

TILLAMOOKERS IN MANILA.

A. J. Stillwell writer to the Old Folks at Home what he Saw in the Philippine Islands.

Private A. J. Stillwell, Co. H, 2nd Oregon Volunteers, writes home to the old folks and friends in Tillamook county as follows:

MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, Dec. 1st, 1898.—I arrived here well, safe and sound after a long and uneventful trip on November 21st. We were not taken ashore until the 24th, Thanksgiving day. The only thing we saw on our way from Honolulu here was the volcano, Fanelon de Pajaros, which was a very imposing sight. It is the most northern island of the Ladrone group. We sighted it about four in the morning, that was about two hours before daylight, so by daylight we were quite a way past it. We had to get up at four every morning to take a bath and as I went on deck I commenced to rubber neck as usual, and there, on our port bow was the volcano. It looks like a huge rock or cone, as well as I could make out, with fire and smoke boiling out at the top. There is no land or any indications of any in sight. It is simply a smoke stack or chimney for the immense subterranean furnace. The sight was quite pretty. The smoke was so hot when it first issues from the crater that it looks like a blaze after dark, then as it cools it forms a black cloud of smoke that floats away in the wind in a long black column. The size I could not make much of an estimate of, as I did not know how far we were from it. We may have been a mile or further, but it looked to me to be about twice the size of Tillamook rock.

Yes, we had another thing to remember; that was the death and burial of one of the crew on November 6th. It was rather a sad affair, but I guess he had as good a burial and as good a grave as one could ask. One thing sure he will have no saw-bones carving him up to aid science. This day we passed the 180th degree of longitude and jumped into tomorrow. You see on going west your watch gains so much time you have to skip a day to catch up.

On the morning of the 20th we sighted the Philippine islands. There was a pretty heavy sea with lots of rain and fog, so one could not tell much about the first islands you see. Soon after sighting the first you can see Luzon. We steamed along the north coast until noon, then we passed the North West Cape and turned south into the China Sea. There is a lighthouse on this Cape.

We had the best of weather all the way from San Francisco, with a nice cool breeze right astern of us all the way, keeping the air just pleasant on deck, if you were not dressed too warm. Of course it was very close and warm below. With the exception of the last two days, which were considered awful by most of the boys.

After entering the China Sea proper it was the roughest we had on the trip. In fact, I guess it is rougher there most of the time. They call their storms in these seas typhoons, so we had one the night we were in the China Sea. During the storm we got separated from the Valencian. I believe I forgot to say the Valencian is a transport steamer that accompanied us from Honolulu, carrying one battalion of the Washington volunteers. The name of our steamer was the Senator. The next morning after the storm our consort was no place in sight, so we pulled out and left her, getting here and anchored at eight o'clock, while she did not reach here until seven or eight the next morning. We were bothered all the way over waiting on her. Generally in the morning we could just see the tops of her masts astern of us; then we would run under slow bell nearly all day before she would catch up. If it had not been for her we would have reached port two or three days sooner. As it was, we left San Francisco on the 17th of October, reached Honolulu on the 25th. Sailed from Honolulu on the 1st of Nov., and reached Manila on the evening of the 21st, and, by the way, we were all vaccinated again the next day, the 22nd, and come ashore on the 24th of Nov. Manila bay is a fine body of water. The entrance is quite wide from the extreme sides, perhaps twenty miles, but there is a large island in the mouth that divides it. On this island there is a lighthouse and they say lots of guns, but I did not see any of the latter. When Dewey entered the harbor they say he went through the south channel, which is a great deal wider than the north. We came through the north channel.

On entering the bay one would think from the looks that he was going out into another ocean or sea, as you can't see anything but water. But looking from Manila towards the entrance you can see the mountains along the coast. When we came in it was about sun down, so before long it was dark. I guess we steamed along about an hour after entering the bay before we sighted the lights on the masts of vessels lying in front of Manila. You can see that this bay is no small affair.

