

many divisions, are universally Mohammedans.

The Savages of Mindanao.

Leaving the Moros for the time I will write, first about the savages of Mindanao. They are so little known that the ethnologists of our Smithsonian Institution and geological survey will have years of work in bringing forth to the world their peculiarities of life, customs and language. The most of them go about in breechcloths. Many of them live in the tops of trees, and some make their homes in hollow logs. Among them are the Negritos, or little Negros, similar to the little blacks found in Luzon. There are tribes of these scattered over Mindanao, one containing about 2,000, called Manuas, living in the peninsula of Surigao. These people use poisoned arrows and are extremely savage. They are of a low state of intelligence and it is extremely doubtful if they could ever be civilized.

Not far from the Rio Grande river there is a race of savages called the Torurays, who live in the mountains. Their houses are built on bamboo poles, the first floor being about twelve feet above the ground. The inhabitants get into their houses by crawling up a notched stick, which they pull up at night. The houses are made of thatch and bamboo poles and are usually very small. In some cases they consist of only a roof and floor, being without walls of any kind, and having only posts at the corners to support the roof. These people go almost naked. A man who has just returned from a trip among them says that the men he saw wore squares of cloth suspended from a string around their waists and women wore skirts which were not more than a foot long. The women had brass rings on their ankles and wrists. The men were armed with bows and arrows and spears. The weapons were poisoned, the poison coming from a tree which grows in the mountains.

The Mindayas are a strange people who live in the eastern part of this island, not far from Mati. We have recently estab-



BANANA TREE, 15 FEET HIGH—MR. CARPENTER, WHO IS 5 FEET 8 INCHES, STANDS ON FENCE TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE HEIGHT.

lished a garrison at that point and we shortly hope to get something concerning them. They have fair skins and look not unlike Europeans.



ROSEWOOD BRIDGE AT ZAMBOANGA.

In addition to these there are many other tribes, some of whom, such as the Bagobos, Atas, Guyangas and Tagacoles, are notorious for having human sacrifices. Many of the savages are head hunters and all are supposed to be unfriendly to the whites. As to this, however, nothing certain can be known until explorations can be made. Such of the soldiers as have gone into the mountains have not been molested and the probability is that if the people are kindly treated there will be little trouble with them. The problem of handling them and the Moros is a most serious one, especially the Moros. This, so far, has been most admirably done by General Bates, but whether the policy will hold good is yet to be seen. I find the Moros a most interesting people. There are in the neighborhood of 200,000 of them on this island. They have villages everywhere along the coast and about the lakes of the interior. There are large numbers of them about Zamboanga and I see them everywhere. They are semi-savages, but their civilization, history and character are such that I will have to devote one or more special letters to describing them. They have caused the Spaniards trouble for centuries and until now have steadily resisted any union of either religion or government with the whites.

A Royal Principality.

In this letter I should like to give some idea of the resources of Mindanao, for, as I have said I consider it one of the most important parts of our possessions. I have spoken of the timber. The best of the hardwoods of the archipelago are to be found here. The mountains are covered with trees. In traveling along the east and south coasts you see wooded hills rising one above the other, extending on and on until they lose themselves in the clouds, which in this latitude always hang low. The woods are mahogany, rosewood, ebony and many other varieties. Here at Zamboanga the buildings occupied by our troops are floored with mahogany. The soldiers stamp with their heavy boots over the boards which would make piano tops and I rode my horse today across the canal over a wooden bridge which, with the proper machinery, might have been turned into a \$50 dinner table. At the headquarters yesterday I put my feet on a rosewood floor under the mahogany table of

are those which go up and down and band saws, or gang saws, would probably work.

Gold and Coal Mines.

Mindanao is believed to be the richest of the Philippines in its mineral deposits. Coal is known to exist in a number of the provinces, and I am told that large deposits have been recently discovered not far from the northern coast. I met the other day a lawyer from Portland, Ore., who claimed to have secured an option on these mines, and who says he will soon start to the United States to organize a company for their exploitation. There is some coal not far from Zamboanga, but as to its quality or that in the north I have not yet been able to learn. The gold propositions are equally indefinite. There is no doubt but that there is gold in the streams in many parts of Mindanao, but whether it exists in paying quantities has not yet been determined.

