

FOR THE PLATFORM

Oregon Delegates to Philadelphia Suggest Planks.

UNIT FOR THE GOLD STANDARD

No Flattering in the Declaration for Expansion—Privileges of Trusts Should Be Curtailed.

Oregon's delegates to the Republican National Convention are a unit in favor of three of the great issues before the country—maintenance of the gold standard, expansion and curtailment of the powers of the trusts. In their opinion planks covering these subjects should be part of the National platform. There are other questions upon which the delegates to Philadelphia have suggestions to offer, but finance, National growth and trust legislation are considered paramount and receive undivided attention. A canvass of the delegates has been made by The Oregonian, with the following results:

For gold standard—Simon, Steel, Kuck, McCamant, Daly, Stanley, Ankeny, David. For expansion—Simon, Steel, Kuck, McCamant, Daly, Stanley, Ankeny, David. For curtailment of the powers of the trusts—Simon, Steel, Kuck, McCamant, Daly, Stanley, Ankeny, David. For tariff modification on the lines of the Dingley law—Steel, Kuck, Daly, Ankeny. For declaring the Puerto Rico law a temporary necessity—Steel, Kuck, Daly. For free commercial intercourse with the colonies—Daly, Stanley. For the election of United States Senators by direct vote—Ankeny. For a larger Army and Navy—Ankeny. For increasing the Presidential term to six years—Ankeny.

It goes without saying that the delegation will be staunch for the gold standard. Oregon led the procession for gold at St. Louis in 1896, and voted for gold at the Presidential election that year and at the state election in 1898. At the Philadelphia convention Oregon will have had another election in which money was the leading issue. Senator Simon says there should be an emphatic declaration for the gold standard and unequivocal approval of the new money law. Mr. McCamant adheres to the position which he has always taken that the money question in the paramount issue and while Bryan controls the Democracy, Senator Daly considers silver dead, except for purposes of agitation. He deems it unnecessary to take any further notice of the issue than to endorse the new currency law. Mr. Stanley thinks a simple declaration that the party had fulfilled its promise of 1896 with regard to silver is sufficient. Ankeny favors an unequivocal declaration in favor of the maintenance of the gold standard.

The strength of expansion in Oregon is illustrated by the firm stand which the delegates take for it. Senator Simon favors a declaration which cannot be misunderstood and which will be notice to the little American party. The Republican party has adopted expansion as a permanent policy. Mr. McCamant is for approval of the course of the Administration in the Philippines and the retention of the islands as American territory. Senator Daly holds that the prestige of the country among the nations of the world depends upon the action which it acquires itself of the duty forced upon it as a result of the war with Spain. The platform, he says, should pledge the Government to give the Philippines the scheme of local government best adapted to their capabilities. Mr. Stanley says the platform should declare that the guiding principles in colonial administration are security of life and property, and that when the conditions become favorable, and free commercial intercourse with the mother country. Henry E. Ankeny maintains that the Republic should surrender no territory over which its flag has been raised. The Philippines, in his opinion, should be governed from Washington until the restoration of order, when the people should be given that form of government which they are capable of maintaining.

The delegates approach trusts with caution, as the issue is one that requires judicious handling. The problem will be to strip the combinations of the privileges which they use to the detriment of the country without interfering with their rights as legitimate business enterprises. Senator Simon's position is that combinations to control production are against public policy, and that legislation to correct the abuses of trusts should be demanded in the platform. Messrs. Steel and Kuck repose confidence in the ability of the Republican National Convention to deal with this question in a satisfactory manner. Mr. McCamant holds the trusts to be a public evil, and says the platform should declare, "Judicious legislation, he says, is necessary that the industries which shall not be destroyed in the effort to correct abuses. Senator Daly favors resort to every legal remedy to remove the oppressions of the trusts. Mr. Stanley suggests that great centralization of capital be condemned and laws favored which will limit the power of capital to do evil. Mr. Ankeny is for a positive declaration against trusts that have been materially increased in cost through the influence of the trusts.

