

NOW ON A PEACE BASIS

CORBIN PLEASED WITH CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

General Reorganization of the Military System—Regularly Established Mail Service Needed.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Major-General Corbin, the problem of the Philippines today. The general is greatly pleased with conditions in the Philippines and was particularly gratified to find that the army was so excellent and to see, himself, evidence of the good feeling among the officers and soldiers.

General Corbin consolidated the depots of his department thereby relieving a number of staff officers, with consequent saving in money. General Sternberg reduced the number of hospitals and concentrated the medical supply depots throughout the archipelago, leaving but one of three at Manila. On his return the hospital at Nagasaki was abandoned, as also was the hospital at Cebu, which had become no longer needed. The ship was turned over to General Chaffee for the inter-island transportation department.

General Laddington, Quartermaster General, had not completed his work when General Corbin left. He is confronted with problems of greater importance than those of the others. The troops in Luzon, for instance, are almost entirely quartered in "conventos," or church property, and now that quiet and order are restored, these are needed for church and school purposes. It will be difficult for the troops to be quartered as before until barracks are erected, and this important question will be thoroughly investigated by General Laddington and a competent scheme prepared.

General Corbin said that the necessity for a regularly established mail service between Manila and this country is one of great importance, not only for the commercial interests, but also for the service in the archipelago; for there is now no certainty when mail will be received from home. The practicability of establishing an efficient mail service is illustrated by the fact that the Canadian Pacific steamers carrying mail to the Orient, where the people of the ports in China and Japan where the steamers call can determine within an hour the date of the arrival of the next mail, and so strict is the schedule time that the people can depend on their mail with the exactness of the service in Washington. It is understood the Postoffice Department is at this time endeavoring to establish this, and the local postoffice in Manila is reported as being administered excellently, but the report of the mails is very irregular.

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CAPTIVE OF MISS STONE

DETAILS RELATED BY MEMBERS OF THE PARTY SHE WAS WITH.

The American Board of Missions is Ready to Pay the Ransom Asked by the Brigands.

BOSTON, Sept. 25.—Details of the recent capture of Miss Stone, the American missionary, and one of her helpers by brigands in Turkey, are given in a letter just received here by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The facts became known to one of the missionaries of the board at Samok, European Turkey, by members of the party with whom Miss Stone and her assistant, Mrs. Tsika, were traveling when the capture was made, and who fled on being released by the outlaw.

There were 15 to 18 in Miss Stone's party. The brigands confronted them in a narrow pass, surrounded them and compelled them to dismount and ascend a wooded mountain side for about an hour. There appeared to be about 40 brigands dressed like Turks, but speaking Bulgarian. At length, a stopping place was reached. The next morning Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsika were released, and it was apparent that the main body of the outlaws had disappeared, leaving only a guard. Later this guard compelled the captives to give up their watches, money and jewelry, after which they disappeared up the mountain, leaving the missionaries free.

It is thought the brigands may have entered Bulgaria, and the army has been given strict instructions to guard the border closely and follow up any traces of the marauders which they may find.

Will Pay the Ransom.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—In reply to the inquiry from the State Department as to whether they would pay the ransom asked by the Bulgarian brigands who kidnapped Miss Stone, the American Board of Missions has stated that it has charged its representative in Constantinople with the ransoming of the woman, leaving the price to be arranged by him.

NO FEAR OF AN INVASION.

Too Late for the Dutch to Cross Into Natal.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—A dispatch to the Times from Newcastle, N. S. W., says: "The moment for a serious invasion of Natal, if such an idea has been in Commandant-General Botha's mind, has passed. Botha's army, and Tugela River are in flood, while General Lyttelton's troops are sufficient to deal with the enemy should he elect to cross the border. It is thought probable that Botha's plan of sending to threaten Natal was in order to keep the minds of the burghers occupied and so divert their attention from the expiration of the term of grace allowed by Lord Kitchener's latest proclamation."

The Correspondent of the Times at Cape Town says the Chamber of Commerce there has discussed the advisability of placing the entire Cape Peninsula under martial law. The members decided that they were ready to submit to the inconvenience which such an attempt would entail. It was entirely unnecessary for the military ending of the war. They took no definite action, however.

Watching for Dewet.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—The Tribune's London correspondent explains the prevailing English view of the South African situation in the following dispatch: "War news from South Africa remains vague, but details of recent reverses are reassuring in one respect. Evidence points to the fact that the Boer army is the officers rather than to apathy and staleness. The men of the rank and file fought well, and there was no lack of courage and spirit."

"Dewet's reappearance in some unexpected quarter is looked for hourly since the recrudescence of Boer activity, after a long period of stagnation, was evidenced by the results of concerted action among the commandos."

As the Frenchmen See It.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—The correspondent of the Times in Paris says the recent capture of the French frontier by the British reverses in the French journals an opportunity which they have hastened to seize, to point out the folly of Lord Salisbury's assumption that the war is over. The Times says there are the sacrifice of so many thousands of lives, the loss of so many millions of pounds, the painful bankruptcy of the empire, the great drain on the resources of its institutions, the conquest of Great Britain is