

system of managing the forests of the country is being put in operation. A careful study of the whole forestry problem is being conducted throughout the United States. A very extensive and complete exhibit of the agricultural and horticultural products of the United States is being prepared for the Paris exposition.

The Philippine Question.

On the 10th of December, 1898, the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain in Ghebro, Madrid, provided, among other things, that Spain should cede to the United States the archipelago known as the Philippine Islands, that the United States should pay to Spain the sum of \$20,000,000 and that the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories thus ceded to the United States should be determined by congress.

The treaty was ratified by the senate on February 12, 1899, and by the government of Spain in Madrid on the following. The ratifications were exchanged on the 11th of April and the treaty publicly proclaimed. On the second of March, 1899, the United States sum contemplated by the treaty, and the amount was paid over to the Spanish government on the first of March.

In this manner the Philippines came to the United States. The islands were ceded by the government of Spain, and they had been in Spanish possession for centuries. They were accepted not merely by our authorized commissioners in Paris, under the protection of the executive, but by the constitutional and well-considered action of the representatives of the people of the United States in both houses of congress.

From the earliest moment no opportunity was lost of assuring the people of the islands of our ardent desire for their welfare and of the intention of this government to do everything possible to advance their interests. In my report of May 19, 1898, the commander of the military expedition despatched to the Philippines was instructed to declare that we came not to make war upon the people of that country, nor upon any party or faction among them, but to protect them in their homes, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights.

As early as December 4, before the cession and in anticipation of that event, the commander in Manila was urged to restore order, tranquility and to undertake the establishment of a efficient government, which should afford the fullest security for life and property.

On the 21st of December, after the treaty was signed, the commander of the forces of occupation was instructed to announce to the people of the islands in public manner that we come, not as invaders and conquerors, but as friends to protect the natives in their homes, their employments and in their personal and religious rights.

On the first day of January, 1899, the first orders were issued that the kindly intentions of this government should be in every possible way communicated to the people of the islands.

On the 21st of January I announced my intention of dispatching to Manila a commission composed of three gentlemen of the highest character and ability. The members of the commission were Dr. Jacob Schuchman, president of the Cornell university, Charles D. Walcott, who had for many years minister to China, and Professor Dean W. Worcester, of the university of California, and made a most careful study of the Philippine Islands.

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The prompt accomplishment of this work by the American army, which gave him other ideas and ambitions, and insidious suggestions from various quarters perverted the purposes and intentions with which he had taken arms. No sooner had our army captured Manila than the Filipino forces began to show an attitude of suspicion and hostility which rendered our efforts of our officers and troops were unable to disarm or modify. Their kindness and forbearance were taken as proof of cowardice.

Ten days later an order of the insurgent government was issued to its adherents who had taken arms, that they were to be disbanded on the 15th of February, the "territorial militia" shall come together in the streets of San Pedro, armed with their bolos, machetes and ammunition where convenient; that Filipino families only shall be respected; but that all other individuals of whatever race they may be shall be exterminated without mercy, compassion after the extermination of the army of occupation, and adds: "Brothers, we must avenge ourselves on the Americans and exterminate them that we may take our revenge for the infamies and treacheries which they have committed upon us. Have no compassion upon them; strike with vigor."

A copy of this fell by good fortune, into the hands of our officers and they were able to take measures to control

the rising, which was actually attempted on the night of February 22, a week later than originally contemplated. Considerable numbers of armed insurgents entered the city by waterways and swam an iron in contact with copper plates inside attempted to destroy Manila by fire. They were kept in check during the night and the next day driven out of the city with heavy loss.

This was the unhappy condition of affairs which confronted our commission when they arrived in Manila. They had come with the hope and intention of co-operating with Admiral Dewey and Major-General Otis in establishing peace in the islands. The largest measure of self-government compatible with the true welfare of the people. What they actually found was a state of anarchy in their own words.

War Unavoidable. "Deplorable as war is, the one in which we are now engaged was unavoidable by us. We were attacked by a bold and adventurous and enthusiastic army. No alternative was left to us except ignominious retreat. "It is not to be conceived that any man could expect the surrender of Manila to the insurgents. Our obligations to other nations and to the friendly Filipinos and ourselves demanded that force should be met by force. Whatever the future of the Philippines may be, there is no course open to us now except the prosecution of the war until the insurgents are reduced to submission. The commission is of the opinion that there has been no time since the destruction of the remaining squadron by Admiral Dewey when it was possible to withdraw our forces from the islands either with honor to ourselves or with safety to the inhabitants."

Rebellion Must Be Crushed. The course thus clearly indicated has been unflinchingly pursued. The rebellion must be put down. Civil government cannot be thoroughly established until order is restored. The devotion and gallantry worthy of its most brilliant history, the army, ably and loyally assisted by the navy, has carried out this mission. It has met the most righteous campaign with richly deserved success. The noble self-sacrifice with which our soldiers and sailors, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights, refused to avail themselves of their right to return home as long as they were needed at the front being the most striking feature of our campaign. Although their operations have been somewhat interrupted and checked by a rainy season of unusual violence and property with the military and naval forces; that the insurgents and all others must recognize the military occupation and authority of the United States.

