

FROM ASSISTANT SURGEON TO GENERAL

Meteoric Career of Leonard Wood, Now Governor General of the Island of Cuba.

WHATEVER the effect of the war by which Spain lost possession of her colonial dependencies in the Atlantic and Pacific, it is doubtless entertained in the minds of many that it was a vast benefit to the United States. Active personnel of both the army and navy of the United States. Active personnel of both the army and navy of the United States. Active personnel of both the army and navy of the United States.

There were some rejoicing when these nominations were made public and much individual heartburning, while the wisdom of the president's choice was either commended or questioned, according to personal preference. But the main fact was that those who had for so many years been merely "marking time" in positions in which they had grown gray and almost decrepit were at last enabled to make a perceptible advance toward the front. This batch of nominations abounded in surprises to some and administered severe shocks to the sensibilities of others, but it may be safely opined that there was no greater surprise sprung upon an unsuspecting public than the advancement of Captain Leonard Wood, assistant surgeon in the army and major general of volunteers, to the rank of a brigadier general in the regular army. It was only paralleled by the promotion of Captain Franklin Bell to a brigadier generalship in the regular service by "jumping" him over more than a thousand officers who were his seniors.

Wood stood number 60 in the list of army captains, while Bell was number 68, and yet both were nominated to the responsible position of brigadier general. As to the merits of the respective recipients of these high honors no doubt can exist, but as to their possessing that superlative merit which would warrant their being chosen and their fellow officers ignored may be considered open to question. That their promotions were made ostensibly for cause nobody will deny, the only difficulty the president had to meet being a superabundance of meritorious officers and a limited number of positions with which to reward them.

Viewing the subject, however, in its larger aspect and ignoring the individual or personal side of the question, it must be taken as an encouraging sign that the material for hosts of heroes exists in our army, and, again, that these heroes are only awaiting an opportunity for the expression of their latent energies. Cuba and the Philippines have presented those opportunities, and as already said, they eagerly availed themselves of them.

While no comparisons need be made, still the case of former Assistant Surgeon Wood may be taken as an illustration of the possibility for rapid rise to more than national fame of a comparatively unknown individual. Three years ago he was merely an assistant surgeon in the regular army with the relative rank of captain; today his name is in the list of brigadier generals of the regular army, with a possibility of attaining to the highest command within the next decade. Such advancement is not only unexampled in this country, but would not be possible even approximately in any other. There were apparent opportunities in South Africa, and gallant officers and privates were mowed down by thousands, but still no opening occurred by which the survivors of comparatively low rank could ever hope to reach the ultimate goal of a division commander.

It has been claimed that Surgeon Wood was a presidential favorite, also mislabeled as colonel of one of these, which was afterward known as the rough riders. It has been the opinion of some that when another body came within the penumbra of Vice President Roosevelt's planet it was in danger of total extinction, but this proved erroneous in at least this instance, for Surgeon Wood has been the recipient of first, in one of the numerous "bragging" articles with which the magazines of late have abounded he says: "There was one friend who was steady in Washington. This was an army surgeon—Dr. Leonard Wood. I only met him after I entered the navy department, but we soon found that we had kindred tastes and kindred principles."

The brilliant record of this regiment of rough riders, otherwise the First United States volunteer cavalry, is pretty well known, and, if it should go down to posterity "unwept, unhonored and unsung," it will not be through any fault of Mr. Roosevelt, who has alluded to its gallant deeds on several public occasions. In short, it simply did its duty in Cuba, along with the other American invaders, and no man

be recognized as one of the two or three white men who could stand fatigue and hardship as well as an Apache and such judgment that toward the close of the campaign he was given, though a surgeon, the actual command of more than one expedition against the bands of "renegades."

premise command of our armies, but such work as there was to do he did with commendable thoroughness. He was promoted as the result of his short though brilliant campaign to be brigadier general of volunteers, and shortly after was appointed military governor of Santiago province. In this capacity he showed his superb skill as an organizer, and his medical experience came into play particularly in the cleansing of the horribly filthy city of Santiago and the practical stamping out of smallpox and yellow fever. He suppressed the bands of bandits in the mountains, created work for the Cubans by opening roads, laying down sewers, asphaltizing and macadamizing streets, building hospitals and renovating and regenerating generally this picturesque city which for centuries of Spanish misrule had been stewing and steaming in its own excrement.

