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THICK OF THE BATTLES

Frank Johnson Writes of Soldier Life in the Philippines.

Relates Many Interesting Incidents of the Engagements Up to April 5—The Soldiers All Thought Well of the Late Colonel Stotsenberg.

MALOLO, P. I., April 5.—Dear Parents: As I have more time now I will give you an outline of what we have been doing since we left block house No. 5.

On the morning of March 25 we got up at 4 o'clock, and with twenty-four hours' rations in our haversacks and 120 rounds of ammunition, we marched to our position and waited until daylight. Just after daylight the lines advanced. M company, with three others, were in the reserve, about 500 yards to the rear of the firing line. Our boys hadn't advanced far when the niggers opened up on them. The boys kept right on going, firing volley after volley, driving them back into their breastworks. Here they made a stand, and they stayed until the boys were right on them, and a hand-to-hand fight followed. The niggers soon took to their heels, leaving fifteen killed in the breastworks. L company was in the thickest of it, and had nine men wounded. Here is where Captain Forby of Company G was shot, also Captain Taylor of Company L. How many men we lost here I cannot say—about fifteen altogether, I think. This happened about 6:30 a. m., and from then until 4 p. m. it was a running fight. The reserve had a hard time keeping up with the firing line.

At 4 o'clock we discovered that there was a gap in the lines of about two miles, so here was a march of two miles by the left flank. When we went into camp it was dark, and we were all worn out, as it had been an awful hot day. We went into camp at the Malolos pumping station. The insurgents had some awful strong breastworks here, and when you hear any person say they don't know how to build them, you can put it down that they don't know what they are talking about.

A Real War Camp. Right here is the first time I ever saw a real war camp. Cavalry, artillery and infantry all in the same camp, and a train of about seventy-five mule teams and ox carts. It was a beautiful sight.

March 26 we were all up and ready to move at daylight. It was a fine sight to see the cavalry line up and start out on a scout to locate the enemy. About 8:30 we took our position. This time Company M was on the firing line with seven other companies. This day the Dakota regiment held the extreme right and Nebraska next. Each regiment had eight companies on the firing line and four in reserve.

We were all lined up and ready to advance. After waiting in the hot sun for about two hours we got orders to move by the right flank. All regiments (that is on the extreme right) assembled and marched to Polo. Here we formed in line of battle again. This time the Dakota regiment took the firing line and we formed behind them. Here is where our little Hotchkiss came into play—a little cannon that we had with us all the way through.

The niggers had some strong breastworks about 1,500 yards in front of us. After the works were shelled for about an hour by two of the Utah guns and our little Hotchkiss, the line moved forward—that is, the Dakotas did—and we went by the left flank. Here we were under a heavy fire, being directly behind the Dakotas' firing line about 800 yards. When we got to their left we advanced to the firing line under a heavy fire, causing us to double-time a great distance. The day being very hot several of the boys had to drop out. The niggers soon left their works and retreated back across the railroad bridge, where they had another stronghold.

In a Rain of Bullets. The river is about 100 feet wide, and the niggers had thrown up breastworks on each side of the track just across the river, expecting to keep us from crossing the bridge, but they failed. We advanced to the river—Dakota and Nebraska all in the same firing line. Here we poured volley after volley into them across the river. Several of us got upon the track at the end of the bridge. Here we could get a good effective fire on them, the track being higher than their works. We all wanted to cross the bridge, but it looked almost like certain death. Even though we only received a wound we were very apt to fall into the water, the ties being about two and one-half feet apart, and the bridge was about thirty feet high and the water in the river about ten feet deep. We thought our chances were very poor. Several of the boys with us at the end of the bridge had already been shot. All we needed, however, was a leader, and he soon came—a major of the Dakotas. When he got up on the track and saw how things were, all he said was "come on boys," and away he went—we followed him. I never felt better in my life than I did when I got across that bridge. It is about 150 feet long, and at every step we could hear the bullets hitting the steel part of the bridge all around us. After

getting across some of the boys went for their works, while the rest of us started down the track to get around behind the niggers, but before I had gone 100 yards one of our boys, "Stims," who was about ten feet in front of me, was shot through the neck by a Mauser. He fell, and when I got to him he was bleeding awfully. We (that is the captain and myself) took a first aid package and tied up the wound. He was taken to the rear, but died the next evening.

The niggers were soon driven back, leaving fifty killed and wounded. We advanced to Meyeanyan, about one mile from the bridge, and went into camp for the night. The niggers set fire to the village before we entered. Some of the papers claim we set fire to it, but they are off. After running down a few chickens and a fine, large pig, we had a good supper and retired for the night.

March 27, after getting our breakfast, we got twenty-four hours' travel rations and more ammunition, which was brought up to us on a handcar. We formed and started on our way toward Malolos. The time the Dakotas and Third artillery (as infantry) were on the firing line, then came Nebraska and Pennsylvania in the reserve.

When I mention these regiments I always mean the extreme right of the line, and what is going on there only, and what I can see myself. The Dakotas were on the east side of the railroad track and the Third artillery on the west. After the firing line had advanced about a mile they found the niggers, as was expected, and they were in trenches. They had trenches every few hundred yards, and made a stubborn fight, falling back from one trench to another. The boys kept right on going, but their loss was heavy. One of our flankers was struck in the hip by a Mauser.