The general sentiment of the country for lowering of duties on imports finds endorsement among the delegates. Messrs. Steel, Kuck, Daly and Ankeny favor revision along the lines of the Dingley law. Closely associated with tariff legislation is the Puerto Rico law. The delegates who expressed themselves on this measure regard it as a temporary necessity and that when the necessity ceases to exist a change of plan will follow, as a matter of course. Senator Simon's Platform Planks. Senator Simon told the Washington correspondent of The Oregonian that the Republican National platform should declare emphatically in favor of the gold standard and should commend the legislation passed by the Republican Congress to place the currency of the United States on a sound basis. Expansion should be manfully sustained and a declaration which cannot be misunderstood in favor of the retention of the Philippines should be made. The Senator thinks that there should be no flattering on this important issue before the American people and that all criticisms of the Democracy should be fairly and squarely met with the assertion that the Republicans believe in expansion and intend to maintain it. Senator Simon also believes the platform should contain a strong declaration regarding trusts, and that the formation of immense combinations of capital for controlling the products and prices of commodities in the United States should be declared a violation of sound economic doctrine, and legislation to correct and control the abuses of trusts should be called for. He says that there are other features of party policy which might be dwelt upon, but these four names should make the cardinal principles of the platform to be adopted at Philadelphia.

Steel and Kuck. George A. Steel and H. L. Kuck were seen at Republican state headquarters. They declared themselves for expansion, the gold standard, the Nicaragua Canal and tariff modification along the lines of the Dingley law. They said they regarded the Puerto Rico law as a temporary necessity and expressed confidence that the question would adjust itself. As to trusts, they said they had no doubt that the Republican party would meet the issue squarely and correct abuses to the satisfaction of all.

Gold the Great Issue.

Wallace McCamant said: "It is my judgment that the Republican National platform should declare that the formation of trusts is a public evil, and should state in general terms the desire of the party that the evil should be remedied. The problem of dealing with the trusts is one of great practical difficulty and the danger that careless legislation may destroy the industries is a serious one. It is so real that I am disinclined to favor any plank in the platform outlining any specific remedy for the evil. The National platform should approve the policy of the Administration in annexing the Philippines and in quelling the insurrection led by Aguinaldo. It should declare in favor of holding the Philippine Islands permanently as American territory. It should recognize that trade with the Orient is to be a great and increasing source of wealth to the United States. It should endorse the policy of Secretary of State Hay whereby we have secured an open door in China, and should favor the expansion of our trade and the enlargement of our influence throughout the world. The platform should declare that it is the purpose of the United States to secure and the decisions of no other dependencies the largest measure of self-government of which they are capable, and they should also be assured that they should be secured in the future. It should recognize with reference to person and property which have always in the past been secured to those who have lived upon the soil, that the Government will not take it away from them. I do not think the platform should go. I am still of the opinion that the maintenance of the gold standard is the paramount issue before the country, and that it will remain so until the Democratic party is finally weaned away from Bryanism. No other question is so intimately related to the prosperity of the people and the decisions of no other question adversely to the position of the Republican party would bring such ruin to the country as would follow the devaluation of our currency by the free coinage of silver. "I think the platform should declare for the immediate construction of the Nicaragua Canal by Government aid and that it should also declare in favor of the capitation tax on immigration."

Grave Questions to Settle. John D. Daly said: "You ask me to outline my views as to the Republican National platform. There are questions at grave before this Nation at present as ever confronted it, and they ought not to be lightly or thoughtlessly handled by anyone, as we should be most careful in making the destiny of the Nation. Among many serious questions which the platform ought to answer and which the people will expect it to answer, are: the expansion of the Nation, the free coinage of silver, trusts and free dependencies. On these questions I have opinions and will answer them in their order. "Expansion is an old favorite of the Nation, and was a settled policy nearly 100 years ago. Foreign expansion is new, and is to the credit or discredit of no party. It is a far-reaching in its effect, not a theory, and our future as a progressive or even respectable Nation among the nations depends entirely on the manner we conduct ourselves with our new acquisitions. The platform should contain a plank accepting and heartily endorsing the situation and pledging the Government to give the islands their own form of government, which they are for it, either state, territorial, or what I like much better, after the style of the colonial system of Great Britain. I am not afraid of imperialism; it is high-sounding and humbug. "Except to endorse the action of Congress in passing the gold standard law, and strongly deprecating and condemning the expansion of the free coinage of silver as being useless and harmful, there should be no notice taken of the free silver question. It is dead, except for agitation purposes, and we ought not to lend our aid to keep it up. "I would pledge the party to revise the Dingley tariff bill and withdraw protection from every territory which we pledge the platform could contain regarding trusts. In addition to this, I would pledge the party to every legal limitation of the power of combinations and every correction of their abuses. "It will require a statesman to handle the Puerto Rico tariff in the platform; and it must be handled as a temporary expedient it is possibly necessary, and this should be shown, while pledging the party at the same time to free and unrestricted commercial intercourse with the mother country, and to strip over territory belonging to us or under our care."