All vessels of any considerable draught anchor in the bay and load and unload with lighters. Of course we came ashore in one. These affairs are strictly Philippine or Malay. They are made out of hewed logs neatly joined so they are perfectly light. For shape it would be hard to describe. They are higher in the bow

and stem than amid ship and roofed over with a heavy matting made of split bamboo, except on each end most of them have a sort of a house. You see the captain, crew and their families live on these vessels. Around the outside there is a lot of large bamboo. These bamboo serve the double purpose of a walk and an air tank or buoy. For size some of them are 100 feet long or more. Their canoes are made somewhat on the same plan, only some are very small. All their canoes have outriggers, on that is a pole across each end of the canoe lashed tight with rattan, and on the ends of these is a large bamboo pole lashed parallel. You see it is impossible to tip one over. Their paddles look like a big shovel.

We landed at the Pesig, just below the bridge. On going up the river you can see vessels of all ages and in all states of repair. Most of them though were old barkantines. Of course there is a good many fine steam launches and steamers here. Of the former the U. S. captured some fine ones. Another thing one notices on going up the river is the natives giving their water buffaloes their baths. These animals are used to do all the heavy draft work, so they seem to be very strong. They look a good deal like an ox, excepting their horns and hair. The horses here are very small, regular Shetland ponies in size, but not very stylish or pretty. They are used on the busses (or most of them are covered carts) and the street cars.

The city of Manila lies on both banks of the Pesig river. It is divided into two cities by a wall. The part of the city that is inside the walls is called Old Manila and it is properly named. I do not know when this city was built, but it must have been a long time ago. The style of architecture is certainly ancient. The streets are very narrow and the second story of nearly all the buildings are built over the street, about three feet, making the streets dismal affairs. One day there was some very fine buildings here. The inside is pretty well preserved, but the outside of all the buildings look old and weather beaten.

The churches are the most imposing, with the exception of the palace, or the Governor General's palace, which is a fine large building, the inside being marble. As for the churches they are very large and lots of them. The Spanish soldiers are quartered in the churches. But the greatest thing of all is the wall and the means they had of protecting the city from attack. I think it is absolutely safe as far as infantry is concerned. In most places the walls are double, with a moat or canal between and in front that can be filled with water at will. The wall itself is stone in front, with earth back of it, making a small mountain of it, beside the tops of the walls are covered with fine canon, some being very large. Back of the first wall next to the bay side there is mortar guns. I don't know how high the walls are, but I should think about thirty feet, then there being a canal at the foot makes it higher yet.

New Manila is mostly across the river. It is more modern in every respect than the walled city. The places of business, unless you get in China town, are large and very nice. There is a great many fine Chinese stores too, but these are not in China town. On going into China town you can see all kinds of filthy looking places. If you go into the alleys, which are very narrow, they smell like —. In fact every thing has a decided mildewed smell here. Perhaps it is not so all the year, but you see this is right in the dead of winter, which is the coldest season of the year here. These alleys are a fine place for one to run into the smallpox. There has been several deaths in our Regiment from this dreaded disease. But I hardly think there is very much danger for me from the looks of my arm, the effect of vaccination. It is so sore that I have not been able to write. It is my left arm that is sore, but it made me feverish. My head was all mush. I felt as though I was only about half awake all the time. I am feeling fine now, with the exception of my arm, which is pretty sore, keeping me from drilling or going on guard. I guess I am not much the looser. There is not near the sickness here there was in Camp Merritt, but I suppose when it gets hot there is a good deal of fever, as this is a rather swampy place, mostly on account of the moats around the walls, and the Pesig river itself is a dirty looking stream. Now it is a rather swift stream, but perhaps it is on account of the rains.

Don't you people kick about rain, because you don't know what rain is in Oregon, or even Tillamook itself is not in it. Of course the rains are warm, but they are decidedly wet. If one don't believe it all he has to do is to step out in the rain for just half a minute and if he is not as wet as though he had been laying in the bay, it don't rain here.

The heat here has not been at all oppressive since I have been here, although one prespires very easy. The atmosphere is very damp and heavy, yet one don't feel the heat very much.

