

Three Musketeers with Springfields

● *H. L. Heath, Percy Hill, Thomas Leonard*

When space is occasionally given in the *Journal* to biographical notes on oldtime Americans of the Philippine community who in nearly every case were veterans of the campaigns to found American sovereignty here, the impression is not justifiable that the community is playing out. It is only that as these men respond to the bugle blown at the order of the High Commander of the Universe, we like to give honor where honor is due and pay a word of affection and respect to the memory of their Philippine careers. As for the community, it goes on into younger generations and more than renews itself, but will not be inclined to pass by too lightly, tributes now and then to some of its founders. There are in mind Captain Herbert Lee Heath, Captain Thomas Leonard, and Lieutenant Percy A. Hill, P. C., whose deaths are recent. To two of them, Captain Heath and Percy Hill, the *Journal* stands much indebted.

They are styled musketeers with Springfields. It ought to be brought out, perhaps, that modern arms were not to be had for the army America raised for the work of 1898. A favored special regiment such as Roosevelt's *Rough Riders* got some, but Springfields and Krag-Jorgensens served for the rest—who in battle and on the skirmish line confronted Mausers and smokeless powder. War was more haphazard then than now.

Captain Herbert Lee Heath began his Philippine career with his regiment, the 2nd Oregon U. S. Volunteer Infantry, in 1898. After muster-out at the Presidio at San Francisco, he came back to the Islands to engage in business and ranching. In 1933, when we published an extended note on his character and his place, always

of the highest, in this community, he gave up his Manila business connections, kept his ranch in Masbate, now a part of his heirs' estate, and established his permanent residence in Palo Alto. More recently he bought a beautiful country place at Mc-



CAPT. H. L. HEATH

Minnville, Oregon, and built a house on it according to his own tastes in plans he drew himself.

He died at McMinnville June 27, almost seventy-two years old but hail of health

until six weeks before the end, when an indisposition culminated in an ulcerated tooth whose removal was followed by a fatal septicemia. Death occurred in hospital. His son, Herbert, had reached McMinnville and was with him, as was Mrs. Frances Heath, his second wife whose friends in Manila are so many. Captain Heath's daughter is Mrs. Hazel Marden, whose home is in Denver. A granddaughter with great grand-children lives in Manila, the husband an official of the International Harvester Company here.

Captain Heath led in the founding of the Chamber of Commerce and was its earliest president. For himself he subscribed one active membership, for his business interests two. The urge behind the movement was the possibility of getting President Harding to extend the coastwise laws of the United States to the Islands, an action Congress had just authorized the President to undertake at his discretion. But when organization had been effected, and Heath saw realized a wish of his for the unity of the community, opinion on the point divided; and much as he was devoted to the hope of a merchant marine fully restored on the Pacific against the day when he believed war would send the navy to severe duty out this way, he abandoned that hope for the sake of membership harmony.

Captain Heath was the embodiment of the American spirit of 1898, when the doors of trade in China were being reopened—a process of state greatly intensified and brought to fruition after John Hay became President Roosevelt's secretary of state. Heath was a pioneer, with a rugged and ineluctable pioneer's view of visible facts. In his philosophy, a people's

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mere occupancy of territory gave them no imprescriptible title to that territory: this depended on their active employment of its resources, their march in step with the world as it went along, and the manner of their life as well as their skill and ability in public government. So feeling, he was an intransigent Philippine retentionist. He felt that in modern times the Philippine people could not of themselves hold the Philippines, and that in 1898-1899 they had in fact lost them to the United States; and he had no apologies to make for America in her role as an instrument of fate, nor for his belief that what America procured by conquest she should hold.

Born of pioneer parents at Mount Clemens, Michigan, in 1865, he had seen that Indian country become Anglo-Saxon country; and an early immigrant from Michigan to Oregon, and settler at McMinnville where he founded and edited the local newspaper and busied himself in odd hours with the National Guard that became the famous 2nd Oregon, and with lodge matters. He had seen the Anglosaxon acquire that old-time Indian country—he had helped notably in the acquisition, and in the Philippines had repeated the experience against another people and in another clime even more resourceful.

