

LEONARD WOOD

The Doctor who became a General

By JAMES CREELMAN



MAJ. GEN. LEONARD WOOD in his forty-ninth year, one of the most picturesque figures in the whole United States army, this month assumes the duties of chief of staff of the army.

When Leonard Wood ceased to be a doctor in order to be a soldier he may not have considered the profound difference in philosophic viewpoint of a profession trained to keep men alive and a profession trained to kill them.

The born adventurer seldom analyzes himself, but seeks glory where the world gives it; and if he should "choose brave death in a red coat before brave life in a black one," the responsibility must rest upon society, which gives such unequal honors to those who heal and those who slay.

Twelve years ago Leonard Wood was an assistant army surgeon. To-day he is the senior general of the United States army, and chief of staff.

"Gen. Wood is easily the ablest soldier the nation has produced since the civil war," said former President Roosevelt. "If we should become involved in war to-morrow I don't know where I should look for a man to take his place. He would be the one man to take command."

It is said that even Lord Cromer, the great British regenerator of Egypt, was so impressed by Gen. Wood's work in Cuba that he expressed regret that he could not have such an administrator and organizer to succeed him in office.

Leonard Wood is an adventurer of the true Elizabethan type. Whether chasing murderous Apaches through the mountains, creating a government in Cuba, or forcing order and civilization upon the Mohammedan savages of Mindanao and Sulu by armed force, he has always been a master.

Dr. Wood might have proved a failure. Gen. Wood has been a success.

He is tall, straight and broad-shouldered. He has a small waist, the bulging, muscle-padded chest of a gorilla, arms like a blacksmith, and thick, powerful hands. He can walk like a bull moose; jump with the quickness of a cat; box, wrestle and fence like a professional. Although he is 49 years old, it is doubtful if there is a man in the whole army to-day possessed of more strength, energy, skill and endurance.

Scotch, Irish and English blood mingles in Leonard Wood. His father descended from William White, who died on the Mayflower, through Peregrine White, the first-born of Plymouth colony, and from William Wood, who was a Plymouth freeholder in 1629. His mother's strain goes back to the Hagar family, who came from Ireland in 1634 and settled at Watertown, Mass., and to that patriot great-grandfather, John Nixon, who commanded a company at Lexington, a regiment at Bunker Hill, and a brigade at Saratoga.

His father and uncle were country doctors, the sons of a stout New England farmer who kept a tavern and owned much wooded land. His father served as a private soldier in the civil war and was sent home from the field permanently invalided. To get rid of malaria the doctor-soldier moved his family to the sandy soil of Cape Cod.

In 1850, when Leonard was a stalwart, quick-witted youth of 20 years, the Wood family debated whether he should enter Harvard university. That was the very time when Theodore Roosevelt was graduated from Harvard. The iron-muscled young Yankee, who was already a notable cross-country runner, wanted to enter the army or navy. The spirit of adventure was strong in him. But the wishes of his sober old father prevailed, and, having obtained a scholarship, he entered the Harvard Medical school.

In the third year after he entered the study of medicine he won in a competitive examination for service in the city hospital of Boston. After 15 months in this position he had a row with the hospital superintendent and resigned. Then he served in the North End dispensary of Boston.

In following the story of this singular man it is interesting to know that, although he followed his father's wishes by entering a medical school, he became the chum of a son of an army captain, and, while studying medicine, he actually began to prepare himself for a military career by reading military science, and in every way possible sought to fit himself for the army entrance examinations.

After leaving the Boston dispensary, the young doctor went into general practice in that city.

In 1885 the young Boston doctor who was destined to become the senior general of the United States army went to New York and passed the army examinations for military surgeons, standing second among the competitors.

There was no vacancy for him, but presently he got a letter from the surgeon general at Washington, offering him a commission as a civilian surgeon with the army, at a hundred dollars a month, with free quarters and rations, and forage for his horse.

As the letter suggested service in the west, the doctor joyfully accepted the contract and, under orders, went to join Gen. Crook at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, about 20 miles from the Mexican frontier.

This was a change from Boston! Picked troops under Miles and Lawton were to pursue Geronimo and his fierce Apaches till they were captured or destroyed.

It was an extraordinary campaign, full of perils and hardships. The Apaches had robbed and murdered the people of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, so long that each little village was surrounded by walls. Being mountaineers of great muscular power, the Indians, who could live on cactus and various roots, were accustomed to make journeys on foot through the roughest regions with a speed that defied pursuit.

