

by wireless. So he was. So was the Chamber of Commerce. So was the Shipping Board, with J. V. Marias at the helm. "We want the Dewey to come to the gulf for a homeward hemp cargo!" the wireless called, with pledges of several thousand bales concentrated at Malita and one or two other accessible points.

The whole story is too long to recount, but the Dewey went to Davao gulf to pick up a homeward bound hemp cargo in September, 1922, and O. V. Wood thereby won his last fight as a pioneer American planter in the Philippines. He won it almost single-handed, but he won it for all Davao, and for the Philippines, and for America. It is true the Dewey made no money on the venture, such pilot trips are too costly for that. It is true Malita could not furnish all the hemp that was expected: at the time the bargain was driven Wood was too far gone to be a thoroughly rational man—for so it goes in pernicious anemia cases. But it is also true that the Dewey did get a big cargo and that from that time on Davao plantation cargoes of hemp and copra have been regularly lifted by ocean steamers conveying them directly to the United States, Japan and other customer countries.

A few Americans are direct beneficiaries. Thousands of Filipinos are direct beneficiaries. Would there not have been wisdom in a policy, on the part of the United States, that would have encouraged thousands of men like O. V. Wood who first and last have come out to the Philippines in one capacity or another, to settle upon the public domain here and assist in its development into plantations of products acutely demanded in America? For imbecility of policy, we commend that of the United States in respect to the Philippines. That policy is the fundamental reason the United States pays such fancy take-it-or-leave-it prices today for crude rubber, foreign colony coffees and the like tropical necessities. It isn't the Stevenson Restriction Plan at all, at bottom; it is the Washington Restriction Plan and its deadly provisos—"The Philippines for the Filipinos! . . . If you don't like it, get out! . . . No backward step!"—these damnable sputterings it is that rise in the path of every man's endeavor and leave the vast bulk of the public domain of the Philippines a no-man's-land for white man and brown man alike.

Such things have wrenched Americans away from their holdings in nearly every province of the archipelago: in Davao and one or two other southern provinces they could never get quite so thorough a hold, and the Americans were therefore able to retain their rights as citizens. But in the beginning the same type of veteran volunteers were everywhere; one found from ten to fifty in every town. Some were mining, most were farming homestead claims and small lease holdings. They are gone now, not a few to soldiers' homes. They are beaten men, and fundamentally it is the policy of their own government that defeated them.

When will such nonsense cease? It never was a virtue. Its gravest fault is that it never attended to the survey, delimitation and division of the public domain. The native widow of a former American farmer has just been in our office with her children, being cared for as orphans. She has left 4-1/2 hectares from her husband's original claim of 16 hectares, and she is about to lose the 4-1/2 hectares; the courts are proceeding to deprive her of it and make her too an object of public charity. Her case is typical. Native homesteaders fare no better. We observed only recently Moros in the land office at Davao going through the gestures of oath-taking—being read documents, being asked if they understood what was read, being sworn on the Koran. God knows what it was all about: the Moros certainly didn't seem to, and yet they had the right, and some one responsible to America should have conscientiously exercised it for them.

ANOTHER DAVAO AMERICAN

Wary of expostulations—they will bear no fruit, be sure—we turn momentarily to the career of another American in Davao, Wm. H. Gohn, owner of two hemp and coconut plantations and a stock ranch. His early struggles were like the rest, just plain hard times on the border. He came to the islands as a sergeant in the 17th Infantry, did his first soldiering on Luzon, where it was good tough campaigning for the old 17th, and then went with his battalion to Cotabato as commissary sergeant. This was in

1901. He went home with his regiment in 1902, came back with it in 1903 and took his discharge in 1904, to settle on a holding he had selected at Santa Cruz, Davao. It is there his present properties are, all going concerns and all profitable. B. F. Crumb, another veteran who was treasurer of Lanao along in 1903 and 1904, left the government service, went planting in Davao and became one of Gohn's neighbors. Crumb died quite recently, leaving a large estate and a large family, the estate somewhat encumbered and the children small. Gohn is administrator of the estate, now almost clear of debt and a good legacy for the children. Thus the old veterans help one another and pay attention to memories of old times.

But what of their government? Will it one day place the redeemed estate of these children of a veteran in pawn in an oriental scheme of things? Will its absurdities continue forever, and wax the more ridiculous as the memory of gallant times fades into remote history?

We leave the digression unanswered, since none can answer it. What will get votes at home will be done, this is the only certainty.

VETERAN MAKES A STRIPPING MACHINE

P. H. Frank of the Universal Hemp Machine Company is another veteran and Davao man. He and his partner took their plantation at the head of the gulf upon the advice of Governor Bolton, and when Bolton had gone over the land with them he went south on an inspection trip and met his death at the hand of tribal outlaws. Frank sold to his partner finally and went into other activities. But he kept his interest in the problem of devising a simple machine for stripping hemp, which is one of the most exacting hand jobs in the realm of industry and ruptures many men every year. In 1922 Frank finally hit upon the machine his company has patented and is now manufacturing in quantity. An exhibit will be at the Carnival, with the general exhibit of the non-Christian tribes bureau. Gohn and Frank are both interested in the company; they are the first men who have been able to convince Luzon hemp growers that machines can clean hemp satisfactorily and economically.

Other machines are likely to follow, particularly the one that has been successfully put through its paces on the Burchfield plantation in Davao. That pioneering is about over; it eliminates hand methods centuries old.

JAPANESE PLAY BIG HAND IN DAVAO

The initiative of Japanese companies and workmen in Davao is largely contributory to the success of the stripping machines, simply because the Japanese see at once the great advantage of them and will learn how to operate them. They hitch batteries of them to waterwheels where streams are accessible, and where water is wanting they use oil engines.

The 10,000 Japanese in Davao play a big hand there. Their big corporations are well financed and well conducted and their gangs of workmen undertake all manner of contracts, which they faithfully fulfill. The Americans of Davao give excellent reports of the Japanese. It will be observed (from Mr. Duckworth's article) that the whole job of getting out hemp on many plantations is turned over to Japanese tenants, the McFie and Burchfield plantations being notable examples. At weekly auctions, the stripped hemp is sold, the planter taking it if his bid is highest; and if not, then lumping his share, ten to 15 per cent of the gross, in with that of the tenants.

In fact it may be said that the best conditions prevailing in any province of the islands, prevail in Davao, where Americans have most to say and where government hampers least the objects and conduct of men, of whatever nationality, engaged in the honest purpose of developing agricultural resources. It is a truth to be deplored that the very remoteness of Davao has been its salvation. It has not been convenient to initiate interference. When the Secretary of War comes to the islands, we recommend him to make a study of what has been done in Davao and might have been done in 48 other provinces, the total number of such divisions in this archipelago being 49.