

Morning Oregonian

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DOES NOT KNOW HIS PLACE

How He Came to Go to the Philippines.

HIS REPORTS THENCE FALL FLAT

Far From Discrediting Army or Administration, They Prove Damaging Only to Commanding General Who Made Them.

General Miles has only succeeded in discrediting himself by his reports on the doings of the Army in the Philippines. That is, in this country, in Europe they do not understand such charges unless there were many new facts unearthed. His trouble has been that he has wanted to be the chief war lord, and that is a function belonging to the President.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 10.—It has already been demonstrated that the two reports of Lieutenant-General Miles concerning conditions in the Philippines, which were made public by the War Department, have done no harm to the Army or the Administration, nor to any one else except General Miles himself. Some of the intense anti-Administration papers, or more particularly the anti-imperialist or anti-expansionist papers, have made the point that General Miles was sent to the islands by Secretary Root, and then criticize Root for making public his report. As a matter of fact, General Miles asked to go to the Philippines, and both President Roosevelt and Secretary Root hesitated about issuing the order directing him to go, knowing and fearing some such outcome as has happened.

Several papers gave utterance to intimations that Miles wanted to go and that the Administration would refuse to allow him to go, because they feared that he might do something that they would not want. As a matter of fact, General Miles, as commanding General of the Army, could go wherever troops are stationed. But the order from the Secretary of War was much more comprehensive, as it included giving him his aids and all of their expenses while on their tour of inspection.

As to the publication of the report, it has already been shown that it was not given out until General Miles assented, but more than that, little bits of it had been given out, and anti-imperialist organs had made several intimations of what the report contained, and indicated that the War Department was maintaining its policy of secrecy and suppression. So much for Secretary Root's part in it.

Hurt Reputation Abroad.
Notwithstanding the fact that nobody has been injured in this country except General Miles himself, the fact remaining that the reputation of the Army abroad has been hurt to a considerable extent. Comment of English papers show that General Miles was taken seriously in that country. They do not understand abroad that General Miles has only had theoretical command of the Army, and that his rank and position are simply something conferred for distinction which he achieved during the Civil War and in Indian campaigns, and not on account of anything he has done since that time. At the same time foreigners cannot conceive how it is possible for a man occupying the position of commanding General of the Army could make such accusations and could be so vicious in his comments unless he had unearthed a great many new facts and new discoveries. It is something the same as if Lord Woolsey or Lord Roberts would make reports of a similar character against the English Army. That is the great and the only harm that has been done.

There is a general belief that Miles was treated very badly during the Spanish War, and that a systematic attempt was made to prevent him from obtaining any glory during that time. It is natural enough to think that a man of McKinley's character would be very averse to having a man of Miles' popularity obtaining great prominence, which might make him a rival when McKinley's second nomination was pending. Naturally enough, it would appear that McKinley's best friend, General Corbin, would assist him to the utmost and that a Cabinet officer like General Alger would also be in league with those who were attempting to prevent some man from achieving great distinction which might result in his being a rival Presidential possibility.

No Chance in Spanish War.
The fact of the matter is there was only one expedition of importance to Cuba during the Spanish War. No one thought that the Shafter expedition would be the most important, save a few who were very well informed as to Spain's condition. Rear-Admiral Sampson telegraphed from off Santiago, when Cervera's ships were penned up in the harbor, that an expedition of 2000 men by land would enable him to capture or destroy Cervera's fleet. It was not intended to send any more men than that with the first expedition, and when the matter of command was taken up General Miles was considered, and he

suggested General Wade, Copping or Shafter, and finally he decided upon Shafter.

Now, before the selection was made, your correspondent is informed by a person who claims to know the facts, it was suggested to General Miles that he had better take command of that expedition, and that Alger told Miles that if he would it would relieve him (the Secretary) of a great weight of responsibility. Miles replied, after due consideration, that he thought he would reserve himself for the bigger expedition that would go into Cuba at or near Havana, and for which many regiments of troops were gathered in Florida at Camp Alger and Camp Thomas.

It will be remembered that there were three Major-Generals of the regular Army at that time—Miles, Merritt and Brooke. Merritt went with the Philippine expedition. Brooke did not think that the first expedition to Santiago was important enough to even want the command.

Miles Wanted Shafter's Place.
But Shafter was selected and was organizing his forces working hard with the limited facilities that were afforded at Tampa, when Miles visited that point. While there he conferred with a number of officers, and one in particular, who is now a Brigadier-General, told him: "If you want to get into this war, you had better go with this expedition, for it will be the only one, in my judgment."

Evidently considering these points, suggestions of similar character having been made to him in Washington, General Miles telegraphed from Tampa asking to be placed in command. McKinley said he could not do that; having selected Shafter, it would not do to humiliate him by sending a senior to take command.

"Then," said the informant of the Oregonian correspondent, "the trouble began." Nowhere except in General Alger's book have the facts very detrimental to General Miles and his course during the Spanish War been brought out, and Alger has not told all he knows. Miles' recommendations were not such as to commend him as commander-in-chief. He suggested, for instance, that 6000 troops be landed in Havana and marched across the island. He also thought that a very large army might march from one end of the island to another, capturing prisoners and feeding them with "cattle on the hoof."

It was demonstrated that no army could have gone through Cuba without building roads, and the roads could not have been constructed advantageously.

He also recommended that a large number of carts with shields be purchased and used by the troops by pushing them in front and protecting the men as they advanced on the Spaniards. This was one of the most absurd recommendations that he ever made. However, they were sufficient, and they are on record, and if the War Department should decide to make a strong case against Miles it has the papers to do so.

