

Philippine Independence Won After Struggle of Centuries



President Roosevelt Handing Signed Philippine Constitution to Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippine Senate. Inset, Emilio Aguinaldo, Who May Be a Candidate for President.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

- N 1898, when Admiral Dewey's guns had hardly concluded their become a world power, and the echoes were still rumbling over Manila bay, the 10,000,000 inhabitants of the Philippines were already demanding complete political independence.

Ten years from this coming Fourth of July they may get it at last, after a long struggle, both physical and diplomatic. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed his name in ink to the constitution of the new Philippine government. So did Manuel Quezon, president of the Island senate. Six weeks before that, members of the Philippine house of representatives signed it, one of them in his own blood.

Philippine independence has not always been our worry. The struggle had its beginning centuries before the United States ever existed.

The story really opens, so far as the white race is concerned, in the year 1521, when Fernando Magellan, that most irrepressible of all gadabouts, "discovered" the archipelago of the eastern Pacific. It may be well imagined that Skipper Magellan's hearties, with many moons on the open sea having depleted their food supply to the extent that the dinner menu consisted of fricassee of leather riggings

Hawes-Cutting bill. This provided that, subject to the approval of the bill by the Philippine legislature, the ispronouncement that America had lands would be allowed to draw up a republican constitution which would have to be acceptable both to them and to the President of the United States. Then, after a period of ten | years, the islands would be granted complete independence. During the ten years, exports and the number of Philippine immigrants to the United

States would be restricted. After that the islands were to be outside the American tariff wall. President Hoover vetoed the bill

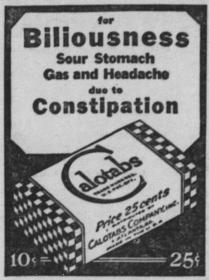
January 13, 1933, on the grounds that It had been selfishly planned to protect American agriculture against Philippine labor and products; it did not

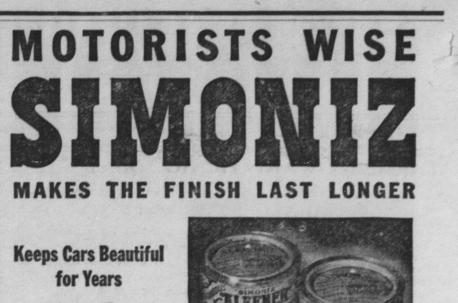
satisfactorily discharge American responsibility towards the islanders, who were unready for independence ("Economic independence of the Philippines

must be attained before political independence can be successful" was the way he put it); and it would lay the islands open to the dangers of turbulent conditions in the Far East. Congress overrode the veto four days later. The Philippine legislature rejected the bill nine months afterward.

The new constitution was prepared under the conditions of the Tydings- vide for compulsory arbitration. McDuffle bill, which was passed by the last congress and signed by President Roosevelt. Its chief differences from the Jones act are in the manner in which it allows the Islands a gradually increased dosage of economic divorcement from the United States for their people to taste before they decide finally to cut away all ties on

WAY OFF TO ONE SIDE A country storekeeper from Missouri visited New York city recently. On his return, he was the center of attraction around the stove in his store the first evening. "New York is some town all right," he told his listeners. "Cars scootin' like lightnin' over yer head, dash-burned long trains a-divin' underground, buildin's so blamed high ye cain't see the tops of 'em, millions o' miles o' paved streets, an' autos a-chasin' ye all over the street. It's a big town, all right, as I say, but it'll never be a success. It's too fur away."





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AB JENKINS ALSO RECENTLY

blowout protection built into Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires. He drove his 5000 pound car over the hot salt beds at Lake Bonneville, Utah, 3000 miles in 231/2 hours. This was an average speed of 127.2 miles per hour, and although temperatures were as high as 120°, he had no blowouts or tire trouble of any kind.

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body, the assembly. In times of war or other great national emergency it can vote to make the president a dictator. The Supreme court will have eleven justices, automatically retired at seventy, who can declare a law or treaty unconstitutional by a two-thirds majority vote.

There will be only one legislative

Women to Vote on Suffrage. Literate men over twenty-one will

be allowed to vote. A plebiscite will be held in two years on woman suffrage, and if 300,000 women vote for it they will be given the right of suffrage.

All natural resources are to become the property of the state, not to be leased for longer than 25 years. The state may operate and establish industries and systems of communication and transportation, in the interests of national defense. The state will protect labor and regulate relations between landlords and tenants and between labor and capital. It may pro-Treaties will be ratified by a major-

and boiled tongue (of shoe), halled the islands with delight. The native rice and sugar, which would have been just another Tuesday night dessert at Mrs. Gomez' Seaman's home back in sunny Spain, must have looked to them like a banquet for the gods.

Senor Magellan is still there, but not because he fell in love with the scenery. He was killed by natives on the island of Mactan. And what remained of his stout-hearted crew continued around the globe without him.

When the boys got back home they were pretty much the toasts of their respective communities and were invited to address the local Kiwanis and Rotary and the Iberian equivalent of what we call the Hot Stove league. Egged on with bribes of hot tamales and rare Castillian wines, they were not above spellbinding wide-eyed senoritas with reluctant admissions of their daring deeds. Mixed in with their revelations there was probably a little truth and the word eventually, got out that there were Philippine is- the states might believe, a nation of lands somewhere in the Pacific, say about two mutinies and three famines out from Barcelona.

