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PART TWO

SATURDAY MARCH 28 1908 SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR

## How Uncle Sam Obtained his Mohammedan Wards of Mindinao

Interesting History  
of the American  
Occupation of the  
Great Island Where  
the Fort Douglas  
Garrison was Sta-  
tioned, now Pub-  
lished for the First  
Time.

AMERICA has heard but little of the government's little brown subjects in the southernmost outpost of the Philippines, where the flag flies on seasonal mounds built a score of years ago for practical expeditions, and where wild chiefs shake hands with the left hand, keeping the right on a trusty spear or well built spear, and where only six degrees separate the tropical shores from the equator.

Among the first Americans ever to pass south of the central zone of the Philippine chain and into the domain where the sultan of Sulu was supreme, and his cousin, the sultan of Mindanao, was the next largest force to be reckoned with, an officer of the Fifteenth U. S. Infantry, now stationed at Ft. Douglas, and a member of the "News" staff, then a correspondent following the fortunes of the United States troops in their progress of insular campaigning.

The expedition southward was under the command of Brig-Gen. John C. Bates, and five years after it had subjugated the coastwise fringe of Mindanao, the regiment to which Capt. S. E. Straley had returned from service as chief-of-staff for Gen. Bates, took up its station on the interior of the second largest Philippine island, and one of the least known.

### UNWRITTEN STORY.

The story of how America came to be the power that governs in this vast territory has never been written. Capt. Straley knows it because he was there on the cruise through which treaty after treaty was made with datus, rajahs, or sultans, and agreement had with lesser lights of governmental power.

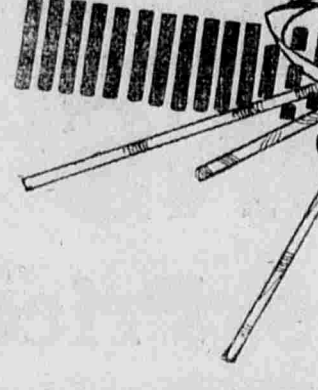
The little "brown brothers" of the Sulus have an interest to Americans beyond that of ordinary natives. Spain, long before America was settled by the Pilgrim fathers, had sealed up the Philippines to any commerce but her own, and the warlike Moros had sealed up their portion of the Philippines from every Spanish trade. For that reason they continued to live with as little molestation from white people as any natives on the face of the earth have had, and consequently have customs and practices wholly indigenous to the soil, without taint of contact with Caucasians.

### OF INTEREST TO SALT LAKERS.

Salt Lakers had more than a passing interest in the building of the pioneer white man's settlement in Mindanao. The first troops stationed there received their first pay-money from Charles Stanton, a Salt Laker well known to the old residents, and now a major and paymaster in the regular army. The first woman ever to speak the English language and cause all that transformation which will come to a town where a gracious woman inspires the "fixings," was Mrs. Stanton, who was formerly



Lake Lanao Moros



15th Infantry on Parade at Camp Keithley on Lake Lanao

crowned "queen of Mindanao" by the admiring soldiery, who had seen no feminine face in six months of military duty, before her coming with her husband to settle at Zamboanga. Frank Shelly was of the settlement, after his Utah battery life, for he became clerk to Major Stanton, and still serves him in that capacity.

How Major Stanton engineered the celebration of the first Fourth of July in the Sulus, and how Dato Mandi, who deserves to be written up as the first American prince ever to be established on a throne and with a title because of his friendliness with an American governor, helped him in his laudable undertaking, is what Kipling styles "another story." It may be told later, but this paper is for the purpose of putting down the facts of the bringing of this territory under the American flag, which have never yet found their way to print.

### AMERICAN OCCUPATION.

To begin at the beginning, American occupation of the Philippines began at Camp Dewey on the shores of Manila bay with the arrival of the troops of the expedition sent to subdue the Spanish fleet and Cavite arsenal. The Utah batteries sailed into the bay with their infantry companions on July 17, 1898, and landed on the sandy beach four days later. It took them a full year to settle the troubles immediately confronting them in Luzon, and it was thought of the many islands to the south, and the great island that terminated the group, second largest in all the Philippines, with its little coral chain extending westward to the shores of Borneo.

Attention of the Manila headquarters

began to be diverted southward early in 1899 by the report that 13 small Spanish warships were anchored there, and had been deserted by their crews who had gone to Spain. To find a military commander who was free to undertake a southern expedition into the Moro country became a problem at headquarters. General Wheaton was appointed to the task, and relieved because fighting suffered in northern Luzon. Gen. King was apportioned the opportunity and ill health caused his return to America. Then it was passed to General John C. Bates, who carried it forward until the death of General Lawton in a skirmish near Manila abruptly called him from it to take the promotion which Lawton's death brought to the next in line of ascendancy.

