

FORESTS OF TWO STATES ARE SWEPT BY FLAMES

RUIN WROUGHT IN COLORADO GREAT HARVIC IN WISCONSIN

High Winds Fan the Fires in the Western Districts.

Mountains a Mass of Flames. Many Portions of Fertile Country Devastated.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 30.—Reports from the Western portion of the State continue to tell of the ravages of the forest fires which bid fair to devastate the greater part of the forested State.

A special to the News from Kokomo, Colo., says: Forest fires are raging on every hand here. Sheep Mountain, on the north side, is a mass of flames, which reach within a quarter of a mile of this camp.

A special from Montrose, Colo., says: The forest fire southeast of town about twenty-five miles has now reached large proportions and can plainly be seen from town.

The weather cannot offer no hope for those on the western slope whose homes and crops are threatened by the forest fires. There are no indications whatever of rain, and this seems to be the only element that has been spared.

Back of Minturn, to the heads of Willow and Two Elks, the country is devastated. Little remaining to feed the flames.

Dispatches received here say that Whetley's Peak, between North and Middle Park, is now a mass of flames, and it is greatly feared that the fire will extend to both of those beautiful camping grounds.

Governor Smith is gradually sinking. Cannot survive the wounds inflicted by the assassin—Sympathy of Veterans.

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 30.—Governor A. J. Smith of the Soldiers' Home is sinking and his death is momentarily looked for. During the day he suffered from high fever, and owing to his weakened condition the surgeons considered it inadvisable to probe for the missing bullet.

Business portion of Templeton consumed. No Water With Which to Fight the Flames—Total Loss Estimated at \$20,000.

COMPROMISE OF THE NEWHALL WILL CONTEST

Widow Gets One-Half of the Vast Estate and the Three Children the Other.

SAN JOSE, Sept. 30.—The contest of the will of Sylvester Newhall, who died in 1887, is now being fought in the superior court.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Colonel William J. Bryan was out of doors this afternoon for the first time since he became ill. The fever has practically left him.

THE SIEGE OF MANILA: A PRASE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Hardships Endured Without Murmur and Great Bravery Displayed

Siege and Capture of Manila Told in Detail by the Military Governor's Official Report.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—The report of Major General Wesley Merritt of the operations about Manila was made public at the War Department today. It is dated on board the transport China, August 31. After giving briefly the story of his embarkation and arrival at Manila and the disposition of the troops there he says:

I found General Greene's command encamped on a strip of sandy beach running parallel to the shore, but some distance from the beach, but, owing to the great difficulties of landing supplies, the greater portion of the force had shelter tents only and were suffering many discomforts, the camp being situated in a low, flat place, without shelter from the heat of the tropical sun or adequate protection during the terrific down-pours of rain, so frequent at this season.

I was at once struck by the exemplary spirit of the troops, even cheerfulness, as shown by the officers and men under such circumstances, and this feeling of admiration for the manner in which the work they have undertaken is being done, grew and deepened with every phase of the difficult and trying campaign which the troops of the Philippine expedition have so bravely and so brilliantly and successfully conducted.

General Merritt then speaks of what Aguinaldo had accomplished previous to his arrival, and continues: General Aguinaldo did not visit me on my arrival nor offer his services as a subordinate military leader, and, as my intention was to occupy the islands by the American land forces, as it was stated that the powers of the insurgent are absolute and supreme and immediately operate on the political condition of the islands, I pressed and it wise to hold any direct communication with the insurgent leader until I should be in possession of the island, especially as I would not, until then, be in a position to issue a proclamation and enforce my authority.

For these reasons the preparations for the attack on the city were pressed and military operations conducted without reference to the situation of the insurgent forces. The wisdom of this course was subsequently fully established by the fact that when the troops of my command carried the Spanish intrenchments, extending from the city to the beach, to the extreme Spanish right, we were under no obligations, by prearranged plans of attack, to be in position to meet the front still held against the insurgents, but were able to move forward at once and to occupy the city.

To return to the situation of General Greene's brigade, as I found it on my arrival, it was in a position to be in gaining an avenue of approach to the Spanish line in the fact of my dislodging the Spanish troops from the beach and "Calle Real," so that Greene could move forward to the city.

The Spanish, observing this activity on our part, endeavored to attack our infantry and artillery on the night of July 31. The behavior of our troops during that night was such that the success desired, and I have in cablegrams to the War Department taken occasion to mention the good conduct in the affair. Our position was extended and the Spanish troops were repulsed.

The town of Alameda, near Rice Lake, is reported destroyed. The Soo Railroad bridge near Alameda was burned, stopping all trains on that line. The greatest damage has been done in the townships of Cumberland, Turtle Lake, Clinton, Stanford, Barron, Oak Grove and Cedar.

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connection had not been settled at the date of my departure. Doubtless much dissatisfaction is felt by the rank and file of the insurgents that they have not been permitted to enjoy the occupancy of Manila, and there is some good ground for trouble with them owing to the fact, but notwithstanding many rumors to the contrary, I am of the opinion that the leaders will be able to prevent serious disturbances, as they are sufficiently intelligent and educated to know that to antagonize the United States would be to destroy their only chance of future political improvement.

I may add that great changes for the better have taken place in Manila since the occupancy of the city by American troops. The streets have been cleaned under the management of General MacArthur, and the police, under Colonel Reeve, Thirteenth Minnesota, were most efficient in preserving order. A stranger to the city might easily imagine that the American forces had been in control for months rather than days.

In concluding his report General Merritt declares his indebtedness for the success of the expedition to the brigade division commanders, the members of his staff and his personal aids. He expresses his appreciation of the efforts of the management of General MacArthur, and the police, under Colonel Reeve, Thirteenth Minnesota, were most efficient in preserving order. A stranger to the city might easily imagine that the American forces had been in control for months rather than days.

Real, began firing with great accuracy. At 10:25, on a prearranged signal from our headquarters, the Spanish batteries could advance, the navy ceased firing and immediately a light line of skirmishers of the Colorado regiment of Greene's brigade passed over the trenches and deployed rapidly forward, another line from the same regiment from the left flank of our entrenchments advanced swiftly to the beach in open order. Both these lines found the powder magazine dry and the trenches flanking it deserted, but as they passed over the Spanish works they were met by a sharp fire from a second line of the Colorado regiment, which was wounded, among others one soldier who was killed and another who was wounded on the fort and raised our own.

The works of the second line soon gave way. The second Oregon Regiment, Greene's troops, and that officer pushed his brigade rapidly through Malate and over the bridges to occupy Binondo and San Miguel. The second Oregon Regiment, Greene's troops, and that officer pushed his brigade rapidly through Malate and over the bridges to occupy Binondo and San Miguel.

General Merritt then details the inauguration of the military government of Manila by the Americans. Further he says: On the 16th a cablegram containing the text of the President's proclamation received by me and at the same time a copy of the receipt by me of official notice, and that I must insist upon the delivery of the funds. The delivery was made under protest.

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United States Branch. STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION OF LONDON, ENGLAND, ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, A. D. 1897, and for the year ending on that day, as made to the Insurance Commission of the State of California in compliance with the provisions of sections 610 and 611 of the Political Code, condensed as per blank furnished by the Commissioner.

Table with columns: ASSETS, LIABILITIES, INCOME. Total assets \$2,871,103.11. Total liabilities \$1,011,109.11. Net cash actually received for fire premiums \$891,629.68.

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