

TEARING DOWN THE TROCHA

With the wire Cuban fence up yards and fields.

PROVINCE OF PINAR DEL RIO IS PEACEFUL

People at Work and Evidence of War Are Disappearing—Population of 12,000 Reduced to 7,000 by Death.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

PINAR DEL RIO, Dec. 19.—The reconstruction of this great tobacco raising and sugar growing province has begun. Absolute peace exists and the people are at work.

General Davis, before he left Havana, told that his brigades probably would overrun the province, that the petty dictators were taking the villages, that insurgents had occupied the towns and would not yield paramount authority to the Americans and that he would be infinitely vexed by obstacles to every step toward the restoration of civil order among a restless people.

When General Davis, his staff, battalion of the Two Hundred and Second New York regiment and a signal corps company reached the borders of the province in the journey by train from the capital, the country at Santiago de Las Vegas by a column and 150 Cuban horsemen alighted near the station.

The colonel with his men placed themselves at General Davis' disposal. The alcalde of the town welcomed him. The general, who knows some conversational Spanish, said through an interpreter that the Cuban people had been through great trials and sufferings and that the general would be thereaid in securing their liberty.

Surgeon Major W. L. Kneelock had become separated in the crowd from General Davis and one of a committee of priests went to find him. The general, who was expecting to read him an address of welcome, thinking that he was the general, Major Kneelock, who at first did not perceive the drift of the address, was unable to find an opening to stop the padre before it had been concluded.

The doctor, then, through a Cuban who could speak English and Spanish, said that as one of the Americans with General Davis he regarded the Cubans as men and brethren and that in all his travels he had not been in so fine a country. The Americans then swept on through wide spaces of deserted country.

At each of the towns the Cuban officer made known his allegiance to the proposed order of things under the American protection. The population of Pinar del Rio is a reception similar to that given at Santiago de Las Vegas. The alcalde turned over the municipal belongings.

General Davis has communicated by letters or by wire with the important towns in the province. Not a single brigade or injury to personal rights has been reported.

The most flagrant crime has been the disappearance of some children. The Spanish peasants, some of whom were the victims of the Spanish troops, are the interregnum between Spanish evacuation and American occupation unharmed.

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Following General Davis' instructions the American officers and privates are careful to return the salutes of the Cuban soldiers who, armed and unarmed, are coming and going all the time.

They subsist largely on gifts of food. Some, forced by necessity, have sold their rifles. Musters captured from the Spaniards are selling for \$5 or \$6. In Havana Musters are surreptitiously sold for \$20 or \$25.

New Yorkers in Camp.—The battalion of the Two Hundred and Second New York regiment, under Major Wood, is camped on high ground and about a mile outside the city. The landscape of rolling country and distant mountains is most beautiful.

Why They Celebrated.—Premature Observance Due to a Klonidike Windfall.—"Talking about Christmas," said a young Nebraska man yesterday in a friendly conversation with the Omaha newspaper editor.

Boles Disappeared.—My little boy was afflicted with small boils and was in constant contact with other children who were not healthy.

Sores Disappeared.—My little boy was afflicted with small boils and was in constant contact with other children who were not healthy.

Hood's Sarsaparilla.—My little boy was afflicted with small boils and was in constant contact with other children who were not healthy.

Hood's Pills.—My little boy was afflicted with small boils and was in constant contact with other children who were not healthy.

AMERICA MAY INTERFERE

Otis Authorized to Step Between Insurgents and Spanish Troops.

CONSTANT RIOTING IS REPORTED AT ILOILO

Only Town Still Under Spanish Control and Bloodshed Occurs Frequently on Streets—All Business is Suspended.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The administration has determined to confide to the judgment and fact of General Otis, in command of the United States forces in the Philippines, the question of the matter which has been dispatched to Iloilo, where recent Spanish reports have stated that a sanguinary conflict is in progress between the insurgents and the remaining Spanish troops.

General Egan has referred to General Miles the published article purporting to be an interview with General Miles in regard to the military situation in the Philippines. General Egan does not propose to discuss this very serious matter in the public press but has asked first if General Miles avows or denies the question which has been put before the investigating commission for a true copy of the statements made by General Miles.

General Egan is of the opinion that the proposed bill changes the military situation in the Philippines and before the investigation commission and before the court, civil and military, where the widest latitude, under oath, will be given to the fullest investigation.

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HULL PLEADS FOR HIS BILL

Reasons Given for Increase Advocated in the Regular Army.

MORE IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO ARTILLERY

That Arm of the Service Never So Essential to the Army as at Present Time in Defending American Harbors.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Representative Hull, chairman of the military committee of the house, today, in the course of his report on the bill for the increase of the regular army, after detailing the amendments adopted in committee, all of which have been sent out in the Associated Press dispatches, the report says:

The bill fixes no maximum strength for the regular army. It authorizes an increase of 100,000 men for the frontier, for coast defense and to maintain our authority in the islands for whose good order and government this nation is now responsible, together with a reasonable reserve force. The bill provides for the reorganization of the army into a corps of artillery for our seacoast, batteries with two regiments of artillery for field batteries.

The committee believes the organization as provided for in this bill will make the most efficient military organization, at the same time providing for the needs of the army.

The organization of the cavalry as provided in the bill is substantially the same as that provided for in the present law.

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WOMEN WILL BEAR THEIR PART

Daughters of Revolution Furnish Tablet for Lafayette Statue.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Lafayette Memorial commission has assured the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution that it will receive a tablet for the statue of Lafayette.

The national board of managers therefore cordially recommends that each member of the society show her appreciation of this honor by interesting all persons in her acquaintance in the same.

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