

# WANTED: A NEW KING FOR PALAWAN

BY WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY.

The Tagbanos are disconsolate for their man-rod, soldier-king, is dead. Salip Akib and Salip Tomi, the pirate Moro chiefs, are again despoiling the peaceful and fertile island of Palawan, for was not the man they had come to fear as the devil incarnate seen to tumble ingloriously from a boat, floundering helplessly and sink to the bottom? Lieutenant Edward Y. Miller, the governor of the most outlying of all the Philippine territory and the inspired uplifter of its people, has been drowned in the course of duty and where is the man who will be able to fill his place? This is the question that is facing the Philippine government and the bureau of insular affairs. This is the question that is bringing to light a piece of work that has been carried forward in the wilds of the great east that is as full of romance and accomplishment as the most fanciful yarn ever spun by the imagination. For Lieutenant Miller, U. S. A., has for eight years been absolutely ruler over 34,000 people, wild, barbaric, unchristian. He has single-handed brought peace to those people in the place of continuous warfare. He has repelled the Moro pirates in many pitched battles, armed and drilled by the Moro and made his coast a place to be shunned of all else by these evildoers of the sea.

Yet Miller died ingloriously a month ago from falling overboard from a boat in the wilds of an island straggling to the westward of the main island. The Moros have learned of the nature of his death in such a simple emergency that any mere native would have been able to save himself. The fear of him and his kind has consequently vanished and the Moros are again at war.

Dean C. Worcester, American secretary of the interior for the Philippines, came a little later into Palawan to inaugurate Emergency Governor Evans, who had been appointed to fill the place of the dead governor-king, but with little hope of success.

Story of Lieut. Miller.

All of which leads to the story of Lieutenant Miller. He was at the time of his death a member of the Twenty-ninth infantry, but had never seen that regiment and was unknown to its officers. This because of the fact that he had been, since the time of his appointment, on detached duty as governor of Palawan. At the breaking out of the Spanish-American war he had been an officer in the Chief's militia and had enlisted. His service was with the Fifth Illinois volunteer infantry and had first taken him to Porto Rico and later to the Philippines. He served in the outlying southern provinces and his superiors soon recognized his genius for getting along with the natives. Because of it he received his appointment in the regular army and his detached duty.

Lieutenant Miller was but twenty-four years old when he first enlisted. Yet he left a soldier's sweetheart behind him in Illinois and when he received the permanent detail the sweetheart came into the wilds to him and they were married. All the years between then and now Mrs. Miller has spent at the side of her husband and hand in hand they have sought to lead the way for their charges from the darkness of barbarism to the light of civilization and to better living. They have left behind a monument of accomplishment that is perhaps unequalled in the history of so small a force working for the uplift.

Palawan is the very outpost of the Philippines. It lies in that great reach of the island that runs out to the southeast nearly two days' journey to Borneo, and separates the China sea from the Sulu sea. It is a strip of land twenty miles wide and 275 miles long. Timbered mountains store the moisture which makes its valleys perennially fertile. Its long coast line offers itself to the spoiler of the Moro pirates who have swarmed through those waters for centuries and have proved continuously upon their natives. The mountain people and those of the valleys are wild, but sweet natured and simple. They are the Tagbanos—good natured wanderers for whom much hope is expressed. Yet all was chaos and war never ceased in the old days.

It was into these conditions that Lieutenant Miller brought his young wife. The men of the army protested

against such exposure, but the young officer believed that he knew the natives better than they and that he was safe. He established himself at Puerto Princesa, which had once been a Spanish town of some importance, but had become a deserted city of the south seas. Here he made his capital and here he began his work with the natives.

Worked Among People.

The people in the immediate vicinity of Puerto Princesa had known something of the outside world through the Spanish, but their memory of their former masters was not such as to encourage intimacy. But the new governor became acquainted with a few and for these he began by healing their sick. A man of great physical strength and much energy, Lieutenant Miller worked among the people immediately around him, and they soon learned that all his acts were for their good. They carried the stories to an ever widening circle.

Soon he was able to muster a number of chosen young natives into a militia organization. These he supplied with arms and drilled. His aim was the repelling of the Moros. Salip Akib, who had long been the terror of the natives had been ineffective as a warrior and were at the option of the pirates. Lieutenant Miller was well prepared before he struck a blow.