Oh, yes; I want to tell the children about the monkeys here. There are lots of them. You can see them running around over the roofs of the barracks and climbing through the trees all the time. All the monkeys in town have been tamed. The wild ones are out in the hills. The other evening one of the boys caught one and brought it in the

house and put it on the floor. I held out my hands to it and it jumped into my arms, huddled up close to me like a little baby. When I patted it, it would cry; it wanted to go to sleep, so I gave it to one of the boys that had gone to bed and he took it in his arms and it slept all night with its head on his arm just like a child. The monkeys here are a pretty good size.

I guess the natives up in the hills are next to monkeys in their habits of living. Even here in the suburbs the children go naked. And lots of the kids wear nothing but a skirt, that is the Philippines. The Spanish here have more means, as about all the Spanish here that have families are officers. I have seen some very pretty Spanish women here, but the natives are too black and China eyed to suit me. They look like the American Indians, Chinese and I don't know what, all mixed. They are a very small race of people, that is small of stature. Nearly all are considerable smaller than myself, and you know I am no ocean, even though I do make lots of noise some times. It is reported this morning that our company is going to move across the river to the custom house. Our Captain says we will have fine quarters there. We are now in the barracks lately occupied by the Spanish. These barracks are inside the walled city and are occupied by our Regiment. Our Regiment guards the Spanish prisoners and act as police in Old Manila, while the 13th Minn. acts as police in New Manila. The barracks here are very comfortable, the best we have had since the date of our enlistment. The barracks are surrounded by a stone wall, on top of the wall there is a high iron picket fence. There are two gates leading into the court. The buildings are long structures one story, excepting the front ones, which are two stories high. These buildings each will accommodate two companies. They are arranged so there is an open court or parade ground in the center. There is a commodious bath room in one of the buildings, which is very necessary and quite an enjoyable affair. In a climate like this one has to bathe very often to keep clean and healthy.

Aginaldo's camp is about thirty miles from here back in the interior. He used to be camped at Cavite, which is about seven miles from here across an arm of the bay, but the Americans made him go further away. His headquarters were at Cavite while his army was around this city. He now has charge or control of the water supply of Manila; but if he was to shut off the water there is lots of rain, so there would be no danger of a water famine. The water here is all boiled before used.

There is a railroad running into the country 150 miles, I have been told, but I have not seen any signs of it, so can not tell what kind of a thing it is. This road runs by the insurgent camp.

I would like to take a trip out side of the city, but we are only allowed outside our quarters after five in the evening, and have to be in by 9:30, unless you have a pass and you can only get a pass from 8 to 10 in the morning, and 3 to 5 in the afternoon unless you have a pass countersigned by the colonel and half-a-dozen other officers, and it is very hard to get that.

Of course I do not know how long I will be here, but it looks as though I will have the fun of remaining in the service my two years. There is several boys from Tillamook here, they are all well except Hollie Orchard, who has been down with a fever. He is still in the hospital, but is around town and the barrack nearly every day. He thinks he will get a discharge and go home soon. Fred Stoddard, George Madans, Charlie Newman, and a fellow by the name of Olsen are all here and well.

Now I want all you folks to do some writing. Everybody write. I have not received a scratch of a pen from anybody since I left San Francisco and there has been steamers leaving there every few days since then.

This letter is for every Stillwell in Tillamook, and I want all of them to write to me.

But just you hold on here. I can't quit without saying something about the free silver proposition here. And if one of the soldiers goes back home and votes for that measure he ought to be shot.

When the Americans came here there was no gold at all. The money used was Spanish, Mexican, and a Spanish Philippine coin, all silver and copper. All our boys that had any of our money traded it off for Spanish or Mexican, they are the same here, at the rate of one of our dollars for \$2.26 of theirs. Their money fluctuates. At the present it is one American to \$2.03 Mexican. Our money is worth twice theirs in trade. If you had a \$20 gold piece and bought anything you would get Mexican money in change, which is very unhandy, as \$40 in silver is rather heavy in your pocket, and it will buy no more. You see one of our silver dollars is worth just as much as a gold dollar but theirs are not worth half so much. When silver bullion is cheap their dollars are cheap. They will take our silver the same as our gold, and will take it every time they get a chance, because it never changes its value while theirs does.