This uncompromising character in the man made him individual, outstanding, while his acumen, energy, and thrifty business ability employed in the buying and exporting of Manila hemp (most of his time in the Islands was with the Tubbs Cordage Company as their manager) assured him personal success. Because he was frank, and above all things fair, his determined view that America should both keep and govern the Philippines was never offensive to Filipinos. They knew where he stood, exactly what reactions from him to expect; and often, in their heart of hearts, they were on his side. He paid the past no attention, but kept a youthful viewpoint by believing in today, looking forward to tomorrow. He raised the flag at Guam, but never revisited the place; and in Manila he raised the flag over Fort Santiago, lowering the Red and Gold under sharp protest from a red-haired daughter of a Spanish colonel, but he never revisited Fort Santiago, though at the Army & Navy Club where he prized his membership he enjoyed the friendship of all the commanding officers from the beginning. Nor did he associate himself with veterans' organizations: the day at hand and the days ahead were his concern.

His Anglo Saxonism would have made him brother to the secretaries at Downing Street. It was utterly uncompromising. Opening his Masbate ranch, a former comrade was associated with him, employed by him. One Sunday after breakfast Captain Heath and this man started out for the warehouse where machinery was being placed. Captain Heath went to work, his

friend took the path over the hill to where the village folk lived. Heath demanded to know where he was going. Oh, just over the hill, thought he'd loaf awhile . . . Sunday and everything. Heath told him, by the Deity, if he went over that hill he could just keep on going—he never needed to come back, and by the Deity again, he couldn't come back!

That day, Heath tinkered the machinery alone; later, he secured other help. He used to boast Masbate, would say it alone excelled some of the small yet rich countries of Europe, needing only population and development. Once when he needed engine bearings, he grubbed the copper out of his own mountains, smelted it and made the castings in molds of his own devising; and when he clamped the bearings into place, they fitted perfectly. This he did less in vindication of the rough ability of the pioneer, and his own prowess with crucibles and calipers, than to demonstrate the commercial worth of Masbate copper. However, he mined very little. Though ores were a hobby of his, ranching and business were sufficient to keep him interested and occupied, sun up to sun down.

Boating he liked, and during his thirty-five years in the Islands he built a number of boats and bought one or two besides. When he built, it was to his own plans.

His early newspaper work remained a pride of his always. The puissance of the paper he founded at McMinnville must have been one of the lures that made him go back there to live. He founded this magazine, too, planning the format, etc., and contributed to its first number *The American Community*, embracing the entire period beginning with the founding at Manila of the branches of the great New England houses that ran the China clippers

in the tea trade, Manila providing fiber, copra, sugar, and cigars.

It was a mark of individualism in Captain Heath that he chewed cigars rather than smoked them; he also concentrated, and had intensive ability at it, on a chew of plug—a habit reminiscent of the type fonts at McMinnville that had helped him master English in its more abstruse branches, etymology and perfect spelling. Nothing in his daily newspaper escaped his attention, not even the weather report. This calls to mind that he never took employment with the civil government of the Islands, a fact exceptional indeed among oldtimers; but friends always reminded him, if he spoke of this, that he had been rain-gauge keeper at Masbate, and so he had been. Whatever the American effort in the Islands needed done, by him, he was willing to do.

But he did it without pay, because of some intransigent principle to which he held himself. The principal gain was his own self-satisfaction. At one time, paying the regular rates for room and board all the while, he managed the Manila Hotel. It was before the jazz era set in, and evening patronage was nil, but his management of the hotel was successful.

Such a man, tall, broad, weighing well over two hundred pounds, blond, virile, incisive of thought and judgment, and alert and quick of movement, was your oldtime friend and neighbor, Captain Heath of whom it is better to say no more, since a book itself would not tell half enough about a man of such arresting character and ability. It is not true that the Philippines gave these men anything, the debt stands the other way about. They would have been the cream of any community they

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COPRA CAKE AND MEAL—Cake space to Europe was very hard to obtain either for the balance of 1937 or early 1938. Consequently, although there were buyers in Europe at favorable prices for cake, not a great deal was sold throughout the month. To fill the limited space available, some little cake was sold at prices ranging from P43.75 down to P43.00 f.o.b. for Hydraulic Cake with Expeller Cake approximately P3.00 under. At the end of October there was a slight revival of demand for copra meal on the Pacific Coast and some business was done for shipment through the first quarter of next year at prices ranging up to \$27.00 per short ton c.i.f. Practically all mills were well sold out for 1937 at the end of October.

