

STORIES OF GUN CAPTAINS

By Lieutenant G. L. Garden, U. S. S. Manning: The best shot I ever knew on board ship was a man by the name of Kingsbury. He was captain of No. 5 gun on the gunboat Manning, and he was also leader of a little Salvation army band which existed among the ship's company.

At Santa Cruz del Sur, Kingsbury picked up the range of the shore works in two shots, and from that time on he planted his shells in the enemy's position with astonishing accuracy. In repelling an attack of Spanish cavalry at Dalguiri, on the army base of supplies, Kingsbury opened with the first gun, and its shells were placed, seemingly, wherever he wanted them to go. He was a man of remarkable nerve, cool at all times, and of exemplary bearing. He was in every sense of the word an honest, God-fearing man—the very antithesis of what is supposed to be the make-up of a man-of-war's-man.

Kingsbury had been in the navy ever since he was a lad. He was with Commander (now Rear Admiral) Schley on the Greeley relief expedition, and he received a personal testimonial from that officer for special services performed. Throughout the whole of the Spanish-American war, however, I never knew a night to pass that Kingsbury did not collect some of his shipmates about him for prayer.

One of the captains of the eight-inch guns on the cruiser Brooklyn early earned the reputation of being about the best shot in Admiral Sampson's fleet. This gunner commanded one of the midship turret pieces.

On June 23 the Texas was ordered to bombard the Socapa battery, lying just to the west of the entrance of Santiago harbor. The Brooklyn was in the vicinity ready to support, but the orders were for the Texas to engage single handed.

For two hours and five minutes the Texas played on the Spanish works. She planted her shells along the face of the battery from left to right and from right to left. The Spanish gunners were early driven to cover, but now and then, during a temporary lull in the bombardment, they would rush out and discharge some gun at the American ship. It was one of these intermittent shots which struck the Texas on the port bow, plowing its way into the gundeck, exploding there and killing one man and wounding nine.

The Texas, after silencing, apparently, every gun in the Spanish position, was signalled:
"Cease firing and withdraw."
The big ship immediately obeyed, and putting her helm over, steamed slowly out to sea. She had not proceeded 400 yards before the Spaniards swarmed out of their bomb-proof and into the gun positions. In less time, almost, than it takes to tell, they managed to load a gun and fire a parting shot at their enemy.

Owing to the orders the Texas had received, that shot could not be returned; but lying 7,000 yards out to sea was a ship which could and did reply. That ship was the one popularly termed by the Spaniards "The Three-Horned Devil," the U. S. S. Brooklyn.

When Commodore Schley saw the Spaniards fire the last shot, he directed that Frieborg return it, and the reply was made in the shape of an eight-inch shell, weighing 150 pounds. It was a long shot—7,000 yards, or nearly four miles—and it took considerable time for the shell to traverse the distance. Those of us on the Manning who saw that huge pillar of smoke leap suddenly from the side of the Brooklyn held our breath in expectancy. The Brooklyn was firing a shot on honor—for it would never do to let the Spaniards say they had had the last shot.

As we watched for a sign of the shell striking, we saw suddenly a great cloud of dust rise from the very center of the Spanish battery, and the next moment a puff of white smoke marked the explosion of the American shell. The projectile had gone straight home. The Americans had the last shot.

Blue-jackets are enthusiastic fellows when the occasion demands it; and at the sight of the Brooklyn's shot exploding in the very midst of the enemy, there went up such a shout that day as only men-of-war's-men can give. From the Brooklyn we heard afterward that Frieborg, in firing the shot, had not taken over five seconds in aiming.

Of all the ships in the American Navy which gained reputations for excellence in gunnery work, none excelled the standard set by the superb Texas. This is the vessel which was once termed the "hoo-doo" of the American navy. The pity is that there are not more ships like her under the American flag. On June 23 the firing of the Texas could not be termed "good" or "excellent." It was "perfect." The men of the Texas exhibited a skill that day which astonished even the gunners of other American warships. But there was one spectator of the fight who was enlightened more than any one else. That person was Admiral Cervera of the Spanish fleet.

The Spanish admiral feared almost as much as the Texas, and that vessel was the Brooklyn.

"I early formed the opinion," said the Spanish admiral, "that if my fleet could get by the Texas and the Brooklyn they would be safe. It was the speed of the Brooklyn and the gun-work of the Texas I feared most."

Unfortunately for the admiral, he did not reckon on the Oregon.

But all the crack gunners of the American navy were not confined to Admiral Sampson's fleet. Admiral Dewey had at Manila men who had made some of the highest scores recorded. These gunners mostly came from the Pacific squadron, from the cruisers Philadelphia and Yorktown—that is they had made their reputation on previous cruises of those vessels. The score is shown on the records today of a target made by one of Admiral Dewey's men with a six-pounder gun at a range of one mile and three-quarters. Firing at a target ten feet high twenty feet wide, this gunner placed twenty shots, straight running, in the target, and all of them practically or the center vertical line.