### MEAGER INFORMATION.

All that the American government at its Manila headquarters knew of the south country was the information contained in certain reports and documents in the archives of the Spanish government. These consisted of a pamphlet by a Spanish army officer, a number of reports by Spanish priests who had sought to convert the natives in vain, and reports by the officers who had served there and had their forces emaciated by disease while trailing an elusive and always vigilant foe through low lying swamps and through almost impassable jungles.

This data was briefly that 5 degrees and 20 minutes north of the equator lay a great island, of which the Spaniards had never made more than a superficial impression. In its five principal bays pirates had formerly lived, of the most bloodthirsty character, making expeditions to the north every year in pursuit of Christian slaves and priest hostages for whom large ransoms had been demanded. Only a decade of hard work with a swift fleet of small warships had the Spanish government stopped these piratical expeditions, and this not until 1887.

LAKE WHERE BOATS WERE SUNK  
As a sort of Mississippi river, draining the greatest and richest valleys into the Pulangui, navigable for 170 kilometers and having a total length of 483 kilometers, Lake Lanao in the interior was surrounded by tribes of powerful Moros, and here it was that the Fifteenth Infantry was to take up its station and raise sunken Spanish boats, a record of whose whereabouts was secured by the writer from Spanish officers in Manila who had been present at their sinking. The lake had 450 square kilometers of surface, and was fed by smaller lakes of some size in the rainy season.

To people accustomed to thinking of the Philippines as inhabited by one tribe of "natives," the population of Mindanao is a puzzle. In one afternoon's walk from Davao on the south coast inland to the writer on July 15, 1900, passed a dozen different "rancherias," each inhabited by a tribe speaking a different language from its neighbors and having no intercourse with their neighbors by the spear of knife, or some of its near relatives in knife design. The Jesuit priests who wrote most about the island gave its population as 184,214 Zamboanguenos as Visayans, professing Christianity, and 300,000 mountaineers, knowing no religion, divided into 20 different tribes, possessing such common names as Los Manobos, Los Mandayas, Los Bagabos, Los Mangunags, Los Sagunags, Los Calibuganos, or Los Yucanags. Besides these there were the principal inhabitants, the fierce Moros of the coast line, totaling 250,000 souls.

### DEWEY ENDED IT.

Spanish trouble in the Sulu country began early and knew no ending till Dewey fired upon Montofo and brought an end to it in a lowering flag. In 1577 the Spaniards fought with the Sulus, and this was 43 years before the pilgrim fathers landed at Plymouth Rock. In 1629 the Spaniards were building forts along the shores of Mindanao, and even on Lake Lanao. In 1663 the garrison spent more as fast as sail could carry them to repel the Chinese pirate Ko-Seng from Manila, weakened through the Spanish war with Holland. Ko-Seng was a bad Chinaman whose exploits have never been sung in fable or song as they deserve, and it was not until this that the Spaniards found time to again turn their attention to the south, after he started his campaigns against Manila. In 1869 the first pitched battle occurred in Mindanao with the idea of a war of conquest,

and this war was renewed at intervals as the Moro power was broken until Gen. Weyler of Cuban "reconcentration" fame finally opened a road to Lake Lanao in 1897 from Higan on the coast. He never, however, subjugated this section or brought its chiefs even to the point of making treaties.

### PRIESTS HATED.

For three centuries the Jesuit priests worked to convert the inhabitants of Mindanao. Then the American government came to the task of giving them protection under the law, guaranteeing them religious liberty, and confining the government's functions to prevention of fights for property advantage, and the settlement of disputes in which rivals figured not of the same tribe or class of people.

"Christians" was a word to be hated in Mindanao. It meant a trooked Spanish priest whose mission was to overthrow established creeds. "We are not Christians," explained General Bates to the wary sultan of Sulu, when he first called upon him. "We are Presbyterians."

"Our American brothers are not Christians," was the word which went from mouth to mouth through the island chains and across coral reefs to Borneo, and it meant friendly welcomes, ready alliances, and a subjugation of the islands with but very little opposition.

### ARDUOUS TASK.

General Bates inherited a task in his Sulu expedition which had previously been tendered to General Wheaton, who had given it up on account of important Luzon expeditions, and to General King, who had returned to America after the taking of Santa Cruz, and to the wary sultan of Sulu, when he first called upon him. "We are Presbyterians," was the word which went from mouth to mouth through the island chains and across coral reefs to Borneo, and it meant friendly welcomes, ready alliances, and a subjugation of the islands with but very little opposition.

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### REPLY SENT.

