

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

"'Guess not. They wanted all the riding room for worse cases 'n mine. mine. Thank God, my two wounds are both in the same leg, so I can walk quite good and spry. They told me I'd be better off down at the landin' yonder, so I got these crutches and made a break."

"'And how are you getting along?' I asked."

"'Good and well,' he said, as cheerfully as might be, 'just good and easy.' And with his one sound leg and his two sticks he went cheerfully padding along."

"It was just the same with other walking wounded men. And not merely cheerful. They were all absolutely unconscious that they were undergoing any unnecessary hardships or sufferings. They knew now that war was no picnic, and they were not complaining at the absence of picnic fare. Some of them had lain out all night, with the dew falling on them where the bullets had dropped them, before their turn came with the overworked field surgeons."

"There was only sixty doctors with the outfit," they explained, "and, naturally, they couldn't tend everybody at once."

"That seemed to them quite sufficient explanation. It did not occur to them that there ought to have been more doctors, more ambulances. Some of them seemed to have a faint glimmering of a notion that there might perhaps have been fewer wounded; but then that was so obvious to everybody. The conditions subsequent to the battle they accepted as the conditions proper and natural to the circumstances. The cheerful fellow with the improvised crutches was so filled with thankfulness at the possession of his tree branch that it never occurred to him that he had reason to complain of the absence of proper crutches. I happened by chance to know that packed away in the hold of one of the transports lying out in Siboney bay there were cases full of crutches, and I was on the point of blurting out an indignant statement of the fact when I remembered that the knowledge would not make his walk easier. So I said nothing about it."

"I had to make the journey to Siboney myself. There was nothing more than a desultory firing going on at the front, and I had telegrams to try to get away. So I passed a good many of the walking wounded, and heard a good many groans from pawn-awned wagons. The men were, all the same, bravely and uncomplainingly plodding along through the mud. As they themselves put it, they were 'up against it,' and that was all about it."

TO THE FILIPPINOS.

Filippinos, downcast, dry your tears!
Why will you weep another term of years?
Let peace embrace you with her outstretched hands;
She comes to greet you from some other lands.

To break your shackles and to set you free
By means of her sweet liberty

Sweet liberty—embrace her while you may;
Reciprocity once, she may not stay.
Rudeness she hates, and boorishness won't bear.

Grace her with welcome while she is so fair;
Most graceful welcome heed, how soft her charm.

And bright as sunshine after lowering storm.

Will you accept before it is too late?
If not, remember, I portend your fate
As that of direness, not those of the sea,
But of your sadness and misery.

But oh, 'tis morning, shake off night's dark spell;
Come up to heaven from out that lurid hell.

JOHN BATT.

The Seven Devils railroad, it is said, will be built at once from Welsler, Ida.

The Populists of Idaho have still dismally failed to get together, and it appears that the two factions will have to give it up as a bad job.

At the division hospital, Presidio, there are 9 patients from the Seventh California regiment, 78 from the Tennessee, 52 from the Iowa, 35 from the Twenty-third and 25 from the Twentieth Kansas.

Since the last report there has been one death from typhoid fever at the division hospital—that of Private W. J. Holden of company I, Fifty-first Iowa volunteers. The total sick roll is now 340, of which forty are cases of typhoid.

The capital stock of the California Cotton mills has been increased to \$800,000, in order that the capacity of the manufacturing may be enlarged. The fact has been demonstrated that cotton can be profitably manufactured in California.

The schooner Mildred E. has arrived at San Francisco, 175 days from Boston. She brought out about twenty prospective Klondikers, who expect to reach St. Michael on her, and to make the trip up the Yukon on some stern wheeler before navigation closes.

The report of Mrs. Edwin Diamond, assistant treasurer of the California Red Cross society, for the quarter ended August 31st, shows that \$29,095 were received, of which there remains a balance in bank amounting to \$11,165. The money has come from all parts of the state and has been distributed among the soldiers of many regiments.

The medical board of inquiry, appointed to investigate the condition of the soldiers at San Francisco, made a preliminary report Friday regarding sickness in the Seventh California regiment. It states that out of a total of 1,260 men in the regiment, there are 73 who are sick, or about 6 per cent. Of the 74 cases of sickness, 19 are due to typhoid fever, which is 11 per cent of the regiment's total strength.