Foreman, a man who has written the best book about the islands, speaks of a Frenchman who for a long time washed about four pounds of gold dust a month out of the Surigao district. The Chinese have been buying gold from the natives, and traces of mines have been discovered in a number of places near here by prospectors.

There are a number of Californians and Australians already in the mountains, but as yet, owing to the savage conditions, but few have ventured far.

A former hospital steward named Hanly, who came out here with the army in 1898, has just registered five claims with the judge advocate general at the headquarters here. There is as yet no law as to recording such claims, but he has left his matters in this shape in order that he may establish his claims when the laws as to mining property are settled. This man resigned from the army some time ago, and has since devoted himself to prospecting.

He has gone with the Moros back into a country where the man who enters is supposed to take his life in his hands. He interested the Moros with him, taking up claims for them at the same time. He says he was well treated everywhere, and that although he had \$300 in his valise, which was unlocked, it was not stolen. His claims lie along a river at a distance of about forty miles inland from Zamboanga. He claims that he found color in every pit he excavated, and that in many places the gold was found in paying quantities, although he did not go down to bedrock.



PEOPLE OF MINDANAO—THE TWO WITH BAMBOO TUBES ARE WATER CARRIERS.

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"A HAND SAW IS A GOOD THING, BUT NOT TO SHAVE WITH." SAPOLIO IS THE PROPER THING FOR HOUSE-CLEANING.

He has brought some samples of gold in with him. It is in flakes like bran and is absolutely pure.

At one place the Moros took him to some mines which had been worked by their people forty years ago, but from which they had been driven by the Spaniards. The remains of the workings could be plainly seen, although large trees had grown up in the pits. One of the captains, who is stationed at the bay of Ilana, about 100 miles east of here, tells me he has found colors in the sands of the Rio Grande river and similar news comes from the province of Davao.

Long before this letter is published the soldiers will be well established along the northern coast of the island. This has been the source of the most of the gold found here in the past and it may be that valuable gold discoveries will be made there. Copper is said to exist in Surigao and other provinces and there is also said to be mercury in Surigao.

Land of Coconuts.

The real gold mines of Mindanao, however, lie in its soil. I cannot describe the wonderful vegetation which we have here about Zamboanga. There are coconut trees by the million, and such coconut trees! They are from fifty to a hundred feet high, and some of them bearing. It is said, a coconut for every day of the year. They wall the shore of eastern Mindanao for miles. You might almost ride for days here and not get out of sight of a coconut grove. Many of the trees are notched so that the men who gather the nuts walk, as it were, from the bottom of the tree to the top on steps. They take the meat from the nuts, chop it into little pieces and dry it in the sun. It is then known as copra, and in this shape is shipped to Europe, where the oil is pressed from it for use in the making of soap and other such things.

What would you think of turning a spigot and getting a glass of wine from a tree? Well, this very thing is done down here. The natives draw their wine and whisky from the coconut trees. They cut off the blossoms and fasten to them bamboo tubes, into which the sap runs. Every so often they remove the tube and empty the liquid into another bamboo. After being left for six hours it begins to ferment and before the day is over it is turned into a liquor, which, as the Indians say, "will make the drunk come." The stuff looks like cider and smells to me somewhat like old buttermilk. It is drunk by the natives both fresh and fermented.

I see many coffee trees in my country drives about Zamboanga. The trees grow easily and produce excellent berries. I understand that the soil of almost any part of the coast will raise coffee, and if this is so it should be even better in the mountains. Some of the best coffee in the world comes from Java, which is only a few hundred miles to the southward, and it may be that this island is destined to equal the great Dutch colony in its coffee plantations. If so, it will support an enormous population. It is almost as large as Java, and that island has 24,000,000 people upon it, about one-third as many as are in the United States.

Almost anything can be raised in Mindanao. I see banana trees here up to fifteen feet high. They tower above you, shading the ground and producing the most delicious fruit. I have visited large hemp plantations and am told that some provinces produce as much as \$1,000,000 worth of hemp every year. Cacao is also raised, and scattered here and there over the lowlands are sugar plantations. The most of these are in the hands of Visayans, Zamboanguenians and Chinese, the Moros owning practically nothing except their villages and cattle. The country is a rich grazing country and numbers of cattle are now being shipped north to the Manila market. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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