

To Lay the New Philippine Cable

Within a short time the work of laying the inter-island cable in the Philippines will be begun. For some time the difficulty of communication between the islands has seriously hampered American operations in the Philippines and has been the subject of complaints to the government from General Otis, General MacArthur and other officers. It was obvious that some method of quick communication must be put into operation, as the dispatches carried by the warships were in many cases too slow of delivery to be practicable. As soon as this important undertaking of laying a cable had been decided upon the War department set about finding a suitable vessel in the transport service. The Burnside was chosen on account of its large capacity and its shallow draught in proportion to its

size. It is the first cable ship ever owned by the United States. The Burnside was formerly owned by Spain and named the Rita. It was captured during the war by the Yale while trying to run the blockade off Porto Rico with a cargo of arms and ammunition, towed to Charleston, S. C., and there taken charge of by Captain Laffin, its present commander, renamed and put into commission first as a transport carrying mules and general government stores to Cuba and afterward as a troopship. Taken to the Morse Iron Works in Brooklyn, the Burnside was there reconstructed and transformed into a cable steamer. The cabins and saloon were refurnished with a view to accommodating army officers and their wives enroute to the Philippines. Three huge tanks made of copper were placed in its hold, each capable of holding 250 miles of cable. These tanks are twenty-five feet in diameter and fifteen feet in depth, with an iron core in the center to keep the cable in position when being paid out from the ship.

On reaching the point from whence the cable is to be laid the crew proceed to land the heavy shore ends, this being done by hauling from the beach with ropes and supporting the cable with rubber air bal-



PASSING THE CABLE INTO THE SHIP.

loons until sufficient length is lauded. Connection having been made with the signal station on shore, the Burnside will set out for the shore, with which communication will be established, going at a rate of from four to eight knots an hour. It must proceed cautiously, as the rate at which the cable is paid out depends on the depth of the water. In 2,000 fathoms of water, for instance, the length of cable from the ship to the point of contact with the ocean bed is twenty miles. A sudden shallow from very deep water, as in the case of a submarine mountain, is likely to break the cable by too sharply shortening the slack. Then the tedious work of grappling for the broken end must be undertaken. Captain Squires, who has the work in charge, is an expert of long experience in cable work.

Matter of Diplomacy

She met him at the door and whispered: "Don't dare to come in. He would declare the engagement off and he has a baseball bat in the corner of the dining room. Keep quiet till I get my hat and wrap." "What's wrong?" he inquired as they walked away on tiptoe. "Goodness! I never saw papa so angry in my life. What was that game of solitaire you showed him the other night?" "Chinese," laughed the careless youth. "Over there the proprietors of the gaming establishments charge 10 cents to play the game and give \$100 if you 'get' it. You

know how the old gentleman hung around. You told me he was daffy on solitaire, so I had a hunch and showed him that one. He'd be lucky to get it twice in a lifetime, but it left us to ourselves, don't you see?" "I see, but he's boiling. Why, he worked over that thing till breakfast, went right at it again when he was through eating, telephoned the office that he would be down later and played away till the next midnight, when he went to sleep in his chair. We got him to bed and he waked up violent. He wanted to bet \$10,000 that nobody ever got the game, said that you were a card shark and a swindler and that if you came into the house again he'd kick you out. He's staying right at home playing the game and listening for you. That's the reason I was at the door before you could ring. What in the world are we to do? It's awful."

"Cold deck him. That is, I'll fix up a deck so that he will win. You manage to substitute it after he has shuffled the cards."

It was done without creating suspicion, relates the Detroit Free Press. The old gentleman cheered and met the young man as though he were a welcome prodigal. "You are the second man between the Alleghany and Rocky mountains that ever got it," lied the youth glibly. "It's simply wonderful."

The prospective father-in-law strutted around for a couple of hours bragging about himself and is now preparing an article for the newspapers.

Bog Avalanche in Ireland

An extraordinary occurrence is reported from a place called Lough, in Ireland. A bog extending over a number of acres, yielding to the effects of recent heavy rains, began to move toward an adjacent valley. The semi-fluid mass gathered velocity as it moved along, spread over an intervening low-lying portion of land, and completely overwhelmed a dwelling house, killing two women.

A considerable loss of outlying crops was caused, and the land over which the bog material passed will, it is said, be quite useless for a considerable time. At present a mass of liquid mud 100 feet wide and four feet deep covers the public highway for more than a mile.

