

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

Departmental and Executive Actions Condensed.

ARMY AND NAVY MOVEMENTS

Transactions and Happenings of More than Ordinary Interest to the People of America—Actions Which Make History.

Wednesday, October 18.

Heavy fighting was reported between the British and Boers yesterday. The cruiser Brooklyn left Hampton roads Wednesday afternoon bound for Manila via the Suez canal.

Harold Zieman of Valentine, Neb., has been appointed assistant engineer at the Rosebud agency of South Dakota.

Chief Surgeon O'Reilly at Havana reports three cases of yellow fever in the hospital at Matanzas, Cuba, and three more suspects under observation.

An explosion of gas at the Shenandoah City colliery near Pottsville, Pa., resulted in twenty-two men being entombed. Ten have been rescued alive. It is feared the others are dead.

A corps of experienced continental engineers, former officers, has left Pretoria for the southwestern borders, escorted by a commando of picked Boers. It is probably intended for a large dynamiting operation.

The long pending question regarding the payment of the 2,000 tons of coal purchased at St. Thomas, D. W. I., for the United States government during the war by United States Consul Van Home, has been settled, the United States government paying approximately \$33,000.

Definite information has been received at Chicago from Admiral Dewey that he will visit the windy city between November 15 and December 1, and arrangements are being made for a two days festival in his honor. The program will include military and civil parades, a military ball and the presentation of a gold or silver service.

In the United States supreme court on the 18th an agreement was reached between the counsel on both sides for the postponement of the hearing in the controversy between the states of Texas and Louisiana over the yellow fever quarantine until next Monday. The postponement was reached for the purpose of allowing a full bench to be present.

It is believed that Superintendent Alex McMasters lost his life Tuesday night in a fire which broke out in a factory of the W. C. Ritchie Paper Box company at 203 Green street, Chicago. Five hundred persons, mostly young girls, were employed in the big building, and about 50 were inside when the fire occurred. Three girls are missing, but are believed to have reached the street safely.

Thursday, October 19.

The transport Resolute left Brooklyn with 800 tons of provisions for Porto Rico.

Two battalions of the Thirty-ninth infantry have arrived at Portland, Ore., from Fort Crook, Neb. These two, together with the battalion recruited at Vancouver barracks, will sail for the Philippines about November 1.

The Illinois supreme court, in a decision handed down Thursday, declares the American Glucose company of Peoria a trust, and that its charter is in violation of the anti-trust laws of Illinois of 1891 and 1892, and therefore void.

The interior department Thursday received the following dispatch from Acting Indian Agent Nicholson at San Carlos agency, Arizona: "Indians all quieted down and working on their farms as usual. Will have no trouble. I think I can apprehend all the offenders."

Ten former Spanish soldiers, who were captured by the Filipinos and for a time acted as officers and members of the Filipino artillery regiment located in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, in the Laguna de Bay district, determined to surrender the artillery to the Americans. The plot was discovered by the Filipinos, who killed seven of the conspirators, the other three escaping to Manila.

A dispatch received from Manila, dated October 18, at 8:55 a. m., says that General Otis has received messages purporting to come from the insurgent general, Pio del Pilar, offering to sell out his army and deliver Aguinaldo into the hands of the Americans. Although he is not satisfied that this offer is authentic, it is not intrinsically improbable. The policy of General Otis is firmly set against buying any surrenders.

Friday, October 20.

General Nelson A. Miles left Chicago Monday for Omaha on an inspecting tour of the army posts in the west.

The United States court of appeals at St. Louis decided that suicide can not be urged by an insurance company as a reason for refusing to pay on a policy unless it can be shown that the individual, at the time of subscribing for the policy, contemplated suicide.

Judge Lacombe, at New York, in the United States district court, handed down a decision dismissing the writ of habeas corpus in the case of former Captain Oberlin M. Carter, who is under sentence of five years' imprisonment for conspiracy to defraud the government in contracts. The decision was given in a lengthy opinion, which upholds the findings of the court-martial.

A cablegram has been received at the state department from United States Consul Gudgeon at Panama stating that an insurrection had broken out there and that martial law had been declared.

