

THE OCCUPATION OF CUBA

Generals Miles and Shafter Give Their Views as to the Best Method of Safeguarding Our Troops.

Cuba is infested with disease germs accumulated during centuries and has been a plague spot for the last 100 years. For this reason measures were recommended at the outset to safeguard our army, especially in advocating the use of a large native force.

Copyrighted, 1898, by G. L. Kilmer. **W**HAT a single army corps of three divisions captured it may require three corps of seven divisions to hold, according to the war department orders promulgated for the garrisoning of Cuba. When asked about the probable difficulties to be faced by the troops which willarrison the island until quiet is restored, Gen. Shafter said:

suspicious toward every one on account of the manner in which they have been treated by the Spaniards. It is difficult for them to trust in the good intentions of the United States. Personally I believe the solution of the question is annexation. All men having interests on the island, Cubans and others, heartily desire this to be the eventual result.

"I apprehend that there is very little prospect of any more fighting in Cuba. The troops which the government is to send there will number 40,000 to 45,000 men or more.

"It called upon to take an army to Cuba at this time of the year, I would try to get it upon high ground, with the camps as far as possible from the towns. I would have them well policed, and believe in this way a large sick list can be avoided, at least for this winter. What may happen next summer we cannot tell. The matter of crowded camps is very important. The universal experience the world over for all time has been that where great bodies of troops are crowded together in any climate typhoid fever always appears. They have had it recently in the camps in Minnesota and also in Arizona, 5,000 feet above the sea. Since there will be no danger of an attack upon the American troops, there will be no necessity for crowding them together in large camps. I would favor putting the men in temporary wooden barracks.

in their persons and property and in all their private rights and relations. It is my desire that the inhabitants of Cuba should be made acquainted with the purpose of the United States to discharge to the fullest extent its obligations in this regard.

"It will therefore be the duty of the commander of the army of occupation to announce and proclaim in the most public manner that we come not to make war upon the inhabitants of Cuba nor upon any party or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employment and in their personal and religious rights. All persons who, either by active aid or submission, co-operate with the United States in its efforts to give effect to this beneficent purpose will receive the reward of its support and protection. Our occupation should be as free from severity as possible."

At Mariano the camp will be divided into two sections, some distance apart. The water supply will be taken from the Havana aqueduct. A new dock is being built to facilitate the quick landing of troops, rations and equipment.

During a casual conversation with Gen. Miles, on his arrival in New York recently, I elicited the following in amplification of certain statements in his official report.

The general said that his recommendation of a force of 10,000 immunes from the States and 50,000 natives was to provide for the contingencies of invasion and protracted campaigning in Cuba during the heated, rainy and sickly season. While that crisis is now passed, the danger season will begin again in six months, he said, and if the present plans are carried out we may then be maintaining in tropical countries the largest colonial army composed of home troops of any nation in the world. The force getting ready to garrison Cuba numbers about 50,000 men.

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Absolute and supreme powers are claimed for the occupying belligerents. Still, local and municipal laws are continued in force unless necessarily compels the military governor to set them aside in the interests of justice and order. The police and constabulary, the judges and other officials are continued in office during good behavior, and the people are allowed to continue in their usual occupations.

annually blasts the fair Pearl of the Antilles and never yet spared man nor woman, black nor white, lord nor underling. Perhaps for all a conqueror is to appear in the person of a veritable man behind the gun.

"Where's the Tenth?" he asked. "Lost in the brush, looking for a hole," I said. "Where's the Tenth?" "Lookin' for the Tenth, I guess, boss."

"Then we came on. When we got to those barb-wire fences we worked it together. I'd stretch up a wire and make a hole for him. Then he'd do the same from the other side. We were making fast time along there. The Dagoes had the range of those fences down here."

"Pretty soon we got where we could see the top of the ridge, and could drop when we saw those straw hats rise up out of the ground up there. They were keeping the lead flying to beat h—l."

"I was struck the last fence just where it ran along a ditch. We came up on the run. He was ahead. He jumped up on the bank, yanked up a wire and I made a dive to go through. One of the barb-wire ran through the back of my belt and held me."

"It was after the troop got separated, when we began to advance down there in that jungle. Nothing to go by but the Dago volleys, and their cross-arms kept me guessing. I only knew you fellows were somewhere on the right and left, because there was no noise behind. I was tearing my way through that everlasting tangle when the 'big' came smashing up beside me."