Bullied the Natives.

At any rate, Spanish sailors of the next generation again found the Phil- fishing and mining is important. They ippines, and began bullying the natives into submission in 1565, gaining complete control in 1570. It is doubt- coffee, ful if these Spaniards knew, or anybody else knew until the Rand-McNally map makers got busy, that their new totaled about \$19,000,000. In 1929 it colonial holdings included .7,083 islands-two of them, Luzon and Min- everything but sugar slumped to a danao, 40,000 and 38,000 square miles considerable degree during the depresin area, and nine others more than sion that followed. While only 3 per 1,000 square miles apiece.

However, Filipinos, like elephants, never forget, and the idea of complete an American possession, 61 per cent independence kept rankling in their of them are today sold in American minds for quite a spell until in 1893 it markets. swelled forth in open revolt under Emilio Aguinaldo. The Spanish rulers pacified Senor Aguinaldo with how many pesetas, and he and his principal henchmen retired to the heterogeneous obscurity of Hong Kong in revolt of 1808.

with Spain and Spain ceded the Islands | country, as the result of a bill passed to the United States for \$20,000,000. by the legislature last December and The Filipinos thought they ought to be signed by Gov. Gen. Frank Murphy, given independence at that time, and former mayor of Detroit. when they failed to get it they broke out again and were not pacified until which now becomes effective as soon July 4, 1901.

ed an independence movement by granting them an autonomous gov- stitution, with the following important ernment under the Jones act of 1916. differences: The islanders were quick to offer their war, and as soon as it was over began a consistent petitioning for independence which has never subsided.

Must Wait Ten Years.

They made some headway in December of 1932, when congress passed the speak before the legislature.

July 4, 1945. At present all Philippine exports to the United States come in duty free. The Tydings-McDuffle bill provides that in the sixth year of the ten-year

commonwealth period a duty of 5 per cent will be levied. This will be graduated annually until at the end of five years the duty would be 25 per cent. Economic experts are generally of the opinion that this would cut terrifically into Philippine exports, some even contending that the islands would be economically ruined even before they gained their complete independence.

Varied Resources.

The Philippines are not, as many folks in the metropolitan centers of elevator operators, bus boys and professional ping-pong players. They raise great quantities of rice, sugar

cane, hemp, manila, coconut, corn, tobacco and maguey. Their forestry, manufacture sugar, cocoa, coconut oil, cigars and cigarettes, chocolate and

In 1895, before the American market was opened up to them, the exports had reached \$164,000,000, although cent of the exports reached the Unit-

ed States before the Islands became

The present agreement is not what the Philippines have long hoped for, but In their enthusiasm they have apthreats, promises and goodness knows parently decided it is about all they will get, for in the island plebiscite which followed the signing of the constitution by President Roosevelt, they 1897, there to plan their subsequent approved the document by an overwhelming vote. Women voted for the

In that year America won the war first time in the history of an oriental The new Philippine constitution,

as the existing government is terminat-The United States still later arrest- ed by a proclamation of President Roosevelt, is much like our own Con-

The president may serve only one ald to the United States in the World term, six years. He can veto any part of any bill. The legislature, with two minor exceptions, cannot appropriate more money than his budget calls for. The vice president is a member of the

cabinet, and cabinet members may

ity of the assembly, and that body alone may declare war.

Although the plebiscite on May 14 was a landslide in favor of the new constitution, it was held in the wake of an uprising which was the bloodiest the islands had seen in 15 years. There were several actual battles. Constabulary officers ultimately quelled the uprising, but not until 61 rebels were dead and 54 rebels and 10 constabularles wounded. Quezen and Murphy were in the United States at the time. Dissatisfaction with the trade requirement of the Tydings-McDuffle bill was one of the things upon which the revolt was blamed. It is thought in many circles that the Filipinos will not be so anxious for independence as they are now, when 1945 rolls around, if the bill is followed to the letter.

Economic Future.

A congressional committee headed by Senator Millard F. Tydings of Maryland, co-author of the bill, has just returned from the Islands with recommendations which will probably provide material for a study of their economic future. The bill calls for a conference on that subject one year before the commonwealth period expires, but it is probable that this will take place at an earlier date.

The final outcome, it is thought, will result in one of the following possibilities:

(1) Complete Independence, exactly as proposed, which will involve (according to most authorities) economic ruin and probable absorption of the Philippines by "an Oriental power."

(2) Independence, exchanging tariff preference to the Islands for free entry of American goods.

(3) Dominion government of the islands, allowing them trade preference, but keeping a political string attached to them.

The islands are determined to have independence, complete and at any cost, according to Quezon, who has fought for it in diplomatic circles in this country for many years, served as president of the island senate since 1916, and will in all likelihood be its first president.

The dapper little diplomat, somewhere about sixty years of age, admitted that his nation was setting out on a great adventure and would probably make mistakes.

"What nation does not?" he asked. "But we have been prepared for our adventure by a great republic. We have-trusted you in the past and have been rewarded for our trust. We have depended upon you and we have not been disappointed. We know that we can count upon you in the future."

Mentioned as a possible candidate to oppose Quezon for the presidency is Aguinaldo, the same Emilio Aguinaldo who led the revolts and guerilla warfare more than thirty years ago. Quezon then was his trusted lieutenant. C Western Newspaper Union.

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