A second movement of the bog mass has since occurred, and the residents in the district fear that, should there be a heavy rainfall, the consequences will be disastrous, as five dwelling houses in the valley are directly in the line of an enormous mass of bog mud, which has been stopped by not too strong banks on the upper levels.

At the inquest over the bodies of the two women the son of one of them testified that he saw the moving mass sweeping down on the house, and had barely time to escape from the field in which he was working. A brother of the other woman said it came silently on like a huge wave. He shouted to his sister, who was standing in the door, but she did not seem to realize the danger. He was caught in the edge of the flow, but succeeded in extricating himself.

An Officer Rebuked

Bennet Burleigh, in the London Daily Telegraph, tells this story of General Kitchener: "A certain yeomanry commander while on parade rated his men in unmeasured terms. Nothing was right that the troopers did. They sat their horses wrong, they moved unlike machinery, etc., and were 'no better than a — rabble,' 'a lot of gutter snipes,' etc. 'That,' said Lord Kitchener, who came up, 'is not the way to address men. They are not — rabble, but soldiers, and to be spoken to as such. No troops can be trained in that fashion and the commander who does not respect his men is unable to lead them.' The whole force, we are told, heard the observation and the men were as decorously elated as the yeomanry officer was obviously crestfallen."

General Fitzhugh Lee Coming to Omaha

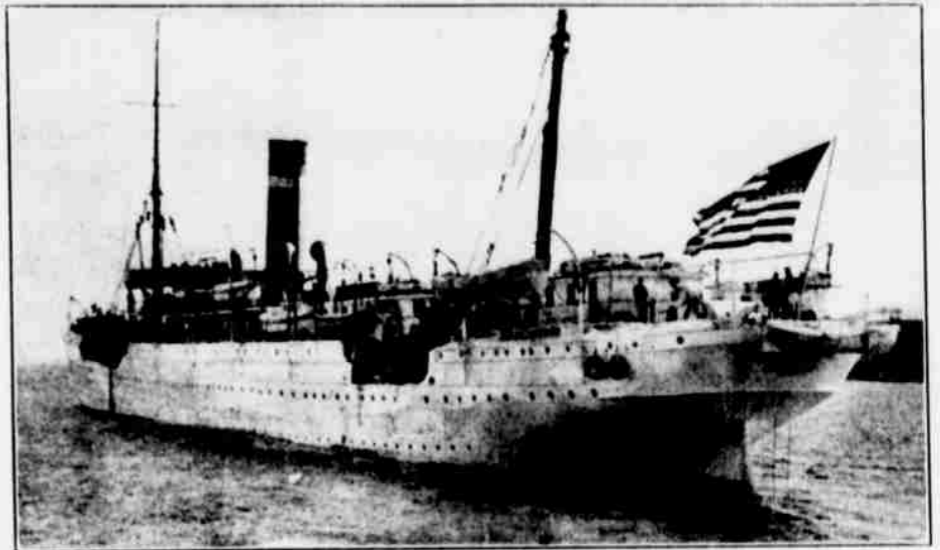
Omaha is shortly to receive in its midst General Fitzhugh Lee, who has been appointed to the command of the Department of the Missouri, a place that has been left unfilled since the retirement of General J. J. Coppinger. Omaha and its people are to be congratulated on this accession, a distinguished honor having been done the city by the War department in transferring the soldier and statesman from the Antilles to the west. The picture of the new head of the Department of the Missouri which appears as a frontispiece was taken but a year ago in Cuba and is regarded as a splendid likeness. In appearance and stature Fitzhugh Lee resembles the late General Phil Sheridan. He is rotund and rosy and when I last saw him in Washington, enroute to take com-

mand of the Department of Cuba, his circumference at the equator was nearly equal to his height. Since then friends have told me that the general has lost somewhat of his avoirdupois. He has a clear, blue eye, a fresh, youthful complexion, upon which the color comes and goes as he talks, and gray hair and mustache.

appointed a major general of volunteers and had joined his command near Savannah, Ga. General Howard said: "Fitzhugh Lee is the equal of any commander with whom a paternal system rather than militarism prevails. His carefulness and provision for the wants of his soldiers made him very much beloved and doubtless this very care and fatherly bearing is an inheritance from his illustrious uncle, Robert E. Lee, whose gentleness as a commander was proverbial."