It cannot be denied that the example of one man like General Wood was a tower of strength to our government when it was laboring to bring about a settled condition of affairs in distracted Cuba. All eastern Cuba became peaceable and prosperous, the vagrant soldiers of the erstwhile Cuban army gave up their arms and settled down to labor on the plantations, while the revenues from this rich region soon exceeded the expenditures, as they were. In his capacity as military governor of Santiago General Wood had shown himself possessed of executive ability of a high order, and when in the process of pacification and reorganization it became necessary to appoint a man to supersede General Brooke at Havana as governor general no other appeared so well qualified for the high position as Wood.

It may be recalled in this connection that Cuba has now been under the military control of the United States since December, 1898, and that it is just two years since the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States was ratified by our senate. By the provisional military occupation of Cuba the United States became responsible for the preservation of order and the protection of life and property. The island was divided into seven military districts, each in charge of a military governor, with a governor general at Havana. The first governor general was General John R. Brooke, and at the time of the Spanish evacuation there were but 24,000 United States troops in the island. One-third of the population, it was estimated, had been wiped out by war and famine, the "reconcentrados" were still huddled together in the towns and cities and on every side were disease and desolation.

General Brooke had rendered the military character of the government as inconspicuous as possible, but political complications arose which required a diplomat—a man of tact and executive force. General Wood succeeded General Brooke in the autumn of 1899 and exerted all his energies to soothe the excited "Cubanos," at the same time maintaining a firm grip on governmental affairs. He has steered them through the turbulent seas of their constitutional convention and dexterously avoided the rocks upon which another, perhaps, might have run the Cuban ship of state. His tact is admirable, his courage superb, his administrative faculties of a high order, and in no position in which he has been placed has he failed to realize expectations. And from time to time to see how his audacious challenger got on. At Quatre Bras the royal automobile was stopped for some minutes, doubtless awaiting the promised drinks. The cyclist, however, in spite of his audacity, dared not face the royal "chauffeur," and if the king had drinks it was at his own expense.

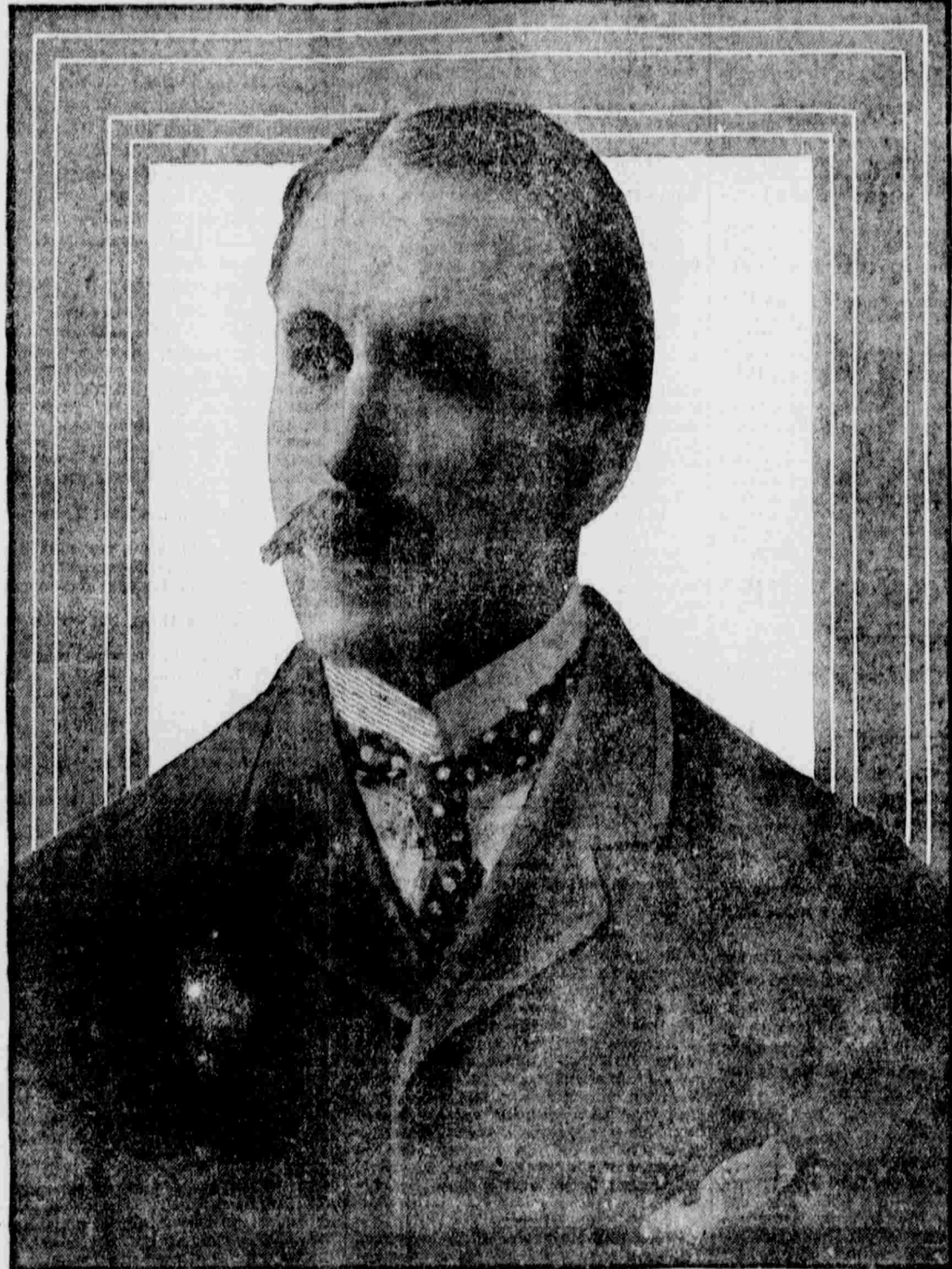
General Bell is not so well known, but has done valiant service for the government in the Philippines, exhibiting great coolness and good generalship on several occasions. He is 44 years old, a native of Kentucky and is one of three on the list who graduated from West Point, the others being Grant and Hall.

