

THE BROOKLYN'S WAR LESSONS.

Officers of the Gallant Cruiser Tell What They Learned in Cuban Waters.

New York, Aug. 21.—"You can almost read the lesson learned by the Brooklyn during this war, in the stars," said Admiral Schley with twinkling eyes. He waved one hand suggestively toward the American ensign flaunting from the taffrail staff of the famous armored cruiser as he spoke. "As for the share of the crew and his ship in the victory of the Santiago fight, only one thing can be said—they did their duty as Americans, as American ships always have and always will. In all my experience I have never before witnessed such a gallant and heroic and deadly shooting as was done by our fleet during the battle of July 3. But all this is an old story. That we happened to be in the thick of the fight was a piece of good luck. Not taking it all in all, I do not believe that the battery of the Brooklyn can be improved. Results naturally speak for themselves, and the results obtained by the ship in the recent war are eloquent."

BATTLESHIPS AND CRUISERS.

The lieutenant was asked how, in his opinion, armored cruisers compared with battleships as proved by his experience on board the Brooklyn. From

"The rear admiral smiled and glanced toward a number of navy yard officials just landing the ship, adding in his characteristic genial manner, 'I am afraid I must refer you to Mr. Hodgson, the navigator. He will doubtless give you the formation on your deck.' Lieutenant Hodgson, the cruiser's navigating officer, Admiral Schley said of him in his report of the Santiago battle: 'The navigator, Lieutenant A. C. Hodgson, was a most steady and conspicuous in every detail of duty, contributing to the accurate firing of this ship (Brooklyn) in her part of the great victory.' He seemed to think his testimony could not be of much interest, but he finally consented to talk briefly."

ARMOR EFFECTIVE.
"The lesson learned by the Brooklyn," he began, "is the same as that learned by every ship in the fleet, and that is, armor is the best protection a ship can give better testimony from the fact that we were struck by the enemy's projectiles a greater number of times than any other vessel, but really the only additional knowledge acquired is that Spanish shells of the calibre fired by Cervantes's ships are useless against the three or eight-inch armor carried by the Brooklyn. The shells which were shown that we were struck about 25 times, but, as you see, we are still afloat."

"The recent war proved conclusively that vessels of the Brooklyn type find ample protection in the protective deck, which is three inches on the main and six inches on the slove, in this three-inch belt and in the eight-inch armor of the barbettes. It is evident that the constructors were happy in their selection of the armor. The injury reported to the mainmast was caused during the Santiago fight when one of the compartments was flooded below the water line was due to a water valve being opened through some unknown cause."

RAPID-FIRE GUNS.
"In regard to the question of armament it has been claimed in some quarters that a battery consisting entirely of six-inch rapid-fire guns would be more effective than the Brooklyn's present battery, which includes eight-inch and 12-pounder guns, and a secondary battery of 12 six-pounders, four one-pounders, four Colts and two field guns. The question is susceptible to argument, of course, but I think the eight-inch guns of the Brooklyn did their share in the Santiago fight. We fired 100 rounds of eight-inch shells. These, combined with the eight-inch protection of the mainmast, proved to be a formidable weapon, and it is certainly not out of place on an armored cruiser."

HANDLING OF SMALLER PIECES.
"The official reports made by the ships of Admiral Sampson's fleet prove that the main reason of the battle off Santiago was achieved by the eight-inch and lower calibre and the rapid-fire pieces. Too much praise cannot be given to the men at the latter guns for their extraordinary skill and ability. The perfect hail of projectiles showered upon the fleeing Spanish ships by the five-inch rapid-fire guns was almost beyond belief. Captain Eustace's testimony that 'the Brooklyn's fire on our broadside was frightful, and the men could not stay at their guns,' proves how the crews worked the pieces. Although the eight-inch and six-inch pieces are carried, only six could be used during the running fight, as only that number would bear on the broadside. The six-inch guns did their work nobly. The eight-inch shells were hit six times by the Brooklyn's five-inch breech-loaders, the Infanta Maria, five, the Cristobal Colon, four, and the Oquendo, one. One of the shells exploded a torpedo on the lat-

moral effect on an enemy naturally imparted by craft like the Indiana or Iowa must be admitted, but for quick, sharp work, great speed and cruising range, and effective action, the armored cruisers cannot be beaten. What better fighting machines can be found in any navy than the New York or the Brooklyn? They have a speed of 20 knots or more, splendid batteries,