Then one night the news was brought that the pirates were ashore at a village up the coast and the natives were being robbed of their stores and animals. The raiders had gorged themselves, had stolen a score of the prettiest women of the settlement for barter in other ports and were carousing in the village.

Wiped Out Pirate Band.

The governor massed his constabulary and crept upon the town. The pirates were surprised, but expected an easy victory. But they had reckoned without knowing the big American was a fiend when aroused. His followers had been drilled into efficiency but were yet timid, not knowing their strength when it came to the use of arms. But they followed their chief to battle in fairly good part. The pirates were cut to pieces and the band broken up. The American that day won for himself the title of "the demon." The timid natives learned that they were able to stand against their hereditary enemy. The gratitude of the whole community came to the governor. Recruits came to his arms.

The men of Salip Tomi gave the second big battle in the working out of the problems of this isolated law and order scheme. "The demon" met this band under similar conditions and the results were the same. The timid natives found that they could fight and they liked it. They placed themselves at the

command of the governor and did his bidding without question. They came to call him king and his word was law. They carried the tales of him to the ends of the island and all the people proclaimed him. None would have dared stand against him, even had they not loved him. He gave his orders as to cessation of war among the tribes and the allotment of land. In two years he had brought peace into the whole island and found it in readiness for his real programme. The fear of his arms among the Moros became so great that for six years before his death there was not a piratical raid on any part of the island. The natives called him king and his powers with them was absolute. To all intents and purposes he was a real king for there was no authority in the land but his.

When a mass of people has been tucked away in a lost corner of the earth for twenty centuries and has known nothing of law and order, it does not readily grasp the ideas of civilization. An individual man and woman

might exert a considerable influence on a few people but the object here was to uplift the 34,000. The American school has been the

great instrument in the hands of the Americans in the Philippines. In the islands every year 500,000 native children are learning English and getting

of the states back home. But they began the education of their fellows and as the seasons passed they were added to by young people with more and more

learning. The parents made every effort to assist. They voluntarily contributed their labor to the building of school houses and often materials were given. As rapidly as possible the education idea got hold and was just coming on to fruition when the governor was drowned.

But being a practical man, Lieutenant Miller knew that if the people prospered it would be through a cultivation of their fertile soil. They were mostly nomadic, wandering from place to place. He exerted all his influence to get them to settle down and make themselves permanent homes, cultivating more land. He told them the things to grow and the manner of doing it. He taught them the manner of marketing their crops and induced the government to put on a boat that would be able to carry their product to market. He took charge of a few men and caused them to wax prosperous by following this plan and the other natives seeing this prosperity and being great imitators, immediately began following the example.

How He Lost His Life.

The Tagbanos, or inland people, were the favorites with the governor. They were intelligent, tractable, musical, lovable. He determined that he would do something for these people to fix their habits and tie them to the soil that he lost his life. The Aborian runs inland through a fertile valley near Puerto Princesa. Twenty-six miles up this stream Governor Miller selected the site for a model colony he planned to plant. Here he would erect a school that should be an agricultural and demonstration plant. Here he would get the children of the Tagbanos to go to the industrial school. On the fertile lands that lay roundabout he would locate their parents. These he would show how to farm at the same time that the children were attending school. He would teach them the virtues of a farm life by actually demonstrating it to them.

Governor Miller told his little plan to the provisional government and secured an appropriation with which to begin it. A little money he made go a long way for the natives volunteered to do the work without charge and there was not much call for the fine finish. The colony was this spring drawing on toward completion and as it was the particular pet of the governor he formed the habit of running up to see it every night after work in a gasoline launch.

It was while returning from one of these trips that the launch was upset. Governor Miller, though a great, strong athletic man, had the vulnerable point of an inability to swim. The men who knew him were surprised to know that he should drown in a narrow river.

They supposed of course he could swim. But when the boat turned over the king of Palawan, the savior of the people, the man who had started the thousands on the road to development, went unceremoniously to the bottom and his native companions dived for hours before they were able to recover his body.

