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WAR TALK.

The battle of Santiago de Cuba was won by General Miles in Washington! Honor to whom honor is due.

Can anyone imagine anything more pathetic, more pitiful, more abject, more depressing to an army, than having its commanding officer going to battle in a carriage because of physical infirmities? Poor General Shafter had had an honor and responsibility thrust upon him that he and his officers and men under him knew him to be physically unable to carry out, whether or not he was fitted for it otherwise.

At Tampa the wish of those 17,000 brave soldiers, who left on the overloaded transports, was that General Miles had never lost a battle, and felt that he never would lose one. They loved him as a soldier; he inspired them by his quiet strength. General Miles wanted to go. He felt that his place was with his men, who had been through so much with him. They were as his children, as well as his soldiers. He asked of President McKinley that he be allowed to go, but no answer came.

A few weeks ago I would have written those last words differently. Since then I have discovered this which I will say in parenthesis. President McKinley recognized the claim, and did answer it in his own handwriting. He gave the order that General Miles accompany the expedition, and also that, before leaving, he make all arrangements for the Porto Rico expedition. This order was sent to the war department. It never reached General Miles. It was lost!

These are some of the things in this war that we may not know. General Miles to this day does not know that his prayer was granted. The fleet sailed away without him. In a day or two General Miles was recalled to Washington. Slurs were started from somewhere that—never mind that.

Military men at Tampa waited anxiously. They all knew that leadership at Santiago must be undertaken by subordinates, by some one besides Shafter. He was inexperienced as a general, and physically unable to go forward to take care of his men—a general's first duty if he hopes to succeed. Who of his subordinates would rise to the occasion? Then came the ungeneral-like cablegrams which passed the censorship for the public with much cut out, but sufficient left in to show to the ordinarily intelligent the unofficial tenor, and that we had great reason for anxiety. To those who fully realized the situation it was pitiful—pitiful for Shafter.

The battle commenced with siege guns still aboard the transports or back on the shore; without the troops having had the necessary supply of food; without water to drink, in a strange island, in underbrush, on hill-sides, in open country, with parched throats, half delirious from physical suffering, and their leader, or commanding officer, exhausted and helpless in the rear.

This premature, ungeneral-like manner of commencing an attack may not have been so much due to Shafter as to the instructions received from the war minister in Washington. It was war. It was his state. It was his old friend at the front. His political public was clamoring for a battle. Against all advice that preparations be made the battle commenced.

Over two thousand of our brave men fell—killed, wounded and missing. Then comes a cablegram from poor Shafter that he feels that he must retreat—he did not say retreat—he said: "Fall back five miles, my lines are too thin to maintain position, but I will try to save artillery." Poor man! He

had fought uphill and down dale. He had lost 2,000 men. He had gained a blockhouse and a trench, because the brave men would go on so long as one lived, but he must fall back, and he bolstered up Washington by adding that he would try to save his artillery!

President McKinley sent hurriedly for General Miles. I am told that General Miles was heartsick at the slaughter of those men, that his face was drawn and the expression so changed that he was almost unrecognizable. He said to President McKinley, and incidentally, I presume, to the war minister:

"Do you want my military opinion?"

They did. He produced his maps. He showed them how he, were he the Spanish general in command of the Spanish army, would swing about and annihilate 5,000 of the American army; it was, from the location of the two armies, such an easy thing to do. As a Spanish general he would be obliged to kill the 5,000 American soldiers instead of taking them prisoners because prisoners are expensive and Spain poor. He suggested a movement for Shafter's men instantly, and, then to the astonishment of President McKinley and Secretary Alger, suggested that Shafter make a big bluff and demand the surrender of Santiago! The bluff would give a little time, would give an excuse for the movement of this part of Shafter's army and might win, because, in his opinion, the Spanish generals were scared and their lines thin also.

So Shafter was stiffened up from Washington, and we all know how successful was the bluff. Blanco and Madrid came to our rescue by ordering Cervera out of the harbor. Shley did the rest. General Miles started for Santiago. He generously leaves all the glory to General Shafter, and will not even talk with newspaper correspondents.

Shafter needed the glory. The poor

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Land Office at Lincoln, Nebr.,
July 27, 1898.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Register of the United States Land Office at Lincoln, Nebr., on September 5th, 1898, viz: Frank Juricek, for the ne 1-4 of the nw 1-4 and the nw 1-4 of the ne 1-4 of section 17, tp 8, range 5, e. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of, said land, viz: Felix Baumgart, John Keenan, Frank Kritzi, Frank Husi, all of Berks, Nebr.

Any person who desires to protest against the allowance of such proof, or who knows of any substantial reason, under the law and the regulations of the Interior Department, why such proof should not be allowed, will be given an opportunity at the above mentioned time and place to cross-examine the witnesses of said claimant, and to offer evidence in rebuttal of that submitted by claimant.

J. W. JOHNSON,
Register.

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LEGAL NOTICE.

John Q. Denton will take notice that on the 25th day of June, 1898, Alice M. Denton, plaintiff, filed a petition against him in the county court of Lancaster county, Nebraska. The petition alleges that there is due Alice Denton from said John Q. Denton, the sum of \$578.00 for money borrowed from plaintiff by said defendant. An order of attachment was issued in said cause, and credits and money in the hands of Wilber S. Weed were attached and garnished to satisfy said debt.

You are required to answer said petition on or before September 6th, 1898.

ALICE M. DENTON.

Dated July 27, 1898.

REDUCED RATES TO GRAND ENCAMPMENT MINING DISTRICT, WYO.

The Union Pacific will sell tickets at one fare for the round trip, plus \$5.00, from all points in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Utah to Rawlins, Wyo. Dates on which tickets will be sold are 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct. and Nov. Stage line daily except Sunday each way between Rawlins and Grand Encampment.

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E. B. SLOSSON,
General Agent.