Much of this same sentiment relative to Fitzhugh Lee General Howard reflects in an article printed some time ago in the New York Independent, wherein he is even more laudatory of Lee's sterling worth as a soldier.

When Fitzhugh Lee entered West Point



UNITED STATES CABLE SHIP BURNSIDE.

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Lee's Social Nature.

William E. Curtis, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record, who has known Fitzhugh Lee for many years, writing a characteristic Curtis article for the Chap Book about Fitzhugh Lee, says:

"He used to wear a long, black beard in war times, which, he says, was due to the fact that he lost his razor. More recently he has worn an imperial on his chin, but cut it off while at Havana. He plays the violin and piano and has a fine baritone voice. He is fond of society, particularly that of young people, feels at home everywhere under all circumstances, has a tender sympathy and deep poetic sentiment and used to write verses to his wife in the early days of their courtship.

"I asked him what three things he liked the best in the world.

"Women, horses and songs."

"What is your favorite song?"

"'You Will Have a Heap o' Fun if You Join Lee's Cavalry.'"

"What of all you have seen most in your experience do you admire most?"

"My wife and daughters."

And this conversation more than anything I know of tells the story of Fitzhugh Lee from the introspectionist's standpoint.

One evening during the early days of the Spanish-American war I met General O. O. Howard at the Arlington in Washington, the general having just returned from a tour of inspecting the camps of volunteers in the south. The talk drifted to Fitzhugh Lee, who had but a short time before been

in 1849 at the age of 16, an appointee of President Millard Fillmore, he was slight of stature, but so active that he was nicknamed "The Flea," which stuck to him all through his academic life, nor did it leave him until long after he had ceased fighting the Comanches and Apaches on the plains of Texas. He was full of mischief when at the Point and was first in every adventure. But he was so splendid a horseman and so clever a tactician that his escapades were overlooked, probably because he was an immense favorite with faculty and cadets. When his class left West Point Lee was mighty low in scholarship, but high in tactics and military science and he was given a lieutenantcy in the famous Second cavalry, whose colonel was Albert Sidney Johnston. This body of rough riders brought terror to the Indians of the southwest and in one of the fights had with them Lee got an arrow through his lungs, was carried on a litter for 200 miles and won an honorable mention for gallantry in general orders. This was his baptism of fire to later know the real meaning of war, when, going with his loved state of Virginia into the confederacy, he became a colonel of cavalry after leaving Beauregard's staff and from that time until he laid a major general's sword at the feet of General Grant was constantly in the saddle, striking the enemy at all hours and at all times.

A Distinguished Family.

Fitzhugh Lee comes from a distinguished family, being a great-grandson of General Harry Lee, "Light Horse Harry" of revolutionary fame, and a nephew of General Robert E. Lee, the most conspicuous figure of the confederate states. Fitzhugh—nobody ever attaches Lee to his name who knows him well—was born in Clermont, Fairfax county, Va., November 19, 1835, and will therefore be 65 years of age but a few days hence. He was under 30 when the civil war closed, accepting the results of the internecine strife with cheerfulness and good faith. Later he entered political life, having been elected to congress, and in 1885 was chosen governor of his state, which position he filled with rare ability.

Fitzhugh Lee is a splendid type of the south, noted for its culture and its chivalry, and his coming to Omaha ought to be marked by a public reception that would show to this citizen-soldier the deep appreciation the west feels with his detail to the Department of the Missouri.

E. C. SNYDER.

Limitations

Detroit Journal: "Poltroon!" hissed Reginald.

Sir Guy gnawed his lip vexedly.