ELBERT WOODSON.

A RACE WITH THE KING.

An amusing experience befell King Leopold recently while alighting his new automobile in Brussels. His majesty was passing along the Avenue de Tervuren when a cyclist shot past the royal automobile and shouted, "Pelle (a diminutive of Leopold), he who reaches Quatre Bras last pays drinks!" He then shot ahead, King Leopold, who perfectly understood the challenge, laughed and, in spite of the indignation of his aid-de-camp, put on full speed and quickly passed the cyclist. The latter struggled hard to keep up, but finally collapsed, being "pumped out" by his majesty's rushing ahead, looking round from time to time to see how his audacious challenger got on. At Quatre Bras the royal automobile was stopped for some minutes, doubtless awaiting the promised drinks. The cyclist, however, in spite of his audacity, dared not face the royal "chauffeur," and if the king had drinks it was at his own expense.

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Photo, copyright, 1899, by Purdy, Boston.

GENERAL LEONARD WOOD.

that he is the right man in the right place; but it cannot be denied that he seized his opportunity, and when Congress authorized the raising of three cavalry regiments from among the cowboys and riflemen of the section in which he had campaigned he was com-

plished. He had served in General Miles' inconceivably harassing campaigns against the Apaches, where he had displayed such courage that he won that most coveted of distinctions—the medal of honor; such extraordinary physical strength and endurance that he grew to

of the regiment was more conspicuous for gallantry and iron nerve than its surgeon-colonel, Leonard Wood.

There was no opportunity, perhaps, to display any great military talent, not enough at least to warrant his being created a general in line for the su-

tomers. Thoroughly competent as he knows this man to be, he does not leave everything to him, but insists that patients for whom he has ordered glasses shall return to him with them when they are finished. Often he detects some flaw in the lens or frame and returns them to the optician with further instructions.

I suppose almost every one who meets this courtly, elegant medical man is impressed by his extreme simplicity and modesty. I have seen newly fledged M.D.'s of 21 who assumed a greater consciousness of their merits and met their patients with a more overbearing hauteur. After all, true genius is always modest.

Instead of conversing in German, as I had expected to do, I found Dr. Pagenstecher able and ready to talk English. He speaks it fluently and with no noticeable accent. I learned that he is not only master of our language, but of Italian and French. He knows many Americans and thinks well of their country.

