

HARDSHIPS AND SUFFERING

Details of the Mishap to
Marines in Crossing
Samar.

Several Men Lost and the
Remainder Now in a
Bad Way.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—General Chaffee has cabled to the war department a report of the march of Major Waller and his marines across Samar. It is the first full account of the march and tells a tale of terrible suffering and hardship. Major Waller, four officers and 50 men of the Marine corps, Lieutenant Lyles of the Twelfth Infantry and 36 native bearers started during the last week in December from the east coast of Samar to Lanang on the east coast of Samar, about 35 miles distant. The story of their sufferings is told in the following despatch.

The war department is advised of the trip of Major Waller, four officers and 50 men of the Marine corps and 36 native bearers with four days' rations, who started the last week of December from Lanang on the east coast of Samar to cross the island to Bazy, about 35 miles on the map. The trail at one time existed, but is now found in places only. Lieutenant Lyles, Twelfth Infantry, accompanied the command. Incessant rains from the start, swollen streams and other natural obstacles made progress extremely slow. When the rations were consumed the men became exhausted rapidly, dropping on the way. Major Waller separated from Captain Porter, Lieutenant R. P. Williams and the major part of the men and proceeded toward Bazy, where he arrived January 9th with two officers and 13 men, starvation and over 20 men were left in the mountains in a similar condition with native bearers.

A relief expedition under Lieutenant Kenneth P. Williams, First Infantry, was detained in starting for two days by a storm raging and a torrent river. He started on the 13th; reached the marines the 18th, saving Lieutenant Williams and all excepting 10 men found, who are no doubt dead from starvation, namely: Privates Fangle, E. Foster, G. M. Britt, T. Ward Brown, F. F. Murray, T. Beuffet, Bailey Baroni, Connell B. Kettle, died in hospital at Tacloban January 23rd. Captain Porter, Lieutenant Williams and 18 men in hospital at Tacloban are not very clear in mind regarding much of the trip. He returned after suffering. All will probably recover. Major Waller is at present disordered in his recollections. The suffering of his command for 20 days cannot be described. The efforts of Lieutenant Williams, First Infantry, and his relief party are unequalled for courage and labor.

THE WORLD'S GOLD SUPPLY.

It has been reckoned that in the deposit of clay on which the city of Philadelphia stands there is enough of the metal to gild the fronts of all the buildings in the place. Here the amount is so small that it has no more prospective value than that contained in the sea water. Thus, while it may be said that wherever a person may be on the surface of the earth, or on the ocean, there is likely to be gold enough within a mile of his feet to make him a millionaire, the places where gold can conceivably be won at a profit are relatively few.

The most important increase that is to be looked for in vein mining arises, however, from the rapid improvement in the modes of applying power to such work. The gain in this regard, in the last half century, through the invention of power drills, more effective explosives, better hoisting systems and more efficient methods of treating the ores, is such that, on the average, in terms of labor, it probably does not at present cost one-third as much to win and treat a given amount of ore from underground mines as it did in 1850.

Making no allowance for future improvements in mining, we may expect a very great and rapid increase in the annual supply of this precious metal from the betterments already effected. As to the extent of this gain there is no basis for a trustworthy reckoning; but those who have some idea of the amount of gold-bearing veins which can with skillful mining be made to yield a profit at the present rates of interest, will probably be disposed to agree with me in the opinion that, at anything like the present price of labor, the yield from this group of deposits is likely within 20 years to exceed \$500,000,000 per annum.—Prof. Shaler in the International Monthly.

SENT EAST—

The remains of the late Peter B. Holcomb, who was killed in the War Eagle shaft last week, will be shipped today to his former home in Lambertville, New Jersey for interment. The Masonic fraternity took charge of the body and arranged to have it sent home to relatives.

F. H. Moffatt left for a visit to California by last evening's train.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS

Receives and Talks to
the Ladies of Foreign
Legations.

An Event Without Prece-
dent in the History
of China.

PEKIN, Feb. 1.—The dowager empress, the emperor and the empress this afternoon received the wives and children of members of the diplomatic corps in the private apartments of the palace. The audience was the most revolutionary event since the return of the court to Peking. The exclusiveness of Chinese royalty and the prejudices against the meeting of the sexes was waived and the function was less formal than usual in European courts. The dowager empress occupied the throne, with a brilliant assemblage of princesses and court ladies about her. The emperor was seated upon a small platform in the center of the room. The visitors upon entering ascended the steps of the throne and bowed to the dowager. Mrs. Conger, wife of United States Minister Conger and doyenne of the diplomatic corps, read a speech, which was translated by Secretary Williams.

Mrs. Conger said: "We heartily congratulate you and the Imperial court that the unfortunate situation which led you to abandon your beautiful capital has been so happily ended in freedom and peace. The events of the past two years must have been as painful to you as the rest of the world, but the sting of experience may be eliminated by the establishment of franker, more trustful and friendlier relations between the Chinese and the other people of the earth. The world is moving forward, the tide of progress cannot be stayed, and it is hoped that China will join with the great sisterhood of nations in the great march. The recent Imperial edicts give promise of great good to your people and to your vast empire."

