

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

ination he receives \$120 a month and later on gets to be controller of the first class with a better house and higher salary. If he proves his efficiency here he possibly becomes an assistant resident and then a resident with a palace and \$6,000 a year. The duties of the officials are by no means light. The aspirant controller goes about with native officials to superintend the roads, to collect the census, examine the rice fields and other crops and to do all sorts of other clerical work. His position is that of clerk or private secretary and he is a sort of clerk of all work. The controllers are the police officials. They rule through the natives, but are responsible for the good conduct of the district. The assistant residents sit with the native priests and chiefs and act as judges and the residents are little kings who govern their provinces, telling the native governors what to do and how to do it.

Pensions for Officials.

The Dutch treat their colonial clerks very well. At the end of every ten years each clerk gets two years' vacation with half pay or one year with full pay and at the same time a trip to Europe with his family on passage money paid by the government. He has his government doctors and if they say he is not well he is allowed sick leave and a trip to Europe and at the close of twenty-five years' service he is retired on pension and sent home at government expense. The pension, however, is only one-third his salary and on this account many clerks prefer to stay. The officials are not allowed to engage in business in Java while in office, although many settle there after retiring.

The result is that there are today hundreds of retired Dutch officials who have had to do with all sorts of the colonial work of this country who might be employed by our government to aid us in handling the Philippines. They have been connected with the irrigation department, the department of roads and of civil engineering, as well as with forestry and all sorts of plantations and their experience would undoubtedly be of great value to us.

It is questionable whether Uncle Sam should not establish a college for educating his colonial clerks or lay out a course of study which might be carried on in other colleges to fit clerks for our foreign services. Every American official in the Philippines should understand the principal languages used in the islands, the customs of the people and their laws and at the same time be well educated in other respects. We should have a corps of civil engineers and practical agriculturists to carry on the work and government supervision should be applied to all great undertakings. We own three-fourths of the lands and nearly all the great forests and we require the best talent and best advice to manage them properly.

How the Dutch Got Java.

The story of Java and how the Dutch have made it the most beautiful colony of the world is full of interest. They landed here just about 100 years after Columbus discovered America and built a fort at Batavia in 1610. The first settlements were made by the Dutch East India company, somewhat like the British India company that first controlled India. The Dutch East India company handled the colony for about 200 years and handled it badly. It was its policy to squeeze the natives for all they

were worth. It made the trade in spices, opium and pepper monopolies belonging to the company and the natives were kept out of dealing in these articles. Trade with other nations was not encouraged and the result was that at the close of its rule, in 1798, the company was \$45,000,000 in debt.

Then the Dutch government took possession of the islands and sent on its own officials and among them one Marshall Daendels as governor. Daendels studied the system of land tenure which prevailed among the natives and originated the culture system, which was afterward completed by General Van den Bosch. Prior to this the lands of each kingdom or state belonged absolutely to the local princes and were occupied only by their consent. The king or prince allotted the lands to the people and each holder paid him a portion of his crops, about one-thirteenth being set aside for the priests. In addition to this the people gave a day or a day and a half every week to their rulers. Daendels took this labor and applied it to the building of roads.

He set the natives to work all over the island and as a result constructed in a tropical country what is by far the best system of roads in the world. You can ride all over Java today in a rubber-tire vehicle and not injure the machine. The roads are shaded with enormous trees and in places you go for miles and miles through gigantic arbors. The roads are perfectly drained. They have bridges of stone and culverts and their walls are so cut by drainage gutters that they dry off within a few hours after the heaviest of tropical rains.

By the culture system the Dutch government furnished Europeans with money for factories on easy payments and aided them in establishing large businesses all over the island. They arranged it so that they could have a large amount of this free native labor and to a certain extent gave them forced labor for running their work. Each European who could give the proper security and references could get \$45,000 on twelve years' time without interest. He had no payment whatever to make until the third year and after this was to pay one-tenth of the principal every year until all was paid. With the money he was required to put up buildings and furnish machinery, the plans of the same to be approved by the government, and he was supplied with free native labor for two years. At the same time the government applied the native land system to furnish the raw materials needed for the factories. The people were required to plant one-fifth of their land in the crop needed and received a certain remission of taxes in lieu of the same. Some wages were paid and on the whole the system was one which improved the condition of the people.

It certainly improved the revenues of the colony, for after the culture system was founded they steadily rose from 2,000,000 pounds until they reached the annual amount of almost 10,000,000 pounds. The colony soon paid off its debts to Holland. Its imports were tripled and the annual exports jumped from \$10,000,000 to \$40,000,000. Crime diminished to such an extent that the courts sat only one month in the year and within twenty-five years the population of Java was changed from one of 6,000,000 paupers to one of 11,000,000 rich peasants, who paid a government revenue of \$45,000,000 a year. This system continued in force until 1871, or for almost fifty years, during which time it paid Holland a surplus of \$280,000,000.