Republican Pledges Kept. F. S. Stanley wrote as follows from Perry: "We should first call the attention of the people to the splendid condition of the country under a Republican Administration, under which the material interests and the prestige of the United States have been notably advanced, and in all our history there has been no four-year period crowded more with glorious life and wonderful achievements than the past four years of Republican Administration. "Second—That all the pledges of the Republican platform of four years ago have been redeemed, whereby there is no longer any retrogression in the value of any Government obligation. Gold as the standard of value is now established by law. "Third—Inorsement of the Administration of William McKinley. "Fourth—The independence of Cuba, pledged to Cuba and proclaimed to the world, has been secured and advanced by every public act. "Fifth—For Puerto Rico and the Philippines, which have become for all time American territory, civil government and liberal laws have been or will be provided. "Sixth—The insurrection in the Philippine Islands has been overcome, organized rebellion no longer exists, and the establishment of American authority in all the islands is proceeding to the satisfaction of us all. "Seventh—Our guiding principle throughout all of our colonial dominions is to render to the property secure, to preserve individual liberty and freedom of thought and action, and to prepare the way for a local government administered through local agencies, in which strength and stability shall be guaranteed together with free intercourse in trade with the United States. "Eighth—We should condemn the centralization of large capital, and we pledge the Republican party to enact such laws looking to the limitation of its powers and correction of abuses inflicted by capital."

Mr. Ankeny's Suggestion. Hon. Henry E. Ankeny, in an interview with the Jacksonville correspondent of The Oregonian said: "The Republican National platform should declare unequivocally in favor of the gold standard. "A moderate tariff along the lines of the Dingley law should be favored. "There should be a declaration in favor of retaining all territory owned by the United States. "There should be a resolution against trusts, with a purpose to decrease or repeal the property secure, to preserve individual liberty and freedom of thought and action, and to prepare the way for a local government administered through local agencies, in which strength and stability shall be guaranteed together with free intercourse in trade with the United States. "There should be a declaration in favor of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people. "The speedy construction of the Nicaragua Canal should be favored as a commercial and military necessity. "The Philippines should remain under administrative control until such time as the insurrection is suppressed and peace fully restored. The Government should establish which will give to the largest liberty consistent with the due protection of life and property. "The plan of the President's military and naval force will meet the requirements of the changed condition of affairs. "There should be a declaration in favor of keeping good faith with Cuba. "The wisdom of a Constitutional amendment limiting the office of President to one term, and extending the term to six years, should be earnestly considered. Declaration for Gold. SEATTLE, May 19.—J. B. David, a delegate to the Republican National Convention from Oregon, now in Seattle, when asked concerning ideas of the platform which he favored adopted, said: "I favor sound money, and am opposed to free silver in every way. I am a strong gold standard man, and think the Republicans ought not to hesitate to declare themselves on this question so that there can be no misunderstanding. "I believe in extension of the public domain, not for the benefit of the few, but for the benefit of commerce or other interests of the United States. "I believe in retention of the Philippines, Porto Rico and other islands. I favor it, and I do not believe that any Republican, Populist or Democrat really believes there is such a thing as imperialism as the word is commonly understood in this country. "Concerning trusts, Mr. David said: "If a trust is gotten up for the purpose of squeezing people, I believe in crushing it, even to a point of removing the tariff. It is a legitimate business, that is different. Under the present system of doing work in this country large capital is required. It would be impossible for one man in numerous instances to furnish the money required for a large enterprise. This capital is not in the hands of the few, but in the hands of many. I do not think trusts can be many, and that is the way. Neither party will uphold trusts. "The Nicaragua Canal question," he said, "will come before the convention. I favor speedy construction of it, and that both Republican and Democratic conventions will declare in favor of completion of the canal. "I think the platform in general, David said: "I think Republicans should have the courage of their convictions and say exactly what they think. As to carrying out the platform, he said: "I think the platform should declare in favor of completion of the canal. The Oregon delegates to the Republican National Convention and their assignments: Chairman of delegation, Joseph Simon. Secretary of delegation, John D. Daly. Member of National Committee, George A. Steel. Honorary vice-president of convention, F. S. Stanley. Member of committee to notify President of his nomination, Henry E. Ankeny. Member of committee on permanent organization, H. L. Kuck. Member of committee on rules, J. B. David. Member of committee on credentials, Wallace McCamant. Member of committee on resolutions, John D. Daly.