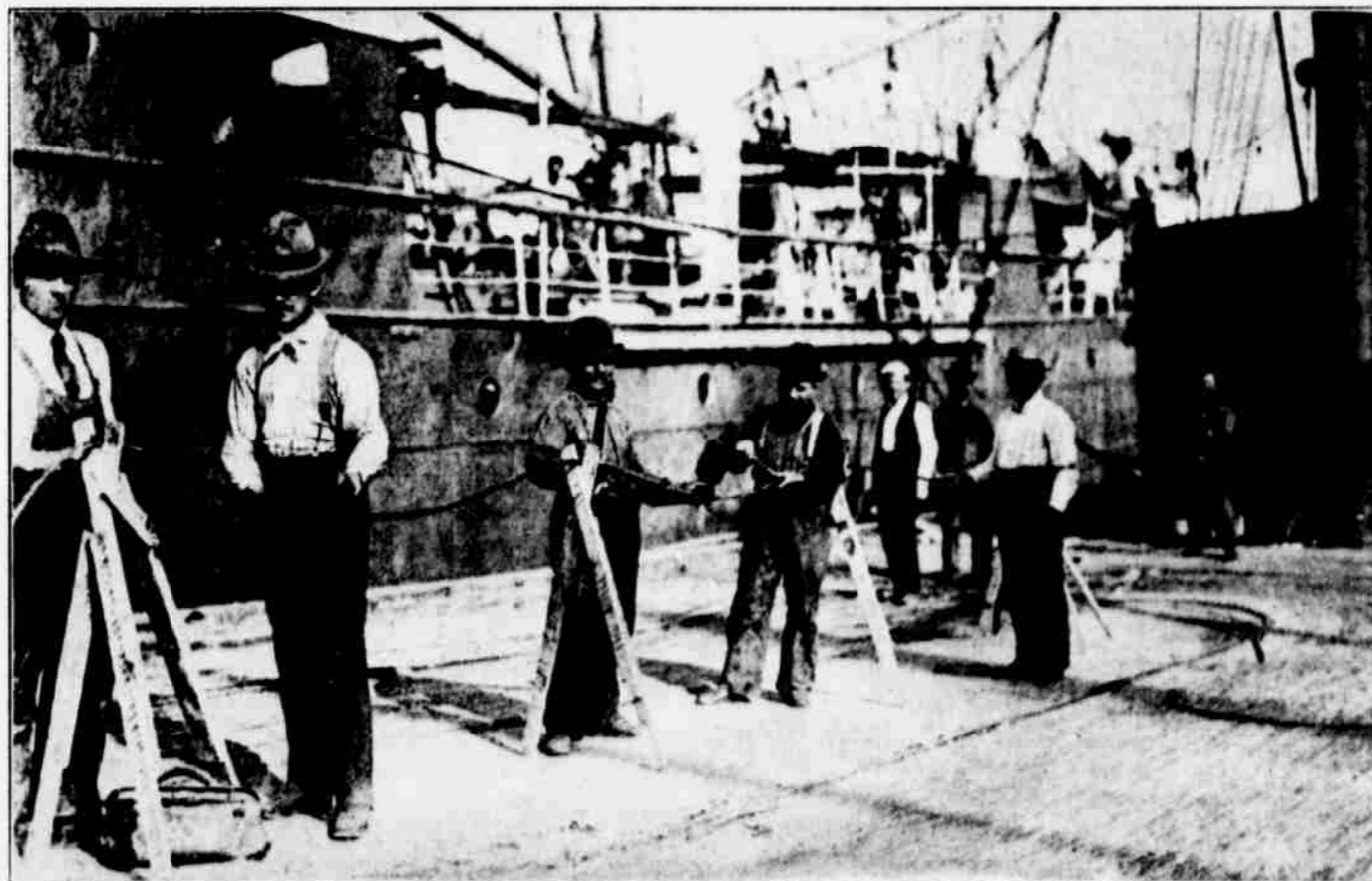
"Why doesn't my sword leap from its scabbard?" he muttered.

Sir Guy, understand, had been transplanted from romantic fiction and it was not easy for him to accustom himself to the realistic sword, which, when not entirely lacking, is notoriously devoid of that which in France is termed *initiatif*.

What Result Would Be

Chicago Post: "What we need," said the earnest citizen, "is a stricter enforcement of the lunacy laws. Too many dangerous cranks are allowed to run at large."

"Pardon me," interrupted the thoughtful man. "Have you stopped to think how few of us would be out of the asylums in presidential years if the lunacy laws were really strictly enforced?"



SPlicing THE CABLE FOR THE PHILIPPINES—CABLE HAS TO BE SPliced AT THE END OF EVERY 250 MILES OF LENGTH.

Difficult and Delicate Job. Laying the cable is going to be a difficult and delicate job. A crew of more than twenty men will have the handling of the cable and their duty will be to see that it is paid out properly and that it runs smoothly from the great tanks to the deck and thence out into the water. If the ocean bed were fairly level cable-laying