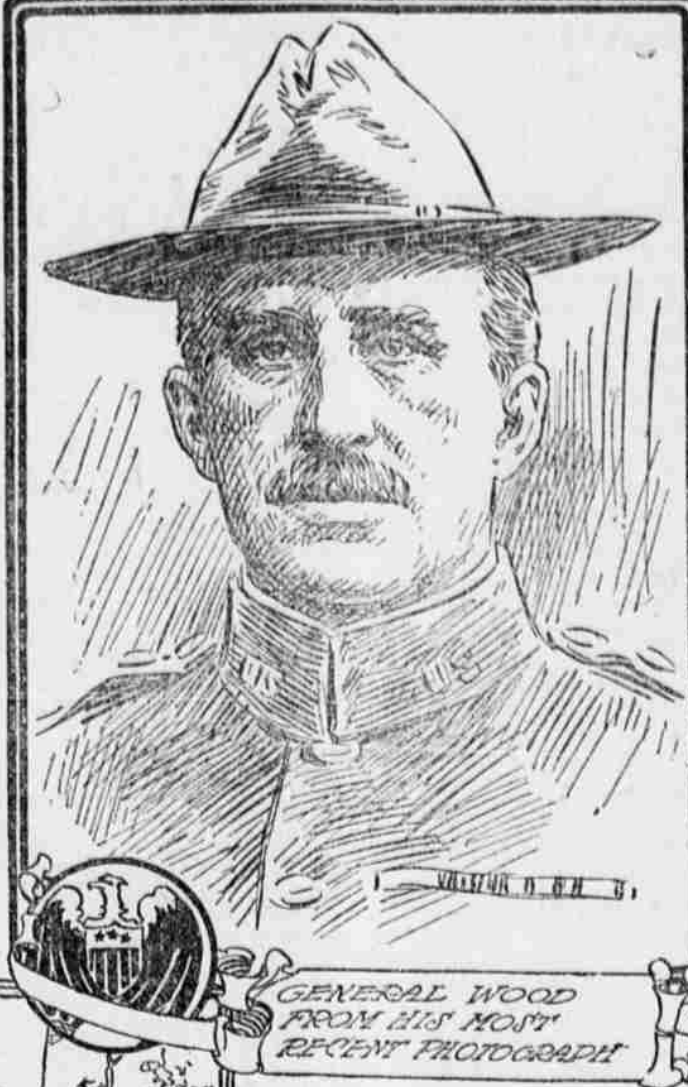
Leonard Wood proved to be the strongest and

most persistent man in the expedition. It was found that he could actually "walk down" an Apache even in the mountains. At the end of a desperate chase the officers would one by one drop out, utterly exhausted, and the young Boston doctor would be leading the soldiers and directing them.