Since then I am told that the country

has failed to pay its expenses and that this is its condition today. The system of forced labor has been almost stopped and the most of the businesses are in the hands of private parties. Taxes are generally paid in money rather than labor, as formerly, and for the last five years the annual deficit has been from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000 or more.

At the same time the population has steadily increased. It was 17,000,000 in 1872 and now in 1901 it is more than 25,000,000. This increase shows that the country cannot but be prosperous, and, as I have said, the peasants everywhere seem to be well-to-do in comparison with people of the same kind in India, Siam, China and the Philippine islands.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

From the Polar Seas

(Continued from Third Page.)

plishing my object before the Fourth of July. The news of this advance we shall send back by frequent bulletins. What a great triumph it would be to set free a balloon laden with buoys containing messages sent from that point where there is only one direction—south—and where it is any hour of the day one may choose to call it.

The little messengers which we shall use have been specially constructed for the kind of work they will be called upon to do. The body of each buoy is a cone of solid cork weighted with copper-sheathed lead in order that it may preserve an upright position when aloft. The outer surface is painted, half red and half blue, and is well protected from the shocks of ice, which it must endure, by a mesh of heavy copper wire. The center of the cone is hollowed sufficiently to admit a brass tube, into which the message is thrust, and the tube is held in place by a metallic cap, on

which is inscribed, "Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition." Above all, on a spiral flag-staff of nickel wire, is the American flag painted on a sheet of copper. The spiral nickel wire imparts a vibratory motion to the flag, which also moves easily on a pivot. The purpose of these devices is, of course, to render the buoy more noticeable than would be otherwise possible. I have given this rather full description of the buoys hoping that some who read this article may be of assistance in picking them up. It is not at all unlikely that some of the buoys may get as far south as the track of the trans-Atlantic liners, in which case the news will reach the world quicker than in the case of those that will be picked up by the whaling and sealing vessels or on out of the way coasts farther north.

As I have indicated already, my plan is to send back the buoys as far as possible by means of balloons. We are supplied with forty balloons for this purpose. Each has a capacity of 3,000 cubic feet and measure, when inflated, three feet in circumference. We shall inflate them with hydrogen gas made by the vitriolic process. It is intended that some of these balloons be released at intervals during the Arctic night and each will be freighted with a number of the news buoys, containing messages inscribed upon parchment. The buoys will be fastened to a pendant line, one beneath the other. The balloon when inflated to its full capacity will carry the buoys upward not less than three miles and southerly air currents will waft them on their several journeys. Generally they will be released during the prevalence of winds from the north. The natural leakage of gas will probably cause the balloon to descend to the ice or water, as the case may be, in from eight to ten hours after its ascension. By an ingenious arrangement known as the liberator, the lower-

most buoy will be released from its attachment immediately upon contact with water or land surface. The release of its weight will cause the balloon to rebound into the air, and it will then continue its progress for about five hours, dropping again at intervals, until the very last buoy has been deposited either in the polar current or in the open waters. The carrying power of these balloons will ensure the buoys being placed where they will almost certainly be picked up by Arctic whaling and sealing vessels or even by trans-Atlantic liners. The recovery of these buoys will establish much valuable data concerning the air and sea currents of the Arctic regions.

It is impossible to calculate how far south a balloon may go before the last buoy will be released, but with the precautions we have taken for the protection of our messages and counting on the strong winds from the northward which prevail, we have every confidence that most of the news we shall dispatch will become known to the civilized world, and that, too, long before we who are left in the frozen north shall have returned to tell our personal stories of our experiences.

EVELYN BRIGGS HALDWIN.

