

## SOME REMARKABLE WEAPONS OF WARFARE

Used in Many of the Most Celebrated Battles—Some Missiles Molded from Precious Metals, while Others Contained Gems of Value in the Center—Yaqui Indians, Who Sent Out an Advance Force, Protected by Wet Blankets.

In these days of Maxims and quick-firing rifles, when, as at Modder river, a million bullets are fired in a single engagement, the game of war is sufficiently costly without the extravagance of bullets molded from precious metals, or carrying precious stones in their center; and yet, in older times, small mines of gold and silver have been shot away from pistols and flintlocks.

### SILVER BULLETS.

When the civil war was raging in England, and Cromwell seemed to bear a charmed life, thousands of bullets were molded in silver in the hope of laying the future protector low; for, to the superstitious, a silver bullet brings death far more certainly than one of baser metal. Thousands of bullets of lead failed to touch the gallant Claverhouse; and when at last his brave heart was stilled at Killcraunkie it was by a silver bullet which, so the legend says, was imbedded in it.

### "THE LITTLE CORPORAL."

When, too, in 1796, the Great Napoleon led his armies into Italy "to find honor and fame, and wealth," the very silver from the altars of Italian churches was coined into bullets, and carried death to thousands of Austrians and Sardinians. When the Princess Conde and her troops were shut in Amadanger and surrounded by Akbar's army, she resisted gallantly until the last cannon ball and bullet had been fired, and then used every ounce of gold and silver in her capital to feed her guns, inscribing on each bullet a malediction to hurl at the enemy.

### SOLID GOLD DEATH MESSENGERS.

In the early days of mining in Mexico, California and Ballarat, when men's pockets were stuffed with gold dust, and every man carried a loaded revolver, it was a common thing to make the bullets of solid gold, and many a miner has gone to his grave with a gold bullet in his heart through being indiscreet enough to take part in a tavern brawl. It would tax human ingenuity to discover any metal of which bullets have not been made at one time or another. They have been fashioned in iron and aluminum, copper and brass, silver and gold. They have been steeped in deadly poisons, filled with acids and explosives of every kind, and made heavy with mercury. And these metals have by no means always been used in conventional bullet form. When Badajos was stormed in the Peninsular war, a British colonel was shot through the heart with a silver pencil case; and quite recently, when a backwoods storekeeper shot a neighbor in a fit of anger, a one-fourth ounce brass

weight was found for a bullet in the man's body.

### COSTLY STONES FOR AMMUNITION

Even costly stones have been used as ammunition in more than one war, notably on the Indian frontier. When Englishmen were fighting some years ago in Kashmir many of them were wounded or killed with leaden bullets which carried garnets at their core. The conventional sword and bayonet have had many rough substitutes in war. In the English civil war hundreds of rustics pitched to battle carrying scythes, pruning hooks, flails, pick axes and blacksmiths' hammers; and in the present war it is said that some of the enterprising Boers improvised payonets out of broom-handles and swords or daggers.

### FEET AND FISTS ONLY.

At least one regiment has gone into a fierce action armed with nothing more deadly than feet and fists, and what is more remarkable, came out of it almost unscathed. It was in the civil war in this country, when the Federal movement from Nashville brought on the sanguinary fight of Murfreesboro. A Mississippi regiment, which had been isolated from the camp through an attack of measles, had given up their weapons to arm the shops of recruits who were pouring in. When they were ordered into position for the battle they were absolutely unarmed, and when the order came to "charge" they rushed at the enemy with "shouts and fists." So gallantly did they acquit themselves that, when the battle was over, nearly every man in the regiment was found in possession of weapons which he had wrested from the enemy or borrowed from a fallen friend.

### USING CANNON BALLS SECOND-HANDED.

During the battle of Benis Heights, when an American force under Gates defeated the British troops, it is said that, when batteries ran out of ammunition, they collected some of the enemy's cannon balls and sent them back on the return journey, and it is well known that it was with red-hot shot that the sturdy garrison of Gibraltar destroyed the "invincible" double-batteries of Spain in September, 1782.

