

Carpenter's Letter

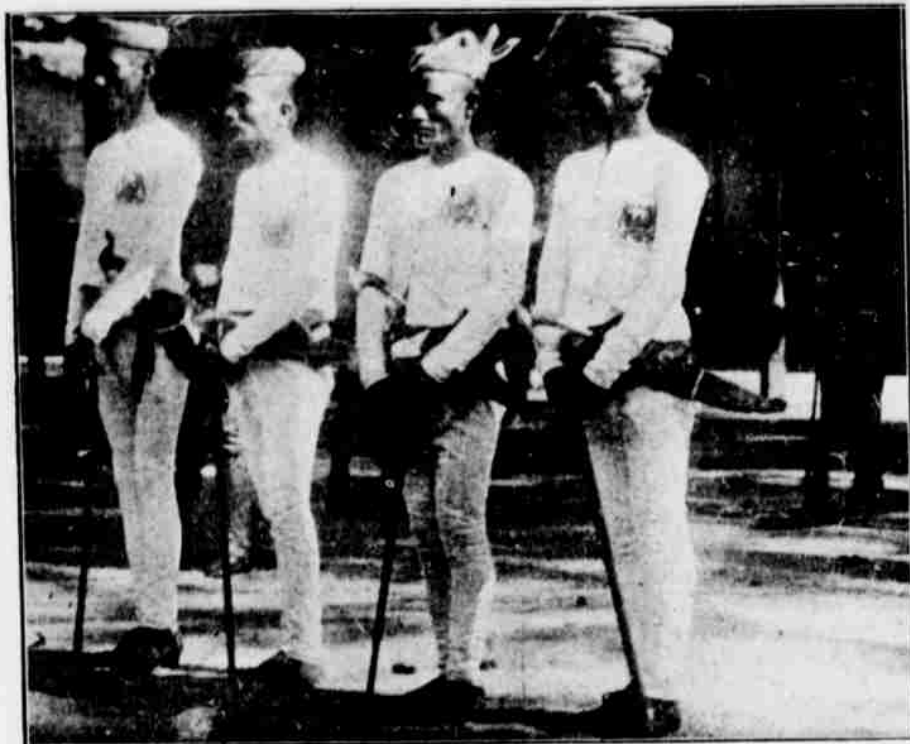
(Continued from Seventh Page.)

with forests. From the ships the natives make me think of the mountains of West Virginia rather than the tropics, save that many of the peaks are extinct craters and you can everywhere see that the land is volcanic. The grass appears to be very rich. It grows so luxuriantly that in riding through the country I have often found it above my head when I sat upon my pony. The trees on the mountains are large, some of them being of mahogany, teak and other hard woods. There is but little cultivation anywhere. The island is about ten miles wide and thirty miles long and the most of it is as wild as it was when the Moros came over from Borneo and took possession of it centuries ago.

The only settlements are the Moro villages, collections of thatched huts which you see here and there along the shore, and

ever, to all that the Spaniards owned. This consisted of a number of towns scattered over the island, which were used as military posts. He owns here not only Jolo inside the wall, but the land for a radius of about a mile around the town. This line is marked out by block houses, in each of which our soldiers are now quartered, and the Moros are not permitted to settle inside the radius. The circle contains excellent land, and in the growth which Jolo will have through the development of the agricultural resources of the island of Sulu it will be worth a great deal for building lots, as it comprises the only section upon which more houses can be built.

The buildings of Jolo are nearly all of two stories, each having a shop on the ground floor and living quarters above it. The oyster shell window, common to the north, is used here, and the architecture is about the same style as that of the better houses of Luzon. There are large barracks for the soldiers, a well-constructed fort, so



FOUR JOLO NATIVE POLICEMEN.

this town of Jolo (pronounced Holo), in which I am writing.

Our Sulu Capital.

The town of Jolo has about 1,000 population. It may be called our capital of the Sulu Islands, for it was built by the Spaniards and consequently belongs to Uncle Sam. The town is one of the most beautiful of all the settlements of the Philippine Islands. It is more like a botanical garden than a town. Its wide streets, paved with white sand, cross one another at right angles. They are shaded by great trees, the limbs of which meet and intertwine overhead, making a series of arbors which enable you to walk with safety through them at midday, although you are on the edge of the equator. Here and there through the town are small parks filled with tropical trees and flowers. The city has running water and ditches have been made through the streets which half circle the trees and irrigate them. The main street ends in a pier running out into the ocean. The upper end of it is a plaza or drill ground, where the soldiers parade morning and evening and where the band frequently plays.

One of the curious features of the town is its wall. This consists of one thickness of brick, built on a concrete base a yard high. It could be easily battered down by a cannon, but it was intended to protect the Spaniards from the lances and arrows of the Moros, and for this reason you see cracks or holes in it at intervals, each crack just wide enough for a gun to be poked through. For the same reason the mortar on top of the wall is filled with broken wine bottles, so placed that they will cut the fingers of any one who tries to climb over.

Jolo has often been in a state of siege, for the Spaniards have had many wars with these Mohammedans. The gates even now are never left open at night and no more than 100 Moros are allowed to come into the town at a time. The Spaniards restricted the Moros to certain limits outside the town. They had a deadline, over which if a Moro stepped he was sure to be shot by their sentries.

Uncle Sam's Property.

Uncle Sam has a limited title to the lands of the Sulu archipelago. He does not own property here as in other parts of the Philippines, his title being limited by the treaty made with the sultan. He succeeds, how-

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