This letter was in the form of a notification to the sultan that Uncle Sam had intentions upon the group of islands. A Mr. Shuck, son of a German sailor, who had been shipwrecked on the island half a century ago, and who was married to a daughter of the sultan, did the interpreting for these first communications, and afterwards for verbal conferences.

people and to the United States which should be considered. "Upon my arrival here, I want you to say that I should like to see you here. I was pleased to learn from the commanding officer here that you had expressed a wish to see some United States officer with more authority to speak for the government, and I hope to see you soon."

### TWO MORE LETTERS.

Two more letters passed in this interchange of greetings and commands. One was a brief official notice from General Bates to the sultan: "I have the honor to inform you that in conformity with the course I have previously indicated, I shall without delay take out of Sulu and Bongo." The letter was dated Sept. 3, and on the 10th the sultan replied: "I thank you that you have notified me. I think of asking you to pay my police with your money. As to the other islands, wherever you like you can put your soldiers, because I hold your money. You will not make me the loser; now if you take Sulu where shall I make the money to pay my police with, whom I have to pay monthly. But I hold your promise that you would not make me the loser, and the profits I get out of Sulu are \$500 a month, and that is what I want you to take into consideration. There should be some equivalent to pay my police with because my salary is not sufficient to pay for my own living."

Let some fond reader wonder what it were worth to the sultan to have a real live sultan on his hands it may be well to state that he received \$200 per month, Mexican coin, to maintain the peace and dignity of the United States in his realm and not make trouble.

### ONLY THE BEGINNING.

The matter of bringing the sultan to mind and making him an American official was only the beginning of the work that preceded the occupancy of the Lake Lanao district in the interior of the coast southern Philippine island. On board the ship which General Bates had much more work cut out for him. On December 17, 1899, the difficult task of distributing troops around this island was completed, and it was equivalent to pay my police with because my salary is not sufficient to pay for my own living."

The sultan of Mindanao, destined later to lead an important expedition to visit the American governor at Zamboanga, was a visitor of General Bates at Cotta Bato. "The sultan," wrote General Bates, "was most cordial in his attitude and placed his possessions and himself at the disposal of the United States, asking for nothing but American flags. Datto Plang, who is probably the strongest ruler in the section to whom the inhabitants of Cotta Bato appealed, when he felt themselves unable to bear up under the burden of taxes levied by the insurrectionary junta of which Roman Vito was the leader, and which did not hesitate to exact delinquent taxpayers. In answer to this appeal Datto Plang went to Cotta Bato and failing to come to peaceful terms he executed Roman Vito and all of his officials upon Sept. 10, last, since which time Datto Plang has placed a provisional government in Cotta Bato, to await the arrival of American forces."

General Bates, and have directed troops to be sent to Pollok, and also to Perang, if upon examination it is found advisable to place troops at this point. "It is my intention as soon as transportation is available to place troops at Davao and Marit in addition to those at Cotta Bato, Pollok and probably at Perang Bato."

### INSURGENTS EXECUTED.

The most significant sentence of this brief letter from Gen. Bates was the statement that Datto Plang had headed a dozen insurgent representatives to place troops at this point. The insurgent government had spread south and so conducted itself that an



A Moro Mountaineer

American substitute was welcomed at any cost on the theory that it could not possibly be worse than that loyally tribute for the northern war.

But Gen. Bates was not destined long to enjoy his peaceful conquest. American missionaries began to follow in his wake, and they were determined to save the Moros from heathendom and habits of slavery. If there was one thing the Moros hated, it was the dog of a Christian. They typified to them in the Jesuit priest, with all his tribute loving accessories. One of these missionaries was locked up between the arrival of the steamer which brought him in and the next one which could take him away. Meanwhile the same class in America had agitated to the point of having the president call for a special report on Mohammedan slavery in the Sulus. This is what Gen. Bates forwarded on Dec. 29, 1899:

### DEFINITION OF SLAVERY.

"The word, 'slavery,' when applied to the institution existing among the Moros, conveys a most erroneous idea to the American. The so-called slaves are not slaves as we understand the word, but are companions, retainers, or followers of the chiefs. The system among the Moros seems to bear a close relationship to the old feudal system of Europe.

"In my five months' experience in these islands, I have not heard of a case of a slave complaining of ill treatment from his master."

"On inquiry of an old resident of the islands, I have not heard of a case of a slave complaining of ill treatment from his master. In the case of a man behaving badly, the dato would sometimes drive him off and tell him to keep out of his district; and rather than live independently, he would go to some other dato and ask to serve him and be his so-called slave."

