

ALL BEG TO BE SENT HOME.

STRONG PETITION FROM ARMY OFFICERS IN CUBA.

"MUST BE MOVED OR PERISH."

Fever Threatens the Annihilation of Shafter's Army—The Situation a Frightful One.

An Associated dispatch says: Summoned by Major General Shafter, a meeting was held at Santiago Thursday morning at headquarters and in the presence of every commanding and medical officer of the Fifth army corps, General Shafter read a cable message from Secretary Alger, ordering him at the recommendation of Surgeon General Sternberg, to move the army into the interior, to San Luis, where it is healthier.

As a result of the conference, General Shafter will insist upon the immediate withdrawal of the army north within two weeks.

As an explanation of the situation, the following letter from Col. Theodore Roosevelt, commanding the First volunteer cavalry, to General Shafter, was handed by the latter to the correspondent of the Associated Press for publication:

"Major General Shafter—Sir: In a meeting of the general and medical officers called by you at the palace this morning, we were all, as you know, unanimous in view of what should be done with the army. To keep us here, in the opinion of every officer commanding a division or brigade, will simply involve the destruction of thousands.

"There is no possible reason for not shipping practically the entire command north at once. Yellow fever cases are few in the cavalry division where I command one of the two brigades, and not one true case of yellow fever has occurred in this division, except among the men sent to the hospital at Siboney, where they have, I believe, contracted it. But in this division there have been 1,500 cases of malarial fever. Not a man has died from it, but the whole command is so weakened and shattered as to be ripe for dying like rotten sheep when a real yellow fever epidemic, instead of a fake epidemic, like the present, strikes us, as it is bound to do if we stay here at the height of the sickness season, August and the beginning of September.

"Quarantine against malarial fever is much like quarantining against the toothache. All of us are certain, as soon as the authorities at Washington fully appreciate the conditions of the army, to be sent home. If we are kept here it will in all human probability mean an appalling disaster, for the surgeons here estimate that over half the army, if kept here during the sickly season, will die. This is not only terrible from the standpoint of the individual lives, but it means ruin from the standpoint of the military efficiency of the flower of the American army, for the great bulk of the regulars are here with you.

"The sick, large though it is, exceeding 4,000, affords but a faint idea of the debilitation of the army. Not ten per cent. are fit for active work. Six weeks on the north Maine coast, for instance, or elsewhere, where the yellow fever germ cannot possibly propagate, would make us all as fit as fighting cocks, able as we are eager, to take a leading part in the great campaign against Havana in the fall, even if we are not allowed to try Porto Rico.

"We can be moved north, if moved at once, with absolute safety to the country, although, of course, it would have been infinitely better if we had been moved north or to Porto Rico two weeks ago. If there were any object in keeping us here, we could face yellow fever with as much indifference as we faced bullets, but there is no object in it. The four immune regiments ordered here are sufficient to garrison the city and surrounding towns, and there is absolutely nothing for us to do here and there has not been since the city surrendered. It is impossible to move into the interior. Every shifting of camp doubles the sick rate in our present weakened condition, and anyhow the interior is rather worse than the coast, as I have found by actual reconnaissance. Our present camps are as healthy as any camps at this end of the island can be.

"I write because I cannot see our men who have fought so bravely and who have endured extreme hardships and danger so uncomplainingly, go to destruction without striving, so far as lies in me, to avert a doom as fearful as it is unnecessary and undeserved.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
Colonel Commanding First Brigade.
After Colonel Roosevelt had taken the initiative, all the American general officers united in a round robin addressed to General Shafter.

BEECHER'S HISTORY OF A DISASTER.

Description of the Last Voyage of the Arctic Which Went Down with the Vesta.

In October, 1854, at about the same place where the wreck of La Bourgoigne now lies, the steamship Arctic of the Collins line was lost, with all on board, through a collision in the fog with the Vesta. It was this terrible catastrophe of which Henry Ward Beecher wrote:

"The hour was come. The signal bell fell at Greenwich. It was noon also at Liverpool. The anchors were weighed, the great hull swayed to the current, the national colors streamed abroad as if themselves instinct with life and national sympathy.