The associated press correspondent at Samoa sends news by the steamer Moana, under date of October 8, as follows: "The aspect of affairs in Samoa is indeed far from reassuring. There is trouble brewing, and it will come soon if the three powers do not come to aid the government and the detached officials. The relations of the three consuls who were left here as a provisional government by the commissioners are strained."

The Russian Red Cross society has determined to help both belligerents in South Africa. All the papers have opened subscriptions for a volunteer corps, which is being well equipped in private circles.

Saturday, October 21.

Five transports left Southampton Monday for South Africa carrying almost 5,000 men, including Prince Alexander of Teck, who is major general in the British army.

Reports are being received from the districts occupied by the enemy that the Filipinos believe that Pio del Pilar has an audacious plan to break through the American lines into Manila and seize General Otis and the archbishop.

The presidential party arrived in Washington Thursday noon, and was met at the station by Secretary Root, General Corbin and others. The entire party is in good health and expressed themselves as having enjoyed the trip.

A Manila dispatch of the 19th says: General Lawton and General Young are at Arayat with a force of nearly 3,000 men. The gunboats Florida and Geote are preparing to move along the river to San Isidro, which will be held as a base for operations to the north.

The United States transport Thomas, the finest troop ship afloat, sailed Thursday from Cramp's shipyard at Philadelphia, for New York, where she will go into dry dock to be painted. The Thomas is to go to the Philippines early in November and will carry over 2,000 persons, including soldiers, officers, nurses and crews.

Under date of the 20th a Manila dispatch says: Three insurgent officers entered Angeles and applied to General MacArthur for permission for a Filipino commission, headed by a Filipino major general, to visit General Otis in order to discuss peace terms and to arrange for the delivery of more American prisoners, as well as to consider methods for the release of the Spanish prisoners. The request was referred to General Otis.

Monday, October 23.

Acting under the orders of his physician, Admiral Dewey has cancelled all proposed trips, and will seek rest. His health is not alarming, but quiet is necessary.

Eugene Easton of Kansas City, Mo., a newspaper man, has been captured by the Boer forces in South Africa. The state department is negotiating for his release.

Brigadier General Funston has wired from San Francisco his acceptance of the appointment of brigadier general in the newly formed volunteer service. He will return to Kansas with the Kansas volunteers, who will be mustered out October 28, and will then report at Washington for duty in the Philippines.

The Fifty-first regiment of Iowa volunteers, numbering 764 men and forty-six officers, under the command of Col. J. C. Loper, arrived at San Francisco from Manila on the transport Senator. There was no sickness. The Senator was caught in the tail of the typhoon encountered by the steamer Empress of Japan. She was tossed lively for several hours, but suffered no severe damage.

General Otis has replied to the three insurgent officers who entered Angeles on the 20th with a request, made through General MacArthur, for permission for a Filipino commission, headed by a Filipino major general, to visit General Otis in order to discuss peace terms and to arrange for the delivery of more American prisoners that the desired interview cannot be granted because the suggested propositions of the Filipinos are vague, indefinite and unmilitary, and because the Americans must continue to decline to receive any representative of the so-called Filipino government.

Tuesday, October 24.

Andrew M. Morrissy of Valentine, Nebraska, has been admitted to practice before the interior department.

The Iowa volunteers disembarked Monday and marched to Presidio where they were given an enthusiastic reception.

The comptroller of the currency Monday declared a third dividend of 10 per cent in favor of the creditors of the First National bank of Neligh, Neb., making in all 40 per cent in claims proved, amounting to \$98,404.

A Washington dispatch says that it is generally expected in diplomatic circles that the powers will interfere in the war between the British and the Boers. Germany and France are reported to be particularly reticent. It is certain that the United States will not participate in the movement.

An increase of the army to sixty-nine thousand men makes possible the appointment of one additional major general, and the president has determined to give this position to Brigadier General Bates, U. S. A., now in the Philippines, where he is concluding negotiations with the Sultan of Sulu.

The unofficial news of the death of Major Howard was officially confirmed in a telegram from Otis received at Washington Monday. Howard was killed while on a launch on the Rio Grande, near Arayat, by concealed insurgents. Major Howard formerly resided at Omaha, where he acted as aide to his father, Gen. G. O. Howard, when he was commander of the department of the Missouri.