Root at First With Miles.
When Elihu Root came into the War Department in 1898 he thought, like a great many other people, that Miles had been badly treated. He wanted to give Miles a show. Just then there were a great many complaints about the management of affairs in the Philippines. Many people thought that Otis was not a big enough man for the place, although he was no doubt at that time the biggest man in the United States Army, and Root wanted Miles to go to the Philippines and take command.

Miles consulted some of his friends about it, and one in particular, who advised him by all means to go. He replied by saying that he thought it was a ruse of his enemies to get him out of the country, where he could not look after his interests, and that he would not go.

At the time that Root took hold of the War Department there were being organized the additional regiments of 25,000 volunteers to fight in the Philippine insurrection, and to relieve the troops of the states. Instead of going to the Philippines to take command of this army and the big regular Army that was already there, General Miles devoted himself to making recommendations regarding this organization, many of which were soon found by a practical man like Secretary Root to be absolutely without merit, and causing him to wonder why a man of Miles' experience would make such recommendations.

Before Miles would make any recommendation or talk about organizing a new army, he devoted nearly all his interviews with Secretary Root to a discussion of an act performed by Alger just before he went out of office.

Alger placed the Inspector-General under the direction of the Secretary of War instead of under the direction of the commanding General of the Army. Miles thought that this was a reflection upon him, and a blow at his dignity, and he made it his point to bring the matter to Root's attention on every conceivable occasion. Secretary Root finally reversed the order of Alger, but during the interim he had lost the high opinion he had of the commanding General when he took charge of the War Department.

FIGHT WITH FIRE

Ottawa, Canada, Sustains Heavy Loss.

HUNDREDS LOSE HOMES

Lumber Yards Soon Become a Glowing Mass.

BROKEN MAIN DELAYS WATER

Fire Is Believed to Have Been of Incendiary Origin, and Suspected Man Is Now in Charge of the Police of City.

Nearly 600 families lost their homes in a fire at Ottawa, Canada, that burned up an immense quantity of lumber.

The loss is estimated at \$600,000. Mayor Cook says an aid will be asked for outside of Canada.

OTTAWA, May 10.—A fire suspected of being of incendiary origin this afternoon and evening destroyed hundreds of houses and millions of feet of lumber in this city. John White, who had just been released from the penitentiary after serving a term for arson was caught near where the fire was first discovered. He was taken to the police station and will be charged with starting today's conflagration.

The fire originated within a stone's throw of where the great Hull fire of April 28, 1900, was checked. The Hull fire started on the opposite side of the river, and spread to the Ottawa side, destroying millions of dollars' worth of property. It burned out near where the Ottawa & Parry Sound Railway enters the western part of the city, and it was in the lumber yards near the railroad that today's fire originated.

Fireing in Industries.
An hour before the principal fire started two smaller blazes were discovered and quickly extinguished in the lumber yards near the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was 3:30 when the third was discovered. When the brigade arrived at the scene it was found that the water main had been damaged and no water could be obtained. When the brigade did get water the fire was utterly beyond its control. It swept along over the same ground that the former fire had done, the only difference being that it was going in the opposite direction.

The fire area was on the flats below a large cliff which extends from the Ottawa River into the corner of Margaret and Preston streets. At two or three points it came very near getting over the cliff, and had it done so nothing would have saved the city. At 9:30 o'clock tonight the fire was under control, having been confined to the following area:

The Ottawa & Parry Sound Railway on the south, Division street on the east, First avenue on the west, and the Richmond road on the north. From the Parry Sound road to the Richmond road is about one mile, and from First avenue to Division street is about one-quarter of a mile.

While these fires were burning severely among the lumber piles, all the brigades of the city had been summoned, but were forced to remain idle. For an hour not a drop of water was thrown into the flames. A stiff southwest wind was blowing, and by the time the water main had been repaired the lumber yards were a mass of glowing embers.

Then the Houses Burn.
From the lumber yards the flames spread to a group of frame houses on the outskirts of the city formerly known as Rochesterville, but not united to the city. Every house in the little settlement was destroyed. Another lumber yard in a thinly settled section northeast of Rochesterville was swept by the fire in an incredibly short time. This brought the fire to the more thickly settled sections.

After leaving the lumber piles the flames swept over Pine street, which runs east an street, down Willow, Poplar and Anderson, Eckles, Somerset, Spruce, Elm, Maple, Albert and on to the Richmond road, or, properly speaking, Wellington street, where it was stopped a short distance from the Canadian Pacific Railway depot. At 6 P. M. it was feared that the fire would get over the cliff, on the top of which is St. Jeanne Baptist Church.

A short distance back from the church is the residence of the late Hon. David Mills, from which the hearse was in readiness to move the remains of the distinguished Canadian, should the necessity arise. The firemen, however, succeeded in keeping back the flames.

Fifteen million feet of lumber, belonging principally to J. R. Booth, were destroyed, causing a loss of \$900,000. The buildings burned were principally dwellings and stores, most of which were built since the last great fire, and were mostly of brick. It is difficult to place the loss on these. There are nearly 600 families homeless. Mayor Cook says the city would oppose aid being asked from outside Canada.

The loss on buildings is estimated at \$200,000, making a total loss of \$600,000.

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Civil Service Commission's Statement

ON THREATENED CARRIER

Records Do Not Show He Is a Negro.

PATRONS OF ROUTE CONSULTED

No Protests Were Made—Special Agent Who Recommended Him Is a Citizen of the State of Tennessee—Good Examination.

Organ Makes Pastor Resign.

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