In the general conversation which followed the examination of my eyes I learned many of his views. He does not believe in operations unless they are absolutely unavoidable. Treatment and care will save many painful and disastrous experiences to patients whose condition may at first glance seem hopeless.

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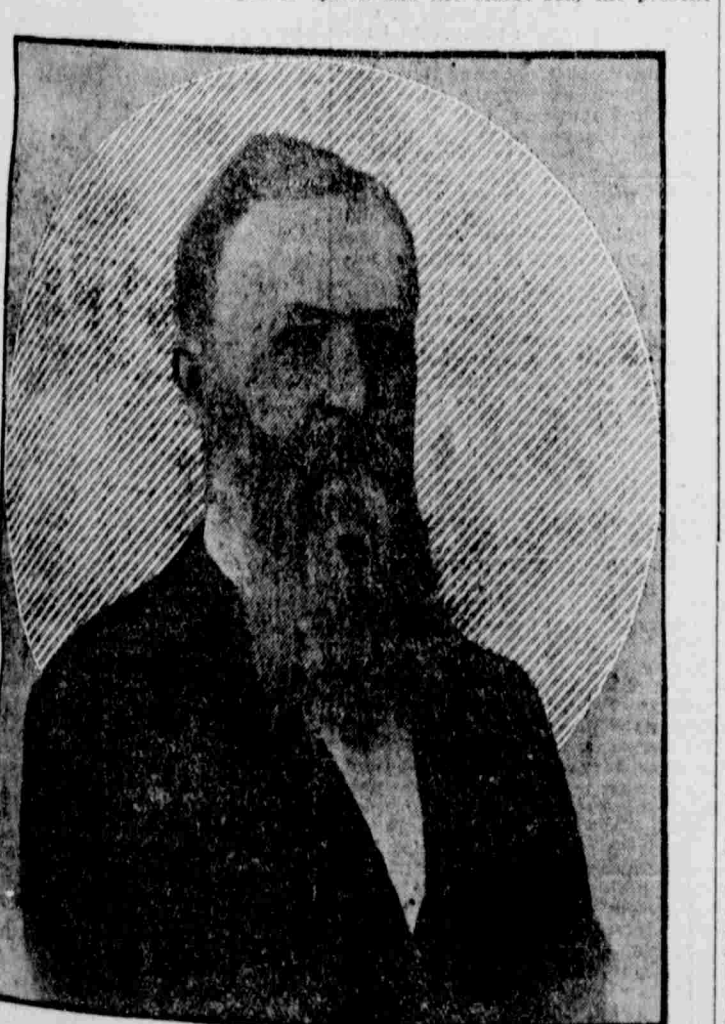
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Ray Scott Rowland.

New York.

The King of Oculists And Oculist of Kings.

ONE of the most interesting men in the world today is Professor Hermann Pagenstecher, M. D., of Wiesbaden, Germany. Kings and queens come to him. His visits to great palaces are arranged to



PROFESSOR H. PAGENSTECHER.

There is scarcely a crowned head in Europe that has not been under his care. One of the most democratic men living, when he was in London, just before Victoria's death, it was only to the queen and her eldest son, the present

the Belgians as well as to care for the optics of others, his exalted patrons who are advanced in years.

Well do I remember my audience with this remarkable man! It was one beautiful day last August, and I had arrived at Wiesbaden after a tiresome journey of a couple of hours. I was not then prepared to be especially enthusiastic about the town, but later I learned to appreciate its beauties.

Dr. Pagenstecher is known to every man, woman and child in the town. When I alighted at the station, the old man threw up his hands in amazement at my question as to whether he knew the location of the great man's residence.

"Oh, gute frau, jedermann in Wiesbaden weiss, wo der gute Dr. Pagenstecher wohnt!"

He quickly drove me to the modest house at 53 Taunusstrasse, where the doctor has his offices. Before consulting him I had been to the most eminent oculists in America. One of these had fitted me with glasses. On the advice of an English friend I made the trip to Wiesbaden, and I anticipated my interview with a good deal of nervousness, for in America I had found the dignity which hedges a great medical expert little short of regal. Dr. Pagenstecher, however, will have nothing of the sort. He does not believe in red tape, and he could not be gruff if he tried.