The case involving the legality of the sentence of Henry Bolln, the defaulting treasurer of the city of Omaha, who is now in the penitentiary, was in the United States supreme court Monday. The question to be decided by the supreme court is one of the constitutionality of the Nebraska law under which Bolln was convicted. A hearing will be had on the 4th of December.

The incident that occurred in the Philippines between Rear Admiral John C. Watson, commander in chief of the Asiatic station, and Commander E. D. Taussig, in command of the Bennington, owing to a misunderstanding as to the way which certain orders of the admiral were to be carried out, as a result of which Commander Taussig was relieved of his command and ordered to return to the United States, has been closed by the navy department upholding the action of Rear Admiral Watson. Taussig will be given shore duty for awhile, and later will have a command.

FETISH WORSHIP IN CUBA.

The Power of the Obi Man Over the Black Natives is Almost Absolute.

Not least of the tasks yet to be accomplished in Cuba, through the medium of an advanced civilization, is the elimination of the fanatical tendencies and customs from among the black population of the island. While superstition is an accepted characteristic of the African race, it seldom exists to a more inordinate degree than among the Cuban negroes, where fetishism is as prevalent as among the most barbarous tribes of the Congo region. This fanaticism has existed for centuries, steadily increasing with the growth of the negro element, and up to the present time utterly defying all measures ending to its extirpation. Even Spain's otherwise inexorable policy was unable to cope with a condition which had its origin in the minds of these, her lesser subjects, and her frequent efforts towards its expulsion only aggravated the evil. The half-savage

gifted with the power of a special plague. The one to the south represented a land crab controlling the plague of drought; that to the west a frog holding the fever plague; on the north, an eagle bearing the plague of war, and on the east a serpent fraught with the plague of sudden death. The inner walls of this greswome temple were the color of blood, aside from which there were no embellishments, neither altar nor shrine. The high priest of the sect who worshipped here was a skilled Obi man, who alone controlled the four images on the four towers. When he spoke to the frog the land was straightway ravaged by drought; if he invoked the frog, the people were at once stricken with the fever; when he commanded the eagle, there speedily followed war; while the mere mention of a name to the serpent resulted in instant death to the bearer