programmes will certainly include that type of ship."
MEN COOL.
In reply to a question as to the conduct of the Brooklyn's crew during the Santiago action, Lieutenant Hodgson spoke in warm praise. The coolness and daring, the utter sang froid shown by all on board from the oldest

affair was simply a drill at general quarters. One of the lessons learned by the Brooklyn (but it is really superfluous) is the wonderful capabilities of the American man-of-war's crew. The crew of the Brooklyn, in years of actual practice to place the Yankee bluejacket at the top of the heap. We have men aboard here who, as dressed as citizens, would give a Quaker odds in meekness of appearance, but when that fleet slipped out past Morro castle and made for the bay, they fought like demons. If you should see one of the boys who had the thought of the fight, he'd probably grin and shrug his shoulders. It was merely a scrup."

The question of the torpedoes did not interest the lieutenant. They apparently played such a small part in the late war that it would be useless to discuss their value. The experience of the Oquendo, however, will probably result in banishing loaded torpedoes from decks above the water-line whenever it is practicable.

TALL SMOKESTACKS.
The one peculiarity of construction in the Brooklyn most prominent to the casual observer is her lofty (and ugly) smoke funnels. She carries three which tower above the decks almost as high as the signal masts. These stacks were advocated by Chief Engineer Melville, and the testimony of the engineering force of the cruiser is in their favor. The lofty funnels really give the result which is usually obtained by the use of forced draught—a device which experience has proved liable to lead to the ruin of the boilers. The forced draught system causes severe expansion and contraction strains, and usually start leakage at the tube ends. This is not present in natural draught, and the Brooklyn's experience has shown that good results can be obtained by lengthening the smokestacks as by the employment of the forced draught system.

The lesson learned by the Brooklyn in the Spanish-American war can be embodied in these recommendations which will be made by the proper boards: (1) that eight-inch guns and rapid-firers of all calibres should be

given the greatest prominence, (2) that all woodwork as far as possible should be abolished in warships; (3) that the pipes of fire main should be laid below the protective deck, and (4) that light armor and great speed are requisite in an efficient cruising vessel.
H. H. LEWIS,
Late U. S. N.

THE OLD SPANISH CONQUERORS.

The Men Who Founded the Empire of Spain in the New World.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Now that the last remnants of the Spanish empire are slipping from the grasp of the government at Madrid, it is interesting to take a glance at the men who entered the immense domain which Spain once held in the Americas. Such an empire, for wealth and extent, was never before known in the history of the world. The empire of Rome could have been deemed the greatest of the Spanish empire; the empire of Alexander was a bagatelle compared to it. It was nearly twice as large as the territory now ruled by the czar and more than half that of that governed from Downing street.

The founders of the Spanish empire in the new world were all military adventurers, most of them, who traded with the aboriginal natives in the only first-class general store that Spain ever produced. Gonsalvo de Cordova was a captain, indeed, a general whose military exploits in the rank with the first military men of any age or country. While not uniformly successful in his campaigns against the Moors, he showed such marvelous tact and dexterity in extricating himself and his army from difficult positions, in making the most of every opportunity, that he deserves the title which has been bestowed upon him. The first of the Spanish Captains, the men who came from Spain to conquer America were apt students at the feet of Gonsalvo, but the reputation which they acquired in the conquest of the Indies probably far exceeds their merits, from the fact that, instead of organized bodies of soldiers with arms and armor equal to their own, they found only naked Indians with weapons which were adapted either for offense or defense, that there was practically, in many very large districts of country, no opposition to the Spaniards.

In the plains of Mexico and Peru so little was known of the military art that lances of wood, the tips hardened in the fire, arrows pointed in the same way and coated with the product of the population against their invaders. Weapons of this kind were merely a straw against the Toledo blades, the steel-edged swords, the chain armor of the Spaniards. When these formidable weapons were added the power of gunpowder, a force which, to the Indians, was equally mysterious and terrible, it will be seen that the conquest of great countries by small bands of men was by no means a difficult task. Seldom among the plains Indians of Mexico was a single warrior, and some idea of the fury into which the Indians were wrought may be gained from the fact that with clubs and arrows and spears, they succeeded in defeating the invaders and driving them out of the city.