The dowager's reply was exceedingly friendly in tone. It was in part as follows: "Last year the dimensions in the palace caused a revolution which compelled our hasty departure; but it is great gratification to us that our return to the capital has caused such rejoicing in China and abroad." Baron Czikana, the Austrian minister, and doyen of the diplomatic corps, presented all the ladies to the dowager empress, who took the hand of each of them. They were next presented to the emperor, who also shook hands with them. The guests then retired to an ante room and the dowager empress entered this room, grasped Mrs. Conger's hand, which she held for some minutes, trembling, weeping and sobbing loudly, and exclaiming in broken sentences that the attack upon the legations was a terrible mistake and that she repented it bitterly. In reply Mrs. Conger assured her that the past would be forgotten. Bracelets and rings of great value were then placed upon Mrs. Conger's wrists and fingers. The dowager empress made inquiries regarding the other ladies who were in Peking during the siege of the legations and Mesdames Bainbridge and Morisse, the wives of Secretaries Bainbridge and Morisse, and the American and French secretaries were presented and warmly greeted.

Following the reception a banquet was given. This was spread upon three tables, the dowager empress sitting at the head of the principal table with Mme. Conger and Mme. Uchida upon either side. The emperor sat at the head of the second table. The dowager empress and the emperor touched glasses with their guests. The dowager empress talked animatedly. She said that China would abandon her policy of isolation and adopt the best features of Western life, and would send many students abroad. Afterwards the dowager empress and the emperor mingled with their guests, and her majesty conversed with every one and particularly the children. Every lady of the visiting party was given a pair of jeweled bracelets and a solitaire pearl ring, besides other souvenirs.

OUTLOOK IN AUSTRALIA.

The latest advices from the Commonwealth indicate that the year 1901, notwithstanding the prevalence of the drought, has been moderately prosperous, and in consequence, our colonial kinsmen are, on the whole, fairly well satisfied. In commercial circles there has been a marked absence of failures of houses of any importance, and in view of the financial catastrophe of a few years back, this speaks well for the increasing stability of the reconstructed fabric of commercial credit. At the moment the famous tariff bill, which was introduced into the house of representatives as far back as October 8th, is the dominant topic of discussion, both inside the federal parliament and outside among the public at large. It has already undergone some commendable modifications, and by the end of February next, which it shall have completed its stormy passage, it will doubtless bear a more businesslike aspect. Meanwhile trade is suffering from the uncertainty which must continue to exist until the details of the measure are finally stereotyped. The outlook for the opening year is promising. The drought is disappearing and though there may be a shortage in the wool clip, the wheat harvest will probably equal, if not exceed that of last year. In every direction the omens are propitious.

W. T. C. U. MEETING—

A business meeting of the W. T. C. U. will be held in the reading room of the Methodist church on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 4, at 2:30 p. m. A full attendance is requested.

ENDED IN A TRAGEDY

A Woman's Strange In-
fatuation for a Des-
perate Prisoner.

The Biddle Brothers Dead
and Mrs. Soffel in
Danger.

BUTLER, Pa., Feb. 1.—With the close of a day of intense excitement and many conflicting stories concerning the chances for life of the wounded Biddle brothers and Mrs. Kate Soffel, the unexpected has happened. John Biddle, who until late this afternoon was considered the most healthy of the brothers, succumbed at 1:35 p. m. The condition of Ed. Biddle tonight is exceedingly precarious, and his death at any moment would cause no surprise. Mrs. Soffel developed symptoms of pneumonia this afternoon, after having come safely through an operation this morning for the extraction of the bullet. She is the only one of the trio who has any chance of life. The death of Jack Biddle was caused by the bullet wound in his abdomen and bladder. Early in the day the physicians thought peritonitis was the principal danger in his case, but tonight internal hemorrhages set in and the man bled to death in a short while. As long as he was able, Jack was extremely talkative and was almost boastful. But as soon as the shadow of death began to fall upon him, and he recognized it, he became repentant. "I know," said he, "that my time here is short, and you can say for me that I am a Christian and will die a sincere believer in God, and hope I will have strength enough to say so to the last. I know I have taken part in many wrong doings, but I have never killed any man, and was never implicated with anyone who did. I wish I could see Mrs. Khaney. I would tell her the truth about the killing of her husband. This life has been pretty tough to me, and the end cannot come too quick, and I don't care how quick."

Ed. Biddle was unconscious the greater part of the day, and it is evident to all that his lease of life is short. Hemorrhage of the lungs keeps him almost continually choked. A sister of the Biddles arrived in town this evening and was admitted to the jail, but Ed. was unable to recognize her.

BUTLER, Pa., Feb. 1.—Ed. Biddle died at 11 o'clock tonight.