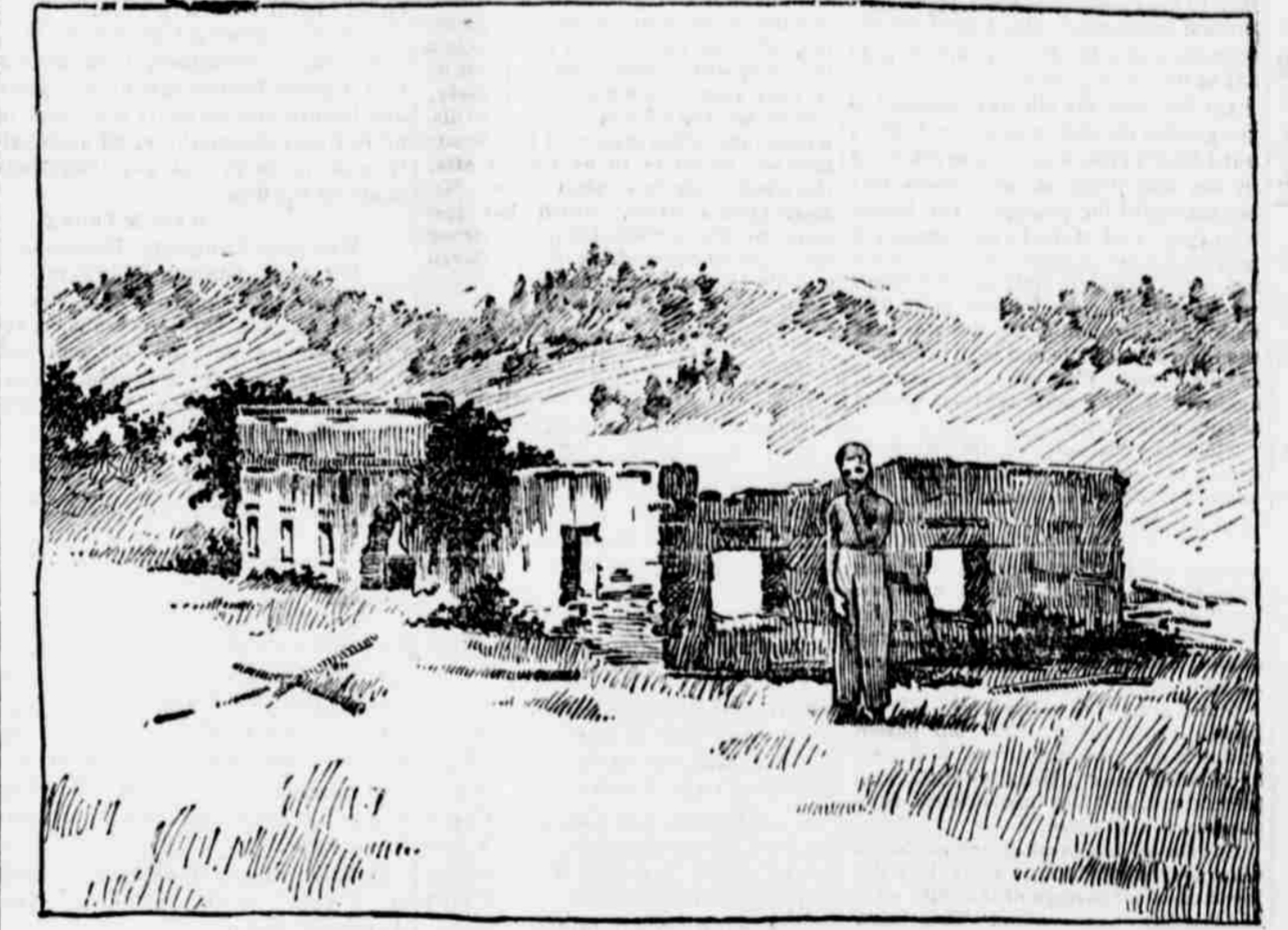
sought the sorcerer to send the plague of drought upon all the tobacco lands to the southward. So prodigious a request, however, was not to be accorded the same readiness of favor as a minor plea; therefore, the Obi man thought to put the applicant off by demanding of him a fee such as no ordinary slave could command. But, much to his surprise, the required amount was immediately forthcoming; wherefore, the magician commanded the land crab, and the drought went forth as desired.

When the other brother beheld the great disaster that had been visited upon his lands he was sore distressed. Moreover, the time speedily came when famine brought his household face to face with want. Yet in the presence of his exigencies, he marvelled that his slaves suffered no ills, and perceiving that they came and went at certain intervals he disguised himself, as had his brother, and followed them into the mountains. And it happened that as he reached the temple and mingled with the people therein the Obi man was in the very act of calling upon the frog to send the fever plague into his household. And he looked again and saw that the slave who desired this

ONE CASE IN A THOUSAND.

How He Got His First Start in the World.

There is a gentleman in this city who is fond of telling the story of how he got his first start in the world, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "Before I was married," he said, "I received a pretty fair salary, spending every cent of it as I went along. Then I fell in love, but, try as I would, I could not see how two could manage on what had scarcely been enough for me. We talked it over, she and I, and considered the question of ways and means. She thought we could manage with my salary, and we were both so desperately in love with one another that we were brave to the point of rashness, and were married. I did not care to assume the responsibility of making that salary go around, and so questions of finance were left to my wife. We lived modestly, but very comfortably, and gradually added pretty things to the little stock of furniture we had begun with, until at the end of five years we had all we had space for. Of course, my salary had increased in that time, but so had the family, and there were hundreds of demands for which we had made no allowance when we discussed the subject before marriage. One day, in the course of the day's work, I made the discovery that, if I had \$1,000 to use immediately I could make several thousands before the week was out. That night I went home dispirited and discouraged. I began to think of the dog's life I was leading, living from day to day with no prospect of anything better as far as I could see, and by the time I had reached home I was cross and taciturn, but a good dinner put me in a better humor, and as we sat together in the dining room after the children had gone to bed I told the dear woman about the fortune that we had missed because I did not have a paltry \$1,000. 'How soon will you need it?' she asked, when I had finished the story. I told her that the money would have to be forthcoming within the next three days, and asked her if she did not wish she had a fairy god-mother to supply the want. 'I will have it in three days,' she replied, confidently, and I took the answer as a joke and thought little more about it, but imagine my surprise on the third day when she handed me a check for the amount. There had not been a year since we were married that she did not save at least a couple of hundred dollars, and she had kept her own counsel about it, too, lending it in small sums to the best advantage. A thousand dollars may not seem much to you, but it was a mighty large sum to me in those days. I made the investment and made several thousand, and the first thing I did was to pay her back what she had lent me. The little bit of capital I then had was all I needed to make a start with, and from it has come all the money I have since been able to make."



