

A Visit to a Manila Sawmill--Churches, Hotels and Houses Floored With Mahogany-Woods Which Will Not Sink and Some So Hard That They are Used as Nails-The White Ants Which Eat Wood and How They Destroyed the Alcohol of Our Hospitals-Filipino Pine and Cedar-How the Wood is Taken Out-What the Soldiers Say About Gold in the Mountain Streams-A Rosary of Nuggets-Something About a Luzon Mine Which Once Produced \$20.-000 Worth of Gold Weekly-How the Natives Mine and Some Points for American Prospectors.

legs of a chair, leaving little more than the paint, so that when you sit down you that the legs go to dust and your-self on the floor. They will eat cloth-ing and pasteboard cartridge wraptimes, and it is even said they some-times scratch iron. It may be for this reason that in buildings and furniture the hardwoods only are used here.

## PINE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

I have seen it often stated that there is no pine in the Philippines. Capt. Batchelor, who has lately returned from a march of about three hundred miles through the Cagayan valley and the mountains slong it, tells me this is not so. The captain is a North Carolina man, and he knows a pine when he sees one. He says he marched for days through pine forests, using pine knots to make torches for his men when they camped at night. He tells me the trees are large, and as full of resin as the turpentine pine trees of the south Atlantic coast.

There is also a soft cedar wood here like that we use for cigar boxes. It is cut from logs from thirty to forty feet houses when they are not made of hard long and almost a yard square. An-other wood is called bullet wood, be-cause it is as hard as a bullet; it is so Not hard that it can be driven right through ordinary wood, and for this reason it sometimes takes the place of nails. It is largely employed in the making of boats at Manila and also in house building. Then there are the Sapan woods, which when cut into pieces and boiled furnish a bright red dye; the Acle wood, which will resist fire a long time, and the Aranga, which fur-nishes logs two feet square and seventy-five feet long. This wood will with-stand the attacks of the sea worms, and is therefore valuable for wharves, piles and ship building. In addition to these there are many

other varieties of timber which might be sold at a profit in the Disted States. One of the marked characteristics of the forests is their many large trees, trees which furnish logs from fifty to seventy-five feet in length and from two feet and upward in thickness. I have seen mahogany tables six feet wide and twelve feet in length, the tops being made of one board, and have walked over great teak wood logs in crossing a canal on a stream

I have asked several people why these forests have not been exploited by the Spaniards, and have been told that one reason was that the Spanish government exacted a special permission to cut timber and another was the heavy taxes which were imposed. The question of getting labor to cut the trees and haul the logs out has been a serious one, and one which re-quires considerable capital. The la bor used has been almost entirely Filipino labor, which is very uncertain. The men will stop work on the slightest pretext, and it is only by get-ting them into a sort of debt slavery or peonage that steady work can be secured. There are but few roads and no railroads. The only beasts of value are the water buffaloes, which are the freight cars and lumber haulers of the islands. Much of the timber lies near the sea, and now that Uncle Sam has the islands measures will probably be undertaken to get it out. I am told that the best of the forests are in the southern islands, and that a great part of Mindanao is vast woods made up of valuable virgin forest trees.

GOLD IN THE PHILIPPINES. There is no doubt that gold exists all over the Philippines, but whether it is in paying quantities remains for the prospector to settle. I have reports every day of the existence of small placer deposits and of streams the beds of which when washed show color. The most of the stories are from the It is stated that Admiral Dewey who is at present in the South, will, in the early summer, go to Rome. Mrs. Dewey, it may be remembered, is a the early summer, go to Rome. Mrs. Dewey, it may be remembered, is a troops who have been in the mountain-Catholic, and it is said that a special audience with the pope has already been ous districts—districts which are inhabited chiefly by savages and some of which have not been accessible to shed Ameriseldom goes five miles beyond it. head-hunting natives have to some tent kept the Spaniards out of coster visited if he was told by the na-tives that they could take him to a place where there was so much gob that it would dazzle his eyes, but h the mountains, so that the country is to a large extent unexplored.

many placer deposits. When Dean Wor

does not say that he accepted their of

MINES WHICH PRODUCE \$20.600 WORTH OF GOLD A WEEK.

