LAWTON TO THE PHILIPPINES

Will Be Second in Command to General Otis —An Important Selection.

Favorability of News from Hobbs—General Otis to Use His Discretion in Regulating Affairs.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The war department has found a man to send to Manila to Make General Lawton its second in the Philippines. The assignment is considered one of unusual importance, as Gen. Lawton, who was the choice of many to succeed Merritt in the command of the army of the Philippines, will be second in command to Gen. Otis and in the event of the Otis administration proving unsatisfactory to the Filipinos, will succeed to the command of the army in the Philippines. He will arrive at Manila with a reputation of a man who can be trusted to do the work he may be called upon to perform. He will be second in command of the army in Hungary.

Gen. Funston, an officer of Merritt's staff, is considered to be the choice of Gen. Lawton for the place of his aide-de-camp. Funston was very strongly in the character of the service during the war and stood well with Merritt.

The officials of the war department have assigned Commodore Watson to the duty of sailing from Cuba, in view of Gen. Otis's request for the immediate sending of 5,000 men, with the most from Manila, owing to the weakness of other commanders. No further orders have been issued to Gen. Otis, as it is thought that he will be able to carry on the work of the war with the forces now at his command. It is understood that the Otis administration is doing all in its power to conciliate the Filipinos, believing that the success of the war will be greatly facilitated if the Filipinos can be induced to lay down their arms and return to their homes. There are rumors that Aguinaldo is willing to do this, but that he is prevented from doing so by the action of his followers.

The Spanish army in the Philippines is now in a very favorable condition, as it has been reinforced by the arrival of the Spanish troops from Manila, and the Spanish officers are now in command of the army in Hungary.

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Gen. Merriam to Go to Russia.

New York, Dec. 29.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Former Governor Merriam of Minnesota, is said to be slated to succeed Secretary Hitchcock as ambassador to Russia. Mr. Merriam's friends assert, with every indication of assurance, that the incident is closed between the President and the former governor, and his name will go to the Senate soon after the holidays.

Mr. Merriam is now in Washington, and has had several interviews with the President, but declines to confirm or deny the report.

Those familiar with Minnesota politics are aware that the President has more than a passing friendly regard for Mr. Merriam, and had to consult only his personal desires, a place in the cabinet would have been bestowed upon the former governor. It was only favorably mentioned in the early stages of the present administration in connection with various diplomatic missions abroad, from ambassador to the court of St. James down to the consul general in Cuba.

President McKinley's wish to reward his friend was not agreeable to Senator Davis, but it is believed that Senator Davis, while refusing to become entirely reconciled to Mr. Merriam, has so far curbed his personal feelings that he may not antagonize the wishes of the President should the latter determine to send Mr. Merriam to St. Petersburg.

German Beet Crop Short.

Washington, Dec. 28.—A bulletin issued by the German beet sugar crop of 1898 is 250,000 tons to figure with or United States Consul Diedrich at Magdeburg. He says that the increased season resulted in a small deficiency. A number of manufacturers sold fully one-half of their last year's product at very low prices before they realized that there would be a shortage in material, and the end of November found a number of factories closed on account of the difficulty in getting the material. All old stocks of sugar in Europe having run low, the market has been stronger for some time with higher prices.

The estimate of the beet sugar crop for the world accepted in Germany is as accurate as 4,775,000 tons, Germany heading with 1,941,000 tons, and Austria being set down as producing 1,000,000 tons, against 2,527,000 tons in the previous season.

Economic Convention.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 28.—At the morning session of the American Economic association, which is holding here this city, the report of the special committee on banking and currency was presented by the committee, consisting of Prof. F. M. Taylor of the University of Michigan, chairman; Dr. E. W. Young of Harvard, J. W. Jenks of Cornell, and Henry Hessel of Johns Hopkins and David Kinley of the University of Illinois.

The other papers read at the morning session were one by Prof. John D. Clark of Columbia, Thomas Mackenzie of Wages and Income, and one by Prof. Charles A. Tuttle of Wesleyan, on "A Postscript to Adam Smith on the Capital Question."

Agitating Spain's Troubles.

Madrid, Dec. 28.—The agitation continues, and it is said that the Marquis Pidal, who is the leader of the Monarchists, with the main reports regarding the Spanish Philippines, which appeared in the press, and demanding a change of the ministry, and the dismissal of the Premier, Sagasta, and the Minister of Colonies, and the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Marine, and the Minister of War, and the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Public Works, and the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of Commerce, and the Minister of Public Instruction