So there had settled down upon Palawan the bloom of the great loss. The people mourn the death of the American as they have never grieved for anything before. The great work which he has established for them is at a standstill and its future is in doubt. Such work requires the genius of a man who fits into just such a nook, and civil service and the discretion of the men higher up is unable to determine just what are the qualities needed even were the man with these qualities idealist enough to give up the world to which he has been accustomed to live among the people of the wild for the sake of doing good.

And the Moros, these Samals or gypsies of the sea, are against their deprivation. They are throbbed with this big American a demon, a thing of supernatural strength and of charmed life. Yet he had sunk and drowned with his boat turned over. So would all his kind. They would throw the next big American overboard and drown him.

High Tribute to Good Man.

Before a congressional committee last winter Major General Beardsley, chief of staff for the army, was telling of some of the remarkable men of that service and the effective work they were doing. Lieutenant Miller was given as the most prominent of these. General Beardsley said of his work and concluded by saying:

"I have heard it stated that he could not be replaced by a company, probably not by a battalion, and possibly not by a regiment of troops."

This was merely from the military standpoint of keeping the peace and assuredly the island overrun by troops would not have the beneficial effect upon the natives that was being accomplished by Miller.

Lieutenant Miller's wife was given a military burial at Camp Jossman, near Puerto Princesa. The provisional government is experimenting with Governor Evans as a temporary man to fill his place. In the meantime the people are a strong man with the big idea and the knack of it to be virtual king of the Palawans, to leave the stamp of his personality upon the plastic minds of these many thousand children of the dark.

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"Oh, well, Pop, I'll ring off," laughed the Junior Partner, who never allows himself to be drawn into a serious argument, but speaking of cooks here is an advertisement which I cut from a Baltimore paper." The Old Bookkeeper took it and read:

"Cook wanted.—Not one of the riffraff that hunt intelligence offices, arrayed in dirty and greasy clothes, a glance at whose hands—and especially fingernails—would kill the heartiest appetite of a fastidious man or woman. Neither do I want an old woman, nor a big, fat one. What I do want and am willing to pay for in money and kind treatment, including a comfortable home, is a nice white woman, who is clean, tidy, healthy and good natured; a woman who is qualified to apply some intelligence to her work, who regards cooking as a profession, and especially a competent, progressive science and has sufficient imagination not to serve the same things every day. She must have a deft, delicate touch, so that her products will have that fine flavor that reminds one of 'mother's cooking.' If this advertisement falls in the hands of a competent woman, equal to my requirements, she can get the best job she ever had in her life by sending her application to me. I like to hire that sort of a cook myself," said the Junior Partner.

Denver & Rio Grande Time Table

Depart—Daily, (in effect June 19, 1910)

Provo, Mant and Marysville	7:50 a. m.
Bingham and Midvale	8:00 a. m.
Denver, Chicago and east	8:10 a. m.
Park City	8:20 a. m.
Ogden and Intermediate	8:30 a. m.
Ogden and San Francisco	1:45 p. m.
Ogden, San Francisco and Portland	2:35 p. m.
Ogden, San Francisco and Portland	2:50 p. m.
Midvale and Intermediate	3:00 p. m.
Denver, Chicago and east	4:05 p. m.
Provo, Tipton and Inter. points	4:05 p. m.
Ogden and Intermediate	4:10 p. m.
Denver, Chicago and east	7:10 p. m.
Grand Junction and Inter. points	7:20 p. m.
Ogden and Intermediate	11:30 p. m.
Portland—Daily	
Clatsop, San Francisco and Portland	8:00 a. m.
Ogden and Intermediate points	10:00 a. m.
Provo, Tipton and Inter. points	10:20 a. m.
Bingham and Midvale	10:50 a. m.
Denver, Chicago and East	1:35 p. m.
Ogden and Intermediate	1:40 p. m.
Denver, Chicago and east	2:35 p. m.
Grand Junction and Inter. points	2:30 p. m.
Ogden and San Francisco	4:45 p. m.
Park City	5:00 p. m.
Bingham and Marysville	5:45 p. m.
Ogden, San Francisco and Portland	6:05 p. m.
Ogden, San Francisco and Portland	7:05 p. m.
Denver, Chicago and east	11:15 p. m.
Ogden, San Francisco and Portland	7:10 p. m.

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