There are mines in Luzon which have produced considerable gold in the past The Spanish government kept records

The spanish government kept records of their mining operations, and for a long time a certain percentage of al. the gold mined went to the king of Spain. According to the records, so I am told, the mines at Mambulo onco

cessful. It is said, in fact, this of the attempts by foreigners

ing in the Philippines have paid

man, who was one of the best ties, estimates that \$1,300,000 ha

That there is gold in many however, there is no doubt. W Spaniards first took possession islands after the discovery h

nand Magellan they sent how

quantities of it in the shape of bracelets, chains and ornaments, of their ships were captured i Francis Drake, and the booty w

great, it is said, that Drake fitted out his vessel with sliken sails and slik ropes and thus sailed into London.

HOW THE NATIVES MINE.

The mining now being done by the natives is of the rudest character. They

use wooden bowls to wash the gold from the gravel. They pound the larger pieces of gold-bearing rock to

pieces on anvils and then grind then

to dust between millstones, the sta

being pulled around by water buffaloes In the faw mines of Luzon the wate

is taken out by hand by the natives

who pass it up from one to another in buckets of paim leaves. Each bucket holds about two gallons, and it takes

hundreds of natives to make the human

POINTS FOR AMERICAN PROS.

PECTORS.

I hesitate to advise Americans to come out here to prospect. As far as

present indications go it is all a gam-

ble and the man who comes risks every.

thing. The field may, however, soon de, velop into one of great possibilities, Just now nothing in the interior can be

will be able to go almost anywhere both against the savages and the la-

drones or Filipino bandits. They will find the climate of the mountains

in the winter at least a delightful one

OTHER MINERALS.

I am not yet prepared to write of the

healthful and bracing, and the co

for traveling and prospecting.

chain which thus drains a mine.

spent in vain experiments of on

and another, and that so far nothis has been made.

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visited it he was told by the an

A few weeks ago General Grant led his regiments across the mountains northeast of Luzon into the province of Zimbales. The men tell me their way was through the woods and across streams which bore good indications of carrying gold. At one place Captain Pardie and some other officers washed a double handful of gravel and in it found five flakes of gold. In most of the beds of the streams color was found, but nowhere were there any signs of quartz deposits.

I am told, the mines at Mambulo unce produced weekly as much as 1,60 ounces. This at the rate or \$20 ar ounce, would be \$20,000 worth of gold per week. These mines were worked by the Indians before the Spaniardi and by an English syndicate. I under, stand the English syndicate. I under, stand the English could not set the ma-tives to co-operate with them and that their mining was for this reason unsue-cessful. It is said, in fact, that were About two hundred miles by sea north of Manila is a port called Vigan. There are now soldiers there, and expeditions have been recently made into the moun-tains at the east. In this region gold is also to be seen in the hands of the natives. They wash it, it is said, out of the beds of creeks and trade the dust and little nuggets to the Chinese, who give them about \$35 Mexican an ounce. I have heard it said that the Chinese are able in places to exchange silver for gold at the same weight, but this like many of the stories told here, is moblike ably without foundation.

HOW THE SAVAGES SELL GOLD.

It is impossible for one to understand how gold could exist here for hundreds of years with the country in the hands of the Spanlards without its being dis-covered and mined unless he knows the covered and mined unless he knows the conditions which prevail in most parts of the mountains. They are wild and without roads of any kind. Their only inhabitants are the Negritos, Igorrotes, Gaddeness and other savages. The more peaceful parts of the islands have al-ways had their thieves and brigands, so that minime has been to carried be least that mining has been, to say the least, extremely dangerous. Such gold as has

