

LEONARD WOOD

General Leonard Wood has just returned from South America to take up his duties as Chief of the General Staff of the United States Army, the highest military position which the service affords.

Nearly twelve years ago, when Leonard Wood was acting as Governor of Santiago, I wrote in *The Outlook* about what he had already achieved, and what he could be trusted to achieve. During the intervening twelve years he has played a very conspicuous part among the men who have rendered signal service to the country by the way in which they have enabled it to grapple with the duties and responsibilities incurred by the Spanish War. What has been accomplished in the Philippines, in Cuba, in Porto Rico, in Panama, and in San Domingo during these twelve years represents a sum of achievement of which this Nation has a right to be extremely proud. In each locality the problem has been different, in each locality it has been solved with signal success. Of course there have been mistakes and shortcomings, but on the whole it would be difficult to find anywhere a finer record of successful accomplishment. This record is primarily due to the admirable quality

of the men put at the head of affairs in the different places. Messrs. Taft, Luke Wright, Smith and Forbes, Messrs. Hunt, Winthrop, Post and Colton, Governor Magoon, Colonel Goethals—to these and their colleagues and subordinates the country owes a heavy debt of obligation.

Most of those I have mentioned are civilians. Colonel Goethals, under whom the gigantic work of the Panama Canal is being accomplished, with literally astounding rapidity and success, is a representative of the army. The share of the army in the honor roll is very large. The importance of work like that of General Bell in the Philippines, of General Barry in Cuba, can hardly be overestimated; but, as a whole, of all the work of the army officers, the greatest in amount, and the greatest in variety of achievement, must be credited to General Wood. And, moreover, he has at times combined with singular success the functions of civil administrator and military commandant. The part played by the United States in Cuba has been one of the most honorable ever played by any nation in dealing with a weaker Power, one of the most satisfactory in all respects; and to General Wood more than to any other one man is due the credit of starting this work and conducting it to a successful conclusion during the earliest and most difficult years. Like almost all of the men mentioned, as well as their colleagues, General Wood of course incurred the violent hatred of many dishonest schemers and unscrupulous adventurers, and of a few more or less well-meaning persons who were misled by these schemers and adventurers; but it is astounding to any one acquainted with the facts to realize, not merely what he accomplished, but how he succeeded in gaining the good will of the enormous majority of the men whose good will could be won only in honorable fashion. Spaniards and Cubans, Christian Filipinos and Moros, Catholic ecclesiastics and Protestant missionaries—in each case the great majority of those whose opinion was best worth having—grew to regard General Wood as their special champion and ablest friend, as the man who more than any others understood and

sympathized with their peculiar needs and was anxious and able to render them the help they most needed. In Cuba he acted practically as both civil and military head; and after he had been some time in the Philippines, very earnest pressure was brought to bear by many of the best people in the Islands to have a similar position there created for him, so that he could repeat what he had done in Cuba. It was neither necessary nor desirable that this position should be created; but the widely expressed desire that it should be created was significant of the faith in the man.

His administration was as signally successful in the Moro country as in Cuba. In each case alike it brought in its train peace, an increase in material prosperity, and a rigid adherence to honesty as the only policy tolerated among officials. His opportunity for military service has not been great, either in the Philippines or while he was the Governor of Cuba. Still, on several occasions he was obliged to carry on operations against hostile tribes of Moros, and in each case he did his work with skill, energy, and efficiency; and, once it was done, he showed as much humanity in dealing with the vanquished as he had shown capacity to vanquish them. In our country there are some kinds of success which receive an altogether disproportionate financial reward; but in no other country is the financial reward so small for the kind of service done by Leonard Wood and by the other men whose names I have given above. General Wood is an army officer with nothing but an army officer's pay, and we accept it as a matter of course that he should have received practically no pecuniary reward for those services which he rendered in positions not such as an army officer usually occupies. There is not another big country in the world where he would not have received a substantial reward such as here no one even thinks of his receiving. Yet, after all, the reward for which he most cares is the opportunity to render service, and this opportunity has been given him once and again. He now stands as Chief-of-Staff of the American Army, the army in which he was serving in a sub-

ordinate position as surgeon thirteen years ago. His rise has been astonishing, and it has been due purely to his own striking qualifications and striking achievements. Again and again he has rendered great service to the American people ; and he will continue to render such service in the position he now holds.

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