

Philippine Comment in the American Press

Editors Impressed by Islands' Resources

America is inquiring about her wealth in the Philippines. There is no longer any doubt about it. Casting up national accounts has been popular in the newspapers recently. Many editors, explaining the big debit items for rubber, sugar, coffee, jute, gutta-percha, camphor, silk, etc., are telling their readers that America incurs these debts annually simply because she hasn't arranged for producing such crops in the Philippines—where they could all be grown. In a box of 31 newspaper clippings, news items and editorials, 21, or 70 per cent, were about the economic side of the Philippine question; and 10, or 30 per cent, were about politics. This is a distinct reversal of the relative weights of Philippine political and economic news and comment in the American press of a few years ago.

A story about Aguinaldo, General Wood and the now famous meeting of veterans at the Palma de Mallorca a few months ago, was the chief political story appealing to American editorial judgment. The old myths about hitching the national wagon to this or that particular native star, about the efficacy of the uplift in the tropics, and that sort of pseudo-sentiment—which would never be depended upon to run a State, but is seemingly relied upon to run a territory greater than nearly any State—are persistently sent in the national consciousness and will fade out only with time. They are, however, at last in the perspective of the picture and no longer in the foreground.

"There is much hypocrisy in the talk about preparing the Philippines for self government," thinks the independent *Los Angeles Express*. "It is that gives the 'politicos' of the islands the material with which to stir up trouble. . . . The expectation that any day the flag may be hauled down creates a condition little better than might follow actual withdrawal. . . . Of course, Congress is without power to alienate the Philippines. But it would be a blessing to the islands were Congress to say so, to make that fact known to the Filipinos, and then return to the governor general power sufficient to make him able really to govern."

The Kansas City (Kas.) *Kansas*, in the heart of the middle west, looks at the question precisely as does the editor of the *Express* of Los Angeles. "If one will read the Constitution it will be seen that the framers of that famous document did not intend that congress should have such powers (as to withdraw sovereignty from territory over which it has been established and recognized). . . . At the Virginia constitutional convention, such an amendment failed of adoption."

The American editor now shows keen interest in even ordinary trade figures from the Philippines. In the clippings spoken of here, liberal space is given to the narrative and figures of the Philippine lumber industry; the editors argue from this that success would crown endeavors to develop other industries. What American trade was with the islands in earlier years, and what it is now, seems to be a matter of intense concern to editors in all parts of the country. The value of exports in 1905, \$15,000,000, as compared with last year, \$105,000,000, is put before readers throughout the United States with the stamp of the editors' approval.

"It is our own fault if we do not help ourselves by employing the resources of the Philippines," declares the independent Louisville (Ky.) *Herald*. "This country con-

sumes a billion and a half pounds of coffee a year. The money spent for this beverage might as well go into American as Brazilian coffers. The fact that twenty-two billions of American dollars are now invested abroad indicates that there might be something available for the development of this industry in one of our own colonies."

He goes on to inform his readers that plantations may be planted up to coffee of a blight-resistant variety in the Philippines, "one of our colonies," for \$25 an acre, and that the trees will bear in four years! One explains over the fact this voice is heard in Kentucky.

The more remarkable fact, perhaps, is

that among the 31 clippings only one has the withdrawal tone, whether they are editorials or news. This comment is five lines and one word long, in the *New Orleans States*, as follows: "George Bailey of the *Houston Post-Dispatch* observes that the discovery of large and valuable asphalt beds in the Philippines will add another to the many convincing proofs of the remarkable incapacity of the Filipinos for self government."

The circulation of 16 eastern papers included in the clippings is about 2,355,000; of four middle western papers, 315,000; of four southern papers, 227,000; of six western coast papers, 730,000. The circulation of six Republican papers included in the clippings is about 1,285,000; of three Independent-Republican papers, 852,000; of one Democratic paper, 375,000; of four Independent-Democratic papers, 760,000. And the list embraces many of the country's largest and

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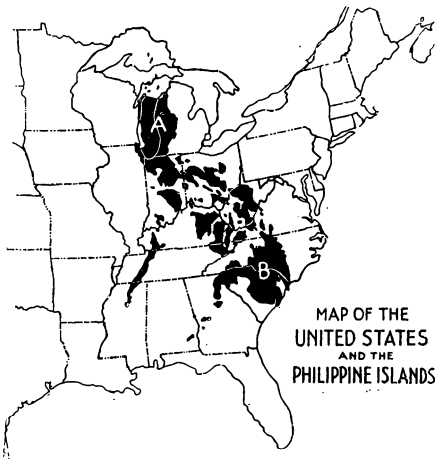
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The only States of the United States that are larger than the Philippines are—

- I Texas
 - II California
 - III Montana
 - IV New Mexico
- No State is so richly endowed with natural resources; none has as great a population.



MAP OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

most influential papers: New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, I-D; New York *World*, I-D; New York *Times*, I-D; Boston *Transcript*, I-R.

The *Sacramento Union* is independent in politics. Its comment may also be quoted in part:

"It is most unfortunate that the Philip-

pine Islands seem destined to remain a football of politics, as they have been for over twenty years. Political parties, whatever their designation, or whatever their origin, history and expectancy of years, have uniformly failed to draft a party platform without some high-sounding paragraphs on the Philippines. All parties have

been guilty of attempting to treat the Philippine question with politics. In this they have been aided by little propagandists who care nothing at all about the Philippine people or what happens to them, but a great deal about gaining a little publicity for themselves and their imagined importance.

"The Republican party has attempted to apply more of business principles and less of political nostrum to the Philippines than any other party. But this is probably to be largely credited to accident. The Republican party, under McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft, became responsible for Philippine policy. Government administrations, accountable to the party, have tried to translate this policy into constructive, safe and beneficial action in the interest of the people of both the Philippines and the United States. The critics of our Philippine policy have been almost wholly free of any responsibility in the matter, which has pleased them greatly. Critics don't like responsibility.

"But what the Philippines have needed less than all else is political adventurers and tinkers with political doctrines. They have needed most of all a relationship with the United States which would put the welfare of the Filipinos first and vindication of political theories last."

KAHN GIVES AMBULANCE

Leopold Kahn of the Estrella del Norte and the Estrella Auto Palace has presented the government hospital at Baguio with an ambulance in gratitude for the treatment the hospital gave his son during an illness in the mountain resort. Heretofore the hospital had no way of attending emergency cases.

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