Whenever the Spaniards found a warlike native tribe they let it severely alone, a fact which explains the lack of Spanish success in extending their empire into the interior of Mexico, in his three years of wandering in the central valley, during the course of which he traversed regions as widely separated as North Carolina and western Texas, found the Indians so well armed and so ready to fight that he attempted no permanent settlement, nor even temporary occupation. After his experiences in the South, the other explorers of central North America, the Spaniards, as one of their historians quaintly states it, "concluded the country was not worth having, and they returned to the coast, and savage men," a conclusion which was justified by the facts. Even in the countries which they did conquer, the Spaniards remained only a few months, and the natives, whom the Spaniards never subdued, the mountain Indians of Mexico were never conquered. The mountain tribes of central America, the Indians of Peru, defy the governments of today as they defied the Spaniards of the sixteenth century. The Aragonians of Spain, the stamp of the Indians inhabiting the delta of the Orinoco, the Seminoles of Florida, the sturdy tribes on the eastern slopes of the Andes, the river Indians of the Upper Amazon, are ever ready to take up arms, and few expeditions against them had come to grief. The Spaniards ceased to make attempts upon their territory. Almagro, with his mailed men, achieved nothing in Chile, and even Valdivia seems to have conquered no more than the seacoast. Alvarado occupied only the plains and coast of central America, for during his time, as we well understand that when a Spaniard ventured into the dense forests, or among the mountains, he disappeared never to be seen again. No gold, no conquest of Florida was a myth, for the Spanish settlements were confined to isolated points on the coast and the uplands of the northern provinces. The Spaniards who overtook Venezuela gave the Moracabo and the Lower Orinoco districts a wide berth, for the poisoned arrows of the swamp natives had done their deadly work. Even in Hayti, Ovando made little impression upon certain bands of mountain Indians, who were so clever at hiding and so brave at resisting, which were overthrown that they were left to themselves.

The conquerors thus overran the peaceful and unarmed and left the stout-hearted to themselves. No gold was required to corral a village of unarmed savages and massacre them, like so many sheep, and this was all the Spaniards did. The immense superiority of the Spaniards' arms and equipments made one Spaniard invincible against all the Indians who could come against him, and this invincibility fully accounts for the stupor and stultification of the savages, who came to the conclusion that the Spaniards were demons come to destroy the world and its inhabitants. This superiority of the Spaniards' arms and equipments made one Spaniard invincible against all the Indians who could come against him, and this invincibility fully accounts for the stupor and stultification of the savages, who came to the conclusion that the Spaniards were demons come to destroy the world and its inhabitants. This superiority of the Spaniards' arms and equipments made one Spaniard invincible against all the Indians who could come against him, and this invincibility fully accounts for the stupor and stultification of the savages, who came to the conclusion that the Spaniards were demons come to destroy the world and its inhabitants.

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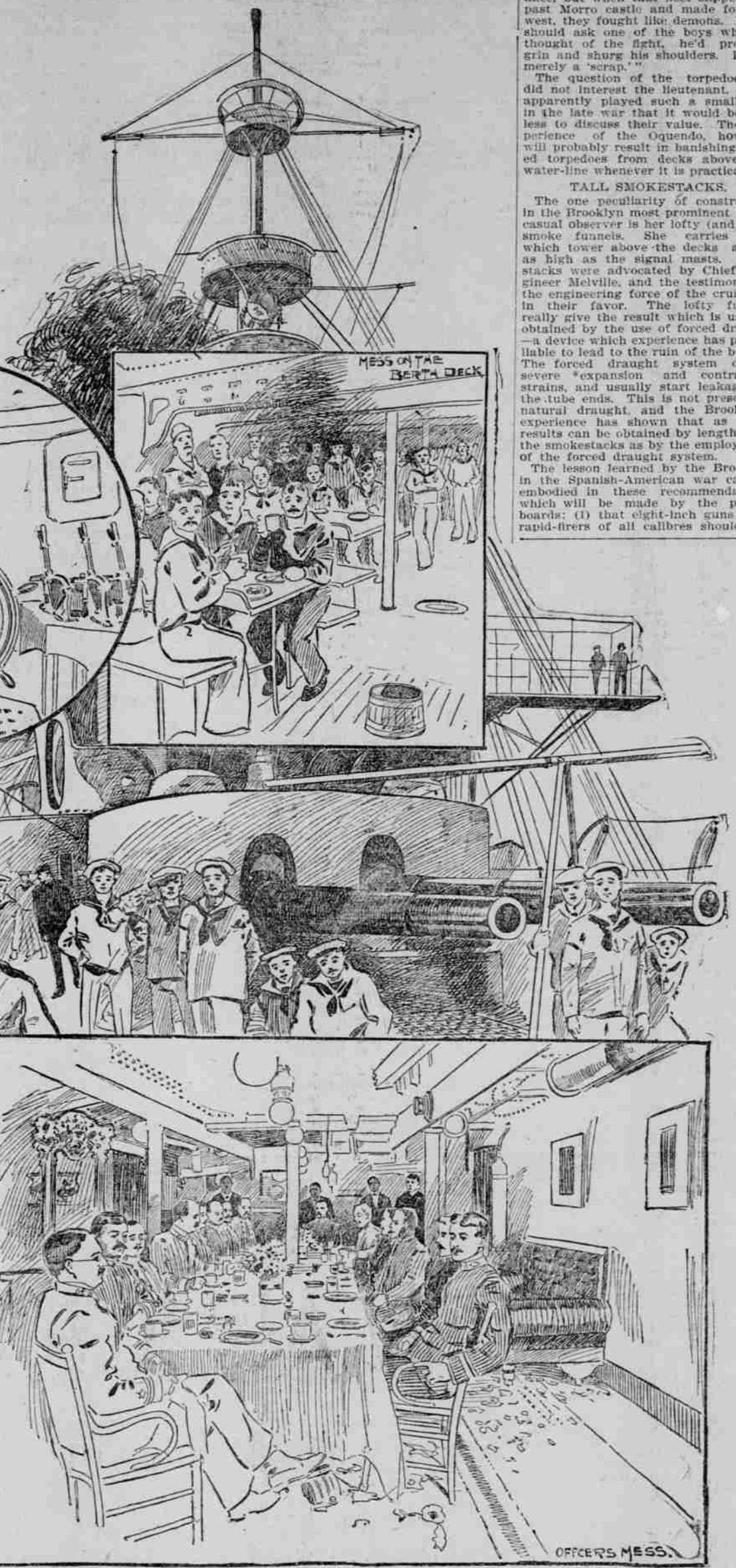
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SCENES ON BOARD THE VICTORIOUS "BROOKLYN."