Obi Man and Ruins of Voodoo Temple, Pinar del Rio.

black man might endure with equanimity his portion as a slave, but his oppressor as well might aim a blow at the life of his chattel as at his superstitious, for the influence of the latter over the average Cuban negro is supreme. Brute force has never yet been productive of mental reform, much less moral enlightenment. Hence the destruction, from time to time, by Spanish officials, of the tangible evidences of paganism in Cuba, and the physical castigation of its votaries, far from rectifying the condition, resulted in a moral corruptness infinitely worse than the original evil.

In a wild spot among the mountains of Pinar del Rio, which divide the cane-bearing lands along the north coast of the province from the great tobacco district in the south, are the ruins of an ancient fetish temple. Years have passed since the structure was utilized as a central place of worship by the slaves from the distant plantations; and yet to this day its fast-crumbing walls are jealously guarded by an aged Obi man, or native sorcerer. This old negro wields a strange influence over his countrymen for miles around, and his few wants are never left unattended. On the contrary, should he see fit to demand it, their utmost penny would be promptly brought and placed at his disposal—not from motives of veneration, but of abject fear. For to this crafty old individual is attributed the ability to bring about all manner of tribulation upon all who are so unfortunate as to incur his animosity. However, while by no means averse to extortion should occasion demand it, he is generally disposed to content himself with the bare necessities of life. Strangers rarely venture to the remote haunts of this ancient recluse, but the occasional traveler who chances that way must assuredly gather a strange impression from the desolated temple and its solitary, mysterious guardian. And to such a wayfarer as happens to speak the language of the island, and who has the forethought to deposit a few centavos in the withered hand of the magician, the latter will invariably unfold this wondrous tale concerning the place:

In years long past, the great valleys on either side the mountain range were owned by two brothers, one of whom lived in the midst of his vast cane fields, and the latter among his rich tobacco lands on the other. And, strange though it may seem, the brother in the north was at enmity with him who dwelt in the south, for, notwithstanding the former's great wealth, he continually envied the other his prosperity and possessions. At that time the temple on the intervening mountain was a marvelous structure. Its tall, massive walls were covered outside with bright green plaster, while at each of the corners arose a square tower, likewise green without. At the top of each of the four towers sat a great green image, each of which was

thereof. And the black people from the two great valleys alone knew the whereabouts of this temple and the source of the dire afflictions which from time to time smote the island. And it was the wont of these people to assemble on certain nights of each week in the midst of the temple to perform the rites of their sect, and to purchase exemption and favors from the omnipotent Obi man. For not only did their payment of tribute render them impervious to the plagues, but for additional sums they were enabled to have the same visited upon such of



A Fortune Teller.

their enemies who were without the pale of the Obi man's protection. Now, it happened that the brother who dwelt in the valley of the north became curious regarding the continued going and coming of his slaves; wherefore, he disguised himself one night and followed them to their mountain retreat. And learning here the secret of the four plagues, an evil impulse straightway entered his heart; to have them all, one after another, inflicted upon his despised brother in the valley beyond. Therefore, biding his chance, he approached the Obi man and, first offering his tribute, after the manner of the slaves about him, be-