"I'm for expansion, every time."  
"On what grounds?"  
"Well, since my wife has been lugging Christmas presents home I have to keep my clothes out in the hall."

BILLS IN A NUTSHELL

State Legislators will Try Hard to Pass.

McCulloch has prepared a bill which will be introduced in the house this week for "an act to protect school districts against loss or damage of public school buildings and furniture by fire, and regulating the manner of assessing and paying such losses." Representative McCulloch says that after a careful investigation he finds that the school districts of the state pay out annually about \$18,000 in premiums, while the average loss by fire is only about \$2500.

Representative Young, of Clatsop county, the baby of the legislature and the joker of the house, will introduce a bill for the protection of clams. He says that, contrary to the general impression in the effete East, the supply of clams on the Oregon coast is getting less and less from year to year, due to the fact that ocean beach is more and more becoming a fashionable resort during the summer months. Clams do not like to be in the vortex of fashion. They may come in at high tide and be perfectly happy until the visitor takes them into his midst. Then the supply of clams is diminished. It has been a matter of some importance to ascertain just what is the best open season for clams. As the matter stands all season are open for the unhappy clam. Nobody respects his breeding time, when the giddy whirl of fashion forsakes the coast, the clam is left to the voracious depredators who occupy unbidden the summer cottages. He is taken by the sackful into market and made merchandise of at all seasons. He is stewed into soup and chopped into minced clam and made to tickle the palates of thousands who do not appreciate the effort it costs nature to keep up the supply.

Representative Reeder, of Umatilla county, has prepared a bill to proscribe the duties and compensation of county surveyors in establishing boundary lines and corners, and in the construction of county roads, bridges and public works. Among the duties it is specified that the county surveyor shall procure official copies of such plats and field notes of the original surveys as he may deem necessary of the United States of the lands in his county not already procured, and shall have the same substantially bound in book form and keep them in his office for the convenience of the public. The county shall pay the bill.

There has been issued at Salem and placed in the hands of members of the legislature and influential people generally throughout the state, a circular addressed to the legislative assembly asking that the medical laws of Oregon be amended so as to give graduates of schools, other than the three schools recognized under the law, the same rights and privileges as are now enjoyed by the allopaths, homeopaths and eclectics. A bill covering this same ground was introduced at the special session, but for some reason it made little headway in approaching its third reading. The new bill works no undue hardships upon graduates from any recognized medical college or of any particular school.

Senator Reed, of Douglas county, says he is preparing a bill to authorize the payment of a bounty for every animal raised on the farm. He also says he has not yet determined whether it would be better to yoke it up with the sugar beet bounty bill or with Young's bill to protect clams, but he wants it to be known as a measure in the interest of farmers.

Senator Brownell will introduce a bill requiring road supervisors to be elected by the people. At the January term of the county court in each county, there is no end of strife over the appointment of road supervisors. This bill will make it the duty of the county court, at the beginning of the January, 1900, term, to give the voting precincts and road districts the same boundaries and provide for the election of road supervisors at the following June election in each district. It is claimed that the residents of each locality are more capable of judging of the qualification of a candidate for road supervisor than the county judge in many instances, and the court would be relieved from a thankless task.

The dozen legislators who went to La-Grand to inspect the beet-sugar plant are convinced of the advisability of providing a state bounty for the production of beets. The party was shown through the factory, and the sugar chemist explained all the details of getting the sugar from the beets and preparing it for market. Representative McAlister, of Union county, says the proposed bounty on sugar beets would be a good investment for Oregon as it would stimulate the production of beets in various parts of the state, as well as in his own locality. Farmers in Union county who raised sugar beets last year for the La Grande factory all lost money, he says, but they would make the industry self-supporting and finally profitable if the legislature would come to their assistance with a bonus of \$1 a ton. Mr. McAlister himself raised 40 acres of beets at a loss of \$750, and the farmers who experimented with them, it is said, are out in the aggregate \$40,000. He feels assured, however, that with continued cultivation and better knowledge of their growth, the product could be more than tripled per acre within four years.