### ROUTED BY WET BLANKETS.

Once at least the domestic blanket has decided the issue of a battle and led to the complete rout of an army. It was a generation ago, when the Yaqui Indians arose in rebellion against the government of Mexico, and the rebels were at last brought face to face with the Mexican army. When the Indians advanced to the attack they sent in advance a covering line of men carrying a billiard of wet blankets. The Yaqui Indians tried to destroy this barrier with their bullets; but a single blanket was penetrated, and when the Indians were sufficiently near they emerged from their shelter, and, dashing at the Mexicans, put them to ignominious flight.—The Cincinnati Enquirer.

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## A DELICATE MISSION.

How King's Physician Appraised Him of Approaching Death.

There died in Italy the other day of the grip one of the most eminent medical men of the nation. Prof. Lorenzo Bruno, who had lived until next year, would have been 80 years old. His father before him was a widely known practitioner. At the age of 35 his son was a surgeon in the field in the campaign against Austria in 1859, and he attracted the favorable attention of King Victor Emmanuel, who a few years later attached Bruno to the royal person. Early in the winter of 1878 the king fell ill of pneumonia, and when medicine no longer was of avail Bruno was selected to convey to the king the tidings he had only a few hours to live.

"Sire," said Bruno, "the mention of danger to a prince of the house of Savoy entails no embarrassment, for danger is his métier. All your majesty's forefathers have, when their lives were in the balance, been willing to approach their God. I am sure this is your majesty's desire." For a moment a cloud seemed to rest on the king's countenance, and he asked, "Am I then so ill?"

Bruno replied, "We have not given up all hope, but it is always well to make every preparation."

The king then raised his hand to his forehead and said, "Very well; send for Anzino" (the court chaplain and almoner). Monsignor Anzino came from an adjoining room, received his majesty's commission, and at its close saw the king put his arms around Bruno's neck, with the words, "I know you have always wished me well, but now I understand that you are my true friend."

Having known from Bruno that the king was sinking fast Anzino drove off to the church of St. Vincenzo de' Altissimi for the vicar, and hastily enclosed it in a case which he concealed in his vestments. Arrived at the Quirinal he made haste to collect some candles and, having chandeliers in an antechamber, and, having distributed them among those present, improvised in this manner a suitable accompaniment to the "Santissimo." His majesty then partook of the holy eucharist, whereupon all the court, according to the usage of the house of Savoy, passed one by one before the dying king, who, having raised himself in bed, fixed upon each a glance of his still lustrous eyes, after which he fell back on the pillow and in a few minutes expired.—New York Press.

## FOREST CONDITIONS OF CUBA.

Observations of a Tourist Through the Island During the Past Month.

Cuba is much larger than Americans ordinarily suppose. After steaming at a fairly rapid rate for forty-eight hours along its southern shore and riding in the cars for ten hours from Cienfuegos to Havana one begins to appreciate its size and diversity, deprecate the fact that idleness has been forced upon its fertile soil, and wonder at its possibilities, which are indeed limitless.

Now that the health and peace of the island are assured, it is the proper time to consider its possibilities from an agricultural and forest standpoint. I have been especially interested in its forest conditions in crossing the island from Cienfuegos, in coasting along the south shore of the island and in short excursions from Havana and from Santiago. I have been surprised to find so much of this island bare. Even in the mountainous districts the forest appeared to me sparse and thin. Immense areas have been cleared in times past for cane and tobacco plantations, and almost everywhere on uncultivated land fires have been set to improve the pasture. Cuba has always been a great cattle country and this no doubt, at least in part, accounts for the lack of luxuriant forests in comparison with Jamaica and other tropical districts.

Owing to the lack of proper means of communication there is a lack of wood in certain districts, especially the central portion. Wood and charcoal are in great demand for fuel; fence material is scarce; and even small poles, which are extensively used in drying tobacco in the field, are expensive.