Major Huer, of the First United States Engineer corps, has removed 57 of the 63 mines of torpedoes put in San Francisco bay at the outbreak of the war with Spain. He is experiencing some difficulty in locating the remaining six mines, as they have dragged their anchors for a distance of a mile or more, and several of them have become detached from the tackle connecting them with the shore. The major hopes to locate the missing mines in a day or two and store them with the others on Goat Island for future use.

Major Davis of the United States Engineer corps, has received from Washington the specifications and bond of the contractors for the big breakwater at the San Pedro, Cal., harbor. All the documents have been formally approved and signed by the secretary of war, and everything is now in shape for Heide-maier & Neu, of Chicago, the contractors, to go ahead with the work. The bond of the contractors is \$300,000, and they are to receive from the government \$1,300,000 for building the breakwater. It is expected that actual work will be commenced early next month.

Contracts for the erection of a coal-ing station at Pago-Pago have been invited by Commander Z. T. Tanner, who has the work in charge. The commander will not state the amount to be expended, but he says the work will be of a substantial character and at least a year will be required for its completion. Lieut. Chamber, of the civil engineering department of the navy, will supervise the construction of the wharf and coal sheds. He will also

provide for a water supply and make a complete topographical survey of the United States land surrounding the harbor. Commander Tanner says that no fortifications are to be erected.

Evidence was presented Thursday afternoon to the grand jury at San Francisco in an attempt to secure the indictment of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin on a charge of violating section 347 of the criminal code of California, which makes it a felony to send poisoned goods through the mails. Chief of Police Lees and Detective McVey testified to the facts in their possession regarding the poisoning of Mrs. J. P. Dunning, and her sister, Mrs. Deane, at Dover, Del., by means of poisoned candy sent from this city. They presented no facts not already made public. No action was taken by the grand jury which adjourned consideration of the matter subject to the call of the district attorney.

The news that the Sixth and Seventh regiments of volunteers were mustered out, while the eighth was to remain in service, created little excitement among the troops most interested. The soldiers have accepted the inevitable in as good a spirit as if they had received an order to go to the front. The Seventh, which comes from Southern California, will be mustered out at its armory in Los Angeles. The Sixth, largely composed of men from the San Joaquin valley, which is doing duty around San Francisco bay, will be mustered out in San Francisco. The Eighth, at Camp Merritt, at Oakland, may take the place of the Sixth in guarding the Benicia arsenal and various points in that vicinity, in conjunction with the California artillery, which is also to remain in the service for the present.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company Friday the following directors were elected: A. I. Mohler, S. W. Corbett, W. R. Ayer, William Mackintosh, W. W. Cotton, Henry Falling, W. M. Ladd of Portland, Miles C. Moore of Walla Walla, C. S. Mellen, E. H. Harriman of St. Paul, D. S. Lamont, W. I. Dull, Henry W. Cannon of New York and Samuel Carr of Boston. The directors appointed an executive committee consisting of Messrs. Bull, Cannon, Mellen, Lamont, Carr and Harriman. Officers elected were: W. L. Bull, chairman of the board of directors; A. L. Mohler, president; W. W. Cotton, secretary; Howard C. Tracey, assistant secretary; Arnold Marcus treasurer; George E. Withington, assistant treasurer; E. S. Benson, general auditor; Charles C. Beaman, general counsel; W. W. Cotton, assistant general counsel.

"Kid Parker" of Boston and Bob Thompson (colored), formerly of Salt Lake, but now of Los Angeles, Cal., fought fifteen rounds before the Los Angeles Athletic club Friday night, and Thompson was given the decision at the end of the fight. Thompson was the stronger man all the way through, and did most of the leading. Parker fought a game, uphill fight, and was badly punished. In the fifth round Parker administered some punishment, but for the most part his blows fell short or were cleverly blocked. Thompson drew first blood in the first round. In the last four rounds Thompson punished Parker repeatedly. The Kid was unable to avoid his vicious right hooks and terrible straight lefts, which landed continually over the Kid's heart. Parker lost his temper toward the last and refused to break clean. After the referee John Brink, had announced his decision