

THE THRIFTY HULL OF IOWA.

Washington, March 26.—The Hon. John A. T. Hull, of the Seventh congressional district of Iowa, is a citizen who, when he sees a thing he wants, does not hesitate to ask for it. Usually he gets it. Mr. Hull is chairman of the House committee on military affairs. He is a friend of Speaker Henderson and he is on the inside of that close corporation of so-called "leaders" of the House, who, with the Speaker, practically control all legislation in the lower branch of the national legislature.

His position on the committee on military affairs in the nature of things, brings him constantly in touch with Secretary Root, the head of the war department, and Adjutant General Corbin, whose influence in the distribution of army patronage is second only to that of the president. When the amendment to the army appropriation bill advancing the adjutant general of the army from the grade of brigadier gener-



al to that of major general, came up in the House last June, Mr. Hull's eloquence was raised in tribute to General Corbin's valuable services during the Spanish-American war. What was more effective, however, was the quiet work he did on the floor in support of the amendment. It was finally passed. In the light of what has since happened it would appear Mr. Hull's support of General Corbin was inspired by the substance of things hoped for.

A Son for Judge Advocate General.

When the Fifty-first Iowa regiment was mustered into the volunteer service at the beginning of the war with Spain, one of its companies had as captain, John A. Hull, Representative Hull's son. Young Hull did not hold a captain's commission long, as he was given a staff appointment with the rank of major. Later, on April 17, 1899, he was transferred to the judge advocate general's department and became a lieutenant colonel. When given his commission he was but 23 years old. He served

in the Philippines until a few months ago, when he was transferred to the department of California. He has since been at General Shafter's headquarters in San Francisco. Last Saturday, under the operations of the army reorganization act, he was appointed a judge advocate in the regular army, with the rank of major. He is the youngest major in the army and officers in Washington who have estimated his chances of promotion, say in the course of about fifteen years he will become the judge advocate general of the army. His appointment and every step in his promotion were accomplished by his father's influence with General Corbin. It was only necessary for Mr. Hull to ask these things. So far as known he did not hesitate to do this.

A year ago, and while Major Hull was in the Philippines, the Philippine Development and Lumber company was organized, with a capital of five million dollars, and with these officers: Representative Hull, J. T. A., president; John Bradford, vice president; Stewart Spalding, secretary; John Gibson, treasurer; Frank S. Bourns, representative of the company in Manila; B. B. Dovener, member of congress from West Virginia, attorney for the company.

The directors are: Mr. Hull, president; John S. Bradford, Bradford & Sons, bankers, Greenville, Ill.; Stewart Spalding, secretary and treasurer, Calumet and Chicago Canal and Dock company; Frank Phillips, stocks and bonds, Chicago; George Bogart, president Shenandoah National bank, Shenandoah Ia.; M. L. Severance, eastern representative of the company, Middlebury, Vt.; F. W. Craig, director Capital City bank, Des Moines; Isaac Bassford, stocks and bonds, Chicago, and G. A. Vawter, capitalist, Cambridge, Ill. The offices of the company are in the Merchants' Loan and Trust company building, Chicago.

They Have Government Work.

Just before congress adjourned Senator Pettigrew asked a friend, said to be Representative Champ Clark, to visit the Hull Philippine development offices and secure a prospectus. This was done. Mr. Pettigrew's friends learned from the persons in charge of the offices that the company had immense timber rights in the Philippines, embracing great quantities of mahogany, ebony, logwood and other valuable timber. He also learned that it had plenty of money and that Representative Hull, Representative Babcock of Wisconsin and other prominent members of the House and Senate were interested. One of the inducements held out to prospective purchasers of stock was the statement that through political influence the company would obtain land grants of great value, and that by the same means they would secure large contracts for lumber for

government work in the Philippines. The prospectus told a cheerful story of the humming of sawmills and the millions to be made in developing the lumber resources of the archipelago.

On the last day of congress Mr. Pettigrew spoke in his usual vein concerning the administration's Philippine policy, and as an incident thereto referred to Mr. Hull and his lumber company.

"The company's mills," said he, "are running exclusively for the government. So, it would appear that there is sole relation between the officers of the government and this enterprise. Of course, the enterprise can succeed, because of the appropriation bill prepared by the military affairs committee in the House.

"I do not care to comment upon it at all, but it seems to me a deplorable state of affairs that these things can exist and are satisfactory to an Iowa constituency. The larger the army in Manila, the more money appropriated, the greater the profits of the Philippine Lumber and Development company, the more roads built the more shekels pour into the pockets of the people who vote the appropriations out of the treasury of the United States."

As to the land grants Mr. Hull's lumber company holds in the Philippines, some interesting stories are told. One of these stories is that Mr. Hull's son, Major Hull, while on duty in the Philippines, applied for and was granted leave of absence for several weeks which he spent in traversing the islands and inspecting the forestry.

"To Study the People."

Representative Hull is now on his way to San Francisco where he will take a government transport for Manila. He will not return to this country until well into the summer. He stated just before he left Washington, a few days ago, that his trip to our new island possessions "was for the purpose of studying the people and the conditions prevailing there."

Mr. Hull has another son at the National Soldiers' home at Leavenworth. He came as an assistant surgeon, was transferred to a national home in Illinois and then sent back to Leavenworth as chief surgeon. He is in medical charge of 3,000 veterans and of a hospital containing 400 or 500 aged patients. Mr. Hull has also found places for two or three relatives in the departments in Washington.

Mr. Hull is active, alert and enterprising; more than that, he is a natural born grafter.—Kansas City Star.

It is announced from Nebraska City that the Argo starch works against which fusion wrath was directed in the campaign of 1900, will be doubled in size. J. Sterling Morton will regard this as a splendid monument to Bryan and Smyth's futile efforts to punish him for his politics.—Fremont Tribune.