Throughout the war the practice was followed of keeping a large supply of ammunition constantly grouped about the guns. There was, of course, a danger of an enemy's shot falling among this ammunition and exploding the lot, but it was recognized that if rapid fire was to be maintained, it was imperative to have the ammunition close at hand. The predominating American idea was to smother the enemy at the very outset with a fire so awful in its intensity that nothing living could stand up before it. This is just what happened at Santiago on July 3. The Spanish gunners were far better men than the people believe. They understood their guns; and as to bravery, there never was any question on that score; but from the moment the leading Spanish ship emerged from the harbor it was met by a fire from the American vessels the like of which the world probably has never seen.

The Spaniards declare that six-pound shells were bursting on the gun decks and in the open spaces in one continuous roar. Nothing in the shape of flesh and blood could stand up before it. It was a case of run for one's life or die; and to the everlasting credit of the Spaniards it can be said that they mostly chose to die. This, then, accounts for the terrible loss of life on that day—something like 600 on the enemy's side.

The speed with which fire can be delivered from a six-pounder gun is about seventeen aimed shots per minute; but owing to the immense cloud of smoke which the brown prismatic powder gave out, there were but few guns crews that it thought which fired on July 3 over fifteen shots per minute. The Iowa, when she first bore down on the enemy opened with an intense fire and one of great rapidity. It was not many minutes before that ship resembled a great thunder cloud rent with lightning, caused by the almost incessant crash of her great and small guns.

The rapid-fire pieces of the main battery class—the four-inch, five-inch and six-inch guns—have worked up of late to remarkably high speed. A four-inch gun in the hands of an American crew has delivered five shots in fourteen seconds. All five shots were in the air at the same time, the gun having been given a slight angle for elevation at the commencement of the firing. A six-inch gun will easily deliver six shots per minute.

The projectile of a four-inch gun weighs 23 pounds; that of a five-inch gun, 55 pounds, and that of a six-inch gun, 100 pounds. All of these shells are filled with powder, and explode on striking. The explosive charge is just sufficient to break the shell up into man-killing fragments. If too much powder were employed, the explosion might reduce the shell to dust.

There is a rough rule of thumb familiar to ordnance men, which is that a gun has a mile range for every inch of caliber. For a six-inch gun the range would, therefore, be six miles; an eight-inch gun, eight miles, and so on. As a matter of fact, the rule, if anything, underestimates the range powers of the gun, and now that smokeless powder is to be used, with accompanying higher velocities, the ranges will be ever greater.

The heaviest guns carried today in the American navy are the thirteen-inch weapons on the Oregon, Indiana and Massachusetts. Each one of these ships carries four of the enormous pieces. The weight of a thirteen-inch rifle is about sixty-two tons. Hereafter the policy, as announced, is to limit the size of the guns in the American service to twelve-inch caliber. The twelve-inch gun weighs about forty-six tons, and when using the new smokeless powder it possesses power practically the equivalent of that now held by the thirteen-inch gun. The saving in weight is what recommends the change. The weight gained in guns can be utilized for additional ammunition and coal.

Every day that passes sees the American navy more efficient than the day previous. The famous battleship Oregon is a more powerful fighting craft today than she was on July 3. This is due to the fact that a number of the guns—the six-inch ones—are now rapid-fire weapons, whereas at Santiago they were of the ordinary firing type.

It will not be long now before every gun in the navy is a rapid-fire piece up to and including the eight-inch weapons, and then with American gunners in charge something still further may be expected in world-record scoring.

Two Virginians have patented a cigar in which a leaf stem is inserted in the center to impart its fragrance to the filled, the stem being withdrawn when the cigar is lighted, thus forming a passage for the smoke.

SCHOOL LAND AT YOUR OWN PRICE.

As soon after the first of July as practicable I will hold public auctions for leasing about 905,000 acres of school lands, under the provisions of the new law, in the following counties: Antelope, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Brown, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Garfield, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Holt, Hooker, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Pierce, Perkins, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Thomas and Wheeler. Under the new law, if these lands will not lease at the public auction at 5 per cent upon the appraised value, they may be leased to the person offering 6 per cent upon the highest valuation. These lands are in the best stock-growing portions of the state, where cattle, sheep and horses can be produced at less expense, and, therefore, at greater profit than anywhere I know of, and yet surrounded with as good and intelligent a class of citizens as anywhere to be found. The harvest truly is great and lasts almost the year round, and no more inviting field for the intelligent stockman and farmer can be found; and now that there is an opportunity to secure twenty-five-year-lease contracts thereon at what the lands are worth, the lessee himself being the judge, it is confidently expected that all or nearly all of these lands will be leased during the present year at the public auctions, as above mentioned. Anyone desiring to attend any of these leasing auctions will be notified of the time and place of holding the same, as soon as it has been arranged, if they will write me at once, giving the names of the counties in which they are interested, and will also be furnished a list of the lands to be leased, so that they may visit the counties in advance of the leasing auction and examine the lands which will be offered. Notice of the auction will be duly given in the local papers. Send stamp for copy of the new school land law under which the lands will be offered. Any further information will be cheerfully furnished.

