

certain favourite plants. To it a daily mud-bath is one of the necessities of life. The buffalo will fling himself on his side in the mire, and shuffle round and round until he is covered to the eyes with a mortar-like substance. When he has dried himself in the sun he looks like a huge clay image. This strange habit is not without its useful purpose. Millions of stinging flies swarm among the rank vegetation of his habitat, and till his mud-coat peels

tions practised by the Government officials.

"At first, the rebels were successful; but when a large army, between 15,000 and 20,000 fresh Spanish conscripts from the peninsula, was sent against them, they were forced to retire; and, accordingly, they entrenched themselves in the mountains near the capital. Here they built a considerable fortress, and though the greater part of the troops were without arms of any kind, never-



SULU WARRIORS IN FIGHTING ATTITUDE.

off the animal is impregnable to their vicious attacks.

The intolerable oppression of the Spaniards naturally provoked many struggles for liberty, going back nearly three hundred years. These were suppressed with ruthless cruelty and wholesale executions. The most formidable of these insurrections was that which began August, 1896. Its causes were the arrogance and exactions of the friars, the oppressive taxes, the licenses and numerous fees, and other extortions and confisca-

theless they were made subject to the most rigid discipline. Only 1,200 of the 7,000 men that composed this camp possessed rifles; yet, even thus poorly equipped, for more than eighteen months they kept up a desultory but harassing war against 15,000 well-armed Spanish troops.

The Tagal Republic was proclaimed in October, 1896, and Andreas Bonifacio was chosen president. When Bonifacio died, a few months later, Aguinaldo was elected president and commander-