

SMALL GUNS MOST EFFECTIVE.

Important Lessons That Have Been Taught by the Naval Battles at Manila and Santiago.

An examination of the wrecks of Cervera's squadron goes far to confirm the views of Admiral Dewey concerning the deadly work of guns of comparatively small caliber. "An eight-inch gun is large enough for any cruiser," remarked the hero of Manila after that memorable victory, "and in a hot fight guns of even smaller caliber are equally effective." The view thus expressed has also the endorsement of "Fighting Bob" Evans and several other captains of Sampson's fleet.

Investigation shows that none of Cervera's ships was struck by any shell larger than eight inches. The Vizcaya was whipped with one and six-pound shells, which completely riddled her upper works. Many of the six-pound shells penetrated her armor and exploded inside the ship, causing great damage. The Cristobal Colon was perforated by one eight-inch shell and several shots of six-inch and five-inch caliber. But there is no evidence that the big 12-inch and 13-inch guns of the American ships were effective in the least degree, says the Chicago Times-Herald. In fact, it appears that the Spaniards were practically "smothered" by a rapid fire of small caliber guns, while the six-inch and eight-inch shells proved large enough to disable the best fighting ships in Spain's navy.

Beyond a doubt the more ponderous guns of the American battleships would prove effective against fortifications, although their work at San Juan was not at all convincing; but the most effective fighting guns are those of the secondary batteries, and there is good reason to believe that the warships of the future will replace their 13-inch guns with lighter ordnance of lesser caliber.

COALING STATIONS.

Several to Be Established at Convenient Points Along the Atlantic Coast.

The war has brought forcibly to the attention of the naval authorities the lack of coaling stations on the Asiatic and Pacific coasts, and likewise the necessity for establishing such stations at convenient points. Commander Royal B. Bradford, the chief of the bureau of equipment, who has charge of the purchase and shipment of coal supplies for the navy recommended that coaling stations be established all along the Atlantic coast.

Commissioner Evans granted 63,645 original claims during the past year and restored 4,089 pensioners to the benefits of pensions. The pensioners now aggregate 1,040,356.

DEATHS IN WARFARE.

Disease Claims More Victims Than the Enemy's Bullets.

Remarkably Small Number of Casualties in American-Spanish War During Actual Fighting—Comparison with Other Wars.

A special to the New York Tribune from Washington says: The list of casualties in the army during the war with Spain has not yet been carefully compiled and in fact cannot be completed for months to come, because included in it must be the deaths from disease in camp and hospital, which will far outnumber those from the bullets of the enemy. The proportion of deaths from disease will probably be larger than in the civil war.

In 1885 an effort was made to ascertain what that proportion was. It resulted in showing that the aggregate number of deaths among the union troops was 359,528. The number of officers and men killed in action was 67,058, and the number who died from wounds received in action was 43,012, making a total of 110,060, or a fraction over 30 percent of the aggregate. It appeared that 224,556 officers and men, or more than 62 per cent, died of disease. The remainder of the deaths were due to various causes. No fewer than 106 officers and 4,838 men were drowned, while 142 officers and 3,972 men died from accidental causes other than drowning.

According to official and semi-official reports, which are still subject to revision and correction, the number of officers and men of the army killed in action since the outbreak of hostilities against Spain has been 282 and the number wounded 1,406, making a total of 1,778. It is probable that additions will be made to the list of killed by subsequent reports. Of course, most of the casualties occurred in the fighting around Santiago, but even then the number was not excessively large considering the stubbornness of the defense and the fact that infantry, not backed by a sufficient amount of artillery, was led against the enemy who was strongly entrenched. Most of the fighting was with small arms and few men in the American army, at least, were killed or wounded by shells.

The Spanish troops generally were armed with the Mauser rifles, a weapon of long range. They used smokeless powder and had the advantage of position and local knowledge, and made the most of them. According to all theory, the mortality among the American troops ought to have been much heavier. In fact one might have supposed that superiority of weapons alone, as compared with those used by infantry 100 years ago or even 35 years ago, would have produced the result.

HANCOCK'S GRAVE IN RUINS.

Move on Foot to Repair the Tomb of the Noted Soldier in the City of Philadelphia.

Neglected and forgotten, the grave of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock is falling into ruin.