Lincoln, Neb., May 13, 1899.
J. V. WOLFE,
Commissioner Public Lands and Buildings.

Not Entitled to Protest.

Bloomfontein, Orange Free State.—(Special).—Among the most important points that President Paul Kruger of the Transvaal and Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony, and British high commissioner for South Africa, will have to discuss at their conference here, in regard to the demands of the Uitlanders, will be the question of the dynamite monopoly under which the Uitlanders are groaning and which the British secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has used his utmost endeavors to remedy.

But a blue book on the subject shows that matters in this connection have practically reached a deadlock. The blue book opens with a letter from Mr. Chamberlain, dated January 13, reviewing the whole question and protesting that the monopoly was inconsistent with the London convention. To this the Transvaal government replied, under date of March 9, controverting the arguments of Mr. Chamberlain and stating that her majesty's government was not entitled to a protest.

Mr. Chamberlain, on April 21, however, renewed the British protest, adding that her majesty's government reserves its rights. In answer to this, the Transvaal government replied, on May 22, with two curt sentences, that it abided with the views expressed in its communication of March 9.

Shortage of Artillerymen.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—A phase of the army situation that is receiving considerable attention from those interested in the artillery arm of the service is the increasing shortage of men to care for the constantly increasing number of guns in the coast defenses. This question, indeed, may have considerable bearing on the question of whether a call for volunteers will be necessary. There are not enough artillerymen, it is asserted, to take care of the modern guns already installed in the coast defenses. It is pointed out by those familiar with the situation that the guns themselves are suffering for want of attention. The emplacements for the heavy modern guns are built with mathematical accuracy. In the big guns the whole problem is worked out by mathematics and if the gun and its foundations deteriorate all the fine work in their original construction goes for nothing.

Germany Doesn't Object.

Washington, D. C.—(Special).—It is officially denied at the department of state that there have been any exchanges whatever between the department and the German government or its representatives relative to the replacement of the Philadelphia by the cruiser Newark at Apia, Samoa. The subject has not even been mentioned in conversation, it is said, and nothing in the nature of a protest against the sending of the ship to Samoa has been lodged. At the navy department it is said that no orders have yet been forwarded to the Newark, and nothing is known of any German protest. The German ambassador, Dr. von Holleben, authorizes a denial of the statement that he had made representations in objection to the dispatch of the cruiser Newark to Samoa.

Chicago Times-Herald: A New Jersey preacher has deserted the pulpit to become a hotel keeper. He must think they are going to have summer in New Jersey some time this year in spite of the poor start that has been made.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

Cramps' shipyards at Philadelphia now employ 6,000 men.

American exports of manufactured goods now average about \$1,000,000 a day.

The daily shipments of oil from the Indiana field amount to 36,111 barrels, and the runs from the wells, 39,364 barrels.

Preparations for the erection of the \$15,000,000 steel plant which is to be located at Stony Point, near Buffalo, N. Y., are in active progress.

The recent advance in wages, equivalent to about 20 per cent, enables the street car men of Pittsburgh, Pa., to now earn \$2.50 a day of twelve hours.

During the month of April the American Federation of Labor issued thirty-three charters aside from the charters issued by its affiliated national unions.

The printers in the government printing office at Washington will receive an increase in wages of 10 cents per hour, the increase to begin with the next fiscal year.

During the first week of May over 2,000 new members were added to the Tobacco Workers' National Union. One union tobacco firm in Brooklyn, N. Y., used 2,000,000 blue labels in the month of April.

The largest tin plate factory in the world, the Shenango mill at New Castle, Pa., is to be operated in its entirety by electricity as soon as the necessary machinery can be installed. The motors will be used in all parts of the plant.

J. R. Sovereign, ex-grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, now publishing a labor paper in Idaho, was refused a seat as a delegate from a "workingmen's union" of Gem, Idaho, at the session of the Western Federation of Labor at Salt Lake City.

Contracts have been awarded to a Pennsylvania firm for the construction of six steel bridges on the line of the trans-Siberian railway—making in all eighteen bridges which this company has undertaken for the same project.