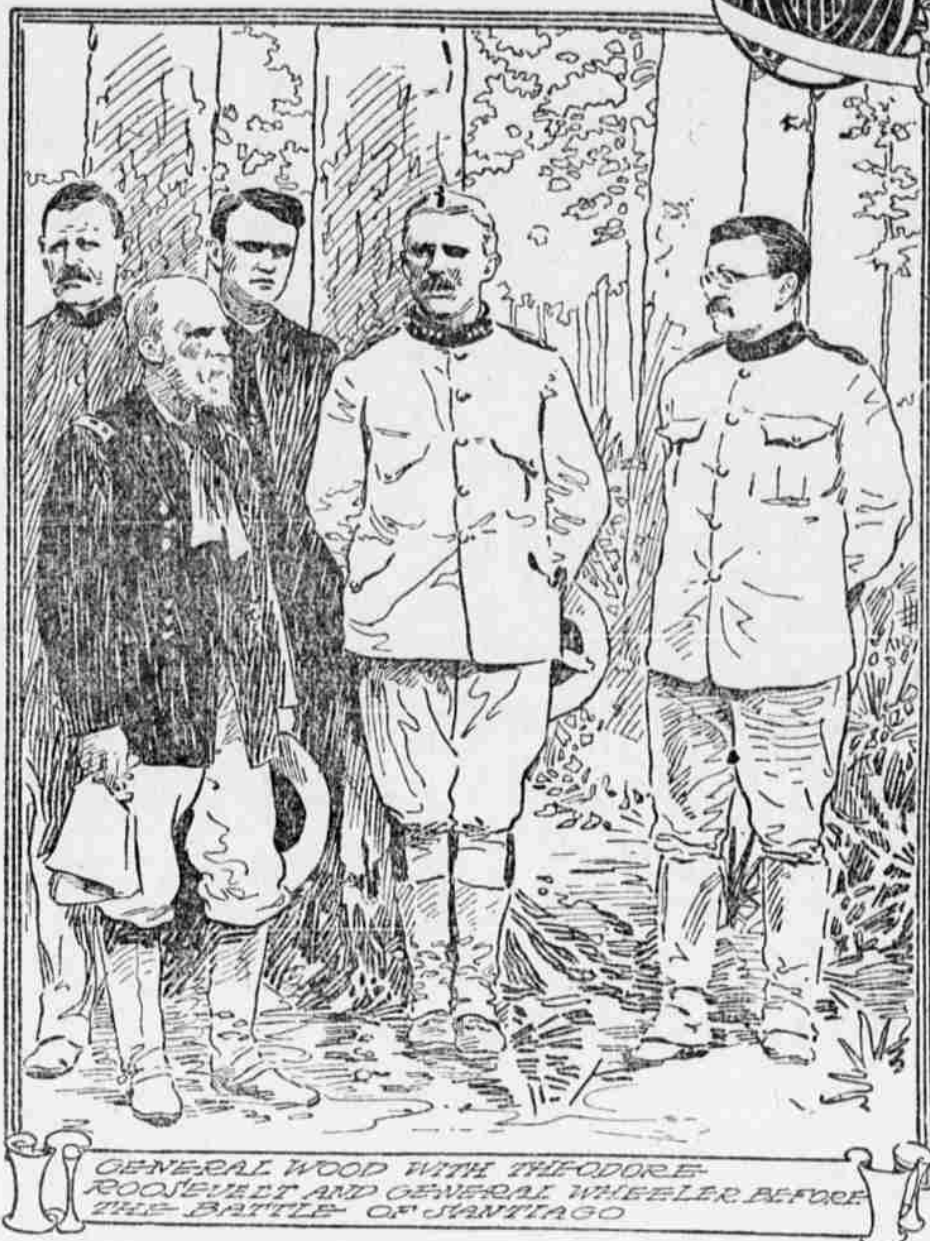
Finally, at his own request, the iron-muscled young surgeon was put in command of the infantry, and from that time on he regularly led soldiers like a line of officers; nor did he fail to do his full duty as a medical man.

The hardest part of the trip was when the expedition crossed the Southern Pacific railway and moved into the San Rita mountains. It occurred to Lawton that he might cut off Geronimo's band by striking across the Mexican border. To do this he required additional orders and he was puzzled how to send back a dispatch asking permission, for the country in his rear was known to be full of hostiles.

In this emergency the doctor offered to be Lawton's messenger. Leaving the camp with a single companion, who dropped out after 20 miles, he rode in one night 73 miles and got back with an answer at eight o'clock in the morning, in time to get breakfast and then walk 34 miles with the troops, till a camp was made at nine o'clock that night. On the day before his ride he had traveled 25 miles on foot with his scout. That made a total of 132 miles



GENERAL WOOD FROM HIS MOST RECENT PHOTOGRAPH



GENERAL WOOD WITH THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND GENERAL WHEELER BEFORE THE BATTLE OF SAN JUAN

traveled in about 26 hours.

When, at last, Geronimo and his swarthy cutthroats were captured in September, 1886, Dr. Wood, who had now received his commission as an assistant surgeon, accompanied Lawton with the prisoners to San Antonio. The Indians had killed 700 Mexicans and 98 Americans, including some soldiers, before they were literally run down.

In 1898, Lawton wrote of the Geronimo campaign and the doctor's part in it to Gov. Wolcott of Massachusetts:

"When through exposure and fatigue the infantry battalion lost its last officer, Capt. Wood volunteered to command it, in addition to his duties as a surgeon. In this duty Capt. Wood (he reached the grade of captain afterward while still a surgeon), distinguished himself most. His courage, endurance and example made success possible. I served through the War of the Rebellion and in many battles, but in no instance do I remember such devotion to duty, or such an example of courage and perseverance. It was mainly due to Capt. Wood's loyalty and resolution that the expedition was successful."

Leonard Wood's enemies have charged that he reached his distinction in the army largely through his skill as a courtier and the favoritism of President McKinley and President Roosevelt, but no criticism can wipe out the words of Lawton, one of the noblest and sincerest soldiers who ever carried the sword of the republic.

When Geronimo and his men were disposed of, Wood returned to Arizona and was assigned by Gen. Miles to command a special expedition to capture or kill seven escaped Indian prisoners who had fled to Sonora, Mexico. He was in the field from October, 1886, till the following February, and penetrated Mexico ten days' journey south of the Yaku river.

Then, after a month or two on duty at Los Angeles, he went back to Arizona and again took the field with the expedition against "Apache Kid" during 1887 and 1888. Then he was stationed at the Presidio, San Francisco, where he spent four years, including one summer camping with troops in the Yosemite country.