The remains of the famous soldier rest in a vault in the southeastern corner of the Montgomery cemetery, Philadelphia. There was a great funeral when he was buried, and thousands of his fellow citizens turned out to see him laid to rest. But now the mortar has fallen from between the stones and no inscription of any kind marks the grave of Pennsylvania's greatest soldier.

This neglect is due in great measure to carelessness. There are few people who know where his body lies. The only guide to the location of the tomb is a metallic vase filled with flowers which was placed there by a chemical company, and the name "Hancock" being blown in the vase people are thus guided to the spot.

Directly across the river, in striking contrast, is a monument to Gen. John F. Hartranft. This is one of the finest monuments in this vicinity. Attention has recently been called to the disgraceful condition of Hancock's grave, and there is a movement on foot to clean it and erect a suitable monument to the glory of the dead general.

Those in charge of the movement think that many democrats who voted for him in preference to Garfield for president will be glad to contribute.

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Income Tax in Berne.

The strath of Berne, Switzerland, has decided that the income tax register of the inhabitants shall be published every two years. The object is to prevent fraud and understatement of income, the citizens thus becoming the personal guardians of their own budget. The income tax in the Berne canton amounts at present to six percent, and only 600 francs is free from tax.

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Sampson the Victim of a Good-Natured and Admiring Crowd on a Ferry Boat.

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The admiral was finally forced out on the forward deck, where he stood in a cheering throng, shaking hands and receiving congratulations and good wishes from all. Passing boats recognized him and sounded a salute, and for five minutes the North river was the scene of an impromptu demonstration. When the Bremen arrived at its Hoboken slip the demonstration was continued, but two policemen finally rescued the admiral from the crowd.

One young woman emerged from the crowd at the depot with her hat crushed and skirt awry, but she was smiling and happy. "He shook my hand," she said, triumphantly to her escort when she found him waiting in the depot for her.

"Why didn't you kiss him?" the young man inquired.

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PENSION ROLL IS LARGE.

Names on Uncle Sam's List Now Run Over a Million—Additions by Recent War Not Known.

In the forthcoming annual report of the commissioner of pensions, H. Clay Evans, will be shown that on June 30, 1897, there were on the rolls of the pension bureau 976,014 pensioners. To this must be added 6,852 original claims granted but not recorded, and 762 restorations, which were not entered at the time on the books.

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Before a claim can be perfected it must contain a full record of the soldier's service, and this information has not yet been compiled by the war department. When this is done the claims will be speedily taken up.

The majority of the claims will be for wounds and sickness, the latter leaving the soldier more or less disabled.

No additional legislation will be required to deal with the cases arising from this war. The present laws, the authorities say, cover all that is necessary, and claims will be adjudicated on the same lines as those of the rebellion.

ESQUIMAULT BEING FORTIFIED

Large Force of Men at Work at British Naval Station on the Pacific Coast.

According to notices received in San Francisco the English government is about to purchase all the private property in the village of Esquimault, where is located the British naval station of its Pacific-American possessions. For many months past hundreds of men have been employed in constructing fortifications, but none save the most trusted officers of the army and navy possess any details.

What the general plan is, however, is common knowledge. It contemplates the equipment of a store, repair and supply station second to none in the empire; the building and manning of forts capable of defending the depot against any force that could be brought against it by sea or land; the providing of docks large enough to receive the largest ships, and the establishment of barracks, a service prison and other necessary buildings for the use and benefit of the numerous soldiers and sailors who will be required to hold the forts and man the ships of the station.

Up to the building of the existing dock and for some little time afterward it was not anticipated that any larger craft than the then best of her majesty's navy would ever require to be cared for on the Esquimault docks. Never yet has a ship been detailed for service in the North Pacific that was too large for docking there. The question now is whether the present dock will be enlarged or a new one built to accommodate the largest battleships of the British army.

Some of the delights of a soldier's life are thus summarized by an infantryman who camped at New Orleans: "My hands are full of blisters. I couldn't eat the stew they gave me. The bumps in my green-sward mattress and the bugs that crawl into my ears keep me awake all night. The mosquitoes have raised welts on my face and my heels are all sore from drilling in coarse shoes."

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3 très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc un commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement pour l'année Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire \$3 00; Edition du Dimanche, \$2 00.

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