

SABRE CHARGE OF COL. WINT

OPENED THE EYES OF THE BRITISH GENERAL.

Graphic Pen Picture of a Historic Battle Scene During the Chinese Campaign, in Which a Gallant Officer Taught a British Commander a New Wrinkle in Cavalry Tactics.

In the Manila Critic of Nov. 1, appeared an article by D. Minor Mickle, a war correspondent, upon the China campaign, which will be read with interest by Scrantonians because of its references to then Lieutenant Colonel, now Brigadier General Wint.



GEN. THEODORE J. WINT.

"By reason of the intensity of the interest which centered in the Pekin legations and the expedition marching to their relief, two years ago, while they were besieged by the fanatical 'Boxers,' much fine work done on our side by troops guarding communications escaped the notice which it would otherwise have attracted. This was notably true of the Sixth United States cavalry in an engagement with five thousand Chinese troops of the Imperial army, near Tientsin.

"Owing to the lack of lighterage facilities at the port of Taku, it was impossible to disembark the horses of the Sixth in time for all of that regiment to start for Pekin with the relief expedition, so two squadrons of it were left behind at Tientsin to await the coming of their mounts. The main column was far on its way when the horses arrived and hurry orders were given for the cavalry to follow it. This meant much hard marching and in view of the fact that the horses were somewhat stiff from the ocean voyage and the confinement on the transport, it was thought best to give them moderate exercise before they started on the road. With this in view a movement was planned against a large body of the enemy which was reported to be threatening the city from the west. The Chinese were strongly entrenched, with three thousand Imperial troops armed with Mauser rifles, and two thousand Boxers armed with lances.

A Composite Force.
"The force sent against the position consisted of one regiment of Bengal infantry, one battalion of Japanese infantry, one troop of British Indian cavalry, half a troop of Chinese cavalry and the two squadrons of the Sixth United States cavalry. Besides there was a battery of British artillery, but owing to the bad condition of the roads it never arrived on the scene but halted about half way out. The column was under the command of a British brigadier general, but Lieutenant Colonel Wint was in command of all the cavalry—British and Japanese, as well as American.

"On the march the cavalry formed the advance guard, and when the vicinity of the town was reached they met the Chinese in a corn field. By order of Colonel Wint one squadron dismounted and advanced in skirmish order, leading their horses by the lariat, while the other squadron left their horses in a ravine and took position in support. The engagement was brisk for a few moments, when the Chinese slowly retired to their trenches at the town.

"By this time the general had thrown his force into battle formation and the line advanced to the attack. The Chinese occupied the village surrounded by walls. These walls had been loopholed and made excellent defenses. In addition they occupied a line of trenches in front of the village (the village was, according to the custom, built upon a mound about six feet high, which raised them above overflow from the Peking river. This gave excellent range for shooting over the trenches). The line of trenches ran eastward for some distance beyond the last village and ended on the bank of a canal which approached from the south and at that point bore off to the east with a sharp angle.

The Line of Attack.
"The line of attack was formed in the cornfield, between which and the trenches lay an open field a thousand yards wide which afforded neither protection to the advancing troops nor even obstruction to the view of the enemy. In the formation the Japanese infantry were on the left, the British infantry in the center and the cavalry on the right. Of the latter the squadron with horses on the lariat was some distance in advance of the whole line, with its right flank resting on the canal, while the other squadron was echeloned between it and the infantry. The troop of British cavalry was attached to the latter and was stationed between it and the infantry.

"From the moment the line appeared in the corn it was subjected to a terrific fire from the Chinese. The advance was slow and cautious, a hot fire being kept up in reply to that of the enemy. As the line left the cover of the cornfield, a cloud of horsemen was seen advancing across the open to meet it. Preparations to resist a cavalry charge were made, but before it came to this the Chinese column wheeled and it was seen that the supposed cavalry was really a battery of artillery. It went into action at once, and as the guns boomed out there came rolling across the level field a lot of round solid shot an inch in diameter. These were stopped by the boys and pocketed as souvenirs. Later in the day, when these guns had been taken, they were found to be nothing more than large 1-inch bore duck guns, such as are used by pothunters in the United States, mounted on jinnickshaws. However, they were used heroically by the Chinese, who abandoned them only when charged by the cavalry.

