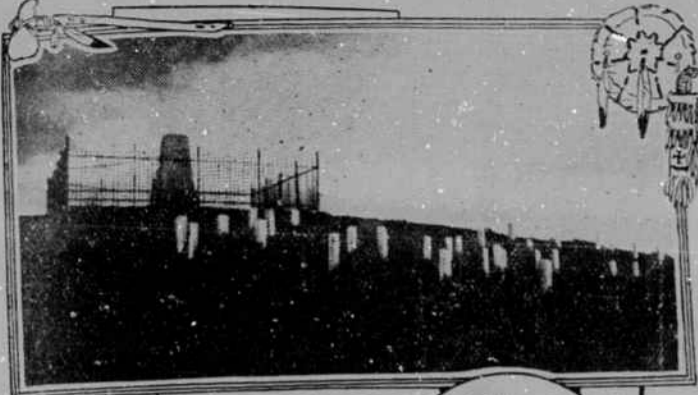


# "In the Desolate Land and Lone—"



SUNRISE ON THE CUSTER BATTLEFIELD Photo by Groves Kilburn

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



FIFTY-FIVE years ago this month occurred a tragedy which shocked the whole country as had, perhaps, no other one since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. On June 25, 1876, Gen. George Armstrong Custer, a dashing cavalry leader during the Civil war, attacked a big village of Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, strung along the banks of the Little Big Horn river in Montana. When the battle was over Custer lay dead and around him lay the bodies of 212 men and officers, the entire personnel of five companies of his regiment, the Sixth cavalry. Several miles away six other companies were besieged by the Indians on the bluffs overlooking the river and it is possible that only the timely arrival of the forces of Generals Terry and Gibbon two days later saved them from the fate which had overtaken their commander and their fellow troopers.

But it was not until July 4, 1876, when Americans everywhere were engaged in a joyous celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the nation, that word of this disaster came like the proverbial bolt from the blue to stun the public with its ill tidings and to cast a pall of sorrow over the centennial festivities. Logically, the news of the tragedy should not have surprised the American public, for by that time it should have become accustomed to the blundering policy of our government in its relations with the Indians—a policy of allowing itself to become involved in unnecessary wars with the red man, of underestimating both the desperation of his resolution not to submit tamely to white domination and the strength which he could assemble to resist that domination, and of sending a totally inadequate force of soldiers to subdue the hostiles after they had gone on the warpath.

Early in the history of the Republic we had learned a bitter lesson of the folly of sending an insufficient force, insufficient in both numbers and experience, against confederated tribes of hostiles, when the expedition against the Indians of the Old Northwest ended in St. Clair's defeat, the worst disaster suffered by a white man's army since the days of the unfortunate Braddock. But that lesson was forgotten until the series of failures experienced during the long-drawn-out wars with the Seminoles in Florida served to recall it. And again our government was short of memory, so when Gen. Henry R. Carrington was sent to garrison and hold a chain of forts along the trail to Montana in the heart of the Sioux country, it turned a deaf ear to his pleas for more men. The result was that Lieut. Col. W. J. Fetterman marched out from Fort Phil Kearney one cold day in December, 1866, with 81 men and none of them came back alive. The "Fetterman Massacre" or "Fort Phil Kearney Massacre," so-called—though the student of frontier history, if he recognizes the word "massacre" at all as the correct one for this affair, is less inclined to blame the warriors of the great Sioux chief, Red Cloud, than the government officials who ignored Carrington's requests—horrified the country for a short time, but within ten years it had forgotten this, just as it had other Indian disasters, so the time was ripe for still another tragic chapter. And the hero of it was George Armstrong Custer, the "Boy General" of Civil war days.

If Custer needed the aid of others besides the gods of battle to help make him a hero, he found them in the persons of the government officials



GEN. GEORGE A. CUSTER



A ROLL CALL OF HEROES



who had forgotten Fetterman and his 81 men. For in the last analysis, responsibility for what took place on the Little Big Horn goes back to them, Custer himself, during a conversation with General Carrington early in 1876, in regard to the proposed campaign against the hostile Sioux and Cheyennes, remarked that "It will take another Phil Kearney massacre to bring congress up to generous support of the army." Although, from his experience on the plains, he knew full well of the task that lay ahead of the army, he little realized how true his prophecy was nor that he was to make the same sacrifice that Fetterman had made.