A Hot Fight. At the next station, Bocave, is where the hottest fight was. The niggers had strong breastworks thrown up along the opposite side of the river, and our boys had to advance across an open field, and then the river, but they did it, and it seemed like nothing could stop them. They were soon across the field and river—some of them had to swim. The niggers left their works and were soon disappearing in the timber about one mile to the north. Here we came up, crossed the river and formed on the right of the South Dakotas, and under cover of the river bank. Our battalion was in the reserve, but in crossing the river there not being room enough it put the reserves on the firing line, near the center of our regiment. Here we lay for about three hours when the niggers began to advance on us, that is on the Dakotas. To protect them two battalions of the Nebraska regiment moved by the left flank, leaving us, Third battalion, on the extreme right, but by this time the niggers had opened up and were advancing, cheering like a lot of Indians. Now came our time. We were ordered to charge, and charge we did. When we came up from behind the river bank it seemed to me that the whole country was alive with niggers, but we kept right on going, and the enemy soon took to their heels. Our officers tried to stop us and make us fire by volley and then advance, but they might just as well try to stop the wind. We didn't walk, but were stopping every few yards to take a shot at a fleeing nigger. We kept this up for about two miles, driving the niggers into the timber. Into the timber we went after them and out on the other side, when darkness overtook us and we stopped. Then we had a long march back to the lines, arriving there about 11 o'clock. The Nebraska regiment only was in this charge and for this reason we had to move back so as to connect our line with South Dakotas.

On the 28th no advance was made. We all went over to the river and had a good salt water bath. All the streams in this part of the country are affected by the tide, and for that reason the water is salty. At times on our march we suffered very much for the want of drinking water, and we had to depend entirely upon holes dug in the ground by natives for our water.

March 29.—After our day's rest we were all feeling fine. Although several of the boys' feet were beginning to get very tired, they were just as anxious to proceed as we were. The lines were soon forward and we got an early start. It was a beautiful day for marching—cloudy, threatening rain and a cool breeze from the northeast. Nebraska was on the extreme right, first and second battalions on the firing line and the third in the reserve. After the lines had advanced about one and a half miles they were fired upon by the niggers. This time they were in an open field, and firing from behind the rice ridges.

Root the Natives. We had to advance through a swamp, the mud being about knee deep. I suppose the niggers thought they could keep us from crossing, but the boys went right along, picking out the best places, and didn't pay any attention to their fire until we got across. Three of our boys were wounded crossing here. When the firing line got through the swamp

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PREPARE CUBANS FOR BALLOT.

Senor Mendez Capote Studies the Electoral Laws of Various Nations.

HAVANA, May 21.—Senor Domingo Mendez Capote, secretary of the government, has been devoting considerable time to a study of the electoral laws of various nations with a view to formulating plans for their inauguration here. Universal suffrage is considered advisable in some respects, but it would have many objectionable features. On the other hand Senor Capote thinks an educational qualification would not prove satisfactory, unless sufficiently comprehensive to exclude those taught especially for elections. He says the Cuban league is doing much in the way of preparing the voters to exercise the electoral function.

The great objection to a property qualification is that a majority of those citizens who formerly had property, the Spaniards in particular, and many capable Cubans, have been totally ruined during the last three years and would not be justly treated were a property qualification enforced. Senor Capote is carefully considering the problem and will submit his views to General Brooke about the middle of next month, when he will ask for the issuance of such a decree as he will then have in readiness.

The special committee that has been investigating the finances of Havana reports that the bonded indebtedness of \$9,543,500 has been reduced \$33,000 since January 1. The issues are made recallable at any time. The commission will later recommend taking up 6 per cent at 5 and possibly at 4. The floating debt, which is largely due to employes and contractors under the Spanish regime, has not been touched. Probably the court of claims will reduce the face of the claims before it, now amounting to \$2,000,000, by at least 50 per cent. Major General Ludlow, military governor of Havana, will postpone until the autumn the projected new bond issue for public works.

How's This. We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. S. CLEMENT & CO., Props., Toledo, O. We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALTON, KISSAN & MAZINSKI, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle, sold by all druggists. Testimonials from Hall's Family Pills are the best.

LEAVINGS IN PALACES.

Large Sums Made from the Sale of Unused Food.

Here are some interesting statistics in regard to the food which is served in royal palaces, but which is not used by the host or guests. The chief cook of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria estimates that of the 1,250,000 francs which are spent each year on the imperial table more than half a million francs are spent on unused food, or "leavings." The perquisites from a single banquet which was given on the occasion of the jubilee amounted to more than 50,000 francs. The unused food, and especially the wines, are sold after each meal to the principal restaurants of Vienna, and in this way the cooks and their assistants contrive to obtain twice and often even three times as much as is paid to them each month by the emperor's steward. In Italy and in Spain this leakage (no other word seems appropriate) has with the last few years been reduced to a minimum. The emperor of Germany has also set his face against this extravagance. It is said that he makes a contract with the proprietor of one of the first hotels in Berlin, who guarantees to furnish meals to him and to all the members of his court for the fixed sum of twenty marks a head. Queen Victoria examines carefully into her household expenses and is especially careful that no money shall be wasted in the royal kitchen. In the imperial palaces of Russia the "leavings" must be considerable. Every day between 500 and 600 francs' worth of wines and cigars are furnished for the imperial banquet, and there is a strict rule that no bottle, whether opened or not, shall be presented twice at the czar's table. It is said that this rule is rigidly enforced, and if so, it can readily be seen that the lot of a chef in a Russian royal palace is by no means unhappy.—New York Herald.