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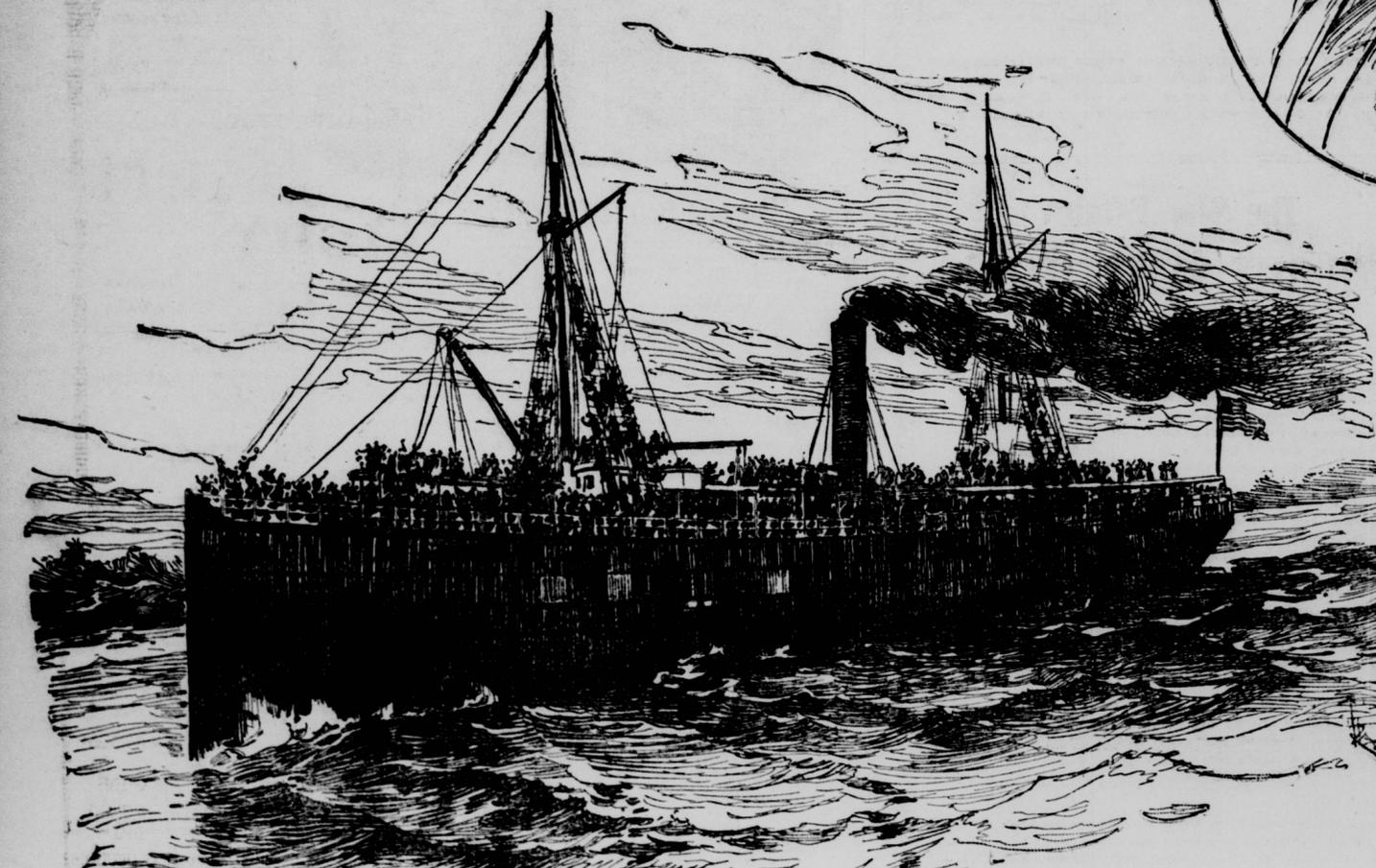
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THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION'S FIRST GLIMPSE OF CUBA.

but congress may vary it according to the seasons or the peculiar conditions of the climate where the troops are serving. The president has the power to order the ration changed should it be necessary to do so for the health of the men. The ration issued at present to garrison troops comprises a pound of fresh vegetables every day, and this may be 50 per cent. potatoes and 20 per cent. onions, or varied in some other way.

"Camp ovens are supplied by the government for use when troops are in garrison, and a sufficient number of bakers is always found among enlisted men to produce quantities of soft bread. Fresh meat will be issued regularly. It will keep good for a long time in cold storage, as has been shown already in the Cuban campaign. Meat sent to Santiago in excess of the needs of the army there was perfectly wholesome after it reached the North, at the end of many weeks.

compulsory in the army, and it can be made so among the people of Cuba. It was natural that intense excitement resulted from the condition of the Fifth corps at Santiago, but our experience there is not a parallel to alarm the country at present. At least 75 per cent. of the command with me had been down with the malarial fever, from which they recovered very slowly, before the attack of yellow fever and other complaints came on toward the end of July, and really what put my command in the terrible condition in which it was at the time the generals united in asking that it be removed was the matter of sickness. The sufferings of the English troops at Havana in 1824 and the calamity which practically destroyed Napoleon's army in Santo Domingo early in this century are to be expected. In Cuba yellow fever is to be expected in the summer, and men who have never had it will get it.