The snipe, which, unlike the clam, is not happy at high water, also appears to the sympathies of Representative Young. When the water is high the snipe gets upon a board or log by the side of the river, and, being unable to swim, falls an easy victim to the murderous pothunter who kills the gentle snipe a score at a time. Mr. Young's bill will frown on this proceeding and provide pains and penalties for killing snipe at the season of high water.

Senator Porter, of Clackamas and Marion, is chairman of a special joint committee appointed at the special session "to investigate the question of the cost of schoolbooks to the state." No sittings of the committee have been held, but considerable inquiry has been made as to the cost of school books in other states, and the data obtained will be submitted for consideration of the committee as a whole early in the session, and a report will be made according to the instruction of the resolution under which the committee was appointed. There is likely to be considerable variance between the recommendations of this committee and the Daly committee as to the school-book question.

Since the first draft of Senator Daly's bill to change the manner of selecting text-books was printed, a change has been made in it that is expected to do away with some of the opposition that has been manifested against it. The stringent provision that the governor's appointees should be in no wise officially connected with the public school system of the state has been removed, and the matter of qualification is left entirely to the judgment of the governor. A number of people who were in favor of a change from the present system did not think that persons connected with the schools or colleges of the state should be entirely excluded from a board to select textbooks to be used in the schools. Many of them argue that only school teachers would be qualified to decide such a matter, though the same people would not be willing to have the state legislature composed entirely of lawyers. Representative Fordney, of Wallowa county, is in favor of making the circuit judges of the state a board to select the text books for the public schools. He says that plan would take it out of politics and place it in hands competent to deal with it and beyond the reach of improper influences.

Stillman of Umatilla has two matters in hand to present to the legislature in due time. One is a bill to provide for suppressing the Russian thistle, which has obtained a footing in the northeastern part of the state. His plan is to make destruction of the thistle a charge upon the land. He also has in mind a maximum freight-rate bill, but is not certain that he will be able to get it before the legislature at this session.

One of the Clackamas county senators, Brownell or Porter, will introduce a bill to abolish the office of district attorney and to provide in its stead the office of county attorney. As matters now stand the district attorney has a deputy in every county in his district, and he himself follows the court around the circuit. It is argued that the county attorney plan would give better satisfaction in the administration of justice, and that it would tend to reduce the expense of prosecuting criminals, for each county attorney, being directly accountable to the voters of his county, would strive to make the criminal court expenses as light as possible. To make the matter doubly sure, however, it is proposed that each county attorney shall be on salary, and draw no fees or perquisites whatever. Each county delegation will fix the sum to be paid its own county attorney, as has been done in the cases of other county officers.

Senator Brownell has a bill which will amend section 2718, which provides that the board of state school land commissioners shall loan the school fund money at 8 per cent per annum. This amendment will provide that this money be loaned at a rate not to exceed 8 per cent, or less than 6 per cent. State Treasurer Metchers informs the senator that there is now \$400,000 locked up in the state treasury that should be loaned to the farmers on good mortgage security; and the reason that it cannot be loaned is that outside loaning companies are putting out money at 7 per cent.

GLENORA.

The snow is eight inches deep on the level here, and getting deeper.

Our school is progressing finely under the management of Miss Ross. Although rather late in the day, we would like to speak of the beautiful Christmas tree which was prepared for the children here by their kind teacher. The children smiled and sang well, and then Sam Smith came in disguised as Santa Claus and a jolly old saint was he too. The children were more than delighted with their presents and the parents enjoyed seeing their children's happiness. All join in thanking Miss Ross for the beautiful tree and good time she prepared for the children.

The mail carrier reports two feet of snow on the summit.

Mrs. F. B. Herrington and family have been visiting at Mr. W. J. Smith's for several days the past week.

LAST MAN ON THE MAINE.

Capt. Sigbee Requested His Officers to Precede Him Off the Wrecked Ship.