Soon after President McKinley was elected, Dr. Bates, the regular attending surgeon of the White House, died. In that way Wood was to take Dr. Bates' place. In that way the Indian trapper, who had a high standing as a surgeon, came into familiar and affectionate relations with Mr. McKinley.

When Theodore Roosevelt became assistant secretary of the navy, he and the doctor met and became fast friends. There was much to attract these two singular men together. They were devoted to boxing, fencing, wrestling, riding and

walking. Dr. Wood had struggled to rise from the pale anxieties of his profession by serving as a soldier; Mr. Roosevelt had tried to live down the effete influences of a Harvard course, and fashionable New York social connections, by becoming a ranchman on the plains of North Dakota. Each was eager for distinction, and for many adventures. There was but two years' difference between their ages.

Together the man who was to be president of the United States and he who was to be chief general of the American army walked and talked, day after day, punched each other's bodies, whacked each other's heads with singleticks, wrestled, ran, rode side by side and lived the strenuous life to the utmost.

The earth danced beneath the feet of the comrades as they talked of everything that might open the path of useful adventure and glory to their strength and courage. They looked into the seeds of time for signs of dangers to be desperately encountered and honors to be won.

Then, as the prospects of a war with Spain seemed to approach reality, the spirits of the two rose. Day after day and week after week Leonard Wood and Theodore Roosevelt racked their brains to see how they might get into the war both felt sure was coming.

They tried to get into the Seventy-first regiment of New York as majors. It was useless. Dr. Wood attempted to get the governor of Massachusetts to give him command of a regiment. He filed an application with the secretary of war for a volunteer regiment in case of war.

When the war with Spain broke upon the nation Secretary Alger sent for Mr. Roosevelt and offered him the colonelcy of one of three volunteer regiments to be raised and equipped.

"I don't want to be colonel," said Mr. Roosevelt. "That position should go to Leonard Wood. I don't know how to organize or equip a regiment for the field. He does. He knows the practical way to prepare cavalry for actual war conditions in the shortest possible time. Let him be colonel and I will gladly serve with him as lieutenant-colonel until I am fit to command a regiment."

So Leonard Wood got his commission as colonel of the First United States Volunteer cavalry, known as "Roosevelt's Rough Riders."

Twenty-one days after he received his colonel's commission his regiment, gathered from four frontier countries, was being drilled in San Antonio.

When the Rough Riders were ordered to advance from the seashore at Siboney, Cuba, to meet the enemy at La Guasimas—the first fight of Shafter's army—Col. Wood moved out with the head of his regiment at such a pace that almost half of his men were left far in the rear.

After the Spaniards surrendered Santiago, Gen. Shafter recommended that the now promoted Gen. Wood be put in command of the conquered and panic-stricken city, with Gen. Lawton in command of the province.

How soon war changes the fortunes of men! In December, 1898, just a year and seven months after our two adventurers took the Rough Riders to the Caribbean sea, Leonard Wood, the poor surgeon, was a major general of volunteers and appointed military governor of Cuba; and Theodore Roosevelt was the governor-elect of the great state of New York.

It was no light-hearted, adventurous youth who sailed for the Philippines in March, 1903, but a grave, observant man of 43 years. His experience in Cuba had taught him much, and, above all things, the extreme importance of careful preparation in dealing with alien races.

Early in 1905 Gen. Wood took command of the entire Philippines division, which includes nearly 18,000 troops. For more than two years he put his tremendous energy to the task of emphasizing the training of soldiers for actual conditions of war, treating administrative methods, not as an object, but as means. At the end of his long and brilliant service in the Philippines he returned to the United States to assume his first military command on the American continent since the days when, as a surgeon, he led troops against the Apaches.

TARIFF WAR AVERTED

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT 13 REACHED WITH CANADA.

PROCLAMATIONS ARE SIGNED

About One Hundred and Thirty Nations and Dependencies Included in the List—May Hold a Conference.

Washington.—The proclamations of the president, granting the minimum rate of tariff under the Payne-Aldrich act to Canada, Australia and a number of countries less important commercially, signed Wednesday, together with those which will be signed Thursday, completes the extension of the country's minimum rate to the world. About 130 nations and dependencies are included in the list.

