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Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., March 31, 1899.

Otis Hems in 5,000 Rebels. Aguinaldo's Army Cut in Two and Half of it Surrounding at Polo After Savage Fighting—The American Losses are 200—Magnificent Dash and Courage Shown by the Brigades of McArthur, Wheaton and Hale—The Battle Lasted Sixteen Hours—Filipinos Suffer Heavily Under Our Fire.

MANILA, March 25.—As darkness descends to-night our army surrounds about 5,000 insurgents to the north of the little village of Polo. Night prevents a final closing in, but this large force of the enemy is at our mercy. Casualties on our side are about 200, mostly wounded. In this engagement, lasting nearly sixteen hours, we have lost only a few killed, while the insurgents were slaughtered everywhere. The whole field is strewn with their corpses and broken rifles.

The action was magnificent. While our right marched on a detour east and north, the whole center swept out from the trenches in almost unbroken line two miles long, and moved across the open fields, without cover, straight against three lines of the enemy's entrenchments. The Kansas Regiment and Third Artillery were in advance. A whirlwind of bullets swept across the ground over which our men pressed, now lying down, now firing, now moving forward with cheers, colors waving.

The center of the enemy's line was entrenched in the edges of two bamboo thickets. I could see them running to and fro throwing up their hands and dropping finally. There was one fierce yell as our troops crossed the first intrenchment. The insurgents retired in great disorder through the woods to the second line, leaving their killed on the field in heaps. Our men pressed forward and reached another thicket, where there were trenches in a growth so dense that the soldiers had to force their bodies through, while volley after volley flamed from the hidden barricades.

ENEMY SWEEPED FROM THEIR TRENCHES. As our line swung northeast and came to the Tuliabon river General Wheaton's brigade moved out from Calococan and swept the trenches directly in front, killing scores of the insurgents. Our line was now stretched along six miles of the south bank of the river, with the bridge at Calococan destroyed.

There were solid lines of insurgents in trenches on the other bank. Their bullets cut limbs from the trees and beat up clouds of dust as the Kansas Regiment and Third Artillery boldly waded across the river and stormed a blockhouse of the enemy. The Kansas Volunteers almost swam so deep was the water. They charged the trenches dripping with the utmost enthusiasm. It was such a charge as the Filipinos could make no stand against. They broke and ran for the high ground. I counted thirty-one dead in the space of fifty yards.

PREPARATIONS WERE ELABORATE. Preparations for the movement were elaborate and arranged with the utmost care and foresight. The general formation was:

General Hale's brigade in front; behind it were massed the brigades of Generals Harrison, Grey, Otis and Hall; Gen. Wheaton's brigade was placed in the rear. This force numbered, roughly estimated, 12,000 men—the same as estimated strength of the enemy, who, however, were strongly entrenched dense jungles, into which our men would have to force their way after crossing a large open space, exposed to the full force of the insurgent fire. The regiments in our line average about 800 men each. These regiments are: The Third Artillery, Montana volunteers, Pennsylvania volunteers, Nebraska volunteers, Wyoming volunteers, Colorado volunteers, South Dakota volunteers, Oregon volunteers, Third regulars, Fourth regulars, Seventeenth regulars, Twenty-second regulars, Twenty-third regulars, Utah artillery and the Minnesota volunteers.

AMERICANS CHARGE FIERCELY. Our troops advanced on the double-quick, yelling fiercely. Occasionally they drop-

ped in the grass for an instant, firing by volley. Adopting American tactics for the first time, the rebels reserved their fire until we were within 1000 yards of them. Then they suddenly retreated to our volleys with a galling fire across the open stretch we were crossing.

The rebel fire was the more galling for the reason that their aim was better than in previous engagements. They fired low, their bullets driving a cloud of dust into the faces of our advancing troops. But the Americans never hesitated. They rushed forward, cheering and continuing their volleys with appalling effect, carrying it through to the end. When we were 200 yards distant from the enemy's line they began to break and run for the woods. At short range our volleys moved down those who still resisted, so that when our men stood in the enemy's outermost position they saw that their further pursuit would be over the bodies of dead and disabled insurgents.

FIELD CLEARED IN NINETY MINUTES. At 6 a. m.—90 minutes after the start—our line had cleared the enemy's front for a distance of three miles to the north. While General McArthur's division swung to the left, driving the rebels into the jungle on all sides, General Hale's brigade swept in a northwesterly direction. It put the enemy to rout and burned the town of San Francisco del Monte.

Our line then opposite the enemy's center at Novaliches. The artillery was advancing rapidly, there being good roads from Laloma, its starting point, to the insurgent's central position. Immediately behind the artillery came the wagons, carrying pontoons, telegraph supplies and ammunition. The advance of the infantry was in splendid order.

A Magnificent School. Very many of our readers must know somewhat about the Central State Normal school at Lock Haven, Pa., yet comparatively few are aware of the immensity of the institution or of the completeness of its equipment and the splendid opportunities which it affords to students.

REBELS RESIST STUBBORNLY. To protect General Hale's right General Hall moved to Balnac, meeting with strong opposition. Meanwhile, the Oregon regiment and a portion of the Utah battery under Lieutenant Gibbs, occupied the extreme left.

MANILA, March 26.—7:30 p. m.—The United States troops, under Brigadier General Lloyd Wheaton, captured the town of Malinta, beyond the Tuliabon river, today, after a sharp fight. Colonel Harry C. Egbert, of the Twenty-second regular infantry, was killed. Prince Lowenstein, formerly aide-de-camp on the staff of Brigadier General Miller at Iloilo, somehow got in front of the firing line and was shot in the side, dying almost instantly. A German who accompanied him was wounded.

The American casualties to-day were much lighter than those of yesterday, the total losses thus far reported since the engagement commenced being forty-five killed and 145 wounded. General Wheaton entered Malinta, which is a small village of huts, at 1 o'clock this afternoon. The United States gunboat Helena and other gunboats have been shelling Malalabon, about a mile northwest of Calococan, for several hours.

—P. H. Sprague, of Chicago, who has made his large fortune in poultry, figures that 3,350,000 chickens and 13,000,000 eggs, valued together at \$290,000,000, were produced in the United States during 1898.

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Herbert Putnam, just appointed librarian of Congress, was born in New York city in 1821. He is the son of George Putnam, founder of the publishing house of George Putnam & Sons. Mr. Putnam was graduated from Harvard in 1833, and attended Columbia Law school for one year and after. In the fall of 1834 he went to Minneapolis, and a year later entered the Minnesota bar. In 1834, however, he took the librarianship of the Athenaeum, a stock corporation, with a fund yielding \$10,000 a year for the purchase of books, but with a very meagre income for current expenses.

Mr. Putnam organized the Minneapolis public library, a free city institution, with circulating department, branches and delivery stations under the control of a library board. An independent department of the city government, with power to levy tax within a half mill limit for the support of the library. By the issue of bonds and private subscription and exempt from current taxes for several years, the library board bought a site and erected a building costing nearly \$400,000, and now as one of the three or four best of the best equipped libraries in the city.

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