

WAY DOWN IN DIXIE

A POLICY OF SCUTTLE

Aguinaldo, the former Filipino rebel, endorsing the views of Senator Hawes. Missouri, who is in the Philippines, declares that the United States should grant independence to the islands whatever the cost may be to the Filipinos. He himself is ready to accept the situation which would be created.

He speaks for himself and for a small minority. No matter what he thinks, or what Senator Hawes wants, the United States in giving the Philippines an independent status at this time would not only make certain civil war in the islands, made particularly cruel by religious animosities, but would throw the Philippines into a ruinous economic crisis.

At the present time the islands must depend commercially upon the American market, their products entering duty free. Should they be set adrift these markets would be largely destroyed, the tariff would apply, and chaos and misery would ensue. Aguinaldo suggests that independence should not come for five years, and that free trade with America should continue for another five years after the separation.

His idea is, however, that independence should be accomplished whatever the cost. It is a piece of folly. The islands have today far greater freedom than was ever dreamed of under Spanish rule. They enjoy a liberal government such as they could never hope to have under the control of Filipino politicians. They are to all practical intents and purposes autonomous. They have their own legislature, their own courts, their own school system, their own constabulary and police. They are more prosperous, happier than they have ever been or can ever be again under any other set of institutions.

The United States will not adopt a policy of scuttle. She has interests of her own to protect, obligations to meet, her prestige to maintain, her safety to provide for. She not only conquered the Philippine islands in the war with Spain, but after they had been seized as a matter of strategy in the very midst of war, paid the Spanish people \$20,000,000 in cash for the archipelago and has invested enormous sums in the aggregate in developing the human and natural resources of the islands.

Finally, it has to be determined whether congress has the power to alienate territory once acquired and made an integral part of the territory of the United States. That is a point which the courts must decide. There is no present prospect that the Philippines will be cut adrift to become the prey of some other power.—*Lexington (Ky.) Leader.*

ECONOMICS BEFORE POLITICS

Since "becoming of age," the Philippine Islands have been hinting they are quite ready to do the break-away from the United States and set out to govern themselves. First it was a suggestion; now it attains the proportions of a request, from some over-heated politicians, a demand.

Politically the Filipino is ready to govern himself. On the little islands politics is a passion. Little boys are snatched up from their cradles and set on a soap box. It has been bred into them this insatiable desire to have a hand in the government; or perhaps they think they have been moved about like chess men a little too long.

Whatever be the reason and reaction, the Filipino thinks he ought to be cut loose and allowed to govern himself. And though it be readily admitted politically he can do it, and probably do it well, he is economically unable to maintain a country worthy of his political abilities and attainments. The economically-tardy Philippines governing themselves would be like so many loafers rising up on park benches to organize themselves into a body to lay down the laws of the land.

When the Philippines have made themselves economically independent, they will be ready to paddle their own canoe—not until. Broad-minded, far-sighted Filipinos admit this without hesitancy. They realize the economic status of their country; and in this they are unlike those fellows of theirs

Three *Philippine* editorials, two from the land of Dixie and one from New York. . . "It would be discreditable to the United States to adopt the measure advocated by the senator from Missouri" (i. e., the Hawes-Cutting scuttle bill).

whose political cunning and desire to pass laws have overcome all else.

Governor General Dwight Davis has reminded the Philippines of all this. He has suggested a long-term public works program, repeal of the anti-trust laws, leasing of public lands for cultivation, private ownership of communications, etc. Says he:

"It is no time for mere eloquent speeches, for meaningful praise. Political phrase-making and campaign catch-words must now yield to sound statesmanship. . . . For 30 years politics, not economics—have held the public attention. In our present critical condition economics must dominate politics. . . . Today our neighboring competitors have advanced so far beyond us in economic development that a number of years must pass before we can hope to equal them."

This sort of thing doesn't appeal to the Filipino. He thinks the government should "run the works." When that atmosphere is cleared and the islands turn to their economic tasks, the way will be open for self-government in not so many years.—*Spartanburg (S. C.) Herald.*

ARE FILIPINOS READY?

When Senator Harry B. Hawes of Missouri went to the Philippines he might have left his politics at home. Recently he made a speech before a joint session of the legislature there that clearly was intended for home consumption. He represented himself as a great champion of independence for the islanders, when his chief concern is to benefit the farmers of his state.

At the last session Senator Hawes introduced a bill to grant the Filipinos independence after a period of five years. This measure, which was reported out of committee, obtained its chief momentum in the demand of the western farmers that a limitation be placed on the entry of sugar and cocoanut products from the islands. The farmers see in the grant of independence a chance to place a tariff wall against these items which compete with domestic products. Here is the inspiration of the Missouri senator.

Few oppose in principle the proposal to let the Filipinos work out their own political destiny. The purpose to do so has been clearly stated at Washington. The big question is whether the Filipinos now are ready, or will be ready at the end of five years, for independence. As to this point there is much more to be said than has come from Senator Hawes. Since the Philippines are within the tariff wall of the United States, industry there is organized on the basis of the protective system which Congress has devised. Upon declaration of independence, the protection under which these industries has developed would automatically stop. The Filipinos must have full opportunity to readjust their economic structure—to build up a structure independent of the American tariff—before being cut adrift.

If the Hawes plan for independence were to be adopted, the islanders would suffer in trade and prosperity. In all probability they would be reduced to the standard of living of natives in Java and Sumatra. It would be disservice of the worst kind to the Filipinos—it would be discreditable to the United States—to adopt the measure advocated by the senator from Missouri. The islanders must have reasonable time within which to develop a program for economic security. When they accomplish this end, no measurable opposition will be offered to independence.

—*A New York paper.*