been discovered has also been kept se-crei for fear of robbery. From the "American," one of the daily papers of Manila, I give an ex-tract from a report of a correspondent who has just returned from the Zim-bales region. Said he: "I saw a long resary of gold in the hands of one of the natives. It was made up of nug-gets of virgin gold, the smallest of which was as blg as a pea. Holes had been pierced through the nuggets and they were strung on a silk cord. The gold was of a light yellow color and had evidently come from the surface of the ground. Its owner had purchased the nuggets of a Negrito, but he could

not learn where they had come from." At this same time a rich Filipino of one of the towns near the foot of the mountains, finding that the soldiers did a small buckskin sack and showed about three ounces of gold, which he had recently bought from the Negritos. This was coarse gold, most of the grains done from lack of roads and facilities for getting machinery into the moun being about the size of a kernel of rice. The man said he understood that tains. There are some placer regions near the sea, but if there are quark veins they are probably in the moun-tains some distance back from the the Negritos picked the grains out of the clear mountain streams, and that they had no other methods of mining, coast. It would, for the present, a least, be best for men to go in com nor did they seem to wish to engage in mining panies of a dozen or more, well armed and ready to fight. In companies they

### GOLD IN MINDANAO.

Gen, Bates tells me he has heard reports of gold being found in the Isl-and of Mindanao. This is the second largest of the Philippines group, almost as large as Kentucky. being It is ractically unexplored, and is inhabited chiefly by savages. The chief washings are now on the northern part of the island, far away from the part of the lsland, far away from the part occu-pied by our troops. The gold finds its way into the hands of the petty sultans and datos, who sell it to the foreigners. It is said that the amount of alluvial gold which has been thus sold leads to the belief that there must be quartz

coal resources here. There are, I am told, large beds of coal on many of the Philippines, and that both anthracite and bituminous, The deposits exist and bituminous. The deposits exist chiefly on the islands which are near-est the east, but there are also evi-dences of coal near Zamboanga, in the veins in Mindanao. I have not visited the Island of Min-

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## FRANK G. CARPENTER

one of the biggest sawmills of the Philippines today. It is owned by a Chinese, and Chinese laborers were turning the great logs into boards. The Pasig river, on which the mill stands, was lined with logs. Other sawmills above and below were busily working, and the scratch, scratch of the saw as it cut through the hard wood could be everywhere heard. Each sawmill had scores of men employed, and the scenes in all of them were far different from anything you will find in the United States. In the first place, the logs had been barked in the forests, some having been straightened by chipping. All were of the heaviest of hardwood, and all had a grain and color which would have made them exceedingly valuable could they have been sold in our country. The most wonderful thing about the mill was fts absolute lack machinery. It was an immens consisting of nierely a roof and the poles which upheld it. The floor was the earth and there were no walls at

the sides The logs were placed upon trestles about as high up from the ground as your waist, and at each log four half a pencil they marked off the width of a board from the top of the log and then at each end began to pull crosscut saws across it. The log iay horizontally on the treatiles and the hardles of the on the trestles, and the handles of the saws were so arranged at right angles with the blades that by pulling them back and forth the men could saw a strip of board off the log. The two pair of men were sawing toward each other, beginning at the opposite ends of the log and carefully watching the lines till they met in the center. They then made a second mark and went on to eaw off the next board. Such work re-quires careful watching to saw straight, and a log time is out a sized. and a long time to cut a single board, but it is in this way that all the lumber used in this city of 350,000 people is made. The planing is also done by hand and so are all classes of wood making operations.

HARDWOODS OF THE PHILIP-PINES.

When I was told in the United States that there were in the Philippines rose-wood logs nine feet in diameter, and that the ties of the Manila-Dagupan railroad were made of mahogany, I was inclined to doubt the statemen's. Now that I am on the ground I doubt them no longer. There is enough mahogany here to furnish ties for a railroad across the continent, and the varieties of hardwood are so numerous that a nine-foot

 

 (Copyrighted, 1900, by Frank G. Carpen-ter.]
 Central America, and who has just re-touend from a march through the woods of northern Luzon. He says the ma-hogany trees there surpass in size the hogany trees there surpass in size the
 here which the white ants will not eat. These are the only kinds that are of much value for furniture or building in the Philippines. The white ants are

trees of Santo Domingo, Mexico and Honduras. I hear similar stories of the which face the Pacific. All thir is on the Island of Luzon, which is less tim-bered than many of the southern Islands.