TAKE SCHOOLS OUT OF POLITICS

Suggestion That the Supreme Court Appoint State Boards of Regents. GOSHEN, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—In your issue of the 14th ult., you have an editorial which will attract the attention and commend the thoughtful consideration of the subject of taking schools out of politics. So far as our common school system is concerned, I do not believe that a whole, any better or more satisfactory arrangement could be made than that which now exists; but our institutions of higher learning, if they are as far as the expense of the taxpayers at large should be put upon a different basis from that on which they now are. Their administration should be, as far as possible, removed from political influence and control. I will illustrate: As now constituted, the governing board of the Agricultural College, which is by far the most generally useful and far-reaching in its results of anything of an educational character in the state, and it entirely removed from all forms of personal favoritism and partisan considerations, and the board greatly increased, is composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and Superintendent of Public Instruction, together with the majority of the members of the Legislature. The Governor, now, lets the Governor want to put a man in or out of the faculty, he can say to his agents whose time will expire during his term of office, that he wants to appoint so-and-so to re-nominate him to office may bring such pressure to bear as to displace a worthy professor or professor, and install a political or personal favorite. The gross injustice to the individual removed and supplanting him by one who has none of the qualifications requisite for such a position, is a thing which has been done in the past and are liable to be done in the future, if the present system is continued. The same remarks can be applied to the various appointments, honors and guarantees of office and commissions of the state. The object of these schools, officers and commissions is that the public should have the very best possible services for their money, and in order that this should be done, these matters should be, so far as possible, divorced from politics and political influences and personal favoritism. It is, and will be, extremely difficult to do this, but I think that a marked improvement can be made over the system now employed. The Justice of the Supreme Court are supposed to be men of intellectual attainments, and of personal high character and breadth of mind, and while the writer is far from being a student of the law, he believes that the individuals now occupying the Supreme Bench are personally worthy of the positions which they hold, and in recent years the same has been true of others who have held these positions. I would, therefore, suggest that, so far as possible, all the appointments be made by the Supreme Court, and in this way that most desirable result, viz., the divorcing of them from political and personal influences, will be, as far as possible, attained, and this means a higher and more beneficial result for the money appropriated and spent. B.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Dunne & Ryley's All-Star Cast. Dunne & Ryley's all-star cast, which appears at the Marquam Grand on May 23 and 24, is a most ambitious offering for the month of May. The company gave a dramatic festival, but it remained for these energetic amusement managers, Messrs. Dunne & Ryley, to present to the Jacksonville comedy festival. Hoyt's most popular play will be produced by the cleverest all-star cast available—a company including such well-known artists as Matthews and Bulger, Mary Macle, Mrs. Jones, Norma Walsh, George F. Marion, Maude Courtney, Philip H. Ryley, Bessie Tannehill, Tony Hart, Louise Rosa, John W. Dunne, Marion Gunning, William's Maid, Serraners, the eight Mascots, English dancing-girls from the principal London theaters, who created a furore in "The Man in the Moon" at the New York Theater last winter; the pony ballet, another distinct novelty, and a large and efficient chorus. The company is en route to San Francisco, having been especially organized for a 10 weeks' comedy season at the California Theater, where they open June 3. They will appear two nights in "A Rag Baby" at the Grand Opera House, and "A Rag Baby" Monday, and Tuesday "A Tin Soldier," with the entire strength of the organization. The sale of seats will begin Friday morning.

ONE FIGHT IN THE OPEN

CAPTAIN WILLIS TELLS OF SOME BRAVE FILIPINOS.

They Fought Against Regulars With Knives and Arrows—Order Restored in Camarines Province.