the manner of his reply it is evident he is an enthusiastic advocate of the Brooklyn class. "The new colonial policy of the United States to which they are not yet committed, of course, but which is surely bound to follow such vessels as the New York and Brooklyn will be of the greatest value. Future naval building

forming a government, which will be sufficient for all purposes and which will remain as formed until those interested, under forms of law, shall proceed to change it.

The solution of the problem of establishing a safe and stable government in Cuba does not present any unsurmountable difficulties. It is almost certain that the interests of the people from the United States and other countries who are in Cuba now or who settle there in the future, will become too great to be exposed to revolutionary plots, even should there be found an element disposed to them. The Spaniards and the foreign-born inhabitants of the island will undoubtedly realize that it is to their advantage to work in harmony with the conservative and law-abiding portion of the natives for the strict observance of the rights of all.

"It is difficult to say how many American troops will be required for the occupation of Cuba during the period pending the organization of a stable and efficient local government. The number should be sufficient to inspire confidence in the complete preservation of order, so that capital and enterprise will not be afraid to invade the island and do their part in the work of its restoration to peaceful prosperity. The change will no doubt be gradual, the United States troops taking the place of the Spanish soldiery as fast as numbers equal to those of the retiring Spaniards. It may seem wise, however, to the government of the United States to take advantage of this opportunity to give some of the volunteer soldiers who did not have the opportunity to participate in the active hostilities a chance to secure a somewhat more thorough military training than they have thus far obtained. This consideration may lead to the employment of a larger body of men than would otherwise be used, and to the taking of some of the newer volunteer regiments for this service.

"It is not conceivable that the native inhabitants of Cuba will receive the

CUBA'S POLITICAL FUTURE.

Major-General Fitzhugh Lee Discusses the Situation in the Island—Military Occupation.

(Special Correspondence.)
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Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 24.—In the Florida camps and cities the war is no longer discussed. The question of supreme importance now concerns the plans for the re-construction of Cuba. "What will be the political future of the island? How extensive is the military occupation to be? and inquiries of similar import are the first to be put by every man who has returned from Cuba since the signing of the protocol.

There is probably no other man in the country who can speak with so much authority or so interestingly on this subject as Major-General Fitzhugh Lee. Since the probability of his appointment as military governor of Cuba during the period of American occupation became a well-defined certainty, General Lee has maintained a dignified silence, refusing to talk for publication. Before he was summoned to Washington, however, he talked freely with the correspondent in regard to the subject of Cuba's political future.

"The rules and regulations prescribing the course to be followed on the island of Cuba, now that the war is over, will be decided upon by the government of the United States, but only so far as to embrace the provisional control upon the future of the United States, pending the formation of a government which will have the approval and consent of a majority of the