Island of Negros. The unfavorable circumstances connected with an active campaign have been restored and tranquility and the equally important work of reconstruction. Again I invite your attention to the report of the commission on the 19th of December, 1898, giving details of the work already accomplished in the establishment of peace and order and the inauguration of self-government in the most important portions of the archipelago. A notable beginning has been made in the establishment of a government in the island of Negros, the eastern portion of which is a populous and thriving market of commerce. The earnest and unremitting endeavors of the commission and the admirable services rendered by the department of the Pacific to assure the people of the beneficent intentions of this government have had their legitimate and natural result. A great mass of them that peace and safety and prosperity and stable government can only be found in a loyal acceptance of the authority of the United States.

Cannot Desert Philippines. The future government of the Philippines rests with the congress of the United States. The rights and responsibilities have ever been defined for us. If we accept them in a spirit worthy of our race and our traditions, a great opportunity is offered to us. The islands lie under the shelter of our flag. They are ours by every title of law and equity. They cannot be abandoned. If we desert them, we leave them at once to anarchy and finally to barbarism. We fling them, a golden apple of discord, among the rival powers, no one of whom is disposed to seize them unprovoked. Their rich plains and valleys would be the scene of endless strife and bloodshed. The dawn of a new day of freedom and progress, which will have been the beginning of an era of peace and plenty worse than any which has darkened their unhappy past. The suggestion has been made that we could renounce our authority over the islands, and giving them independence, could retain a protectorate over them. This proposition will not be found, I am confident, worthy of our government. Such an arrangement would involve at the outset a cruel breach of faith. It would require the peaceful and loyal majority who seek to advance the interests of the minority of armed insurgents. It would make us responsible for the acts of the insurgents, and would give us no power to control them. It would charge us with the task of protecting them against their foreign enemies, which they chose to quarrel. In short, it would take from the congress of the United States the power of declaring war and vest that tremendous responsibility in the Tagal leader of the hour.

Freedom and Order. It does not seem desirable that I should comment at this time a specific and final program of reconstruction for these islands. When peace has been restored it will be the duty of congress to construct a plan of government which shall secure and maintain freedom and order and maintain the Philippine Islands. The insurrection is still existing, and when it terminates further information will be required as to the actual conditions of the islands for inaugurating a permanent scheme of civil government. The full report of the commission, now in preparation, will contain suggestions and suggestions which will be of value to congress, and which I will transmit as the insurrection is completed. As long as the insurrection continues, the arm is not necessarily to be suppressed, but there is no reason why steps should not be taken from time to time to inaugurate a government among the people in their form as a territory is held and controlled by our troops. To this and I am confident, the advice should be put at the commission, or such of the members thereof as can be secured, to aid the existing authorities and facilitate their work throughout the islands. I have believed that reconstruction should not begin by the establishment of a central civil government for all the islands, but rather that the work should be commenced by building up from the bottom, first establishing municipal governments and provincial governments, a central government at last to follow.

Will Uphold the Flag. Until congress shall have made known the formal expression of its will I shall use the authority vested in me by the constitution and the statutes to uphold the sovereignty of the United States in these distant islands as in all other places where our flag rightfully is established. Following the precedent established in the year 1865, when a temporary government was established in Louisiana, I will endeavor to secure the power upon which I would have to establish a government and to advance, as was done in the case of the territory of Louisiana, a legislative council having power to adopt ordinances which shall extend to all the rightful subjects of local legislation, such ordinances not to be subject to the approval or disapproval by the congress if in session, and if that body is not in session, then by the president. In this manner a system of laws providing for the incorporation and government of towns and cities having a certain population, giving them the power to establish and maintain a system of education to be locally supported and ordinances providing for police, sanitary and other local purposes, could be speedily provided.

I believe a provision of this kind would be satisfactory to the people of

the territory. It is probable that the business of the population is scattered and transitory to make it wise at the present time to provide for an elective legislative body, but the conditions making this self-government will undoubtedly very soon exist, and will be facilitated by the measures which I have recommended.

Hawaii. Some embarrassment in administration has occurred by reason of the peculiar status which the Hawaiian islands at present occupy under the resolution of annexation, approved July 7, 1898. While by that resolution the republic of Hawaii as an independent nation was extinguished, its separate sovereignty destroyed, and its property and possessions vested in the United States, yet the domestic products of the archipelago of Jolo when carried on with any part of the Philippine islands and under the American flag were free, untaxed and duty free. The United States will give full protection to the Sultan in case any foreign nation should attempt to impose duties on the island of Jolo or any other islands of the archipelago to any foreign nation without the Sultan's assent. The Sultan will give full protection to the Sultan in case any foreign nation should attempt to impose duties on the island of Jolo or any other islands of the archipelago to any foreign nation without the Sultan's assent.

Alaska. A necessity for immediate legislative relief exists in the territory of Alaska. Substantially the only law providing for the government of the territory is the act of May 17, 1854. This measure in its provisions, and is fitted only for the administration of affairs of a territory of the most primitive and uncivilized people and unimportant trade and production, as was Alaska at the time this act passed.

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Advertisement for Nervita Pills, featuring an image of a pill bottle and text: 'Nervita Pills Restore Vitality, Lost Vigor and Manhood. Cure Impotence, Night Emission, Loss of Memory, etc. 60 PILLS 50 CTS. Nervita Tablets EXTRA STRENGTH Immediate Results. Positively guaranteed cure for Loss of Power, etc. NERVITA MEDICAL CO., Clinton & Jackson Sts., CHICAGO, ILL. Sold by McCarrah & Thomas, Drugists, 29 Lackawanna ave., Scranton, Pa. Includes a small illustration of a man and woman.