LIBMANAN, Camarines Province, Luzon Island, March 1.—(Special correspondence.)—On the 26th of February the Second Battalion of the Forty-fifth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Parker commanding, landed at the entrance to the Bicol River. On their reaching shore they experienced much difficulty in landing on account of the mud. The whole boatload of the regulars was in the mud and water up to their waists for a considerable distance. They had a fight shortly after landing. One man in Company F was killed. The rest of the regulars were after rapid marching for several days and many skirmishes with the enemy entered Nueva Caceres. The First Battalion of the Forty-fifth Infantry, Major McKimley commanding, landed north of the Bicol River at Calumpunan and marched towards Nueva Caceres by way of Libmanan. At the latter place they met their first serious resistance. Here were about 50 Tagal regulars, with rifles, and about 300 militia armed with bows and arrows. Fought in the Open. On approaching the town, Colonel Godwin's combined force of regulars and militia refused to fight. Advance in line of skirmishers, the Fortieth met the enemy in the rice field adjoining the town, to which they had bravely gone to meet the Americans. The militia and the insurgents were filled with heroism, and they never fought Americans before or they would not have gone against them in the open field. They had no intrenchments of any kind. The fight could have only one result. The Fortieth killed 64, which they buried on the field. No one was taken prisoner. The remainder fled. Bows and arrows and bolos were scattered all over the rice field. I have a long bow and a quiverful of bamboo arrows, picked up on the field. The regulars made the first shot or two, the Fortieth picked up on Nueva Caceres. In the fight, the Fortieth lost Lieutenant Gallagher, Battalion Adjutant, and two privates, and a sergeant. The regulars gave these people a lesson they will long remember. The dead bodies were buried in piles in shallow graves. Spades and picks were scarce. I presume, all the regulars were killed. The regulars were three times my company has recovered the graves to prevent the dogs from pulling the bodies out. The dogs are a great nuisance. Every soldier seems to have two or three, and some more. They are the veriest scrub dogs imaginable, not a decent-looking dog in the lot. They receive little care and less food than the regulars. Attacked From Three Points. On February 21 the First and Third Battalions of the Forty-fifth landed on the Bicol River. The capital was thus approached from three different directions at the same time. It was a well-arranged plan, and reflects great credit on Major General Bates and Brigadier-General Bell, who ordered the expedition. The regulars from three different directions, the insurgents were much disconcerted, and made a weak resistance. Company L, toward by General Bates own launch, took the lead. It was a fine feat. The regulars and thought we would see some fighting. After steaming for about an hour we approached the mouth of the river. A small fort is built on the second island. There are three cannons. It is deserted, however, and we pass on to a small town a short distance away, called Cabusao. We land here without opposition, and are directed to the town of Cabusao. We find the town deserted, save by the dogs, pigs and chickens and a few men. Soon other men and boys came in and we make our camp in the town. The regulars and the people resemble the Tagals in appearance, but are much milder and more friendly. As soon as they found that we were going to treat them kindly and pay for what we took, they became very friendly. We found chickens and eggs, which they sold very cheap. A company of Tagalos had been the garrison of the town and fort, but they fled to the mountains, taking with them three small cannons. Women Fled the Town. There was not a woman in the town. They had been told terrible tales of the Americans, and had all fled to the mountains. Now, a man who had been more courageous than the rest came in. Lieutenant McKinley gave her husband a peesta for a chicken, but she promptly took the money away from him. We found that the women were very friendly to the Americans. They all agreed in saying that the insurgents were "mucho malo," or very bad. We scouted the neighboring country, finding many many empty household goods camped in the brush. Many would run like frightened deer at first sight of our soldiers, and we had much difficulty in explaining to them that we were here to protect and not harm them. It is a beautiful country, one of the best sections I have seen in the island. The valleys are fertile, and the mountains few feet above the level of the sea, and is covered with rice fields. The rice is fine, and is not yet ripe. This was a surprise, as the rice harvest was over when we landed some European power under the influence of the drinking water there is brackish. Building Roads as They Marched. On February 24, Lieutenant Reeves, aide-camp to General Bates, came ashore with the regulars. Company L, toward by Bates to Barcelona, and here take station. We started at once, Lieutenant Reeves accompanying us. We marched along the beach for about a mile; then struck across the low-lying rice fields for about four miles, to Barcelona, where we struck the coast again. Shortly after passing Barcelona we came upon a detachment of the regulars, under Lieutenant Ferguson, with five big army wagons loaded with rations, and bound for Nueva Caceres. They were about a mile beyond Barcelona when I came up with them, and had been for some time making that distance. There was no road, but only a trail, and they had to make a road as they advanced. My company now lent their aid and we built road all the way to Barcelona. The next day, the next day, when we arrived at Libmanan. The job was a very trying one. There were four big mules to every wagon, and the men were pushed to their limits through the mudholes. The mud would make us down ourselves and have to be unhitched and led out. Then, with 20 or 30 soldiers and an equal number of natives pulling on ropes and pushing on the wheels, we would get the wagon through. Often the wagons would have to be unloaded and pulled through empty, and then loaded up again. Peas and bananas were cut and placed on the wheels, and then down to get material to fill the mudholes and make a sort of corduroy over the soft rice fields. It was hard work, and the men were pushed down to their knees, but it had to be done. There was no other way known to get to Libmanan. However, as usual, American pluck and perseverance conquered. We got every wagon through, with no loss more severe than a few broken wagon-tongues. Garrisoned Libmanan. At Libmanan I halted and drew 15 days' rations for my company, while the engineers went on to Nueva Caceres. Lieutenant Ferguson and his company were left at Libmanan, and the work of garrisoning the town was left to them. We at once took up the work of garrisoning Libmanan. Several of the most prominent, and wealthy Bicol called on me and promised every assistance in their power in establishing a local government and maintaining order in the town. Two of these men—Senors Calcedonio Reyes and Francisco Ursua—afterwards appointed President Local and Delgado de Justicia and Rentas respectively. These officers correspond nearly with the Mayor and City Recorder of many American towns. Only the officers here handle much authority than they do here. They are both good men, and I have never yet had any cause to regret my selection. CAPTAIN PERCY WILLIS, Forty-fifth Infantry, U. S. V.