The general plan of the campaign was to have three army columns converge from different directions upon the section in Wyoming and Montana where the hostiles had taken refuge after their refusal to stay on the reservations set aside by the government for them. One under General Gibbon was to come eastward from western Montana; another under General Crook was to advance northward from southern Nebraska; and the third under General Terry was to proceed westward from Fort Abraham Lincoln in what is now North Dakota. The principal trouble with this plan was that it didn't work. It didn't work because the combined three forces were not large enough for the task ahead of them, even though the government had thought it might be large enough, especially since the Indians, instead of waiting for the three armies to concentrate upon them, made use of some Napoleonic strategy, unconsciously, perhaps, and by operating "on interior lines" attacked two of the columns in severity and defeated them in detail. Then, too, it didn't work because in reality one department of the government was allied with the Indians, instead of with the army. For it was the inefficiency—to be extremely charitable—of the Indian department which permitted the Indians to go into the field much better armed than the soldiers of Crook and Gibbon and Terry, and which allowed those three to start upon their expeditions grossly underestimating the strength of the hostiles.

From the beginning the results of the campaign were unsatisfactory. Gen. J. J. Reynolds of Crook's command attacked the village of the Sioux chief, Crazy Horse, on March 17 and fought a sharp engagement in which all the honors rested with the latter. Three months later on June 17, Crazy Horse fought Crook's force to a standstill at the battle of

the Rosebud and halted his forward progress indefinitely. A short time before this Terry and Gibbon successfully joined forces on the Powder river and on June 17 Major Reno of Custer's Seventh cavalry, which formed the principal part of Terry's command, went on a scout which took them within 40 miles of where Crook was having his fierce battle with Crazy Horse. Terry and Gibbon were surprised at not finding any Indians. They did not realize that the hostiles were busy elsewhere fighting the battle which gave the way for their victory on the Little Big Horn.

Then on June 22 Custer was sent to scout a trail that Reno had discovered and this led him to the banks of the Little Big Horn and his Waterloo. The story of that battle in its main outlines is a familiar one—how Custer, marching rapidly, reached the Little Big Horn sooner than was expected, how he discovered the great Indian village and, not realizing the numerical strength of its warriors nor the fact that they were flushed with a feeling of victory over having stopped Crook, how he decided to attack at once without waiting for Terry and Gibbon, who were to be on hand for a battle, if Custer found the Indians, by June 25; and finally how adopting the tactics which he brought him victory in other fights with the Indians, he made the fatal division of his command into three parts, one led by Major Reno, one by Major Benteen and the third by himself.

Under the circumstances, the result was almost a foregone conclusion. Reno made his attack, was met with a fierce resistance and outnumbered, was driven back to the bluffs across the river, suffering heavy losses as he retreated. Benteen, following the route designated for him, got into impossible country and gradually worked back toward the route taken by Reno so that he arrived in time to help that officer hold his own against the whooping savages who were swarming about him. Meanwhile Custer and his five companies, not knowing that his plan of battle had already been broken up, rode on to his death. For the Indians, having put Reno out of the fight, concentrated on Custer and within a short time had done him and his men to death.

That story has been told and retold countless times. Over it has raged many a bitter controversy and around it has sprung up a great mass of tradition, myth, misinformation and just plain "bunk."

## Wealth Awaits Salvage by Treasure Hunters

The value of the eight thousand vessels sunk during the World war is estimated at six thousand million pounds, a sum calculated to stir all the resources of adventure ancient or modern. The recovery of all this treasure is open to anybody who can provide the means and the enterprise. With the progress of underwater science, it is not stretching probability too far to anticipate that a very real industry will one day start in the form of treasure hunting under the sea.

Among the principal wrecks that await the diver are those of Wilhelm der Zweiter wrecked off the coast of Africa, with 3,700 bars of silver, the Florentian in the bay of Tobermory, with bullion valued at £3,000,000, the Lizard, sunk near Cornwall, with a cargo of gold valued at £11,000,000, the Thunderbolt, with £1,400,000, the Honcoop, with 2,200 tons of copper, off the coast of Africa, the San Pedro, in Margerita channel, off Central America, with a cargo of golden images and precious stones valued at £6,000,000, the Merida, off the Virginia coast, with precious metals valued at £900,000, and the Lusitania, off the South Cork coast, which is reputed to contain close on three million pounds worth of gold and valuables. There is also, among many others, the Arabic with treasure of about £1,000,000.—Montreal Family Herald.

### Facts Nobody Knows

Among "facts nobody knows," assembled from all parts of the world weekly by Collier's, the following get first place for the month: Radium is the costliest thing in the world, because only one gram can be extracted from 10,000,000 grams of rare ore. The only woman who sits on a state Supreme court bench today is Judge Florence E. Allen of Ohio. Uncle Sam now has 2,100 fingerprint cards on file with the Department of Justice in Washington. The shortest people on earth are the African "pygmies," who average 77 pounds in weight and 4½ feet in height.

