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GEN. BATES MISSION TO SULTAN OF SULU

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO WITH THE MOROS.

Description of the Remarkable People of the Sulu Archipelago, Who Display the American Flag, How the Sultan Went to Jolo.

From a letter by John T. McCutcheon, in the Chicago Record. General Bates, accompanied by Captain Stanley and Lieutenant Reeve of his staff, returned to Manila, Aug. 24, after completing an eminently successful mission with the sultan of Sulu, who has signed an agreement with the United States which will probably be the basis of a treaty.

In the southern part of the Philippine islands there is a chain of small islands extending from Mindanao to the coast of Borneo. These islands form the Jolo or Sulu archipelago, and are under the sultan of Sulu. They are inhabited by an odd lot of people in whose veins flow a mixture of Malay and Arabian blood.

ARABIAN BLEND RULES THE ISLANDS. The Arab introduced Mohammedanism about 1000 years ago, and there is today in the local religion a strong Arabian strain and nearly all have Arabian names.

The local steamer requires only sixty hours to go from Manila to Jolo, but the contrast of the people is so great that it seems as if centuries of time and hundreds of leagues separated the Christian Tagalog from his Moslem neighbor. The men wear trousers of the tightest pattern ever conceived, while those worn by the women are very loose; the men also wear a small jacket, neatly embroidered, while the women favor a close-fitting bodice.

and would not have the least attractive costume among those startling creations. These people have practically never acknowledged the sovereignty of Spain and have frequently matched the kris against the rifles of the Spaniards.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH SULTAN. There was the usual oriental delay by the sultan in signing the agreement presented by General Bates, and the general wisely improved the opportunity by making the acquaintance of the leading datus and establishing the friendliest relations with them. To accomplish this the general cruised among the various islands on the Charleston, which ship in itself was at the disposal of the natives as an object lesson. Such was the progress made by General Bates with the datus that if the sultan had concluded to disagree with the United States his majesty would have found but few datus who would follow him.

AGREEMENT WITH HIS HIGHNESS. Agreement between Brigadier General John C. Bates, representing the United States of the one part, and his highness, the sultan of Sulu, the Dato Rajah and the Dato Jodakman, of the other part, it being understood that this agreement will be in full force only when approved by the governor-general of the Philippine islands and confirmed by the president of the United States, and will be subjected to future modifications by the mutual consent of the parties interested.

OCCUPATION AND PURCHASE OF LAND. Article 5.—While the United States may occupy and control such parts of the archipelago of Sulu as public interests require to demand, enforcement will not be made upon the lands immediately about the residence of his highness the sultan, unless military necessity requires such occupation in case of war with a foreign power; and where the property of individuals is taken due compensation will be made in each case.

Article 6.—The sultan of Sulu shall be allowed to communicate direct with the governor-general of the Philippine islands in matters complained against the commanding officer of Sulu or against any naval commander.

Article 7.—The introduction of firearms and war material is forbidden, except under specific authority of the governor-general of the Philippines. Article 8.—Piracy must be suppressed and the sultan and his datus agree to heartily cooperate with the United States authorities to that end, and to make every possible effort to arrest and bring to justice all persons engaged in piracy.

Article 9.—Where crimes and offenses are committed by Moros against Moros the government of the sultan will bring to trial and punishment the criminals and offenders, who will be delivered to the government of the sultan by the United States authorities if in their possession. In all other cases persons charged with crimes or offenses will be delivered to the United States authorities for trial and punishment.

THE PURCHASE OF FREEDOM BY SLAVES. Article 10.—Any slave in the archipelago of Sulu shall have the right to purchase freedom by paying to the master the usual market value. Article 11.—At present Americans or foreigners wishing to go into the country should state their wishes to the Moro authorities and ask for an escort, but it is hoped that this will become unnecessary as we know each other better.

Article 12.—The United States will give full protection to the sultan and his subjects in case any foreign nation should attempt to impose upon them.

Article 13.—The United States will not sell the island of Sulu or any other island of the Sulu archipelago to any foreign nation without the consent of the sultan of Sulu.

SALARIES TO SULTAN AND DATOS. Article 14.—The United States government will pay the following monthly salaries: To the Sultan \$25,000; To Dato Rajah Minda \$2,000; To Dato Atik \$1,000; To Dato Jodakman \$1,000; To Dato Dato \$1,000; To Dato Amir Hulsan \$1,000; To Dato Amir \$1,000; To Dato Amir \$1,000; To Dato Amir \$1,000.

THE SYSTEM OF SLAVERY. The sultan desired very much to fly his own flag—a songulany standard with a red round upon which are indicated a knife and a spear. The most precious thing in the world to a Moro is a firearm, but, unfortunately, they possess few. The sword stays as used in these islands is a misnomer. The so-called slaves of Sulu usually perform but little work, and seem to be on the most intimate terms with their owners.

HOW THE GENERAL SHOWED CONFIDENCE. General Bates and his staff in order to show friendly confidence surprised the Moros by going among them unarmed, which seemed to the natives unheard-of rashness. Two of the islands visited by the general's aid-de-camp had probably never known the heel of a white man, or at most very rarely. In fact, it would not have been wise to go otherwise than unarmed. An armed party would suggest hostility and not confidence. An armed officer could offer little resistance in a jungle; besides, firearms are so valuable to the Moros that to show a weapon of modern make to a Moro is like carelessly dangling a diamond watch before a Broadway pickpocket.

hammedan priest, and after some religious rites would take an oath to die killing Christian dogs. He would then start for the nearest Spanish garrison and run amuck until shot like a wild boar. Such a man was termed a "Jarametabla." Apropos of this class, General Bates told the sultan that practices of this nature must cease, and in case a Moro became a Jarametabla he should not only hang or otherwise kill him, but we should hang the priest who administered the oath.

The American people in the near future will hear much relating to our new fellow-countrymen—the Moros. It is unfortunate that the camera can give no idea of the local color of this vastly attired people under their ever-summer sun.

HOW THE SULTAN CAME TO JOLO. When the sultan came to Jolo to meet General Bates and to prepare the official papers he and his retinue presented a brave appearance. The general had sent an aid to the neighboring village to meet and escort his excellency (or, more properly, his title is "Majasari," the spotless, the most pure). The sultan was surrounded by a dozen members of his court, and about sixty men-at-arms, thirty of whom carried rifles at the position "advance carbine," preceded the potentate. All except the sultan wore native attire and the sunlight gaily glistened on barong, kris and spear and the kaleidoscopic colors of their various costumes.

Surprised the Lecturer. Alton P. Man, the inventor of incandescent lighting by the use of a carbon filament in a vacuum, is still active, strong and industrious, though well beyond the three score-and-ten-years' limit.

Man, who was sitting well back in the hall, arose, and, quoting a long statement from the lecture concerning a difficult process, asked if he had heard it correctly. "With remarkable accuracy, sir," replied the lecturer. "They are almost my very words."

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Scratches—How would you punctuate "Look at that pretty girl in her automobile come spinning down the avenue?" "Putter—That's easy—comma after "pretty girl" and after "automobile." "Scratches—I'd rather make a dash after that pretty girl.—Automobile Magazine. Mathematical. "Horror of horrors, what do my eyes behold? You, Emerson Beaconsfield, perusing a novel by George Meredith." "Even so, mama. But it is not for the joy of reading, I assure you. Merely, I am excogitating upon his characters with the intention of compiling a new and modern geometry."—Boston Courier.

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