IN A COCOANUT COUNTRY.

American Soldiers Clearing Out the Marderoes Tagals.

LIBMANAN, P. I., March 14.—(Special correspondence.)—Shortly after we came to Libmanan, wagon trains and pack animals, horses and mules commenced to enter the town. The Tagals were for Nueva Caceres. Great tales the men told of the difficulties they encountered in unloading the mules and horses from the ships. It was impossible for the Tagals to approach nearer than about a mile from the shore, and the problem was to get the animals to land. Rafts were constructed of several large canoes laid side by side and secured with ropes. On these rafts structures horses, mules, wagons, cannons and rations were unloaded and taken to shore. Several of the animals got into the water and swam to the beach. One horse, more venturesome or homesick than the rest, struck out for mid-ocean, but was overhauled and brought back. All of the outfit taken on board made by the engineers and my company, passed through Libmanan. First came Lieutenant Cowen, Third Cavalry, with his company of regulars, and then seven packers, and Lieutenant Balch with 15 mounted men of the Thirty-seventh Infantry. The next day came Lieutenant Captain Ferguson with his company of regulars, two cannons, 15 mules and 15 ponies. A few days after came Captain James Rex, of Tacoma, now of the Forty-fifth Infantry, with 20 men, 20 horses, 20 ponies and two light wagons with mules. Then Captain France and Lieutenant Bugbee came through with the last outfit, consisting of a large wagon train and 20 men. The wagons of their overloaded trip, the shape of a broken ambulance, spring wagon and cart, were left here for repair. Nearly all of these trains stayed over night in Libmanan and made the place seem lively. Captain Ross was not well when he went through here and has since gone to Manila for better treatment in the hospital.

Philippine Colonial Surrenders.

