

Island of Panay.

A Graphic Picture of a Little Known Part of the Philippines.

FRANK G. CARPENTER

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On board the transport Port Stephens in the harbor of Iloilo, February 17, 1900.—I am at my first stopping place after leaving Manila on a tour of the southern parts of the Philippine Islands. I am on a mule transport, which is bound for all of the out of the way ports to take wagons, mules, horses and supplies for our garrisons. We shall travel more than 2,000 miles before we return to Manila and shall go to many places which have not been open to trade or travelers. We shall spend several days at each place, landing cargo, and in our tour will not only visit the Sulu Islands, where the sultan lives with his wives and slaves, but island of Mindanao, which is practically unknown to the world. It has naked savages, wild Moros and sultans even more powerful than the one with whom General Bates made his treaty of friendship and peace.

ON A MULE TRANSPORT.

Our ship is like nothing you see on the Atlantic. It is a vessel as long as a city block and so wide that it would fill the ordinary street from one side to the other. It has three stories devoted to mule stalls and a vast hold below this in which hundreds of tons of hay, oats and other cargo are stored. The ship is so high indeed that if it stood in a city street its upper deck would be about even with the fifth-story flats, and when the mules are taken out to exercise upon it they are almost twice as high up in the air as the roof of a two-story house.

When I came on the ship I was told that I should have to rough it, and was urged by the captain not to go. I was told that there were plenty of comforts for the mules, but none for passengers, and that I should have to sleep on the deck. I replied that as this was my only way of reaching the posts I would risk it. So I have bought a cot and an army blanket, and rolled up in it I sleep out under the stars as the mules stamp and bray beneath me. It is not at all bad, I assure you. I eat with the captain, have my bath from a bucket of salt water on deck and write on a table which I have fixed up at the stern of the ship.

The Port Stephens is essentially and purely a mule ship. Its guests are these long-eared animals, each of which has a stall or room three feet wide to himself. The stalls are arranged in long lines, a double row on each story, and the animals face one another, with their tails turned toward the sea. There are inclined planes or stairs by which they are led up to the exercise deck, and by which they are taken from story to story. They are, in fact, treated with as much care as the men. They are fed regularly and given a foot and leg bath every morning. After

their bath they are brought upstairs for their constitutional and then tied there for a time with their faces toward the sea, in order that they may see the wild ocean as it rolls. They are carefully inspected every morning, and their temperature is taken four times a day by the mule doctor. If they are not just right they get a dose of medicine at once, and are more carefully fed. As a result the mules are today in better condition than when they left Seattle three months ago. They have weathered some of the most terrible of ocean storms, have been sea sick and battered about, and still only five have been lost in the cargo of five hundred and nine.

\$200,000 WORTH OF MULES.

The cargo of one of these transports is a valuable one. A mule by the time it gets to the Philippines costs Uncle Sam at least \$400, and the number on board the Port Stephens is worth at least \$200,000. Some of them have come from Puerto Rico, having been sent from San Juan and Ponce to Washington and thence forwarded clear across the continent to Seattle, so that they have traveled something like 15,000 miles in coming to Manila. Others came direct from Kentucky and Missouri, but all have cost so much that it pays to take care of them.

The captain quartermaster who has charge of them had much to do with carrying the horses and mules for our armies in Cuba and Puerto Rico. He is Capt. Joseph C. Byron, who was wounded while in the army in Puerto Rico, and afterward assigned to the quartermaster's department. He transported more than 5,000 animals to and from the West Indies, and lost only five, and he is today one of the experts in this branch of the department.

This ship has been fitted up according to Capt. Byron's directions. It has ventilating fans, which draw in fresh air to the stables, and at the same time the foul air is taken out. The air of the hold of the steamer is thus kept as fresh as that of the deck, and with the washing and cleaning of the stalls with the hose every morning, there is no more smell about the steamer than in a Dutch kitchen.

MORE MULES NEEDED.

A mule is worth more than a soldier over here in the Philippines at present. There are no adequate means of transportation of men or baggage, and pack trains and carts are in demand at all of the posts. The only available animal is the water buffalo, which can make only about one mile an hour with any kind of a load and which is of little use in the hills. The horses of the country are so small that one of the army mules could swallow a Filipino steed of the average size without much distending its stomach—so small that one of the mule drivers took one up in his arms the other day to show his contempt of its size. Many parts of these islands are mountains, and every section of the army that goes into the interior should have its pack train, with experienced packers to handle the

mules. We have one gang of packers on board who now and then pack the mules on the deck of the steamer for practice. At present there are about 3,000 mules and horses in the Philippines, but some of the best of the army officers tell me that three times this number could be used to advantage.

