

# The Second City of the Philippines

(Copyrighted, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.) ILOILO, Feb. 20, 1900.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Iloilo, which is pronounced as though it were spelled Eloe, with the accent on the E's, is the second city of the Philippines. From the way the town has been treated in the Associated Press and cable dispatches of the war correspondents I supposed it was a large city. I had heard that it had all the way from 30,000 to 300,000 inhabitants, and that it was the center of the sugar and hemp trade of the islands. It is the chief city of the middle islands of the archipelago, the trade center of the Visayan group, and the capital of the island of Panay, one of the largest and thrichest of the Philippines. Still it has, with its surrounding villages, not more than 10,000 people, and the city proper does not cover as much ground as the county seat of an average Ohio county.

It is situated on both sides of the Iloilo river, which is rather an arm of the sea than anything else. The ground about it is low and flat, running back behind the town for a distance of some twelve miles or more before the mountains begin. The harbor is formed by the Iloilo strait, a strip of water about six miles wide, running between the island of Panay and that of Guimaras, furnishing a safe and deep anchorage for ships.

The lowlands above and below Iloilo are covered with coconut groves. There are millions upon millions of trees walling the shores of the western side of the island, so close to the water that they seem to rise right up out of it, forming a stockade of white poles topped with green many miles long. Back of this stockade and rising out of it as you approach the city you see the spires and domes of churches and later on the walls of a great stone fort, and then the town itself, a collection of low houses roofed with gray galvanized iron. The most of the houses are of white-washed stucco, a few of wood painted white or in light colors and many are dilapidated and in ruins.

You see everywhere the desolation and destruction caused by the insurgents. When they evacuated the city they set fire to it, saying that most of the property belonged to the English and the Chinese, and to burn it would not injure the natives, who lived chiefly in the adjoining villages of Molo and Harrow. So they soaked everything with coal oil and ran from house to house with torches before they left. The work was well done, and nearly every building of value was more or less injured. The schools and hospital, as well as private dwellings and business property of all kinds, were fired, and in many cases burned to the ground. Some which had a first story of stone have since been rebuilt.

**Condition of Panay.** Similar burning has gone on in most parts of the island of Panay, and although it is nominally conquered it will be a long time before its peaceful possession can be assured. The country is full of bandits and thieves, and there are bands of guerrillas who are traveling from place to place making looting and robbery their business. These men do not respect the rights of property of the natives any more than those of the foreigners. They levy their contributions on all, perpetrating the most horrible murders and other crimes. Those who show any sympathy for us are singled out for death or torture, their houses are burned and their families murdered. Many of the natives would gladly adopt the American government and join with us were they not afraid of their lives, and such officials as are appointed by us have to be protected in the exercise of their office. This will necessitate the garrisoning of the island for a long time to come. Indeed, it seems to me that there will have to be a large American army kept in the Philippines for years in order to insure the progress and quiet which must be had if the islands are to be Americanized.

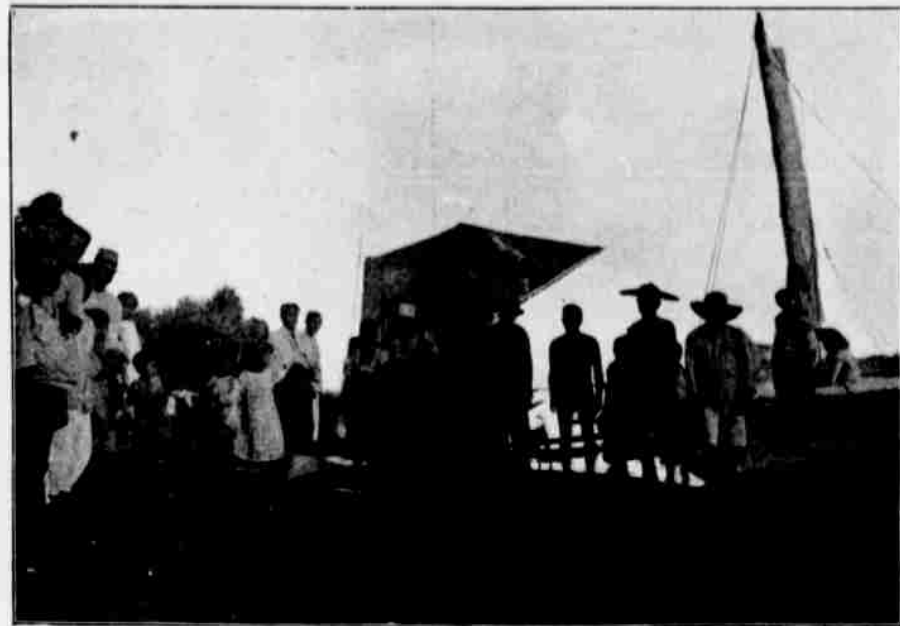
I heard today from an old English resident here what seems to me a very sensible suggestion. This was that the chief roads of the island should be patrolled by cavalry. Five hundred men, properly mounted, could protect the main roads and crush every band as it comes forth from the mountains. The insurgents are cowards and they will run if attacked by a force of any size. With such protection the people could safely go on with their work on their plantations, and the banditti, confined to the mountains, would soon be starved out and disappear.