Handy Forms

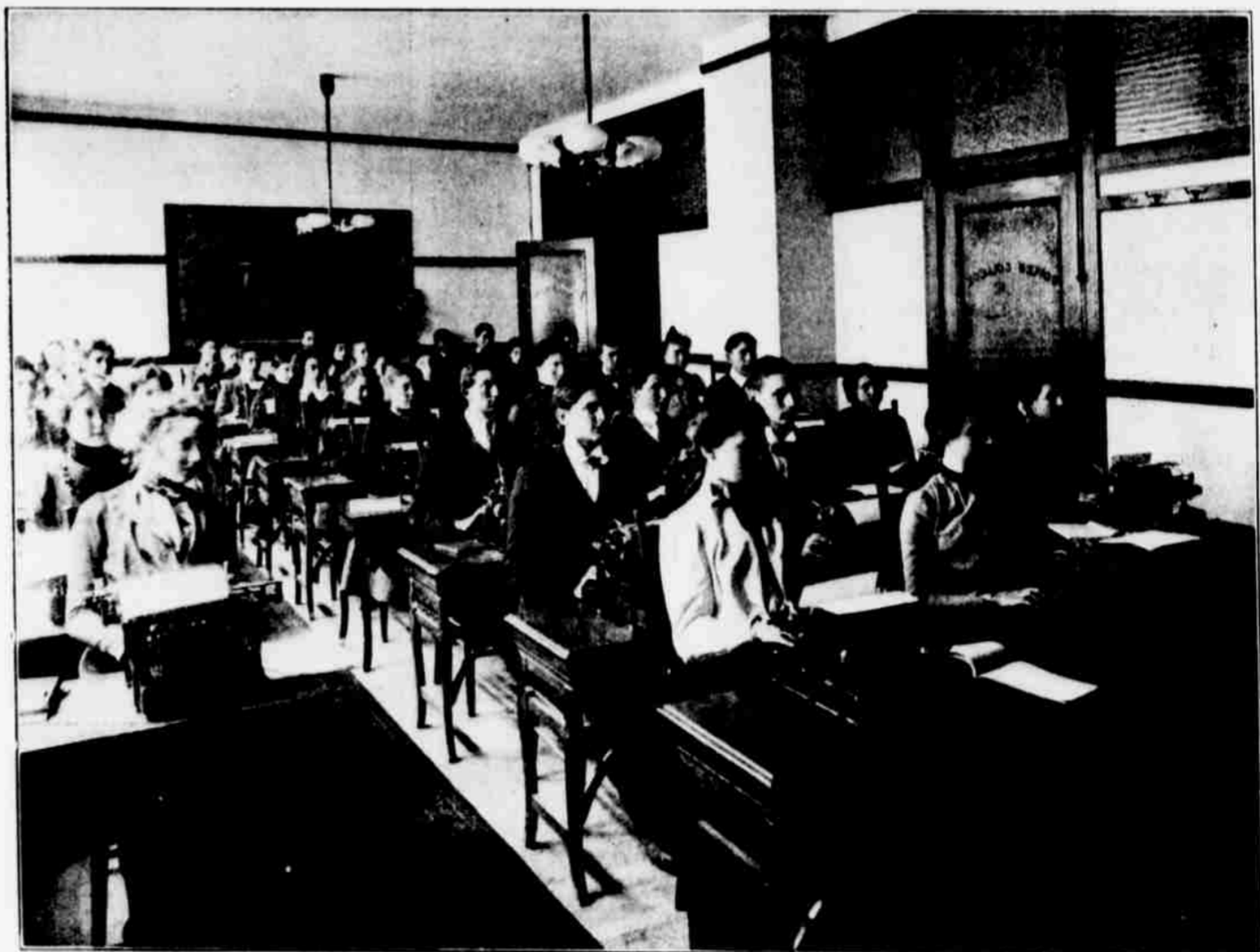
"All Baba," said the sultan, after thoughtful consideration of the subject for three consecutive seconds, "do you think the Frenchman is bluffing?"
 "You might call him, sire."
 "Call him! On what, slave?"
 "Then I suppose we apologize again. Shall I write a fresh one?"
 "Fresh nothing! Send him No. 37 in the United States form. We haven't used that lately."
 And another serious complication was averted.



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The one place at the Pan-American exposition that everybody visits is the Nebraska sod house and the one person who helps to represent Nebraska of whom everybody has a grateful memory is Mrs. L. Bowser. Her name preceded her to Buffalo and the enviable reputation of her cream, chicken and ginger bread made at the Transmississippi exposition has outgrown all bounds since her advent among the people of the Empire state. Not satisfied with her success in making exposition visitors happy at the sod house, Mrs. Bowser has fitted up with handsome furnishings the beautiful modern cottage at 1654 Elmwood avenue, two blocks from the main entrance to the grounds, pictured here. The same spirit of hospitality which has characterized the administration of the sod

house fills the air at the "Othello," the home of Mrs. Bowser when she is not at the sod house. She has made this cottage home popular by her own personality and inviting by its homelike appearance. She has placed in charge of it an Omaha woman known for her ability to provide a home for transients that loses the stiffness of hotels and makes one feel that he or she is acquainted with a few persons who are not strangers. The "Othello" is becoming a resort for Nebraska and Iowa people, to whom Mrs. Bowser has issued a special invitation to make it their home in Buffalo. Three car lines, all leading to the city and connecting with the Niagara Falls electric line, pass the door and Mrs. Weible, who is in charge, is a veritable fountain of information on subjects pertaining to points of interest.