THE ISLAND OF MINDORO.

We left Manila at night and awoke to find our steamer coasting along the great island of Mindoro. We kept it in sight the most of the day, its blue smoky mountains rising in places almost straight from the water's edge, and rolling one over the other until they lost themselves in the clouds. We were not near enough to distinguish the character of the land or its vegetation, but could tell that the mountains are heavily wooded, and it is said that the forests are full of mahogany, teak and other valuable trees. The island is one of the largest of the Philippines and as yet is practically unexplored. It is bigger than the State of Connecticut and has a population of about 100,000, almost all of whom are savages. There is one town which has about 5,000 people, but the most of the inhabitants live in the wilds, go entirely naked, and subsist upon roots, fruit and such fish and game as they can catch. Dean Worcester, who visited the island, describes it as unhealthy in the extreme, but his explorations did not extend very far inland, and both agriculturally and minerally the land is unexplored. It is so notwithstanding it lies within only a few miles of the island of Luzon and so that it can be reached by boat in a very few hours.

ON THE ISLAND OF PANAY.

I am more and more surprised every day at the little the Spanish knew about the different parts of their Philippine possessions. They seldom penetrated the interior, and some of the best parts of the country are in as virgin a state as when Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island of Mindanao on the 21st of March, 1521, only twenty-nine years after Columbus discovered America. That island contains from 30,000 to 40,000 square miles. It is perhaps the richest part of the whole archipelago, and it is populated almost entirely by savages.

The island of Panay, where I am now writing, was practically unknown to the rest of the world until thirty years ago, and today it is impossible to get accurate data concerning it. It has mountainous districts through which white men have never gone, and our soldiers who recently crossed it from south to north found naked savages living in the woods. And still the island is exceedingly rich and its lowlands have now a considerable population. It is half again as large as Puerto Rico, and has a vast deal more cultivable land. I have learned something of it from the old English residents of Iloilo and from the Filipino and have also the results of the investigations of Lieutenant Van Deman, the topographical engineer on the staff of General Hughes. Lieutenant Van Deman is a close observer. He has

been on all of the expeditions our soldiers have made throughout the island, and is now making maps of it for the use of the war department.

RICH PLAINS AND UNEXPLORED MOUNTAINS.

Panay is of the shape of an equilateral triangle. It looks small on our maps of the Philippines, but each side of it is almost 100 miles long and altogether it has more than half as much land as the State of Massachusetts. It is a land of mountains and valleys. Low ranges cut it up into three great parts, represented by its three provinces. Antique at the west, Capiz at the north and Iloilo at the south, with its district Concepcion adjoining it on the east.

All of these provinces are much the same in character, being rolling hills, mountains and valley plains. The mountains have some wood, but not the fine timber of Mindanao, Mindoro and parts of Luzon. The plains are the only parts much cultivated, and many of them are unused. The war has burned many of the farms, and you see ruined sugar mills here and there. The country is still filled with bandits and guerrillas, and neither life nor property is safe from them. The Tagalos who came here have united with the lawless among the Visayans, and they go over the island in bands of anywhere from half a dozen to several hundreds, burning and stealing and committing all sorts of unmentionable outrages. It will, I am told, take a large force to preserve order, and the entire settlement of the island will probably not be secured for months to come.

A LAND OF COCONUTS AND RICE.

The character of Panay makes it a hard country for campaigning. The country is well watered, being cut up by streams as many as the veins of a leaf. These streams in the wet season flood the lowlands and turn them into a vast lake, above which, when the rain ceases, the little green walls of the rice fields appear. It is impossible to ride over the fields at this time, and, indeed, almost impossible to do so with an American horse or mule at any time. When the fields dry with the dry season they do so only on top, so that what seems solid ground is only a crust. This crust will support a little Filipino pony, but a mule will break through it, and before you know it you will find that he has sunk up to his ears in the mud. The only animals that can be used to work such lands are the water buffaloes, who wallow along, half swimming through the mud as they drag the rude bamboo harrows or plows preparing the fields for rice planting. Even the military road which the Spanish built is little more than a crust. Where it is broken there are unfathomable mudholes making it impassable for teams. The rice is planted in the water and it receives little cultivation.

I went with Lieut. Van Deman for a ride into the country today, and he showed me lands which were, he said, typical of all lowlands of Panay. They were little patches of black mud in

which rice was growing and about which there were groves of coconut trees. Among the trees were thatched huts upon piles, and in the fields here and there women were working. "That," said Mr. Van Deman, "is a sample of the greater part of this island. It is made up of rice and coconuts, with sugar plantations scattered here and there through it. The soil is exceedingly rich, and it produces enormously."