### The Cost

Senator La Follette was talking in Madison about the Sula Viscosa scandal in France. "You find dishonesty all over the world," he said. "And when it's rich men's dishonesty, as in this Sula Viscosa case, everybody is apt to get off lightly. "A millionaire, one of those mail-order-boax millionaires, motored a friend out into the country to see his new home. "The friend stared at the vast gray pile in wonder. Then he said: "Holy smoke, Bill, what did this cost you?" "Six months in all," said the millionaire.—Springfield Union.

## FELT SICK AFTER EATING

"None of my food agreed with me—I would frequently taste what I ate, long after my meals, and I did not see a well day for weeks," says Mr. Peter Seeger, 329 S. Elmwood St., Kansas City, Mo. "I began taking a pinch of Black-Draught after each meal, and kept this up for weeks. Gradually the pain left me and I began to feel better. I ceased to be troubled with gas, and could eat what I liked."

**Theford's**  
**BLACK-DRAUGHT**  
For CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, BILIOUSNESS

### World War Money

Many curious expedients were resorted to during the World war in order to prevent people of some warring nations from resorting to individual barter. The baser metals were used sometimes in place of gold and silver, often being gilded in order to carry out better the illusion of value. Printed wood was employed in Germany and Austria, also compressed pulp. Silk, linen and velvet were among some of the novelty fabrics used. Stamped leather was used, and postage stamps

## Cuticura Talcum Powder

PURE and delicately medicated, Cuticura Talcum Powder is ideal for daily use. Just a shake or two, and this fragrant, antiseptic powder gives that finishing touch to your toilet! It absorbs excessive perspiration, and cools the skin.

Soap 25c, Ointment 25c, and 50c. Talcum 25c. Proprietors: Potter Drug & Chemical Corp., Malden, Mass.



## Old Too Soon

Pity the poor men and women who always feel tired and sluggish—who grow old too soon—never knowing the real thrill of complete health and vitality. Recapture that old-time zest in life, that keen appetite, stamina, and sweet sleep at night. Take Fellows' Syrup, the wonderful tonic for weakness, "nerves," and "run-down" conditions. It replenishes the system with the valuable elements demanded by Nature. It aids you to regain youthful energy and vitality and—doubles your "pep."

These benefits, and awakened interest in living, are quickly evident after the first few doses. Be sure to ask your druggist for the genuine Fellows' Syrup, which doctors prescribe.

## FELLOWS' SYRUP

### DAISY FLY KILLER

Placed anywhere, DAISY FLY KILLER attracts and kills all flies. Neat, clean, ornamental, convenient and cheap. Lasts all season. No odor. No harm to cats, dogs or birds. Will not soil or injure anything. Guaranteed. Insist upon DAISY FLY KILLER from your dealer.

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### SWELLING REDUCED

And Short Breathing relieved when caused by a natural collection of water in abdomen, feet and legs, and when pressure above ankles leaves a dent. Trial package FREE. COLLUM MEDICINE COMPANY Dept. A, Atlanta, Ga.

### PARKER'S HAIR BALM

Removes Dandruff Stops Hair Falling Out Promotes Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair. Sold at 25¢ at Druggists. Also at Chamberlains, Baltimore, N. Y.

### Dr. Peery's Vermifuge

Dr. Peery's Vermifuge "Dead Shot" kills and expels worms in a very few hours. One dose suffices. It works quickly and surely. All Druggists, 60c.

**Dr. Peery's**  
**Dead Shot For WORMS**  
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### AZALEAS

Special 20 day sale, combine pink Indian 4" to 6", \$2.75 doz. prepaid. P. D. Green-Azalea Nursery, Harrison, Fla.

### DIXIE RABBIT FEED

Actual feed test has long since proven Dixie to be a perfectly balanced ration for rabbits, containing everything the rabbit needs including the alfalfa. Guaranteed to give satisfactory results or money back. A card will bring full particulars and price. Produce better rabbits at less cost.—Hampton Milling Co., Hampton, Ga.

### SCHOOL BOY WANTED

High school or college student to advertise the Kodak finishing company. Nothing to sell, only advertise in your locality. Good pay. Write "The Snap Shot, Opp. Alabama."

### BABY CHICKS

\$5.50 hundred, postpaid, live delivery. Best grade, D. W. Nichols, Austell, Georgia.

### SORE EYES

Dr. Salter's Eye Lotion relieves and cures sore and inflamed eyes in 3 to 48 hours. Heals the weak eye, cures without pain. Ask your druggist or dealer for SALTE'S. Only from Reform Dispensary, P. O. Box 751, Atlanta, Ga.

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were encased in transparent cases and circulated as currency. For small change, shoe nails were sometimes used as makeshift money, these being issued by local post offices here and there in some European countries.

### A Sticker

"Papa, I want you to understand that George is a perfect young man. He has no bad wings." "I can well believe he has no shortcomings. That is apparent by his long visit."—Vancouver Province.

