

THE ERUPTION OF THE MAYON IN 1900
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The eruptions of the Mayon from the earliest days up to 1897 have been recorded by Coronas.⁽¹⁾ The eruption of 1928 has been ably described by Faustino.⁽²⁾ Information on the intervening eruption of 1900 is very scanty. This lack of information and reports is easily explained by the fact that the political status of the Archipelago in 1900 was unsettled and the political conditions of Albay were leaning more towards active action in the battlefield than the quiet pursuance of scientific observations. On January 15, 1900, Brig. Gen. William A. Kobbé, U. S. V., was appointed military governor of the province of Albay, Luzon and of the Island of Catanduanes and was instructed to occupy with the troops at his command the towns of Sorsogon, Legaspi, Donsol, Bulan, Virac, Calbayog, Catbalogan and Tacloban.⁽³⁾ Colonel Walter Howe, forty-seventh Infantry, U. S. V., assumed command of the forces of Legaspi on February 4th, 1900 and reported that he found almost continuous firing from some one of the outposts. On February 14th a general reconnoissance was made with four companies over the entire country between the provincial road and the Mayon Volcano. The fact that the report of Col. Howe to the Adjutant General makes no mention of any eruption is an indication that the eruption, if it had already begun, was not serious at the time. The country was reported to be very thick except over rice padies and to be extensively cultivated with hemp near the foot of the mountain.⁽⁴⁾ In the early