An Interchange of Opinions.
"As the battle progressed Colonel Wint observed a movement by a large body of the enemy towards the canal. Supposing it to be a flank movement, he sent an aide to the general for infantry support. The reply was: 'Tell Colonel Wint to take his cavalry off the firing line. That is no place for cavalry.'

"The Colonel remained where he was and as the movement of Chinese to the canal continued he sent another message urging the necessity of making some provision to meet a flank attack. Again the reply came: 'Tell Colonel Wint to take his cavalry off the firing line. That is no way to use cavalry.'

"To this message Colonel Wint replied: 'Present my compliments to the general and say that may be so according to British tactics, but I know how American cavalry should be handled.' 'He then ordered the first squadron to mount and charge, and the other to follow it. As the yelling line of horsemen dashed forward, the Chinese stopped their movement to the westward and turned to meet it, forming a solid line of lances in front, with riflemen behind firing over the lancers' shoulders. But as the cavalry kept on coming and yelling the line of lances wavered and broke. Even then a second (or third) thought seemed to strike them, for they turned to make another stand. They were no longer in solid line, but were scattered irregularly, each man kneeling upon one knee and couching his lance to cover his front. In this formation the cavalry struck them, charged into and over them, cracking pates as they went and throwing the terrified cohorts into confusion. As the Chinese scattered in disorder the horsemen rode among them, cutting and slashing as hard as they could.

Chinese Brutality.
"Then it was found that a dull sabre was not an effective weapon for close quarters, for the Chinese who had been knocked down once got up and began to fight. Realizing the hopelessness of escape, they became imbued with the spirit of madmen and fought savagely. Lying quiet until an American approached, they would spear his horse or attack our wounded while they lay helpless upon the ground, keeping it up as long as there were signs of life. 'The flying foe were pursued for two miles, by which time they had been so scattered that further pursuit was useless. The return showed the ground covered with arms that had been cast aside by the fugitives, while three hundred and fifty dead Chinese were counted on the field. There were no wounded. The two squadrons of the Sixth lost six men killed and twelve wounded.

Frank British Acknowledgment.
"The British and Japanese infantry finished the trenches and villages, killing such of the defenders as lingered on the scene. The general, upon his return, made a full and frank report of the battle, giving Colonel Wint credit for the victory. He said that the American cavalry had been handled by tactics new to him, but very effective. It did the work while the infantry did little more than support it. 'During this engagement the Japanese hospital corps did some fine work which won warm commendation from all for its effectiveness as well as for the personal courage displayed by its members. Far in the rear, beyond the zone of fire, was established their dressing station, while with the firing line went surgeons and litter-bearers to render first aid to the wounded. Between these and the dressing stations were posted two sub-stations of litter-bearers. Whenever a soldier fell the surgeon with the line would apply a temporary dressing to stop the flow of blood, then a pair of litter-bearers would take him to the rear, turn him over to another pair at the sub-station, take an unoccupied litter and return to the line. The bearers who relieved them

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would take the patient on to the third station, go through the same process of relief and return to their post, while the wounded man was hurried to the rear and made stationary where his wounds were carefully dressed."

THE UNION IS PERMANENT.

Abstract of Article by Frank J. Worne in January, Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

A clear insight into the disastrous effects of the unrestrained competition of the cheaper European labor with the labor produced under American conditions is presented by Dr. Frank Julian Worne, of the University of Pennsylvania, in "The Effect of Unions Upon the Mine Worker," published in the January issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. The writer confines his analysis to the anthracite industry of Pennsylvania, but its value is emphasized when it is remembered that somewhat similar results, although possibly not as deplorable, are evident in other industries in this country. The Immigration Bill now before Congress is designed to find a remedy for some of the evil effects of this European immigration.