BUTLER, Pa., Feb. 1.—A lost love letter from Ed. Biddle to Mrs. Kate Soffel, found in the snow near the bloody scene of their capture, reveals the long careful plot for their escape from the Allegheny county jail. The letter clearly shows the hazardous undertaking of the infatuated woman to secure the escape of the Biddles. Since December 2, 1901, they had been making preparations to escape. The discovered epistle tells how Mrs. Soffel carried the saws to the cells of the Biddles. It manifests the extreme enamoration of Mrs. Soffel for the murderer and burglar. It clearly shows the wonderful influence Ed. Biddle had over Mrs. Soffel.

Mrs. Soffel fell in love with Ed. Biddle in November. The burglar soon realized his power over her. It was not long until he started to write love letters to her. His affections were reciprocated. Mrs. Soffel fell madly in love with Ed. Biddle, and about the early part of December he proposed a plan of escape to her. She consented to lend him her aid. Between December 14th and 16th they had completed all arrangements to escape from the jail. Then they learned of the governor's respite, and after this Ed. Biddle almost persuaded Mrs. Soffel to fly with him and his brother. The contents of the letter showed it was originally agreed that Mrs. Soffel was to leave the city for Canada on the evening of the boys' escape. In this regard the letter says: "It will be easy for you to go to Buffalo, then to Niagara, which is 24 miles from Buffalo. From there take a bus and cross over the suspension bridge into Canada. You will meet custom house officers when you reach the Canadian side. Go to the bank, get your American money changed into Canadian money, then ask some boy or woman where the Grand Trunk railway station is and get a ticket for Toronto."

UNDERMINED BUILDINGS.

Underground London is no doubt a very convenient, picturesque, and when properly confined in tubes, safe enough place, but too much of it may become awkward. An underground city might prove too much even for the lord mayor and the court of aldermen. And yet a strong disposition appears to have seized certain parts of the "square mile" to get down below, probably to escape the cold, and they are consequently cracking in an ominous way.

Uneasiness prevails among property owners on both sides of Finsbury pavement owing to gaping fissures which have appeared in many large business premises. Ground floors, upper floors and basements have alike suffered, and in several instances the cracks are said to be most curious. Many of the properties have been recently surveyed, and reports are being drawn up in regard thereto. It is supposed that new excavations are responsible for this disquieting instability.

John Holup was a passenger on the noon train yesterday en route to La Crosse, Wis.

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Leave. Day Train. Arrive

8:20 a. m. Spokane 7:15 p. m.

12:25 p. m. Roseland 4:30 p. m.

9:40 a. m. Nelson 6:45 p. m.

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8:30 a. m. leave Kaslo. arrive 4:00 p. m.
10:55 a. m. arrive Sandon. leave 1:45 p. m.

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Kaslo-Nelson route—Steamer KASLO

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November 10th, 1901.

South Bound Regular North Bound

Daily Ports of Call. Daily

Leave 7 a. m. Kaslo arrive 9:20 p. m.

Leave 8 a. m. Ainsworth. Ar. 8:15 p. m.

L've 8:30 a. m. Pilot Bay. Ar. 7:45 p. m.

L've 10:10 Troup Jet. L've 6:30 p. m.

Ar. 10:30 Nelson. L've 6 p. m.

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SPOKANE TIME CARD. ARRIVE. DEPART.

No. 11, westbound 6:55 a. m. 7:05 a. m.

No. 12, eastbound 9:55 a. m. 10:05 a. m.

No. 3, westbound 11:40 p. m. 11:50 p. m.

No. 4, eastbound 10:35 p. m. 10:45 p. m.

Coeur d'Alene branch 6:00 p. m. 7:35 a. m.

Palouse & Lewiston 11:15 p. m. 9:10 a. m.

*Big Bend Special 10:25 a. m. 1:45 p. m.

*Local Freight West 5:45 p. m. 7:30 a. m.

*Local Freight East 5:55 p. m. 7:40 a. m.

*Daily except Sunday, all others daily.

Sunday—Coeur d'Alene branch, leave 8 a. m., arrive 7:30 p. m.

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2 - TRAINS - 2

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PAST MAIL—From all points EAST to Baker City, Bendleton, Walla, Dayton, Walla, Pullman, Moscow, Lewiston, Portland, Colfax, Garfield, Farmington and Coeur d'Alene.

EXPRESS—From Farmington, Garfield, Colfax, Pullman, Moscow, Lewiston, Walla, Walla, Dayton, San Francisco, Baker City and all points EAST.

EXPRESS—From all points EAST, Baker City, San Francisco, Portland, Colfax, Garfield and Farmington. 9:50 a. m.

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STEAMSHIP SAILS FROM AINSWORTH DOCK, Portland, at 8:00 p. m. and from Spear Street Wharf, San Francisco, at 11:00 a. m. every five days.

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Steamers between Riparian and Lewiston leave Riparian daily except Monday at 1:40 a. m. returning leave Lewiston daily, except Monday at 7 a. m.

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