POLICE. JACK THE RIPPER CRIME.

WRECKED A BIG SAFE. CLEW TO THE MURDERER.

Running Pistol Fight in Street—Patrolman and Watchman Shot.

In a desperate battle with revolvers last night between the police of the Oak-st. station and five men who had entered the offices of Isaac A. Sheppard & Co., in the big four story building at Peck Slip and Pearl-st., and had blown open the big safe there, capturing one of the strong boxes, two men were shot although neither was seriously injured.

DISCOVERED TWO MINUTES BEFORE SERVICES.

Were to Begin—Damage Considerable.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Elizabeth, N. J., Dec. 20 (Special).—St. James's Methodist Episcopal Church, in Broad-st., was damaged by fire to-night, and narrowly escaped destruction. The flames started in the basement from an overheated furnace, it is supposed, and were discovered just as the large congregation had assembled for worship and a couple of minutes before services were to begin. There was much excitement, and the people got out in a hurry. Luckily, a fire engine and truck were near, and the blaze was confined to the basement. The damage is considerable.

PARKER READY FOR THE SACRIFICE.

So Says Smith, of Georgia, Brother of Hoke.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 20.—The Democratic nomination for the Presidency will not go begging if it is offered to Judge Alton B. Parker, of New-York, says Burton Smith, brother of ex-Secretary Hoke Smith, and president of the Georgia Bar Association, before which Judge Parker spoke last summer, who has just returned from a visit to the home of Judge Parker. Mr. Smith also believes that Tammany will go to the Democratic convention prepared to support Judge Parker. He said that he found Democratic leaders everywhere in favor of Judge Parker, considering him peculiarly available on account of his judicial position. During the silver agitation he was unable to take part in the fight, and hence antagonized no wing of the party, though he supported its nominees in every election. Mr. Smith says:

WOULD MAKE A MURDERER SICK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Richmond, Ind., Dec. 20.—Dr. David W. Dennis, head of the biology department of Earlham College, this city, says that criminals sentenced to death should be subjected to disease germs in the interest of science. He thinks germs could be secured in this way that would not be obtained by any other plan.

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UPHOLDS THE PRESIDENT.

CLARK HOWELL'S STAND. Tells Senators Facts, Not Sentiment, Should Dictate Duty.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 20.—Clark Howell, Editor of "The Atlanta Constitution," and Democratic national committeeman from Georgia, strongly defends President Roosevelt's Panama policy and as strongly condemns the opposition to it manifested by Democratic Senators. Mr. Howell says:

"The Panama case is one of the kind where the facts should dictate duty, rather than sentiment. What are the facts in the case?"

"Columbia committed acts of government that put in fullest jeopardy all the rights, interests and aspirations of the people of her Department of Panama. They believed the result would be to rob them of the Isthmian canal and doom them to a future of inconsequence and poverty. They frankly and in ample season warned the authorities at Bogota that, if that sacrifice was demanded of them, they would secede and set up an independent government. The sacrifice was called for and Panama declared her independence. Her people never for a moment needed the urging of the American government or the alleged machinations of Bunau-Varilla to do what they did."

"Was the Republic of Panama born too quickly? Revolutions are oceanic operations. The American Revolution was born the very moment the vote was announced that adopted the Declaration of Independence. Secession became the policy of the Southern States the moment South Carolina proclaimed her ordinance of secession."

"Did our government recognize the Republic of Panama too soon? If we did, we should go back on our track and reverse our recognition of the French Republic within three days of its proclamation, and our recognition of the Brazilian republic in four days after Dom Pedro was shipped to Europe. In the Panama case we took five days in which to learn that the newly proclaimed republic was unopposed and in full control of the country by consent of its inhabitants."

"What was the United States to do in such a case, with its obligations as to the Panama transit and neutrality upon it? Our marines were landed to do our duty in that one respect only. And to exercise that right to preserve them was the only office performed by our forces on and near the Isthmus."

"Suppose we withdraw our recognition and reject the treaty, what will be our position then, as viewed by the other governments of Europe and America that also have recognized the new Republic of Panama? Are we to do this ridiculous thing, abandon our treaty rights in Panama, give up the canal there, withdraw our guardianship of rail transit now going on, and go hunting for terms with people who would be fools if they did not profit themselves tremendously by our predicament?"

"Let it be admitted that all that has been quoted from Senator Hoar and from Senator Daniel and other of his Southern colleagues is true, and yet no case is made that involves connivance with rebellion on the isthmus or a sacrifice of the national honor in dealing favorably with the new republic through the ratification of the pending treaty."

THE POWERS AND PANAMA.

Alleged Restriction of Rights Pointed Out by Senor Zapata.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Julio Zapata, writing from London to the Paris edition of "The New-York Herald," attacks the address made by Mr. Loomis, Assistant Secretary of State, at a recent dinner in New-York when Mr. Loomis defended and defended the action of the United States government in connection with affairs on the Isthmus of Panama. Senor Zapata thinks that the European powers will suffer restriction if their sovereign rights will suffer restriction if they are not allowed to treat on their own terms with countries which they have recognized as independent.

A LARGE CAMP AT EMPIRE.

Three Hundred and Eighty Marines Settled—Some Scouting Done.

Panama, Dec. 20.—Three hundred and eighty marines are now at Empire Station on the Panama railroad under the command of Major John A. Lejeune. The marines are comfortably settled and are well supplied with good water. The auxiliary cruiser Dixie before leaving Colon left stores sufficient for two weeks, and the marines are getting beef and bread from local sources.

DISPATCH FROM ADMIRAL GLASS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Navy Department today received a cable dispatch from Rear Admiral Glass, commanding the naval forces on the Isthmus, giving a general summary of the conditions that prevail there and of the various steps that have been taken by the navy. The dispatch stated that all was quiet. The text of the message was not made public.

THE CAMP AT EMPIRE.

The camp at Empire is on the top sides of a hill. The health of the men is good. They have been engaged since their arrival in building roads, clearing the brush near their dwellings and in getting stores.

The marines have done some scouting for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the nearby trails and the points to which they lead.

PROCEEDING SOUTHWARD TO JOIN THE OTHER VESSELS UNDER IMMEDIATE COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL COGHAN OF THE OLYMPIA, HIS REGULAR FLAGSHIP.

Naval officials say that the "reports at hand show no Colombian troops have been discovered on the southern side of the isthmus, while on the other side the only force seen has been that on the shore bordering on the Gulf of Darien."

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