Capt. Charles D. Sigbee in his "Personal Narrative of the Maine" in the Century, speaking of the scene following the explosion, says:

"It was a hard blow to be obliged to leave the Maine; none of us desired to leave while any part of her poop remained above water. We waited until satisfied that she was resting on the bottom of the harbor. Lieut. Commander Wainwright then whispered to me that he thought the forward ten-inch magazine had been blown up into the burning material amidship and might explode at any time, with further disastrous effects. He was then directed to get everybody into the boats, which was done. It was an easy operation; one had only to step directly from the deck into the boat. There was still some delay to make sure that the ship's stern had grounded, and still more because of the extreme politeness of the officers, who considerately offered me a steady hand to step into the boat, Lieut. Commander Wainwright stood on one side and Lieut. Holman on the other; each offered me a hand. I suggested the propriety of my being the last to leave, and requested them to precede me, which they did. There was favorable comment later in the press because I left last. It is a fact that I was the last to leave, which was only proper; that is to say, it would have been improper otherwise; but virtually all left last. The fine conduct of those who came under my observation that night was conspicuous and touching. The heroism of the wounded men I did not see at the time, but afterward good reports of their behavior were very common. The patient way in which they bore themselves left no doubt that they added new honors to the service when the Maine went down."

SPANISH SOLDIERS.

Their Return to Spain Will Sorely Embarrass the Nation and Hasten a Crisis.

"A Spaniard" in the Fortnightly Review says: The loss of our (Spanish) colonies means the absolute disappearance of all industry and commerce which the inhabitants of those islands were forced to support. Factories, workshops, magazines—all must be closed, and thousands upon thousands of operatives turned adrift on the world, homeless and helpless. A hundred thousand soldiers will come home to swell their ranks, sickly, mutilated men, no longer needed to fight their country's battles, and no longer able to carry on the struggle for existence under the ruins of the old order of things. The greater number of 30,000 military officers will be deprived of their command and placed on the reserve list, where the pay is such that a captain, who generally has a wife and family to support, receives about 2s 4d a day. Agriculture, which is dying out, cannot support these legions of famishing men, women and children, nor are soldiers the kind of people who take kindly to the hard, humdrum life of the fields. When these multitudes have felt the pinch of hunger, and see themselves thrown back upon the laws of nature to keep themselves and their loved ones from dying, then the internal crisis will have begun in very truth, and the tocsin of the revolution will have sounded. In that day the army will decide, by its attitude, whether Carlists or republicans shall triumph.

NURSES IN INDIA.

Rules Which Govern Them Are Very Stringent and Confine Them Closely.

Judged by the standards which seem to prevail in British India, the Philadelphia nurse—in spite of her increased duties now that so many sick soldiers are under her care—must have an easy time of it, says the Philadelphia Press. Let her, at all events, read and take comfort from these rules just promulgated for the benefit of the "Nursing Sisters" engaged in tending plague patients in Calcutta:

"Sisters must be in to dinners every night, and must not leave the premises after dinner, except with the leave of the lady doctor. Such leave will not be granted more than once a week. \* \* \* The address at which the sister will be must be given to the lady doctor. Sisters going out driving are required to let the lady doctor know their destination and their escort (if any), and she is at liberty to modify the arrangements made if she shall deem it necessary. Visitors to the sisters must send in their card to the lady doctor. Sisters to be in bed by 11 p. m. Visitors may be invited to afternoon tea with the consent of the lady doctor. Ladies may occasionally be invited to other meals (with the consent of the lady doctor) at the expense of the person who invites them."

This supreme "lady doctor" corresponds to our head nurse, and sways a rule which extends to the very servants of the nurses under her.

Black-and-Tan Tigers.

Glance at your family cat or your fox terrier, or the cows in the field. All their markings, and those of nearly all domesticated animals are mottled and totally irregular. This is the curious result of domestication. Wild animals are, as a rule, marked with beautiful regularity. Look at the stripes of the tiger, the spots of the leopard, the absolutely even streaks on the zebra's coat, and a dozen other similar instances. There is very little doubt that all these animals' colors could be changed if they were tamed by man and kept in captivity for a few generations. Fancy a black-and-tan tiger, or a leopard with the irregular markings of a tortoise-shell cat.