COFFEE AND FRUITS.

"How about fruits, lieutenant?" said I. "I believe almost any kind of tropical fruit will grow, but none are cultivated. We have bananas which grow wild, and a fruit which the people call the nangka, but which is not an orange. It is of the shape and color of the orange, but is about twice as large as the grape fruit or shaddock which we have in our home markets. We have also bread fruit, but no oranges so far as I know. There are coffee plantations in Antique, but they do not raise enough to make coffee figure largely as one of the exports from the island. Before the war about \$1,500,000 worth of stuff was exported from Iloilo annually. The province of Capiz produced half this amount, and Antique still less. There is considerable tobacco raised and some indigo, as well as cacao, or chocolate, and hemp. I believe the land to be exceedingly rich, and doubt not it could be made to yield many times as much as it does."

THE MOUNTAINS OF PANAY.

"How about the mountains?" "We passed through them on our march across the island. They are generally wooded, and are supposed to be uninhabited, on account of the malaria, except by naked nomadic savages. The mountains are generally about 2,000 or 3,000 feet high, although in places they rise to 4,000 and 5,000 feet. Mt. Dacloy is said to be 5,675 feet, or higher than Mount Washington."

"Do you hear of any gold being discovered in the mountains?" I asked. "Yes, I hear of it, but I really have no positive knowledge about it," was the reply. "There is black sand in every stream you cross, and the Spaniards claimed that there was gold in the sands of the Cababaya in the province of Capiz. It is said there are quicksilver deposits in the same province, and that copper is to be found. The mountains will have to be settled by the prospector and by the government geologists. Just now we have our hands full in trying to keep the people quiet. I can only say that the mountains are rich in gold, and that it can be cultivated high up in the mountains. The climate is, as far as I have seen, not unhealthy, but the people are semi-civilized and hard to control."

THE DISTRICT OF THE VISAYANS.

This military district is that of the Visayan Islands. It embraces the larger islands of the middle of the archipelago lying between Luzon on the north and the Mohammedan islands of Mindanao and Sulu on the south. It embraces some of the richest and most thickly populated parts of the Philippines, and a number of large islands which are noted for their products of sugar, hemp and for their possibilities in the way of coal and other minerals. Cebu, for instance, is a great hemp-raising region, Samar produces sugar, rice and coffee, Negros, which I can see from Iloilo, has some of the best sugar plantations, and the island of Bohol is noted for its pearl fisheries. These islands are populated by a different people from the Tagalos, who are the rebels of Luzon, known as the Visayans. They have a different language and customs, but in most of the islands they have united with the Tagalos to oppose our troops. They are as aggressive as the Tagalos, but are quite as vicious in many of their ways and are of about the same grade of intelligence and civilization, both of which I should say are decidedly low. Both people are naturally untrust-

worthy, and the greatest care has to be taken to guard against surprises. The islands, while there are no large armies upon them, are everywhere overrun with brigands and banditti, and there are parts of them which have not yet been subdued. Garrisons will have to be furnished for the chief towns by mounted cavalry to allow the people to work their fields and to make them feel comparatively safe.

A CHAT WITH GENERAL HUGHES.

General R. P. Hughes, who is in charge of the Visayans, is well fitted for the position. He had a good chance to study the Filipino character when he was provost marshal of the city of Manila. He took that place as soon as the city was occupied by our troops, and it was due to his vigilance that the insurgents were prevented from uprising and burning the Philippine capital. For months after the occupation he slept in his clothes. There were rumors of uprising almost every day, but to most of them General Hughes paid no attention. He merely kept his eyes open and said nothing. At last one day he doubled his guards and ordered that the troops be kept in readiness for trouble. He had noticed that the Filipinos were taking their women and children out of Manila. They were leaving at the rate of hundreds a day and their departure was to be followed by an uprising and the attempted massacre of the foreigners. The increase of force, however, prevented the insurrection and thus saved the city.

When General Hughes came here the natives burned the town upon leaving it. They said that the most of the buildings in it belonged to Chinese and the English, and that their destruction would not hurt the natives, who live chiefly in the suburban villages of Moio and Harrow. They, therefore, soaked the principal houses with coal oil and lighted them. They burned all the best buildings, including the industrial school and other public structures, so that today Iloilo is largely made up of ruins.

After the general took possession there were more rumors of insurrections and the murder of foreigners. He paid no attention, but one day his native clerk asked for an afternoon off, that he might take his family out of the city. The general thought that might mean business, and he had the town searched for concealed weapons. He found that the natives had hundreds of knives concealed in their houses and that they had planned to unite with a band of Tagalos, who were to operate from the outside, and at a concerted signal to rise, set the city on fire and murder the foreigners.