One source of the robber bands comes from the native soldiers who were employed in the Spanish army. There were about 3,000 of these. When we took possession, instead of making them part of our forces, as was, I am told, entirely feasible at the time, we discharged them and ordered them to go back to their homes. They had been serving some time and preferred the trade of war to that of agriculture. They formed bands of guerrillas and since then have been working with the insurgents and independently raising trouble everywhere.

**Match-Head Cartridges.** Panay, and especially Iloilo, have been the centers of plotting and scheming against the Americans. All kinds of plots have been hatched up here and all sorts of means tried to smuggle in arms and ammunition. One of the most ingenious devices was the importing of Japanese matches in order to use the heads for recharging Mauser cartridges. Thirty million boxes of these matches passed through the custom house here within a month be-

fore our officials suspected what was being done. It was then suggested that the natives could not use so many matches legitimately and it was discovered that they were cutting off the heads and using them for powder. A number of their cartridges so charged were captured and tested. It was found that the match heads had more explosive power than an equal amount of powder. They sent the balls forth with such force that they were changed into slugs upon striking the sand, whereas the ordinary cartridge charged with powder gave the balls a mushroom shape. Upon reducing the amount of match heads one-third the effect produced was the same as that of the usual powder-charged cartridge. The insurgents had also refilled the old cartridges with the ordinary amount of fulminating powder.

**A Sample Outrage.** Speaking of the terror inspired by the banditti, incidents happen every week which

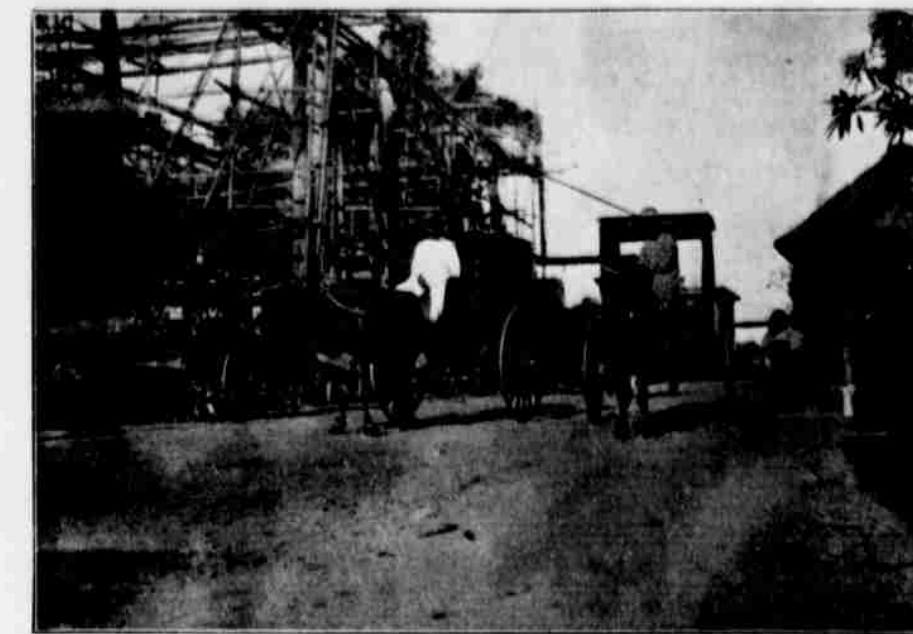


PEOPLE ARE HALF NAKED IN PANAY.