Statistics for the month follow:

Shipments:	Metric Tons
Pacific Coast	2,787
(Includes 46 tons to Honolulu)	
Europe	5,892
China	51
	8,730

	Beginning of Month Metric Tons	End of Month Metric Tons
Stocks on hand in Manila and Cebu	9,255	10,903

DESICCATED COCONUT—The desiccated coconut market was quiet throughout October with prices unchanged on the basis of 8½ cents c.i.f. New York and sales very slow. Indications are that prices may be reduced in November. This has not been a very good year for desiccated consumption in the United States. It has been a very wet year and as a result candies made from coconut have tended to become moldy. For this reason, consumption is down approximately 30%. Mills here found no difficulty in obtaining all the nuts they wanted at reasonable prices, but with demand light mills were not working at full capacity.

Shipments for the month totalled 3,186 tons.

GENERAL—At the end of October market prospects were not bright. It was very evident that there is a great overage of production of all commodities, and particularly of cotton. While coconut oil stocks were not excessive, so many competing oils and fats were in plentiful supply that there seemed to be little hope of other than a downward tendency throughout November. Ordinarily, at this time of year we

expect prices to remain steady because of declining production in the Philippines. It appears, however, that in 1937 the situation in November will be less favorable than that for several months previously.

Throughout the month the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs was considering the data submitted to it by the Copra, Coconut Oil and Desiccated Coconut entities in September. Although no conclusions were drawn, it was felt that the coconut industries received a very fair hearing and could expect whatever assistance was in the power of the members of the Joint Preparatory Committee, both American and Filipino.

THE RICE INDUSTRY

By

DR. V. BUENCAMINO

Manager, National Rice & Corn Corporation



Contrary to general expectation, the market ruled weak and prices moved to lower levels. A selling wave hit the market about the middle of the month, consequently a good number of fair-sized lots changed hands at prices

below the parity of palay prices in the provinces. Some traders who have learned of the NARIC's entry into the market became alarmed and rushed to sell what little holdings they had at sacrifice prices. Buyers had the situation in their hands except towards the close of the period when a reaction set in, precipitated by reports of extensive crop damage resulting from drought and plant pests. On the closing day of the month, there were strong indications of further favorable developments. Arrivals were comparatively meager reflecting the depleted stocks in the primary markets. Only 130,631 sacks have been received in Manila, both by rail and water, compared with 131,048 sacks for September. The month opened with Macan No. 2 selling at P5.70 slumped down to P5.50 about the middle of the month and recovered slightly to P5.55 at the close, with a strong undertone.

PALAY

The price of palay was maintained over the parity of rice in Manila. This was mainly attributed to the presence of good-sized distressed narcelos whose owners have been frightened by the presence of NARIC rice in the market. Stocks were reported very low, most mills operating on a strictly hand-to-mouth basis. Liquidation prices at Cabanatuan ranged from P2.60 to P2.65 at the opening compared with P2.50-P2.55 at the close. Free parcels fetched a price P0.10 to P0.20 more.

Extensive damage to the standing crop has been reported in all the non-irrigated areas of Central Luzon and other places. It is now conceded that even if rain should fall, considerable damage has already been suffered and the probability is that the coming harvest will be materially decreased.

Three Musketeers...

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lived in, and so would have risen to the top. Where competition might have been keener, and the rewards of unusual merit correspondingly greater, they would have won equal success: their fortunes would have been larger, and their good names more renowned.

To this rule that the pioneer really loses, though he may seem to succeed, there is hardly an exception. Men of Captain Heath's stamp never met their superiors, they aren't born. In Oregon, the thirty-five years he spent in the Philippines would have carried him far indeed: if devoted to culture, to some great university work and at last a college presidency; if devoted to publishing, at least a chain of thriving newspapers; or if devoted to public life, a career in Congress, surely in the Senate; for the men who do all these things are few indeed who, say in running discussion, would even boast themselves the peers of Captain Heath: most of them are palpably his inferiors. But to say no more, all he touched here he bettered; and he did not let the country get him down. This is enough.

Biographical notes on the late Percy A. Hill and the late Captain Thomas Leonard will appear in later issues of the Journal.—Ed.

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