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Camp Wikoff Will Soon be Abandoned.

Camp Wikoff, Sept. 3.—The president and secretary of war arrived at Camp Wikoff at 8-45.

Major General Wheeler and staff greeted Mr. McKinley, Secretary Alger and party on the station platform. Outside a thousand troops of the Third cavalry were drawn up and the converted yacht Ellen in the roadstead slowly boom ed forth the president's salute of 21 guns. General Wheeler met the president because General Shafter has a touch of fever and does not feel able to move from his cot.

General Wheeler arranged for the inspection party to go through the detention camp, past General Shafter's tent, where the president greeted the commander of the Santiago forces.

With the president, besides the secretary of war, were Vice President Hobart, Attorney General Griggs, Senator Proctor of Vermont, Brigadier General Egan, Brigadier General Ludington and Major Webb C. Hayes.

General Wheeler was surrounded by a number of his staff. The carriages, preceded by the cavalry, wound up the hill to General Wheeler's headquarters.

The president took a long view of the wide, treeless expanse, checked with regimental camps and hospitals, great parterres of canvas and stretches of grass.

After a two minutes wait the president drove through the detention camp to General Shafter's tent. The general was in full uniform, but his face was flushed with fever. He endeavored to rise from the chair in which he sat as the president entered the tent.

"Don't get up, general," said Mr. McKinley as they shook hands. "You are entitled to rest. How are you?"

"A little achy," replied the general, "but otherwise all right."

The president congratulated General Shafter on the Santiago campaign and after a few minutes rest proceeded to the general hospital. The soldiers recently arrived on the transports and detained in the detention camp lined up irregularly on each side of the road and cheered. Mr. McKinley took off his straw hat then and scarcely put it on for more than a minute or two at a time during the remainder of his progress through the camp. Miss Wheeler, daughter of the general, happened to be in the first row of the hospital tents and she showed the president through her division.

General Wheeler announced in each ward: "Boys, the president has come to see you," or "soldiers, the president of the United States."

Some of the soldiers slept unconscious, some listlessly raised upon their elbows, others feebly clapped their hands.

Mr. McKinley gently shook hands with many and at every cot he paused at instant, and if he saw the sick man looking at him he bowed in a direct and personal way.

He had many short talks with the men and seemed in no hurry. He almost outwore the patience of all his party by his slow going through ward after ward.

President McKinley was in camp but a few hours when he decided it was the best thing to get the troops away from Montauk Point as soon as possible. The volunteers will be sent home on furloughs and some of the regulars will be disposed of as follows:

- Third cavalry to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont and Jefferson barracks, Missouri.
- Sixth cavalry to Fort Myer, Va., and Fort Wadsworth, N. Y.
- Third infantry to Fort Snelling, Minn.
- Fourth infantry to Fort Sheridan, Ill.

Sixth infantry to Fort Thomas, Ky.

Ninth infantry to Madison barracks, N. Y.

Thirteenth infantry to Forts Columbia and Porter, N. Y.

Seventh infantry to Columbia barracks, O.

Twentieth infantry to Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Twenty-first infantry to Flatteburg barracks, N. Y.

Want Annexation.

Manila, Sept. 3.—A Hongkong delegation representing the southern, Philippines and consisting of the best and richest natives of Panny, Zamora, Cebu and Mindao, visited United States Consul Williams and urged that every effort be made for the annexation of the Philippine Islands. The deputation declared all classes of the warlike mountaineers as well as those engaged in mercantile pursuits, would welcome the Stars and Stripes.

They also said there are a thousand men armed with rifles near Holo ready to support the Americans. They refused to join the clamor for independence which they consider a mistake and unpractical.

The delegations propose to interview General Otis, the American commander, to appeal to President McKinley and confer with Aguinaldo's followers with a view of arranging for a combined movement to insist upon annexation. They also ask that insurgent regiments be enrolled in the American army with American officers and that the insurgent chiefs be given American appointments under General Otis. Aguinaldo remains at Dakoor. He recently wrote an impertinent letter to General Otis, which resulted in his receiving a sharp rebuff. The insurgent leader will probably render himself amenable to the American authorities.

Blue Bucket Mine Story Exploded.

In conversation with Mr. Arthur Horn, a substantial stock raiser and rancher of western Malheur county, and who, by the way, has had considerable experience in prospecting and mining, the Advocate man's former abiding faith in the story of the Blue Bucket diggings received a stunning blow.

Mr. Horn informs us that he had a cousin in that noted emigrant train that is reported to have discovered golden nuggets by the blue bucketfuls on their route through Oregon in an early day. This young man drove a wagon in that identical train during all its tortuous meandering, yet never once heard of the fabulous discovery of gold that has in later years caused so many thousands of believing prospectors to go on fruitless searches for elusive Blue Bucket gold fields.

The fact that this gentleman, who would be most likely to know about it, had such a rich discovery ever been made, lived a long and useful life in Oregon and never went back over the trail which he knew so well indicates that he placed no credence in the story of gold that has since become so widely circulated.

While we are aware that it is extremely unpopular to even suggest that the existence of the Blue Bucket diggings is a myth, yet the fact that it has so long successfully eluded the best posted prospectors would naturally give rise to a suspicion that a gilt-edge, gauzy night-horse dream had at some time been worked off on an unsuspecting and gullible public to the extent that many good dollars have been spent and will continue to be spent in search of something that never was.—Vale Advocate.

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