The work involved in determining whether or not any of the nations included in this long list were discriminating in their tariff against the products of the United States has occupied the attention of the tariff officers of the government almost continuously since the passage of the tariff act last August. The tariff schedules of each one of these nations have been critically examined by tariff experts, and where doubt has existed, the services of the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States were requisitioned. Although no official statements were available at this time as to the net results of the negotiations with all of the nations of the world, so far as the rates on American products are concerned, there is reason to believe that the government officials regard them as eminently satisfactory. A semi-official statement is made, however, that from this time forward from 40 to 50 per cent of the products of the United States will be admitted to foreign countries free of duty, and that of the American products which pay a duty in foreign countries, 89 per cent will be entitled to the minimum rates; a large proportion of these products hitherto have paid the minimum rates.

The president Wednesday signed proclamations granting the minimum rate to Australia, New Zealand, British South Africa, Newfoundland and Venezuela.

Of these, the most important commercially is Australia. The exports of the United States to that country during the calendar year 1908 amounted to more than \$29,000,000; the leading items of which were machinery, and manufactures of metals, \$9,431,216; wood and manufactures, \$5,179,508; mineral oils, \$2,771,279; tobacco and manufactures, \$2,713,575. The imports from Australia during 1908 aggregated nearly \$12,000,000.

Among the more important articles are wool unmanufactured, \$4,158,178; copper, unmanufactured, \$3,779,841; coal, \$1,497,617.

New Zealand imported from the United States during the calendar year of 1908 products valued at \$8,000,000, and her exports to the United States products amounting to \$1,589,000. During the same year the United States exported to British South Africa products valued at \$9,775,000, and imported from that country products valued at \$1,014,000.

The total trade of Newfoundland with the United States in 1908 amounted to \$6,039,295, of which \$3,861,188 were imported from the United States and \$1,178,108 were exported to the United States.

Following the proclamation of a complete tariff agreement with Canada it was announced that President Taft has invited the dominion government officials to a conference, looking to closer trade relations between the two countries, and to a general readjustment of duties.

Indictments for Sixteen.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Dr. E. R. Waters, former president of select council, now director of the public health and charities, was indicted Wednesday as the alleged recipient of \$10,000 in bribe money, and fifteen other former selectment were named in the grand jury's report as having received amounts from \$500 to \$250. The indictments made a total of ninety-one in two weeks, and there are more to come according to District Attorney William A. Blakely.

Shackleton Is Generous.

New York.—A plea for a complete cessation of the controversy as to whether or not Dr. Cook reached the north pole was made Wednesday night by Sir Ernest H. Shackleton in his address at the dinner of the New York Transportation club, given in his honor at the Hotel Manhattan. Sir Ernest gave the impression that he believed Dr. Cook should be given credit for his work in the north, whether or not he reached his goal.

Goes Long Without Food.

Cleveland, O.—Norea Osak, twenty-two years old, was arrested Wednesday afternoon. She had fasted, her friends said, forty-five days. The girl was taken to the county jail, where no persuasion could prevail on her to eat. She was so weak that she could not stand upright, but she insisted that she would fulfill an oath of fasting for two months, even if it killed her.

Three Escape from Jail.

Norfolk, Va.—Two negro murderers condemned to death in the electric chair and a white man charged with highway robbery escaped from the Norfolk county jail in Portsmouth Wednesday night by cutting their way through the roof of the prison and lowering themselves to the ground by a rope made of torn bed clothing and pillows tied to a ventilator pipe extending above the slate roof of the jail. One escaped murderer is Elijah Rouse, who killed another negro, and who was to have been electrocuted at Richmond, April 25.

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Marriage.

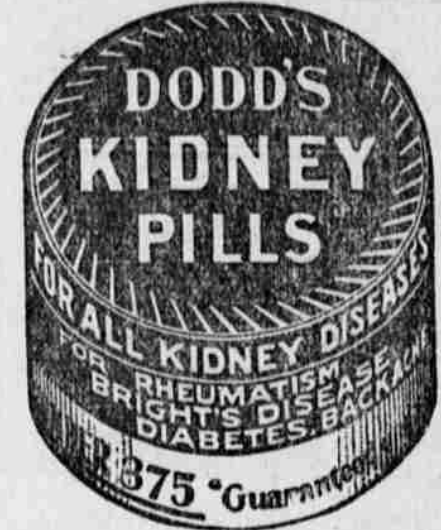
A game of chance in which the chances are about even. The man leads at first, but after leaving the altar he usually follows breathlessly in his wife's trail. The rules are very confusing. If a masked player holds you up some night at the end of a long gun, it is called "robbery" and entitles you to telephone the police; but if your wife holds you up for a much larger amount the next morning at the end of a long hug, it is termed "diplomacy" and counts in her favor. In this, as in other games of life, wives are usually allowed more privileges than other outlaws.—Judge.

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