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Will Try Moral Influence Before Resorting to Arms.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Nothing more has been heard at the war department from the Philippine colony, and the situation is developing in the way expected.

The situation is deteriorating in the fact that according to the reports reaching us within the past few days, it is not to be expected that anything can be heard from Iloilo for at least a day or two at least, except in the very improbable event that the Americans could be informed of the efforts to make a landing and has been obliged to retreat straight to Manila.

It is said that General Otis is proceeding with more tact and less roughness in his dealings with the insurgents than appeared from an first inspection of the reports. His purpose appears to be to avoid such hasty recognition of the insurgents as might tend to embarrass the United States government hereafter, but at the same time to deal mildly with them so that they can be brought to see the rectitude of his intentions.

Therefore the officials of the opinion that there will be no actual hostilities between the forces sent against General Otis and his own, but that as the worst the latter will retire from the city without accepting or rejecting the American surrender terms until that has been broached from American, General Otis has taken to acquire acquaintance with the officials from the Philippines, though he now on his way from Manila en route to the south.

Although officials pronounced their strong belief that there was no serious trouble, the authorities have taken the precaution to relegate the chain of military portents to the command of General Otis in the Philippines.

Orders have been issued for the Twentieth regiment of infantry of P.C. Leavitt's to be in San Francisco by the 17th, in order to embark on the military transport being fixed out to sail for Manila on that day, if possible. The two sister infantry regiments which are under order to proceed to the Philippines by the Pacific route, the Thirteenth and Twenty-second, will follow as soon as transportation can possibly be secured for them.

Three other regiments are also under order to proceed to Manila by way of the Mediterranean and San Francisco. These are the Fourth, Twelfth, and Seventeenth regiments. They are not included in the orders for the trip to the new transports Mobile and Monitor, as according to present plans no conscription will they enter within the New York on the 18th. General Lews will accompany the troops, as has been the case before, after a conference respecting the administration of affairs in the Philippines.

Soracco, Or., Dec. 30.—Yesterday afternoon Mr. J. H. Johnson, the Secretary of the Erie and Keokuk Grain Company, was cut down by a sabre thrust which he could not recover. He was taken to the hospital immediately, and is said to be mortally wounded. The police believe that the murderer was a member of the company but no name has been given. The case is being investigated by the police.

The state of affairs in the Philippines is said to be quite serious, and the prospects of a peaceful settlement are not too bright.

RELIES EXPECTED TO RETIRE

At least 700,000 dollars have been received at the war department from the Philippines, and the situation is expected to improve.

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