The planting of forests in Cuba would pay as well, I believe, as elsewhere on the western continent. Communication from one part of the island to another is so bad, however, that the forest resources of large districts are at present unavailable and will be for some time to come. One often hears the statement, in a half-joking way, that in going from Santiago to Havana it is about as easy to go via New York as it is via Cienfuegos.

In coasting along the island one sees many fires, usually set to improve the pasture. In other cases there are charcoal fires, and again burning cane-fields, I was told by a sugar planter here that cane-fields ignite spontaneously when very dry and dense from the friction of their leaves in the hot tropical sun.

Charcoal is the fuel par excellence for tropical peoples. It emits no disagreeable smoke or gases and little heat, and can be used in braziers or small pots. The use of charcoal does not necessitate the purchase of a stove or the construction of a chimney. The establishment of plantations of some quick-growing species of tree for the production of charcoal would doubtless pay. For this purpose the Eucalyptus would be excellent. It is quite likely that the exportation of charcoal to Cuba from our Gulf coast would be profitable, the main hindrance being its bulkiness and the difficulty in transporting it.

Chestnut and locust, in my opinion, would grow well in Cuba. It is peculiar that northern plants, such as Irish potatoes and other vegetables, grow well here by the side of bananas, pineapples and other tropical plants. What is needed is good fence material, which can be sold in small sizes to good advantage. There will probably be an increasing demand for fence material, especially posts. The fences as they exist today

consist almost wholly of barbed wire, propped up with all kinds of sticks and patched up with hedges of many kinds. Logwood (Hæmatoxylum campechianum) forms a strong and durable fence, but must be kept well pruned. The heartwood and roots of this tree are shipped in immense quantities to the United States from Central America and Mexico. It yields a dye which is used for many purposes.

Considerable Cedar, Mahogany and Lignum Vitæ has been shipped from Cuba. The trees are usually far apart and are naturally becoming scarcer every year and the time is not far distant when their exportation will cease. The true West Indian cedar is not a cedar as we know it. The word "cedar" is an indefinite term applied almost to any tree which produces an aromatic wood—in fact we have no true cedar in the United States. The true cedar, in the strictest sense of the term is the cedar of Lebanon and its near relatives, Decidua and Atlas cedars. Both the West Indian cedar and the true mahogany belong to the order Meliaceæ, which is a group of broad-leaved trees. Trees of this order grow very rapidly and produce a quality of wood which has no equal. I hope for the time when these woods may be systematically planted in Cuba. The scientific name of the West Indian cedar is Cedrela odorata, and of the mahogany, Swietenia mahagoni. In Jamaica the West Indian cedar is dotted over pastures and along water courses. It grows to a large size and produces a handsome, durable wood, which has been extensively used for furniture, shingles, cigar boxes and ornamental work. It resembles mahogany, but is claimed that cigars packed in boxes of this wood retain their good flavor or are actually improved by imbibing the aroma of the wood. If this is so, however, it seems strange that they should line the box with paper.

True mahogany was once no doubt abundant in Cuba, judging from the large number of structures which contain wood of this kind.

Lignum Vitæ (Guaiacum officinale) is still quite abundant in the mountainous districts of Cuba, judging from the dark green foliage which, in the distance, appeared to me to be this tree. It is exported in considerable quantities, and is extensively used in the manufacture of pulleys, blocks, mallets, balls, etc.

The frontispiece of this issue of the Forester shows the nature of the forest of western Cuba. The most interesting feature of this picture is the Pine. This is Pinus heterophylla, or the Cuban Pine, which extends southward from our Gulf coast into Cuba and Central America. From this tree the Isle of Pines derives its name. I have been told the same is true of Pinar del Rio. I have heard that the pines on the Isle of Pines are small in diameter and of little use for timber, although on the mainland and in Central America fine specimens of this species may be seen. This pine is scattered throughout the Bahamas, and was formerly there known as pinus bahamensis.

Since writing the article for The Forester on the planting of the Eucalyptus in our tropical possessions for the purpose of preventing malaria, I am now more than ever convinced that in many districts it would do an immense amount of good, not only to improve the health conditions and beauty of the island but to supply in a very short time a much-needed material for fuel, fences, etc.