Dr. Worne believes this competition of the Slav, whose cost of maintaining his labor is low, with the English-speaking mine worker, whose cost of living is much higher, is the most dominant of all the economic forces affecting the living conditions of the mine workers. As to the far-reaching effects of this competition, Dr. Worne says: "It crosses and recrosses every occupation in the industry. Among individuals in the same group and between the different groups and classes competition is intensified. In all of them workers are forced out of the industry; some are compelled to lower their standards of living; others are prevented from raising their standards, while to many the struggle to exist becomes a most severe battle for the necessities of life. The pressure on some mine workers is so great as to force their boys of tender years into the breaker and their girl children into the silk mill in order that their mites may add to the family income. This competition affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of people; it even determines the number of births in a community as well as influences powerfully the physical and mental qualities of many yet unborn. It is one of the great dominant forces at work in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania to-day threatening and retarding communal advancement and attacking those institutions which we as Americans prize so highly. Like all great forces it has its beginning in small things—in the ability of a group of men to live on less than another group—in the desire of the managers of capital to secure a low cost of production—and like these forces its effects are so far-reaching as to be un-

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traceable in all their manifestations." A point generally overlooked in all discussions of the problems giving rise to and growing out of the recent strikes of the mine workers and which is of particular interest to those who have been persistent in arguing for a "free" market, is that raised by Dr. Worne in claiming that the American working-man should have not so much a "free" market as a market where a fair wage is assured. He draws an analogy between the unrestrained competition of labor with labor and the economic law which uncontrolled had played havoc with and wrought ruin to not only a fair interest on capital but to a large part of capital itself invested in that industry. He concludes that just as capital seeks protection against the evil working of this law in the consolidation of mining plants and the combination of railroads so labor is striving to find a remedy for its present deplorable conditions through organization. The position of the consumers of coal to the combination of capital and the opposition of the consumers of mine labor to the organization of mine workers, Dr. Worne believes, both useless attempts to prevent the inevitable.

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO.

Interesting Comparisons Based on the Last Census Figures.

In New York and Chicago are almost one-twelfth of the population of the United States. They transact more

than one-seventh of the business and control almost half the wealth. We find in the Chicago Record-Herald an interesting comparison, based on figures of 1900, between them.

New York upon its 206,218 acres has 2,437,262 population; Chicago has 1,688,553 on 115,164 acres. Chicago has 4,151 miles of streets, against New York's 2,519, but Chicago has 2,328 miles unpaved. New York has 6,729 acres of park area, more than three times that of Chicago. In street railways New York has 1,252 miles, about 200 more than Chicago. New York spends for schools \$16,393,656, or more than twice as much as Chicago. New York has 32,220 recorded marriages, against 10,388 for Chicago. In births, New York's 51,721 are almost three times the Chicago figures. Our contemporary explains that statistics of births there "have never been full." The figured death-rate per thousand is 26.619 for New York and 14.683 for Chicago, whose death statistics are almost as unsatisfactory as those of births.

The assessed valuation of New York is \$3,654,132,193; that of Chicago is less than one-twelfth as great, being \$276,365,880. New York receives in income from 19,823 saloons \$5,674,710; Chicago from 6,392 saloons gets \$9,174,003. The

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total public income in New York is \$104,307,884, and in Chicago \$26,867,739. Chicago's debt is \$22,939,819, New York's more than eight times that sum; Chicago can never have a great debt, because its borrowing limit is five per cent on the assessed value, while New York's is ten per cent.
New York spends ten times more than Chicago on construction, nearly three times more on police, over three times more on the fire department, six times more for the health department, nearly eight times more for street cleaning, three times more for water-works and twenty-five times more on "other expenditures," which reach in New York the respectable sum of \$36,716,378.
Greek Steamer Lost.
By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.
Constantinople, Dec. 23.—The Greek steamer Parthenon, having on board a crew of twenty-two men and six passengers, is reported to have been lost. The Parthenon was last reported at Novorossiisk, November 28, from Taganrog.

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