THE NEWS PRINTS THE NEWS.

Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen, smarting, nervous feet, and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for sweating, callous and hot, tired, aching feet. Try it today. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25c in stamps. Trial package free. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Ice! Ice!! Ice!!! Order your ice of McMaken & Son. Telephone 72 or 73.

Notice to Taxpayers. The county commissioners will meet as a board of equalization on June 13, 1899, and will continue in session not less than three days. JAMES ROBERTSON, County Clerk.

Carriage painting done in first-class style by Patton & Bulger. Shop on Vine, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

Drink Grain-O

after you have concluded that you ought not to drink coffee. It is not a medicine but doctors order it, because it is healthful, invigorating and appetizing. It is made from pure grains and has that rich seal brown color and tastes like the finest grades of coffee and costs about 2 as much. Children like it and thrive on it because it is a genuine food drink containing nothing but nourishment. Ask your grocer for Grain-O, the new food drink. 15 and 25c.

Examination for Students' Certificates. There will be an examination for students' certificates for free attendance at public high school, Saturday, May 27, in each of the following places: Plattsmouth, Weeping Water, Elmwood, Louisville and Greenwood. The examination will be held at the school house and be conducted by the local principal or superintendent, who will report to this office.

In order to obtain one of these certificates it will be necessary to pass to a satisfactory examination in arithmetic, reading, U. S. history, physiology, grammar and geography. The successful candidates will be privileged to attend any high school in the county.

Teachers reading this notice will please call the attention of their eighth-grade pupils to this matter. Respectfully,

GEORGE L. FARLEY, County Superintendent.

King, Emperor, Duke, Prince—\$1. Elson, the Clothier.

A Frightful Blunder

Will often cause a horrible burn, scald, cut or bruise. Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the best in the world, will kill the pain and promptly heal it. Cures old sores, fever sores, ulcers, boils, felons, corns, all skin eruptions. Best pile cure on earth. Only 25 cents a box. Curo guaranteed. Sold by F. G. Fricke & Co.

State Sunday School Convention

The Nebraska State Sunday School convention will be held in Holdrege June 13-15, 1899.

Every Sunday school in the state is entitled to one delegate for each 100 members or fraction thereof. In addition to these, the pastor is a delegate ex-officio, and an alternate should be elected in case of his inability to attend.

Entertainment will be provided for all delegates presenting proper credentials.

Reduced rates of one and one-third fare on the certificate plan have been granted by all the railroads in the state.

An excellent program is in preparation. Schools should elect delegates at once. For copy of program and blank credentials, address

E. J. WIGHTMAN, Secretary, York Nebraska.

The Way to go to California

is in a tourist sleeping car—personally conducted—via the Burlington Route. You don't change cars. You make fast time. You see the finest scenery on the globe. Your car is not so expensively finished nor so fine to look at as a palace sleeper but it is just as clean, just as comfortable, just as good to ride in, AND NEARLY \$20 CHEAPER.

The Burlington excursions leave every Thursday reaching San Francisco Sunday and Los Angeles Monday. Porter with each car. Excursion manager with each party. For folder giving full information call at nearest B. & M. R. R. depot or write J. Francis, General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.

Don't think you can cure that slight attack of dyspepsia by dieting, or that it will cure itself. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure will cure it; it "digests what you eat" and restores the digestive organs to health. F. G. Fricke & Co.

Telephoning Around the World.

Thomas A. Edison is ready to build a telephone line around the world. "So far invention is concerned, the work is done. It is now a question of capital," said he in a recent interview. "I have had this scheme of a circumterrestrial telephone circuit under consideration since 1870. It involves a cable laid across the Atlantic from New York to Southampton, probably, and after passing under the English channel, a line via Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople to Calcutta, India. Thence it would follow the Chinese coast to Behring straits, where, crossing to Alaska, it would run southward to San Francisco, and thence back to New York."

The Smallest Cemetery.

The smallest cemetery in the world—which only measures twenty-two and one-half by fourteen feet—is situated in the twelfth manufacturing town of Galashiels, in Scotland. It has been long closed as a burial ground.

Ten cents per dozen paid for eggs at F. T. Davis Co.

Flash Measured.

By means of a photograph, made with a vibrating lens, scientists have calculated the time of a lightning flash. It comes out one nineteenth of a second. The calculation is based upon the multiple image in the photographs and the rate of vibration of the lens. The time applies, of course, only to the particular flash that was photographed.

Ice cream freezers of the best makes. Ebinger Hardware company.



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(Continued on third page.)