The discovery of the plot prevented its being carried out, and shortly after this General Hughes attacked 1,400 of the Tagalos outside the town and defeated them. He has now cleared the island of organized resistance, but he tells me it will be months before the banditti can be cleared out, as they will probably take to the mountains.

THEY BELIEVE IN BRYAN.

In talking of the situation, General Hughes said: "I believe a great deal of harm is being done by the people of the United States discussing the advisability of leaving the islands. All such reports are published over here, and they have led the people to believe that the Americans will eventually give up the struggle. They have been assured that Congress, as soon as it met, would stop the war and withdraw the troops, and have been told that Mr. Bryan had advised that this should be done. You will be surprised to know that some of them can quote Bryan's speeches and can name others of the anti-expansionists. Bryan has been pictured as almost equal to the President in power. They have been given only one side of the case, and this has come from the Filipino newspapers, which are saying nothing favorable of the army of the Americans."

UNFIT FOR CITIZENSHIP.

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here, general, as possible American citizens?" I asked.

"They may make Americans some day, but it will be a long time before they will be able to govern themselves according to our ideas of citizenship. We shall have to put our best into the next generation, and by education and example we may teach them American ideas and personal and political morality and humor. As it is, their training has been in the policy of the lieve it right and prosper for officials to receive bribes, and they expect to pay them. I have just had trouble with a notary whom I appointed. He has charged a note. They have reported it to me, and I have cut his charge down to \$15, which is less than allowed by the Spanish law. It is so with every class of business. All the officials have been accustomed to making all they could out of their offices, and I don't see how the abuses can be remedied. If we had some American officials, young men and honest, who could come out here, so on the assurance that they would be retained in office we might be able to do something in the way of reform by and by, but as it is the situation is rather discouraging."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

WHAT ARE THE X RAYS?

In the first place, what is the present state of our knowledge of the X rays? Have we more efficient methods of producing them, and can we see farther into the recesses of the human body? In regard to the first question, we can say that, although we may not be able to answer dogmatically that we know what these rays are, we have valuable hints in regard to their character, and our knowledge of their manifestations and their relation to light waves and magnetic waves has greatly increased during the four years which have elapsed since their discovery. They are now believed by the best authorities to be magnetic and electrical pulses, or waves of extremely short length. In the spectrum of sunlight formed by sending a beam through a prism of quartz the X-ray pulses or waves are to be found, according to this hypothesis, beyond the violet color of this spectrum—far into the dark region invisible to the eye, and only brought into view by the aid of photography. In this invisible region reside many singular manifestations of energy closely analogous to those of the X rays. From recent developments with the X rays, by Prof. John Trowbridge, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly for April.

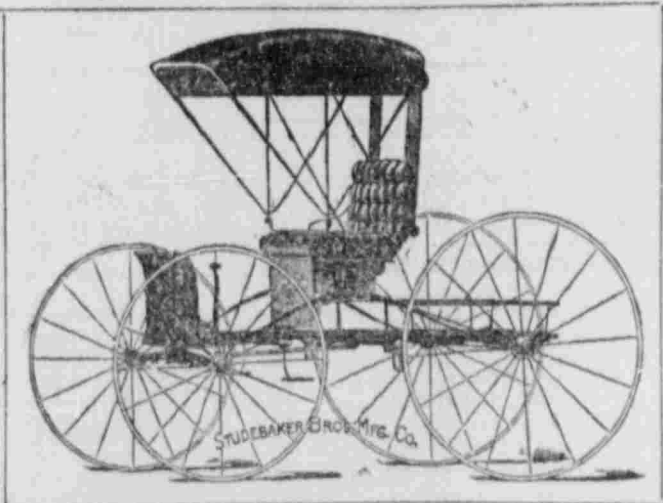
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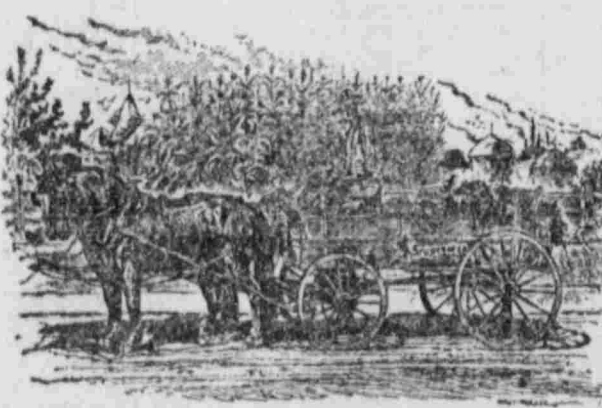
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