



# Bingham's Word to Puzzled America

Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut heads the territories-Philippine committee and opposes all the scuttle bills, though he may suggest compromises (which this community does not accept) attempting to gain time and use it for enlightening the American public about their interests in the Philippines. He works, that is to say, as a politician must. But when he speaks outside the senate he speaks his mind,

as witness the following from his address in Boston August 11 to a meeting of the Army and Navy Legion of Valor: "Up to the discussion of the tariff bill, a discussion which began about two years and a half ago, one heard very little about Philippine independence. To be sure, anti-imperialists had opposed our taking and keeping the Philippines from the beginning. They feared that we might exploit those

*If the Philippines may be hard to defend, what of the Canal? The thing is, to realize the Philippines are also important*



millions of Malays and attempt to make money at their expense. They feared we might copy the history of colonization as practiced by some of the European nations. Their fears were not well founded. We sent thousands of school teachers to aid in giving the millions of Filipinos a common tongue. There are still more than 50 languages spoken in the Philippines. Today more Filipinos understand the English language than the Spanish or any of the native dialects. We sent scores of our best physicians to help combat tropical diseases, and we reduced the plagues of cholera and smallpox to a minimum. Eventually we gave them a free market for their produce. Free entry for their sugar, copra and coconut oil. We raised them from a condition where they had to live from hand to mouth, like so many East Indian coolies to one of relative health and prosperity.

"So the anti-imperialists, finding their fears groundless, very largely abandoned their efforts. The Filipino politicians made their battle cry independence, complete and immediate. The American visitor, seeing that the Philippine Legislature made the laws, that the Volstead Act does not apply, that the Filipinos are infinitely better off than their neighbors a few hours away in Southern China, came to the conclusion that independence as a battle cry meant chiefly a desire for social equality and in the minds of many of the poorer people the thought that with independence would come that general use of automobiles and telephones associated with Americans. Consequently there was little talk about independence until representatives of the sugar beet industry in Congress and of certain districts on the Western Coast where a few Filipino laborers were upsetting economic and social conditions, began to demand an exclusion of Philippine sugar and Filipinos. This was followed by a vigorous effort in the hearings on the tariff bill to persuade the Congress to put a high protective tariff on the most important products of the Philippine Islands, namely, copra, coconut oil and sugar. Representatives of the great farmers' organizations pointed out that the importation of coconut oil was interfering with the market for cotton seed oil and linseed oil. When their efforts to persuade the Congress to tax products from the Philippines failed on the ground that there must be no tariff between places under the American flag, the representatives of farmers' organizations and of the labor organizations then turned their attention to an effort to secure Philippine independence, not with any

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view of benefitting the Filipinos, but from frankly selfish motives. Their campaign has been so successful that if a vote were to be taken today, I believe that the Congress would by a large majority vote to give away the Philippine Islands in which we have freely spent both blood and treasure.

"To keep a few thousand Filipinos out of the West Coast, to gain a larger market for cotton seed oil and linseed oil and to gain a small additional market for beet sugar, we are asked to surrender the magnificent military fortress of Corregio, our spearhead in the Far East, to surrender our great naval base at Cavite from which our cruisers can now proceed with but few days delay to protect our interests in war-ridden China, to lose our prestige in Asia by giving up something which we admit is hard to defend and actually to bring economic ruin and disaster upon 11,000,000 people whom for the past 32 years we have been gradually raising above the level of their relatives in Asia and the East Indies. This would be an act of defeatism and selfishness almost unparalleled in American history.

"Supposing the Philippines are hard to defend. What has that got to do with it? Is the Panama Canal easy to defend? Is the Panama Canal not surrounded by half a dozen foreign countries that do not love the United States? Would it not be relatively easy for a powerful foe to establish a base in

one of those countries from which an aerial attack could be made which would destroy the Gatun Dam and put the Panama Canal out of business? Why does no one suggest that we give up the Panama Canal because it is vulnerable and hard to defend? Obviously the reason is because we appreciate its immense value to the United States in permitting our fleet and our merchant ships to pass quickly from our eastern to our western ports and vice versa. On the other hand the Philippine Islands are so far away, our knowledge of Asia is so slight, our appreciation of the possibilities of what we might do and what we ought to do for the Filipinos is so inconsiderable, that it seems like the easy way out of a difficult situation to grant what the Filipinos, led by their ambitious politicians, are clamoring for.

"Let us have courage to face the future boldly. Let us have determination to maintain what our soldiers have won and to keep our flag where it is today. Let it never be said that through short-sightedness, selfishness and a desire to secure higher prices for our products we brought suffering and economic ruin on the heads of 11,000,000 people who had lived for a generation under the blessings of the American flag. Let us bear the white man's burden. Let us seek another's profit. Let us work another's gain. Let us face the blame and hatred of those we

have bettered and protected. Let us not call too loud on freedom to cloak our weariness. Let us take pride in bringing health and happiness to those distant islands and stand ready to do our duty in helping to solve the mighty problems of the Pacific and of Asia."

### Rubber...

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be idle to advise the other smaller companies to pattern after General, for they can never overtake its sales organization and their financing has not been as sane and solid. In summary, General would be a fine object lesson to hold up before anyone contemplating starting a new rubber company but its teachings cannot be applied by competitors already in the field.

General, I predict, is the one small company sure of survival unless the trust monsters of the future drive it to the wall by cutting prices mercilessly over a period long enough to wear it out. There are those unkind enough to suggest that the price cuttings of the last few years have been engineered for the purpose of driving all the smaller companies over the cliffs, but I do not believe this to be a fact. The Fisk receivership showed that the big fellows themselves are not immune to the punishment thus dealt out, although Goodyear, Firestone,

# Philippine Hardwood Export Association

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