

### DEEDS OF AMERICAN BOYS

Exploits That Fill the Anglo-Saxon Heart With Pride.

George Fortson, Just Before He Falls, Describes the Battle of Pasig—Map Showing Lay of the Country.

Seattle is in mourning today over the death of one of its hero soldiers, Captain George H. Fortson, yet, mingled with the sense of sadness and bereavement is a feeling of unconquerable pride that in the gallant citizen-warrior Seattle gave to the nation one of the most heroic figures of the Filipino war. His intrepid leadership on the field of battle was a continual inspiration to his fellow soldiers, and his bravery resulted in the saving of some of the most brilliant exploits recorded in the history of war. They form a chapter in the annals of American gallantry and bravery that every son of Uncle Sam—eye, of every nation of the Anglo-Saxon race—may cherish with grateful devotion. The war in the Philippines has been marked by innumerable exploits of soldierly daring which have excited the admiration of the world, and in nearly all of them the soldiers belonged to the western states, notably Kansas, South Dakota, Utah, Montana and Washington. One of these transpired on February 1, in the capture of the city of Pasig after a fierce battle, when Captain Fortson, at the head of a body of about eighty soldiers, attacked 300 Filipinos in a fort. They waded across a canal while the enemy was firing at them. They charged across the level ground and up a hill in the face of a scorching fire. They scaled walls twenty-five feet high and captured ninety-one prisoners, killed thirty-seven Filipinos in the trenches and followed those who fled to the death. Captain Fortson described this exploit most vividly in a letter to his wife, received by her but a few days before the news of his untimely death in a subsequent battle. He said in part:

"Since writing you last I have been through one of the hottest battles ever fought. It began about 8 o'clock Saturday night, and we wound it up at 9:30 a.m. Sunday—there is our end of it. But on the left and right it continued until late in the afternoon. We drove the Filipinos back about five miles, when we stopped, worn out, too tired to bury our dead, which, I am glad to say, are not as numerous as might be expected.

"I had command of Companies E, G and I and a portion of B, about twenty, and was stationed on the southeast corner of Pandacan Island. We made two charges. The first across the canal and an open flat, about 200 yards wide, and up through a clump of bushes and over the 'Asie' river. We waded the canal and drove them back to the river, and most of them reached the other side. Some were shot and others were drowned.

"I then went back alone and took a portion of Companies E, B and D and charged upon the Filipinos on top of a knoll, about thirty-five feet high. There were about 300 Filipinos in the fort firing at us. We went down and forced the canal, up on the other side, and up over and into the fort, where we took ninety-one prisoners and killed thirty-seven Filipinos in the trenches. The remainder were shot and killed as they ran away. I had only about eighty men when I charged the fort. We were compelled to climb up the sides of the fortifications that were almost perpendicular, twenty-five feet. The remainder was not so difficult.

"We are now at Santa Ana, four miles out of Manila—a place the Spaniards have been endeavoring to take for years. The Filipinos loss was 2,000. They ran up into the thousands. Our firing line was fourteen miles long and the Washingtons were the first to win and have the praise of the day. The Filipinos in the city shot from all their houses and every treed and wall. They butchered as far as they could. The Filipinos were all either driven out of the city, killed or taken prisoners. Their shacks have been burned for miles around. Sunday afternoon the whole island for miles appeared to be a sheet of flames.

"On Saturday last Santa Ana had a population of 4,000, but today there are not over 50, and all of these with one or two exceptions are women. The clean-up was complete, but just finished. In a few places they drove our line, and whenever they did they cut throats and mutilated the remains of the dead. Everywhere they got hold of an American they murdered him, and in several instances after they had raised the white flag and surrendered they shot and killed our men. If one was caught he would surrender, and as soon as his captors turned his head for a moment would either shoot or stab him. So cruelly was forced on us. The slaughter was something awful. The Washingtons kept shooting and capturing as long as there was a man to be found. General King had our regiment and a detachment from the Sixth artillery drawn up in line, and stated that he was ordered by the commander of the Philippine army to thank the officers and

men for their courage, discipline and behavior. He also added his own thanks and congratulations. He said he was proud to have it said he was connected with such a body of men. He said as high a tribute as could be paid to a body of men. How is that for volunteers?" Speaking of the rice fields Captain Fortson said: "The rice fields are perfect mud holes. The mud came up to the tops of my leggings almost every step in making the charge across the flat. It was this mean, blue mud. We were the maddest crowd you ever saw."

