

Science and Technology Under the New Regime

NORMAL organization of the Research Commission on the Philippines under the personal supervision of Syozo Murata, chief adviser to the Japanese Military Administration, was announced by Lieutenant-General Sizuiti Tanaka, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines, at an informal reception he gave on January 21 at his official residence for leading Japanese and Filipino scholars and scientists.

The gathering was held on the occasion of the recent arrival in the Philippines of a group of prominent Japanese scholars and research workers to aid in the intellectual advancement and practical rehabilitation of the country.

The Commander-in-Chief stressed the significance of the assemblage in that it was held in the midst of hostilities, explaining that it was a unique situation in which the work of reconstruction is being carried on simultaneously with the military operations. He declared that Japan is concentrating her efforts in rehabilitating the countries in the Greater Asia visited by the war even before the fires of destruction have subsided.

Avanceña Responds

Former Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña of the Code Committee, responding to the speech by the Commander-in-chief and speaking in Spanish, declared that the Filipino men of science can do no less than dedicate their knowledge and experience for the success of the work of the research commission, "which

shall be for the common benefit of Oriental peoples." He said that in the past, the Filipino scholars and scientists looked to Western nations for inspiration in their studies, forgetting that the Orient is the cradle of civilization.

Mr. Avanceña's speech was translated in Japanese by Conzul Zitaro Kihara.

The reception was given to enable the Japanese and Filipino scholars and scientists to get acquainted with one another and to foster closer association among them.

All Branches of Learning

Present at the gathering were Japanese and Filipino scholars and scientists representing all the branches of learning, such as archeology, history, sociology, education, political science, law, economics, finance and banking, agricultural economy, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, biological sciences, engineering and mining.

Present also were members of the Philippine Executive Commission headed by Chairman Jorge B. Vargas, assistant commissioners, and high officials of the KALIBAPI.

The speech of the Commander-in-Chief is as follows:

I WISH to extend to all of you my most hearty welcome to this informal reception which is being held for leading Japanese and Filipino scholars and scientists who have distinguished themselves in various fields of intellectual activities.

"My purpose in holding this reception at this time, was occasioned by the recent arrival to these Islands of several Japanese scholars and research workers of national and international reputation, whom I know you would all be quite interested in meeting and coming to closer acquaintance.

Men of Learning

"In my honest opinion, I believe that you in the Philippines are to be congratulated in having with you this group of eminent men of learning from Japan, among whom are,

"Professor Ryoyama, Doctor of Laws, whose special field of work is in Political Science;

"Professor Oshima, Doctor of Literature, whose eminence in Pedagogics is of international repute;

"Professor Itoh, Doctor of Agriculture, whose work in agricultural economics is outstanding;

"Professor Suekawa, Doctor of Laws, who specializes in Civil Law; and

"Professor Sugimura, Doctor of Economics, who is one of the leading economists of Japan today.

"All of these scholars have rendered brilliant service to their country in their chosen fields of study and research and are today in the Philippines with the noble purpose of rendering the same high standard of service to the intellectual advancement and practical rehabilitation of this country.

"It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be able to introduce to this distinguished assemblage this afternoon the scholars and scientists who have recently arrived from Japan. It is hoped that this introduction will serve to bring you into closer association with each other and that this close coöperation and collaboration among the Japanese and Filipino scholars and scientists will serve as one wing of this mighty edifice we are all helping to build, namely the Co-Prospersity Sphere of Oriental peoples.

Common Problems

"No doubt some of you have already met and are well acquainted with one another from previous meetings at educational or scientific conventions. However, I wish to make the observation that perhaps this is the first time in the history of East Asia that so many eminent Japanese and Filipino men of learning and scholastic accomplishments in the various natural and social sciences have ever been assembled at one time and in one place to discuss and exchange expert opinions on problems of common interest.

"This assemblage is doubly significant when we consider the additional fact that a gathering of this nature, which is purely intellectual and spiritual, is being held in the midst of a gigantic war of veritably awe-inspiring scale.

"In these two seemingly unobtrusive facts lies the real significance of the present war, in so far as the peoples of East Asia are concerned. That is to say, the War of Greater East Asia is not a war of destruction per se; it is unique in that the work of recon-

struction is being carried on simultaneously with the military phase.

"In other words, unlike other wars or wars in other times, the agonies and sufferings of the people in East Asia from the direct aftermath of hostilities are minimized, to a large extent, in degree as well as in duration of time, through the efforts of Japan to rebuild and rehabilitate the countries concerned even before the fires of destruction finally subside.