### HOW SHE WAS VALUED.

"Slaves accompanied the sultan of Sulu and his dattos to interviews with me, and sometimes took part in the discussion. I have seen a man whom

The Sulu Chieftains  
Remained in Nat-  
ural State, Saved  
from All External  
Influences Through  
Warfare Against  
Spain and a Spanish  
Policy of Shutting  
Off the Islands  
From Other Trade.

I took to be a trusted follower, companion and adviser of a dato, and was surprised to learn that he was a slave.

"At the house of a dato, an officer of my staff, noticing an intelligent young slave girl who seemed to be treated as one of the family, inquired of a friend of the dato what was the market value of such a girl, and was told that no money could buy her; that she had been raised as the dato's sister, and was regarded as one of the family."

"I have heard of one case where a slave girl ran away from her owner, but understood that it was due to some love affair and not to harsh treatment by her owner. Polygamy being a part of their religion, is recognized and largely practiced; the sultan of Mindanao is said to have 12 wives."

"There seem to be the following classes of slaves: Those born in slavery, those becoming slaves by reason of debt; those voluntarily becoming slaves to secure protection of some powerful dato, or official; those obtained by purchase, the last class being almost entirely women."

### MILITARY AS GUARDIANS.

From this beginning in Sulu affairs Gen. C. Bates was removed early in 1900, and he turned over the wild tribes he had found, as the subjects of an American military department, to be put under the command of Gen. Kobbe. It had troops stationed through both the Sulu archipelago and around the sea coast of Mindanao, and reinforcements arrived in the summer of 1900, which were to be used a couple of years later under Major John J. Pershing to call his signal service to the attention of the Washington authorities and to cause them to summon him for rapid promotion and a place on the army's general staff. His expedition into the interior opened the way for the peaceful occupation of the country by the Fifteenth Infantry, when it landed at Overton on the coast, in November, 1905. This regiment marched 22 miles inland to Lake Lanao, and went into barracks at Camp Keithley, which it found to be composed of grass "shacks." When the regiment left on Nov. 5, 1907, it had remodeled the barracks and built them anew. In addition through long "fixings," it had made the country around the lake thoroughly known and has made maps which will be of invaluable interest should another campaign for pacification be necessary.



### SUFFRAGETTES LOSE VALUABLE ALLY.

The English suffragettes who scorn the pleadings or advice of mere man were fairly overcome, for the first and only time, by the eminently straightforward and unselfish reception they got from Mrs. Augustine Birrell, wife of the chief secretary for Ireland, formerly the president of the board of education.

In furtherance of their campaign of exasperation the suffragettes took it into their heads to call one morning early at the private residences of the various cabinet ministers. Among others they went to Mr. Birrell's home, where Mrs. Birrell received them with a courtesy that stilled their shrieking propensities until she told them that her husband was in bed and could not see them. Then they became aggressive and were shown out.

Instead of going away they began to make speeches to passersby from the doorstep, hammering the knocker and ringing the house bell at short intervals. When Mrs. Birrell lost her patience she opened the window and the suffragettes, thinking she was about to capitulate, gathered around. What she had to say was this:

"My husband will not see you if you stay here a year. If anything were calculated to make me hesitate about claiming the vote for women it is your senseless and idiotic behavior. As a woman I think your conduct disgraceful."



### FOR WAR IS HELL

A Tale of the Philippines.

If you've ever seen a carabao humping out for water  
Or ever seen His Slowness run amok  
You will know his pace is hotter than the keenest Yankee trotter  
Till he finds a pool wherein to lie and soak.

There's a man who went with Lawton on the hike to Arayat  
Who lucklessly was detailed with the commissariat  
And though he's since been discharged from the War-time volunteers  
He's taken on to soldier for a term of three more years.

There's a wound upon his forehead and a wound upon his face  
And remarks upon his discharge which he counts a deep disgrace.  
For they tell his chums and bunkies of the army as to how  
He was run to earth and wallowed by a pack-train carabao.

His "Character" is "Excellent," his "Services" A. 1.  
After "Wounds Received in Battle" is a damnable "None."  
And then the artless captain has the honor to insert:  
"This man once fought a carabao and was severely hurt."

How could he face that maiden on the great home-welcome day  
And tell her of his valor in a laudatory way  
With this infernal document,—which she of course must see  
A-lookin' all the glory from his "Seals of Braveryes?"

Though man who learned to soldier in the old Federal school  
Were sent to Subsequently by the rear guard of a mule  
In all the lore of battles fought from Adam down to now  
There's never a tale of soldier who was whipped by carabao.

To take such honors home from war were surely pure disgrace  
With re-enlistment travel pay a staring in his face,—  
If you ask why Goudy's hiking round the lakes of Mindanao  
It's just 'cause he was wallowed by a pack-train carabao.

IKE RUSSELL.