thing was none other than his brother disguised like himself. And when the afflicted brother understood the source of the deadly influences that were being brought against him, he fled in terror from the place, and going before the governor of the island, revealed to him the secret of the fetish temple and the baneful evils his brother was having brought upon him. So the governor sent forth his army to destroy the temple and to bring the offending brother to punishment. Now, it so happened that the army, in entering the country, passed through the persecuted brother's lands, upon hearing of which the evil brother in the north exulted greatly, believing it the result of the war plague which he had brought of the Obi man to bring into his brother's possessions. And that very night he again set out for the temple that he might cause his brother to be stricken with the final plague of death. But even as he reached the spot he perceived that a great commotion prevailed about the temple, for the governor's soldiers were in the act of demolishing the walls. But as yet one tower remained, whereon sat the green serpent. And the Obi man, who had been bound by the soldiers, seeing the brother from the north approach, and attributing to the latter's evil eye the dire misfortune that had come to pass, spoke his name to the serpent. And straightway the last plague which the wicked conspirator had intended should fall upon his brother was visited upon himself, and he fell dead before the wrecked temple. Moreover, declares the present aged guardian of the ruins, from that day the virtue departed from the cane fields in the valley to the north and entered the great tobacco fields of the south, which even until now are the richest in the island.

Again Heard From.

From the Detroit Free Press: "Don't it beat all, Si," said Seth Groggins, as he pressed down slightly on the scale pan in weighing out three-quarters of a pound of sugar. "Did ye ever see it colder than this for this time o' th' yer?" "Si Green broke a cracker and thrust the bits into his mouth. 'No, can't say 't I ever did,' he muttered thoughtfully, 'less it was th' fall o' '32. Turble fall, th' fall o' '32 in these parts. Hed snow th' las' week in August. All th' sheep friz. Graound was froze solid 't feet down by middle o' September. I'll never ferget haow mother set up fur four days, 'thout food ner sleep makin' canton flannel night shirts fur th' wheat. If it hedn't bin fur thet, father'd lost th' hull crop. As 'twas he realized seventy-tew bushel. But it's pritty cold naow."

The Busy Propeller.

The screw of an Atlantic liner revolves something like 630,000 times between Liverpool and New York.

Cook's Crow Saved Them.

A singular story is told of a gallant cock whose moral influence at a critical moment during the battle of St. Vincent helped to save a British man-of-war from the hands of the enemy. The fowl in question formed part of the live stock of the Marlborough—a vessel which had suffered so severely that her captain was considering the advisability of striking his flag. The ship was entirely demasted, while the chief officers had been carried below severely wounded and the crew, without anybody to cheer them up, were beginning to grow sullen under the heavy fire of the enemy, to which they were hardly able to respond. At this emergency a shot struck the coop in which the fowls were confined. The only surviving occupant, a cock, finding himself at liberty, fluttered up and perched himself on the stump of the mainmast and surveyed the scene of carnage around him. Then, flapping his wings in defiance, he began to crow vociferously. He was answered by three hearty and exhilarating cheers from the crew, who all had a good laugh, and with spirits thus renewed continued the action with a vigor that lasted until a turn in the battle rescued them from their tight position.—London Mail.

Horse Was Lost.

An amusing race was lately organized by a New York amusement syndicate. The starters were Sid, the largest elephant in captivity, ridden by his keeper, Bernard Dooley, and Ben All, camel, driven by his keeper, William Green; a bicycle, an automobile, and Australian Ben, a horse. After a preliminary canter it was arranged that the elephant and camel should start together, and that the automobile should pursue them after they had covered two laps, the horse and bicycle to follow at shorter intervals. This arrangement was found necessary because, when in line, the camel was scared by the motor car, and the horse also became very reticent, while the elephant threatened to squash the cyclist with one of his forefeet. The race finished thus: Elephant Sid, 21 years old, 4 tons (Dooley), first; bicycle, Darby, 20 pounds (Sohnneer), second; automobile, no name, 1,000 pounds (Houck), third; camel, Ben All, and horse, Australian Ben, also ran.

A Flash from the Rhodope.

A well-known Englishman, Nassau Senior, whose wife was a sister of the author of "Tom Brown's School Days," used to keep diaries in which he wrote down all the conversations he heard. On one occasion he was presented to the late khedive, who had been warned of this little habit. "Oh, yes, I was," said his highness, "Mr. Senior is the trumpet, and I am to blow down it."