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In the tropics nurse trees are necessary for the production of certain crops. Chocolate, for instance, demands protection and shade. Grass grows well in the shade of trees, in fact, even on plantations not concerned in the production of wood, trees are invaluable in tempering the fierceness of the tropical sun. In fact there are many tropical products which can be grown only in the shade. It seems to me, therefore, that the vast pasture lands of Cuba might be profitably planted in Eucalyptus trees with benefit to the grass and the cattle. The Eucalyptus throws very little shade anyway, owing to the fact that its leaves hang edge to the sun. I have noticed three young Eucalyptus trees in the suburbs of this city.

The glory of Cuba is the royal palm. It is everywhere abundant—scattered in fields, along water courses, fringing plantations or forming majestic avenues in the suburbs of this city.

The bullet holes in the trunks of these palms are evidence enough of the struggles which have occurred in this unfortunate island. Here and there may be seen long beautiful avenues of this tree which seem to have led at one time to the doorway of some plantation house which now no longer exists. The houses of the natives are usually constructed of the leaves of this tree. Without the royal palm the natives would be in dire straits for building material. It forms a cool house which, although not beautiful in appearance, is suited to the peculiar existing conditions. The nuts of this tree, which form in large bunches just below the crown, are said to be excellent for feeding swine. Nothing is more characteristic of Cuba than this palm, the representation of which may be seen on the Cuban two-centavo stamp.

A very common and beautiful tree in the tropics is the mango. Of all fruits none is relished more by the natives. It is at the same time a magnificent shade tree.

The most common shade trees in the streets of Cuban cities are the Spanish laurel, beefwood, Ficus indica, West Indian almond and the Sand-box tree. It is a native of Australia and the East Indies. Its wood is hard and heavy. It is sometimes called the Toa-tree. Ficus indica is the sacred Bo-tree of India. Although not as tall and straight, it reminds one of a poplar. It has a leaf similar to the cottonwood. The West Indian almond is not an almond at all. It

is Terminalia catappa. The sand-box tree is Hura crepitans. It is called the sand-box tree because the vessel which contains its seeds was used in early times to hold sand for blotting purposes. It is also called the "monkey-dinner-bell," because the fruit explodes with a loud report scattering the seeds and thereby attracting the monkeys of the forest.

Dotted everywhere over the island are magnificent ceiba, or silk cotton trees. This tree grows to immense size and is supported by large, twisted, far-reaching buttresses. Its wood is usually almost useless and the tree is usually festooned with masses of epiphytic plants which cling to its soft bark. It was under a giant ceiba tree, now known as the "surrender-tree," not far from San Juan hill, that the Spanish general surrendered his sword. Its buttresses have been mutilated by souvenir hunters, but is now protected by a barbed-wire fence.

Cuba has an excellent climate and a fertile soil. Her northern shore is the coolest and most delightful part of the island. Within sixty or seventy hours of New York it should be and no doubt will be, in time, the Riviera of America. The island has been in an unhealthy condition, but the climate is one in which the white race can live at least the major part of the year in perfect health.

The soil of Cuba is of such a nature that everything can be raised easily and in abundance. Its beauty and quaintness is equal to that of southern Spain and Morocco. There is room for millions of people. It is in need of energetic gardeners and fruit-growers. It needs orchards and forests. I have no doubts but that olives, grapes, English walnuts, oranges, pines, chocolate and hundreds of other fruits may be easily grown there. What is needed in Cuba is an experimental station and a botanical garden—such as exist in Jamaica, where plants of all kinds from everywhere may be tested—because in this line Cuba is capable of almost limitless possibilities. It would be an excellent place for Northern students to go for study just as Europeans go to Buitenzorg in Java. In fact the Tropics are biological headquarters, where everything is intense, where plant physiology, the basis of forestry, agriculture and horticulture, may be studied to the best advantage.—John Gifford, in the Forester.

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