On the last day of March Lieutenant Colonel Vicente, who commanded the insurgent militia at Libmanan before their fight with the Fortieth, sent in a messenger to report his surrender. He sent him a note, approving the surrender, but stipulating that his men must come in with him and give up all their arms and ammunition. I was more desirous of securing the arms and ammunition than anything else. Vicente sent in a note explaining how his men had all left him and desiring to give himself up. So I sent word to come in. The next day he came in to the outpost and was brought up to my quarters. He is a fine-looking man for a Filipino, is large and active, and very intelligent. He was not present when the Fortieth had their fight at Libmanan. I presume he thought discretion the better part of valor on that occasion. He is a large property-owner here and says that when the insurgents, the Tagalos, offered him the Lieutenant Colonel's militia he could not well refuse. He is a Mason, has his own views on religious subjects, and has had trouble with the Spanish friars, who had him banished for two years to the island of Camarines. On his release he spent considerable time in Madrid and then returned to his own country. He accepts the situation philosophically. He frankly told me the different tribes in the Philippines could never be able to harmonize scientifically to form an independent government of their own, and admitted that if the United States had not taken the islands, they would have been unitedly would. I kept him under guard for two days and then released him on parole. Telegraph and Telephone. Lieutenant William E. McKinley, of my company, has been ordered to report to Nueva Caceres for duty as captain of the post. He speaks Spanish very fluently, and for that reason has been a very valuable officer on his expedition. Major Edwin Cole, of the Forty-fifth, is Collector of Internal Revenue. When McKinley went to Nueva Caceres to report for orders, Senator Reyes, our local President went with him. He met Generals Bates and Bell and had a talk with them. He was very much pleased with his reception, and spoke in the highest terms of the general. We now have a combined telegraph and telephone line in operation from here to Nueva Caceres. Natives came in and reported that there were 50 insurgents at Bicol, a small barrier over the river about six miles. They said it was about a two hours' walk. I sent Lieutenant Edwards and 50 men to see if we could catch them. They were said to have only 20 rifles, and the rest were armed with bolos. The Lieutenant and his party left here shortly after 3 o'clock in the morning. After marching five hours, during which time they forded the river above Bicol, they came upon the village from the rear, but found it deserted. The insurgents, if any were there, had got wind of their approach and fled. Scouring the Country. Captain Steinhauer having reported with Lieutenant Blaker and 20 men to assist in scouting the surrounding country, I sent out a number of small expeditions. Captain Steinhauer with Lieutenant Edwards and 50 men went to Lipoco; Lieutenant Blaker and 20 men marched to near Mambo. Then Steinhauer and Edwards with 50 men and three days' rations scouted the country between Pampana and Bicol. They saw only five insurgents. Edwards, who was with the advance guard, emptied his revolver at them as they ran away, but failed to get any of them. He secured, however, five bolos, which they laid down before taking to flight. The next expedition was one to Lupi, which I made with Lieutenant Blaker and 40 men. It was a mountain trail and very bad. Rain had made the trail muddy and slippery. Nine men gave out and had to return. We had three days' rations. We spent the first night at Lipoco and the second at Lupi. Both towns were deserted. At Lupi we found some dirty barracks, with gun racks and a number of wooden guns and some bows and arrows. We had a high mountain climb and two rivers to ford. The water in one came up to the men's necks. Returning to Lipoco the third day, we got seven large wags and came down the river in them to Libmanan. Shaking Coconut Trees. Blaker had the largest canoe, and it was difficult to steer and handle, especially as we had the tide against us. After trying in vain to keep up, he with his men, abandoned the canoe, after covering about half the distance, and made his way to Libmanan on foot. It was a beautiful winding river through a pretty country. We saw no insurgents, and reached camp without accident of importance just as twilight was sounding at 5 o'clock. On the way down we stopped and went ashore to wait for Blaker. A Filipino who was with us climbed a tall coconut tree and shook down enough coconuts for the whole command. There are no lime on the trees and no foliage except at the top where the fruit grows, and it is quite a trick to climb one of them. The natives, however, climb them like monkeys. Many of the trees have notches cut in them to facilitate the climbing. There is quite a business done in coconuts here, and there is a big profit in it where hard died right. A native here told one of my Sergeants that he bought coconuts here for 25 per 100 and sold them in Manila for 35 per 100. Of course, this is a profit of 40 per cent, which is worth now only from 45 to 48 cents on the dollar. On the 12th of March, Companies B and C, of the Fortieth Infantry, arrived here. They marched from Duet. It was a hard trip over the mountains, and took them four days to make it. These two companies are commanded by Captains Eckdrick and McLaughlin. They stayed at Libmanan for several days, after which, with the rest of the Fortieth, they sailed for Mindanao. Both of these companies were in the fight at Libmanan, and had been on the "bike" nearly ever since. As a result, the men's shoes and clothing were about worn out. Colonel Dorset, with a battalion of the Fortieth, is doing great work clearing the country of insurgents from Nueva Caceres south to Albay and Legaspi. He is now at Iriga. He has had a number of small engagements and reports seeing many insurgents on his trip through that section, and it is probable that another regiment will be sent from Manila to take the place of the Fortieth, which went to Mindanao. If it were not for the Tagals from the vicinity of Manila and Cavite, there would not be much trouble here. They are more savage and implacable than any of the tribes I have seen. Armed bodies of these Tagals, not desecrating the name of soldiers, are now robbing and plundering the people outside of the American lines, and the task on our hands now is to clear the country of these pests. CAPTAIN PERCY WILLIS, Forty-fifth Infantry, U. S. V.

LIBMANAN, Camarines Province, Luzon Island, March 1.—(Special correspondence.)