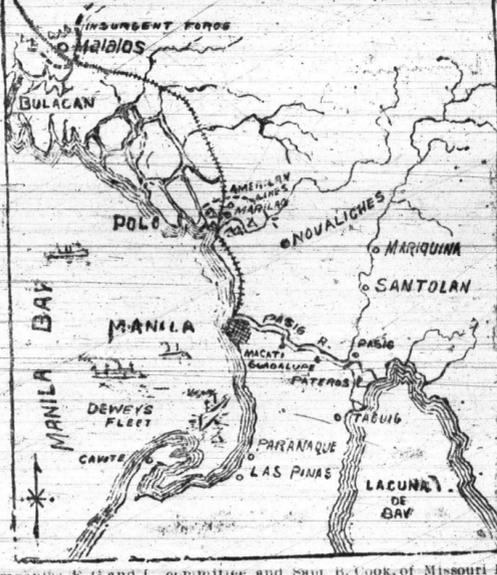
#### OUTSIDE NEWS IN BRIEF.

**ROTTENNESS IN AMERICAN POLITICS.**  
CHICAGO, March 27.—The *Inter-Ocean* will print a sensational article in the morning charging that Kinahan, the confidence man murdered Sunday morning, was killed by thugs in the employ of Mayor Harrison's campaign managers, because suspected of furnishing the *Inter-Ocean* with material for its sensational exposé of Harrison's administration. It charges that the police department is blocking the efforts of the coroner to bring the murderers to justice. It is the hottest thing ever printed in Chicago, and throws Parkhurst's New York exposure into the shade.

**CHICAGO, March 27.**—Harrison heeler terrorize the city hall. Alderman "Bathhouse John" Connelin led a gang against the witnesses before the election board and one man was fatally injured. A warrant is out for Connelin's arrest. The police refuse to maintain order. The commissioners see for their lives. The sheriff has ordered out deputies to escort them to the county building and has surrounded the building with a guard of 1,000 men.

**"COIN" HARVEY HAS RESIGNED.**

CHICAGO, March 27.—W. H. (Coin) Harvey has resigned as general manager of the Democratic



committee, and Sam B. Cook, of Missouri, has been appointed to his place. Harvey gives as the cause of his resignation that he could not get the committee to agree on what he thought was a practical, business-like and aggressive policy.

#### A Noted Character.

J. J. Nicholson, late of the Melbourne hotel force, arrived home this week from a trip to the Forty-mile district, having gone there to stake on Polly creek, a tributary of the Forty-mile forty-seven miles up and nearly opposite O'Brien creek. There has been a bit of quiet prospecting there, it is said, and word was sent out to friends to get in on the ground floor. Mr. Nicholson had the pleasure, while away, of meeting one who is probably the best known and most prominent character in the Forty-mile district. This gentleman is Sam Patch, a resident of the place for the past eleven years, and an American of such uncompromising character that, until last winter, he had steadfastly refused to cross the international boundary line into Canadian territory, notwithstanding his homestead of 160 acres lies on either side of the line. During all the long years he worked an old bar on the American side of his property and resisted every inducement to put foot on the American portion. But last winter "the boys" who knew of and were amused by his hobby, put up a job on him. They told him that an international agreement had been reached by which the whole of Forty-mile became American territory, and they wanted him to go to town to celebrate. He took the bait eagerly, boarded the sled awaiting for him and was soon at Forty-mile, where a ball was in progress. The old man was the lion of the hour, and enjoyed such a good time that he never regretted having crossed the line. Sam lives 23 miles up from Forty-mile, and his hospitable cabin is continually under the shadow of a huge American flag, which was presented to him by a body of admiring Seattleites. Mr. Nicholson earned the old man's gratitude by giving him a couple of copies of the *Nugget*, which he happened to have in his possession. "All the boys lend me their *Nuggets*," he said, "and she is a warm baby, ain't she?" Mr. Patch was born in Worcester, Mass., 72 years ago, and fifty years ago he failed around Cape Horn for California. He followed gold mining there until eleven years ago, when he entered the Yukon country, and has been here ever since.

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