show that it is well founded. Take, for instance, the case of a boy who was working about one of the camps in the neighboring island of Cebu. He was a quiet little fellow, very anxious to get something to do, and wanted only to be allowed to make a living. He was acting as a servant for one of our lieutenants, while his mother and sisters did washing for the soldiers, and his father was employed on odd jobs about the camp. He was warned that he should leave his place, but did not. A short time after this he disappeared for a week. At the end of that time he returned, dressed only in a shirt, with his throat badly cut, his arms gashed and torn and his face scratched and blistered. Upon his forehead, tattooed in black letters of indelible ink, were the words, "Traidor a la Patria," and on his chin, pricked in with the same ink, was "Amem."

The boy cried bitterly as he told his story, begging the Americans to protect him and his father. He said he had been told by some of his acquaintances that there was a party of Americans in the mountains who had sent for him. The men told him that if he would go with them they would guide him to the place. He went. On arriving at the foothills he found himself surrounded by a party of the insurgents of his own town, including its former president. He was at once seized, and the president told him they had intended him to that place to make an example of him. This man then ordered that the boy be tied up and tattooed. He was placed with his back against a tree. His arms were tied above the elbows with ropes and he was raised by these so that his feet were off the ground. Another rope was tied about his neck, binding it tight to the trunk of the tree, and a third around his forehead. In this position he could not move his head, and, so tied, the tattooing was done.

He was left for a time on the tree, with the sun beating down upon him and with



TROTTING BULLOCKS.

the cords cutting into the flesh of his arms and neck. When he was taken down he was told that he must stay with the band and warned that if he attempted to escape they would not only recapture and kill him, but would also kill his father. He ran away that night, but since then his father has mysteriously disappeared and it is believed that the insurgents have carried out their threat and killed him.

I have heard of other instances of killing and torture, both here and in Luzon, instances which go to show that there are no more cruel and bloodthirsty people anywhere than the Filipinos, instances which show that they have the lowest ideas of life and civilization, and also that with all their so-called bravery they are really cowards at heart, who will only attack in the dark and when they know they are comparatively safe. It would, I doubt not, be safe for ten or twelve Americans to travel almost anywhere on this island, but one or two, if they went unarmed into some of the districts, would take their lives into their hands. Here in Iloilo every one seems kindly disposed and you would not suppose that there was anything like war going on.

**Country Scenes in Panay.**

I made an excursion with Lieutenant Van Deman of General Hughes' staff out into the country near Iloilo yesterday. Very little of the region near here has yet been opened up, but we found the people at work in their fields and I had a chance to see something of rural life in this strange part of our new possessions. The houses are much like the country houses of Luzon. They are thatched huts built high up upon posts, with a place under each hut for the chickens and pig, and also for the farming tools, if the owner is so fortunate as to possess any. Most of the houses are near the roads, but some are off in coconut groves at the sides. The people live in most cases high up and the average hut is reached by a ladder of bamboo poles. The ladders slope upward



WATER BUCKETS OF THE PHILIPPINES—THEY CARRY BUCKETS AS TALL AS THEMSELVES.



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Omaha's clever coon song artist, whose appearance in the Elks' benefit called forth such high praise from the critics, will appear today at the Orpheum, where she makes her professional debut, and the impression she makes will be gauged by the reception her friends give her. Miss Brin will appear in Omaha one week only, after which she will go on the Orpheum circuit. A rousing reception does much to encourage an artist at the outset, and Miss Brin may be assured that she may leave Omaha with a sendoff which has been experienced by few young artists.



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**No Modern Wants.** I am struck with the few wants the Filipinos have. They use little that their own country does not supply. They do every-

(Continued on Eighth Page.)