At Schweinfurt, Bavaria, is one of the largest of the world's manufacturers for bicycle ball bearings. The two factories there, belonging to one firm, turn out annually 2,000,000 gross of these little steel balls and employ 600 men, working for a day of ten hours' duration.

The magnitude of the Carnegie Steel company's operations may be understood from the statement that in 1898 the company made 17 per cent of the pig iron produced in the United States, 16 per cent of the product of Pennsylvania and 66 per cent of the product of Allegheny county. They manufactured 22 per cent of the Bessemer steel production of the United States and 42 per cent of the like product of Pennsylvania.

The annual meetings of the various cotton mills in the vicinity of Greenville, S. C., are about over and they show unprecedented profits. For instance, the American Spinning company, capital \$125,000, shows net profit of over \$7,000; the Piedmont mills, over \$125,000; the Huguenot mills, \$63,000, and others in like proportion. Now while these profits seem large the profit for the current year will be much larger. The Poe mill, which made \$24,000 for twelve months last year, is now making \$6,000 per month.

An increase in wages for 7,500 men was the result of the annual prescription scale conference between the American Flint Glass Workers' Association and the Association of Flint and Lime Glass Manufacturers at Pittsburgh. Of this number 1,500 skilled workmen will receive an increase of 10 per cent and 6,000 unskilled hands an advance in proportion. The advance will restore to the men the wages they received in 1892 and 1893.

DOMESTIC IDYLS.

Chicago Record: "Smith, do you believe that wives would vote as their husbands dictate?"
"Husbands dictate! Well, that shows how little you know about married life."

Chicago Post: "What makes you so sure she will accept you when you propose? Has she given you any encouragement?"
"Well, rather. You know she's an only child, and she told me last evening that her father had always wanted a son."

Philadelphia North American: "Aren't you ashamed of yourself to come home at this hour in such a condition?" she cried.

"Well, m' dear," he explained, apologetically, "I thout' I oughter ha' sumpin' ter show fer th' time I wasted."

Chicago News: "Advertising is a great thing."
"Any special proof?"
"Yes, the Widow Dabney advertised her horse for sale, and the widower who came to look at it fell in love with her."

Detroit Journal: "But I am a poor girl!" protested the American, sobbing.

His grace struggled between love and pelf, and presently effected a compromise.

"We'll arrange a plan of easy payments!" he now exclaimed, taking her in his arms and kissing away her tears.

Poverty is by no means a complete obstacle to happiness.

Detroit Free Press: "Why does Miss Leftover say she is 24 when everybody knows she is 49?"
"Perhaps she is trying to take advantage of the speculative instinct in men."
"How can that be?"
"She may think that some would be willing to take her at 24 who would consider her too high at 49."

THE OMAHA WEEKLY WORLD-HERALD.

One of the largest and most influential papers west of Chicago, is to be congratulated on the recovery of its editor, George W. Hervey, one of the ablest men in this country.

His friends will be shocked to read of his suffering as told by himself: "For years I was troubled with indigestion, so severe as to make it impossible to take more than two meals a day without intense suffering. I grew worse with increased pain and soreness over the pit of my stomach and sharp pains in my right side, which rapidly increased until I could scarcely get my breath. A physician was called and hypodermic injections of morphine resorted to. I lost twenty-two pounds in nine days and was left wholly unable to take any nourishment. For one year I carried morphine pellets in my pocket ready for an emergency. All this time my stomach was very sore and sensitive. I tried three of the best physicians in the state, but they failed to give me relief.

"I finally made arrangements to go to Chicago to be treated, when I chanced to get a sample package of Dr. Kay's Renovator. The sample package relieved me and I procured a box. It is eight months since I commenced using Dr. Kay's Renovator and I now have no symptoms of my old trouble." Dr. Kay's Renovator is sold by Druggists at 25c and \$1.00, or sent prepaid on receipt of price by Dr. B. J. Kay Medical Co., Saratoga Springs, N. Y. Write our Physicians for Free Advice and Free Book on Diseases of the Stomach, Bowels, Liver and Kidneys.

Boston Globe: An Episcopal clergyman on wheels in full robes is a novelty in the line of evangelizing, but that is what is reported in New York. Why should his critics permit their rectors to go into the streets for want of listeners inside the church?

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For the Y. P. S. C. E. Convention July 5th to 10th, all lines will sell tickets on July 3rd, 4th and 5th via the Wabash. The short line from CHICAGO or ST. LOUIS to DETROIT, side trips to Niagara Falls, Toronto, Montreal, Mackinac, and many other points at a very low rate via Lake and Erie have been arranged. Parties contemplating a trip east should call on us to get rates and folders giving list of side trips, etc. Also a beautiful souvenir entitled "Lake and Sea."

G. R. CLAYTON, Room 302, Kearbach Bldg., Omaha, Neb.