"The bell strikes, the wheels revolve, the signal gun beats its echoes in upon every structure along the shore, and the Arctic glides joyfully forth from the wharf and turns her prow to the winding channel and begins her homeward run.

"The pilot stood at the wheel, and men saw him. Death sat upon the prow, and no eye beheld him. Whoever stood at the wheel in all the voyage, Death was the pilot that steered the craft and none knew it. He neither revealed his presence nor whispered his errand.

"And so hope was effulgent, and life gayety disported itself, and joy was with every guest. Amid all the inconveniences of the voyage, there was still that which hushed every murmur: 'Home is not far away.' And every morning it was one night nearer home.

"Eight days had passed. They beheld that distant bank of mist that forever haunts the vast shallows of Newfoundland. Boldly they made it, and, plunging in, its pliant wreaths wrapped them about.

"They shall never emerge. The last sunlight has flashed upon that deck. The last voyage is done to ship and passengers.

"At noon there came, noiselessly stealing from the north, that fatal instrument of destruction. In that mysterious shroud, that vast atmosphere of mist, two steamers were holding their way with rushing prows and roaring wheels, but invisible.

"Oh, what a burial was here! Not as when one is borne from his home, among weeping throngs, and gently carried to the green fields, and laid peacefully away beneath the turf and flowers. No priest stood to pronounce a burial service. It was an ocean grave. The mists alone shrouded the burial place. No spade prepared the grave, nor sexton filled up the hollowed earth.

"Down, down—they sank and the quick returning waters smoothed out every ripple, and left the sea as placid as before."

When Lead Becomes Elastic.

The experiments upon materials at low temperatures which have been made possible by the advent of liquid air develop some unexpected results. A ball of india-rubber cooled to the temperature of the air becomes brittle, and if dropped on the floor flies into a thousand (more or less) pieces, while a ball of lead will rebound, having acquired a remarkable increase of elasticity. Lead also makes a very respectable spiral spring at a temperature of 200 or 300 below zero.—American Machinist.

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To quit tobacco easily and forever, be magnetic, full of life, nerve and vigor, take No-To-Bac, the wonder-worker, that makes weak men strong. All druggists, 50c or \$1. Cure guaranteed. Booklet and sample free. Address: Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

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The Russian meteorological department has stations at 290 different places.

Embalming Pet Dogs.

H. J. Breese, of Sandusky, Ohio, has discovered a process of embalming canines that makes them present an appearance so nearly lifelike that it is calculated to deceive the oldest burglar in the housebreaking business. Mr. Breese has completed his first engagement, two exceptionally fine St. Bernard dogs having been chosen as the subjects. The dogs were the property of a wealthy lady and by her they were valued something higher than their weight in gold. One unlucky day a messenger boy called at the house, and the dogs, conceiving a sudden dislike to the uniform, attacked and bit the wearer. Result: Dogs condemned to death by the police. All the pleadings of the wealthy owner proved unavailing, and her handsome pets had to die.

In this extremity Mr. Breese offered to kill the dogs by painless poisoning, and afterward embalm them, so that the owner could retain the best possible memento of her lost friends. The dogs were killed and the embalming process began. In describing his experiments Mr. Breese says: "The work was entirely experimental, to show the action of a complete arterial circulation. The dogs were nearly the same size, being fully grown St. Bernards—rough coated—one weighing 152 and the other 161 pounds. The carcasses of the dogs were embalmed three hours after death. The dogs have been in my possession nearly ten weeks. The weather has been very warm and sultry for some four weeks, but the dogs seem to be in a perfect state of preservation, emitting no odor, and there is no perceptible shrinkage. In fact, the one dog lying in my reception office has all the appearance of a dog at rest. Decomposition is thoroughly arrested, and a complete petrification seems to be in progress. I hit one dog on the back with a hammer and made no impression, and, in fact, it sounded like striking wood."—Baltimore American.

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