

1st Ind.

Hqrs. District of Mindanao, Zamboanga, Nov. 29, 1916.  
To Executive Inspector, Manila.

This well written report leaves little for me to add. One point of scientific importance however must however be mentioned.

On September 24, while Captain Fort ascended the cones to obtain pictures of the cones of Ragang volcano, I took the party across the wedge of lava that separates the headwaters of the Simuay and Malaig rivers. While picking our way carefully amongst the lava rock and thus having our eyes fixed on the ground we discovered the petrified remains of numerous forest trees that had once covered this section. Some of the trees were four feet in diameter and the trunks were cut off flush with the surface and were perfectly preserved with their surface roots. I know of no other petrified forest in the Philippines. A large specimen from one of the trunks was selected and brought along. It was placed in a clothing bag containing soiled clothes and this bag was turned over to an officer for transportation to Lanao. It has been lost somewhere but may turn up yet. If and when it does the specimen will be forwarded for examination by the Bureau of science.

When I reached Dansalan I had no difficulty in pointing out Ragang and Latokan volcanoes to the District Engineer and Captain Reed of the Constabulary. They said they would shortly get up a party from Lumbatan, go up the Butig Pass trail and at the proper point thereof take up a five per cent grade trail to Ragang volcano. The trip from Lumbatan should not take more than a day and with a bungalow built at the camp site mentioned, the trip for tourists should be comfortable, agreeable and interesting.

Peter E. Traub,  
District Chief.