There are said to be more than three hundred varieties of hardwood on the islands, of which at least fifty have a high commercial value. I have seen high commercial value. I have seen many of the different kinds, but know the names of but few. Yesterday I visited a plano manufactory where the instruments are made from the boards sawed out and the polished cases dressed and finished. The results are dressed and innened. The results are as good as in the best piano factories of the United States, and in all cases native woods are used. Our ordinary plano woods will not stand the Philipclimate. The sounding boards in this damp, moist air lose their reson-ance, and within a few months the best instruments become tinny. There is wood here which stands the climate, and which this piano maker thinks will eventually be used for musical instruments in all damp regions.

#### FLOORS OF MAHOGANY.

Nearly all of the floors of the best houses of Manila are of narra, a wood much like mahogany. It has the same grain and takes a beautiful polish. The Oriente hotel, where I am stopping, is a great building of three stories, with wide staircases and immense halls. Its floors are made of these Filipino ma-hogany boards, each of which is from eighteen inches to two feet in width and from fifteen to twenty feet long. The stairs are of the same rich material, and the railings have a polish equal to that of a plano. The beds are of hardwood, with great hardwood canopies over them, and such of the furniture as is not imported is of the same material.

same material. There are churches here which have columns and floors and cellings of ma-hogany, and I see that this same wood forms most of the timbers in the barges and boats of the Pasig river, boats an hendred and more feet long being made of it. The churches are floored with it, and it is, in fact, as common as pine in the United States.

This wood is, however, only one of the hardwoods. There are others of differ-ent colors. Some woods take a polish like the finest rosewood, but have a grain and a color like bird's-eye maple, others are of a rich coffee hue, others red and others much like black walnut. Some of the woods are hard like teak and some are so heavy they will not float. In the island of Mindoro alone, thirty miles from here, it is said there are 106 different varieties of woods, of which fifty are hard, many being fitted for shipbuilding and fine furniture making

woods, and a slight earthquake shock brings the buildings to the ground. They are fond apparently of mucilage little insects about as large as our comand pasts, for they have eaten the lab-els off the bottles in the hospital dismon small ant. They feed upon wood, and they will eat up a trunk or store box in a night. They make a little hole pensaries and attacked the corks. long ago one of our surgeons upon opening a box of bottles containing al-cobol found that the bottles were only box in a hight. They make a little note in the wood and then go on eating away until it is nothing but a shell. Last week among the goods which arrived on one of the transports were a dozen rolling pins for making bread. When the box which contained them was half full. He suspected that the box had been tampered with until it was found that the ants had honeycombed the corks and that the liquor had evaptwo pins were discovered. When the pins were picked up one of them broke orated. There was not a sign on the outside of the box to show it had been touched. The ants had made a very small hole and crept through one at a in two and the other dropped into pieces. The white ants had liked he time. They usually do their work on the inside of the wood, leaving the surflavor of the wood and eaten them. face untouched. They may eat These ants sometimes at ack ware-

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## ADMIRAL DEWEY MAY GO TO ROME.







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would not surprise me. I talked yesterday with an army officer who has traveled extensively in the maogany forests of the West Indies and

ANTS WHICH EAT WOOD, There are several varieties of wo

can while he is in the Eternal City. The admiral has been placed at the head of the "General Board," which has just been created for the purpose of controlling the navy

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arranged for and that every

doro. This lies only a few miles east of southern Luzon, and is inhabited almost entirely by savages. Its name is a cor-ruption of "minade-oro," or mine of the ordinary prospector. The average Filipino, it must be remembered, is not He sti

doro,

far south. Capt. Batchelor of copper and some evidences of petro