I was first ushered into a large room, where a white capped maid, speaking English, inquired my business. She then took my name and gave me a numbered card, and my name, written on a duplicate card, was sent to the private secretary of Dr. Pagenstecher.

All sorts and conditions of persons were waiting in the office. Some were evidently well off, while others were plainly poverty stricken. Each had a numbered card, and as the private secretary emerged from the inner office and called a number the patients in turn went to see the doctor. No preference is shown no matter what may be a patient's rank, except in case of an accident requiring immediate attention.

It was some time before the line of men and women who had preceded me had been admitted to Dr. Pagenstecher's presence. At last it was my turn, and, trembling a little, I walked into the private office.

A tall, fine looking man advanced to

tendant, "have you seen my rubbers?" "Yes, sir," answered the boy. "Where are they?" "On your feet, sir," said the lad gravely.

Congressman Champ Clark of Missouri is the fondest man in the house of quoting poetry and once had some verses of 100 lines inserted in a speech which was reprinted in The Congressional Record.

An appropriation is to be asked of the New Hampshire legislature for the

erection on the capitol grounds of a statue of Franklin Pierce, the only New Hampshire man who has been president of the United States. The body of Mr. Pierce rests in Concord, in the old North cemetery.

The large private library of the late bishop of London, Dr. Creighton, will be left to Newham college, of the executive council of which he was for many years a member.

Daniel Moulton of Lewiston, Me., is

one of the few surviving friends of Sam Houston. His recollections of Santa Anna are vivid, and he has a large collection of private letters written by Houston and his friends.

Elmer Hoyer, Senator Hanna's private secretary, began his career as a newspaper writer at 15, when he was a reporter on the McConnellville (O.) Herald.

The oldest member of the present electoral college is John R. Bennett of

Michigan, aged 83, and the youngest Robert T. Offutt of Kentucky, aged 34.

So fatal have the endless and most exhausting duties of the office of governor of Indiana proved that not an ex-governor of that state is now alive. In this time four men have been called to discharge the duties of the office, and three of them were comparatively young, were in robust health when they succeeded to the office and gave evidence of fail-

ing health before the close of their terms. The people demand too much of their governors aside from executive work pertaining to the office.

Robert J. Gamble, who succeeds Pettigrew as United States senator from South Dakota, is a native of New York and began life as a teacher and lawyer in Wisconsin.

Vermont has 12 living ex-governors, ranging from Frederick Holbrook (1860) to Edward C. Smith (1898-1900).

meet me. It was the great specialist. His face is the kindest and most sympathetic I have ever seen. After a few polite remarks I was shown into a small room lined with dark green cloth and curtained with green so that not a ray of light penetrates it.

One of the oculist's experiments in my case was to examine the eyes with a strong electric light, pulling down first one lid and then the other.

Next I was asked to read the different sizes of lettering on a chart. After reading the chart I was asked to look at different objects in the room, all the time being questioned in regard to their appearance or the effect on the eyes.

Then he asked me if I was farsighted, and, being answered, gave his opinion: "You have a fine pair of eyes; you will never be blind. Your difficulty is a nervous affection of the optics. When you are stronger physically, you will find that your sight will be better. I shall prescribe new glasses for you and a little eye wash. Your old glasses are not strong enough."

Besides these prescriptions he gave me a pair of light blue glasses, with directions to wear them outdoors where the light was strong. He said that he was particular not only in regard to the lenses of his patients' glasses, but in regard to the frames. They should fit the eyes perfectly, so that if an orb is almost shaped it will be framed by an almost shaped glass.

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tomers. Thoroughly competent as he knows this man to be, he does not leave everything to him, but insists that patients for whom he has ordered glasses shall return to him with them when they are finished. Often he detects some flaw in the lens or frame and returns them to the optician with further instructions.

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The present Dr. Pagenstecher was the younger son of Frederick Pagenstecher, chief ranger of the forests of Nassau, and of Bertha (Wilhelm), daughter of the late bishop of Nassau. He was born at Langenscheidt Sept. 16, 1844, and was educated at Idstein, Wiesbaden and the universities of Wurzburg, Berlin and Prague. He passed his examination in 1867 and became assistant at the University hospital at Greifswald in 1868. Later he became assistant at the Wiesbaden Ophthalmic hospital and an assistant surgeon in the German army during the war of 1870-1.</