"The regular army should be increased, and, in my opinion, it will be increased this

tion of Havana and his death, following so soon after his discouraging report, have thrown the people of all the cities on the island into a panic from which they will be slow to recover. Vigorous measures and strict laws will be necessary to compel the citizens to obey the laws of health, and if an epidemic of yellow fever and of small-pox, as threatened in Havana and at Gibara, north of Santiago, is to be added to Cuba's woes, a reign of terror may be inaugurated by the desperate and lawless elements which only an army can quell.

The military occupation of Cuba by the United States army has but one precedent in the history of the country. In the Mexican war the American forces occupied the enemy's territory after hostilities ceased, pending the settlement of peace. In Mexico proper a republican government was set up with the aid of American troops.

self by this country is the quelling of disorder in Cuba. In the matter of putting down or suppressing political uprisings, either active or incipient, the army commander has the powers of a dictator, and may even expel persons who are dangerous to the peace of the island.

In a practical way the military occupation will put to the supreme test the professions of the Cubans that their desires are purely patriotic and that they rebelled in order to secure civil liberty and domestic quiet. These they may have by cooperation with a power amply able to secure those blessings.

Another test, of less significance to the world, but of vital moment in view of America's destiny, is the question of health in the tropics for men of northern habit. There is no frost in Cuba to kill the fever, and an epidemic may rage all winter. The army under Le Clerque, which Napoleon sent to Santo Domingo, suffered throughout the whole period and was reduced by disease from 20,000 to a mere handful. A similar experience befell the army under Lavaux on a previous expedition to Haiti.

any original or extraordinary measures to safeguard the American soldiers against disaster like that so narrowly escaped at Santiago, he said that he knew of none beyond the methods that will be suggested to every enlightened person from the very nature of the case. "A hand thrust into the fire will surely get burned."

STORIES OF THE WAR.

How One Regular Bravely Died at San Juan Ridge.

"Well, Lewis, how many rounds did you fire today?" "I was lying at ease in that 'thin line of blue' deployed just behind the crest of the San Juan ridge," answered Lewis, a grizzled veteran of Indian fights, dispatch-bearing adventures and "Bad Lands" campaigns.

gone clear through him. I knew by the look in his eyes it was all up, and that he knew it.

"Lewis turned slowly back to his carbine and resumed his watch of the sky line. A moment later he again took the belt." "Then, grimly, 'I used his sixty first-for-him. He could have saved himself.'"

The Queer Luck of War. Cleveland Moffatt's "Camp Stories" in Leslie's Weekly.

"It's a queer thing, sir," said one of these men to me as he finished a meal with a gulp of coffee. "It's a queer thing, the luck of war. We used to talk about that down in Cuba before the fighting began, figuring out what chance a man had of getting killed. I'm a volunteer, sir; you can see it by my hat. I'm in the Thirty-third Michigan, a member of the band."

"Well, sir, when we got into the fighting a Mauser bullet came along and struck me in the forehead, just above the eye, and fixed him so that now he can drink through his nose, because there isn't any division between. And he'll never blow another note on a trombone as long as he lives. They never touched his legs, nor his arms, nor anything else, but they quered his mouth, and that's what I call tough luck."

"I know another case, I hard luck," said a convalescent in the same group, "that was a captain in the Sixteenth Infantry, he was in E company. I think his name was McFarland. He went up San Juan hill the first time we got forward, and he was right at the top, he was struck by a piece of shrapnel from one of our own batteries that was flying over his head. It was the second artillery did it, I think; they were dropping shells into those trenches in great shape, and the captain got a piece of one of them—got it in the back, and it went right through him."

"Go on," he called, "go on. I'm done for my own boys have fixed me. I'm one of the men in the Sixteenth saw it all, and I told me about it. If that isn't hard luck, what is?"

Aguinado's Progress. Harper's Weekly. It is only four months and a half since Aguinaldo and a few chosen followers were brought by Admiral Dewey from Hongkong and landed at Cavite. The insurrection which had been suspended by the treaty at Malacanal on December 14, 1897, when Aguinaldo agreed with the Spanish to cease hostilities on the payment of 200,000 pesos, and on condition that the amount had been paid, and by the knowledge that none of the promised reforms had been executed, about 2,500 rifles, a large amount of small-arms ammunition, several large ships' guns, one converted Krupp gun and various smaller modern pieces, with a considerable amount of powder and projectiles, were handed over to Aguinaldo at Cavite, and he was able, without delay, to form his own army of 10,000 men, which, increased, as the days passed, by constant accession, until in a month he commanded nearly 20,000 men. Encouraged by the friendly attitude of Admiral Dewey, irritated by the faithless promises of the Spaniards, and harboring the implacable hatred of the oppressed, the Filipinos, for revenge characteristic of their race, the natives began the campaign with great spirit, and continued it with such persistence that in a few short weeks they had completely invested Manila, and had so harassed the enemy by their barbaric methods of fighting and their reckless activity that the effectiveness of the Spanish troops was largely diminished.

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