

ATTACKED BY BOLOMEN

SEVEN AMERICANS KILLED IN AN ENGAGEMENT IN SAMAR.

Captain Schoeffel and Six Privates Were Wounded—Enemy Repulsed With Heavy Loss.

MANILA, Dec. 27.—Captain Schoeffel, with a detachment of 15 men of Company E, Ninth Infantry, at Daplay, Island of Samar, was attacked by a large force of bolomen. A severe hand-to-hand fight ensued, in which a Sergeant, a Corporal and five privates were killed. Captain Schoeffel was wounded, but not dangerously. Five privates were dangerously and one slightly wounded. No property was lost. The enemy was finally repulsed with heavy loss.

STATE OF WAR EXISTS. Secretary Root's Opinion on a Lieutenant's Claim.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—In reference to a claim to the Treasury Department, Secretary Root, of the War Department, has rendered the following opinion: "The insurrection in the Philippines against the sovereignty of the United States and the authority of the government of the Philippines is of such character and extent as requires the United States to employ an extraordinary force, and, therefore, creates a condition of war in said archipelago."

The claim in question is that of First Lieutenant Horton W. Stickle, Corps of Engineers, for \$15,000 for certain books lost en route from West Point, N. Y., to Manila, under shipment by the Quartermaster's Department. The books were the personal property of the lieutenant, and it appears they were included in a large portion of the cargo of the transport Centennial, which was thrown overboard in order to lighten the vessel when it ran aground off the coast of Northern Luzon. Secretary Root has recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury that Lieutenant Stickle's claim be included in the recommendations of Congress respecting the general deficiency bill.

Hand-to-Hand Fight With Bolomen. WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The War Department was today advised by General Chaffee, at Manila, that Company F, Twenty-first Infantry, had a desperate hand-to-hand encounter in a gorge six miles south of San Jose, Batangas, December 25. Twenty-two of the enemy were killed. Patrick A. Connelly received an ugly bolt wound in the left cheek. Private Carney received six bolt wounds in the neck and shoulders.

Suicide of a Lieutenant. WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—General Chaffee, at Manila, reports that Odus Roeder, Second Lieutenant, Philippine Scouts, a member of Company A, first regiment, committed suicide December 25 by shooting himself with a carbine. He was suffering from temporary insanity, due to illness.

TRADE WITH ASIATIC TURKEY. Consul Norton Describes the Possibilities in Hargood District.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The State Department was today advised by Consul Norton at Harpoot, Turkey, that the Hargood district is a particularly receptive mood. Turkish farmers, he says, await with eagerness to see the working of reapers which have been ordered from America, such as the Knox, General Ranney, Rear-Admiral Robley D. Evans, Senator Lodge and Justice Clarke, of New York.

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Formation of the Securities Company Has Not Changed the Ownership of the Stock.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 26.—President Charles S. Mellen, of the Northern Pacific, tonight authorized a plain statement that he has not resigned and does not contemplate resigning. The statement, by reference, sets at rest the reports of antagonism on the part of J. J. Hill, and outlines, in concise form, what may be expected in Northern Pacific affairs during the organization of the Northern Securities Company. Reports that Mr. Mellen would resign have been periodical for more than a year. Mr. Mellen has directed the matter until tonight, when he dictated the following resume of the situation:

"There is no foundation in the statement recently made in the press that I have either resigned or am contemplating such action. The Northern Pacific is being operated independently of other railways now, as it has been during the time I have been connected with it, and I have no knowledge of any attempt to change its policy or curtail the authority heretofore entrusted to me. To my mind, it is extremely unfortunate both to the railway and to the public that so much agitation and apprehension is being indulged in regarding the Northern Securities Company and its relation to the property of the railway. The stock parties own its stock, and have for several years, and no more disposition is manifested today to interfere in its policy than during the whole period of my official connection with it. The questions of legality will be passed upon by the highest court in the land, and all parties should patiently await its decision, and any attempt to stir up prejudice or