On the 26th of February the Second Battalion of the Forty-fifth Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Parker commanding, landed at the entrance to the Bicol River. On their reaching shore they experienced much difficulty in landing on account of the mud. The whole boatload of the regulars was in the mud and water up to their waists for a considerable distance. They had a fight shortly after landing. One man in Company F was killed. The rest of the regulars were after rapid marching for several days and many skirmishes with the enemy entered Nueva Caceres. The First Battalion of the Forty-fifth Infantry, Major McKimley commanding, landed north of the Bicol River at Calumpunan and marched towards Nueva Caceres by way of Libmanan. At the latter place they met their first serious resistance. Here were about 50 Tagal regulars, with rifles, and about 300 militia armed with bows and arrows. Fought in the Open. On approaching the town, Colonel Godwin's combined force of regulars and militia refused to fight. Advance in line of skirmishers, the Fortieth met the enemy in the rice field adjoining the town, to which they had bravely gone to meet the Americans. The militia and the insurgents were filled with heroism, and they never fought Americans before or they would not have gone against them in the open field. They had no intrenchments of any kind. The fight could have only one result. The Fortieth killed 64, which they buried on the field. No one was taken prisoner. The remainder fled. Bows and arrows and bolos were scattered all over the rice field. I have a long bow and a quiverful of bamboo arrows, picked up on the field. The regulars made the first shot or two, the Fortieth picked up on Nueva Caceres. In the fight, the Fortieth lost Lieutenant Gallagher, Battalion Adjutant, and two privates, and a sergeant. The regulars gave these people a lesson they will long remember. The dead bodies were buried in piles in shallow graves. Spades and picks were scarce. I presume, all the regulars were killed. The regulars were three times my company has recovered the graves to prevent the dogs from pulling the bodies out. The dogs are a great nuisance. Every soldier seems to have two or three, and some more. They are the veriest scrub dogs imaginable, not a decent-looking dog in the lot. They receive little care and less food than the regulars. Attacked From Three Points. On February 21 the First and Third Battalions of the Forty-fifth landed on the Bicol River. The capital was thus approached from three different directions at the same time. It was a well-arranged plan, and reflects great credit on Major General Bates and Brigadier-General Bell, who ordered the expedition. The regulars from three different directions, the insurgents were much disconcerted, and made a weak resistance. Company L, toward by General Bates own launch, took the lead. It was a fine feat. The regulars and thought we would see some fighting. After steaming for about an hour we approached the mouth of the river. A small fort is built on the second island. There are three cannons. It is deserted, however, and we pass on to a small town a short distance away, called Cabusao. We land here without opposition, and are directed to the town of Cabusao. We find the town deserted, save by the dogs, pigs and chickens and a few men. Soon other men and boys came in and we make our camp in the town. The regulars and the people resemble the Tagals in appearance, but are much milder and more friendly. As soon as they found that we were going to treat them kindly and pay for what we took, they became very friendly. We found chickens and eggs, which they sold very cheap. A company of Tagalos had been the garrison of the town and fort, but they fled to the mountains, taking with them three small cannons. Women Fled the Town. There was not a woman in the town. They had been told terrible tales of the Americans, and had all fled to the mountains. Now, a man who had been more courageous than the rest came in. Lieutenant McKinley gave her husband a peesta for a chicken, but she promptly took the money away from him. We found that the women were very friendly to the Americans. They all agreed in saying that the insurgents were "mucho malo," or very bad. We scouted the neighboring country, finding many many empty household goods camped in the brush. Many would run like frightened deer at first sight of our soldiers, and we had much difficulty in explaining to them that we were here to protect and not harm them. It is a beautiful country, one of the best sections I have seen in the island. The valleys are fertile, and the mountains few feet above the level of the sea, and is covered with rice fields. The rice is fine, and is not yet ripe. This was a surprise, as the rice harvest was over when we landed some European power under the influence of the drinking water there is brackish. Building Roads as They Marched. On February 24, Lieutenant Reeves, aide-camp to General Bates, came ashore with the regulars. Company L, toward by Bates to Barcelona, and here take station. We started at once, Lieutenant Reeves accompanying us. We marched along the beach for about a mile; then struck across the low-lying rice fields for about four miles, to Barcelona, where we struck the coast again. Shortly after passing Barcelona we came upon a detachment of the regulars, under Lieutenant Ferguson, with five big army wagons loaded with rations, and bound for Nueva Caceres. They were about a mile beyond Barcelona when I came up with them, and had been for some time making that distance. There was no road, but only a trail, and they had to make a road as they advanced. My company now lent their aid and we built road all the way to Barcelona. The next day, the next day, when we arrived at Libmanan. The job was a very trying one. There were four big mules to every wagon, and the men were pushed to their limits through the mudholes. The mud would make us down ourselves and have to be unhitched and led out. Then, with 20 or 30 soldiers and an equal number of natives pulling on ropes and pushing on the wheels, we would get the wagon through. Often the wagons would have to be unloaded and pulled through empty, and then loaded up again. Peas and bananas were cut and placed on the wheels, and then down to get material to fill the mudholes and make a sort of corduroy over the soft rice fields. It was hard work, and the men were pushed down to their knees, but it had to be done. There was no other way known to get to Libmanan. However, as usual, American pluck and perseverance conquered. We got every wagon through, with no loss more severe than a few broken wagon-tongues. Garrisoned Libmanan. At Libmanan I halted and drew 15 days' rations for my company, while the engineers went on to Nueva Caceres. Lieutenant Ferguson and his company were left at Libmanan, and the work of garrisoning the town was left to them. We at once took up the work of garrisoning Libmanan. Several of the most prominent, and wealthy Bicol called on me and promised every assistance in their power in establishing a local government and maintaining order in the town. Two of these men—Senors Calcedonio Reyes and Francisco Ursua—afterwards appointed President Local and Delgado de Justicia and Rentas respectively. These officers correspond nearly with the Mayor and City Recorder of many American towns. Only the officers here handle much authority than they do here. They are both good men, and I have never yet had any cause to regret my selection. CAPTAIN PERCY WILLIS, Forty-fifth Infantry, U. S. V.

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