Orient Neglected

"Turning our attention to the academic trend prevailing in this country in the past, and generalizing our observation, we note with much regret that heretofore undue emphasis and importance had been placed on Anglo-Americanism and that the intellectual activities of the Filipinos had been voluntarily confined within the narrow limitations of how well they could imitate their Anglo-American teachers and masters.

"Over and above this short-coming and, in one sense, an object of greater censure, was the utter neglect and total lack of interest shown to things Oriental or even Filipino. This is a rather strong charge to make against your past, but perhaps most of you specialists will agree with me that my estimate, if not absolutely correct, is not far from the mark.

"The War of Greater East Asia is in more sense than one, a blessing in disguise to the Philippines. In the academic field, it has effected an about-turn of 180 degrees in your mental outlook, and the future development and progress of the intellectual activities of this country can now be said to be properly headed toward the right direction. By right direction, I mean the direction in which nature has decreed the Philippines should advance when Providence first drew up its Fundamental Plans of terrestrial existence.

Aims of Commission

"The organization of the Research Commission on the Philippines under the personal supervision of His Excellency, Mr. Murata, Highest Adviser to the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines, has now been completed with the arrival of numerous Japanese scholars and experts.

"The purpose of this Commission is to conduct wide-spread surveys and studies on every phase of activity concernig the New Philippines, and it is sincerely hoped and urgently suggested that you the leaders of the intellectual and scientific world here in the Philippines, take immediate steps to contact the Commission and coöperate very closely with the members of this Commission, and under its active guidance serve unstintedly and energetically in the intellectual renaissance of the New Philippines.

"I am sure that you will enjoy this rare opportunity to meet intimately and discuss openly and informally the multifarious problems confronting your chosen fields of learning and practice. I hope you will exchange frank, heart-to-heart opinions with your fellow researchers and that the rich pleasures derived from

intellectual discourses will more than make up for the poverty of the preparations set before you."

After the speeches, which were delivered on the back lawn of the residence of the Commander-in-Chief, the Filipino guests shook hands with General Tanaka. Later, Japanese and Filipino guests gathered in groups and exchanged views on current topics.

Guest List

Present were:

JAPANESE: Dr. Masamiti Rooyama, Dr. Masanori Oosima, Dr. Tyozi Itoo, Dr. Hiroshi Suekawa, Dr. Kozoo Sugimura, Dr. Sinkizi Hatai, Dr. Tadao Kano, Dr. Zinsin Yamane, Dr. Masayo Tamati, Prof. Keizoo Takahasi, Dr. Itiroo Hayasaka, Dr. Yosimatu Yamamoto, Prof. Kasuo Ogasawara, Prof. Eizi Hokusima, Prof. Takao Hirata, Dr. Tatuji Takeiti, Mr. Keinosuke Baba, Mr. Hiroshi Sugoo, Mr. Tyun-iti Hayasi, Dr. Kinzi Yuasa, Dr. Sinzi Soomiya, Dr. Yosiyuki Oosima.

FILIPINOS: Marcelo Tangco, Ricardo Galang, Director Eulogio B. Rodriguez, Carlos Quirino, Dr. Leandro

M. Hernandez, Dr. Gregorio Zaide, Gregorio Yabes, Dr. Serafin Macaraig, Jaime C. de Veyra, Dr. Cecilio Lopez, Dr. Ricardo Reyes, Dr. Bienvenido M. Gonzalez, Dr. Gabriel Mañalac, Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Dr. Francisco Benitez, Dr. Maximo M. Kalaw, Jose Aruego, Dr. Jose S. Reyes, Dr. Bernabe Africa, Former Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña, Chief Justice Jose Yulo, Justice Jorge Boboco, Vicente Singson Encarnacion, Conrado Benitez, Vicente Carmona, Pedro Campos, Miguel Cuaderno, Director Bibiano L. Meer, Prof. Jose E. Velmonte, Dr. Pedro Mabbun, Director Quirico A. Abadilla, Director Leon Ma. Gonzalez, Dr. Luis Salvosa, Dr. Antonio G. Sison, Dr. Hilario Lara, Dr. Eusebio Aguilar, Dr. Manuel L. Roxas, Jose S. Camus, Dr. Gregorio San Agustin, Director Hilarion S. Silayan, Director Florencio Tamesis, Director Angel S. Arguelles, Jose Paez, Eusebio Morales, Arturo V. Tangco, Hermenegildo B. Reyes, Gabriel Daza, Enrique Ostrea, Victoriano Elicaño and Ambrosio Magsaysay.

