

FILIPINOS BOUGHT AND SOLD AS IF CHATTELS, SAYS WORCESTER

Governor General's Secretary of Interior Makes Report to Senate.

Sordid Details of Traffic in Children Revealed by Investigation.

SLAVERY, in the full meaning of the word, exists throughout the Philippines, even in the city of Manila, and peonage is general in the islands, according to a special report Commissioner Dean C. Worcester, secretary of the interior of the Philippines, has just made to the insular government.

According to Dean Worcester, Filipinos in some parts of the islands commonly capture children and sell them into slavery for profit. Some are sent to China, where they are dressed in the native fashion. Some children have been enticed from their homes by slave agents upon promises of scholarships in schools, and some of those, in an instance which Mr. Worcester reports in detail, were sold and others were farmed out for money.

He cites the case of a thirteen-year-old girl, bought for some pigs, rice, chickens and a cloak. The supreme court of the islands released the slave trader on the ground that no crime had been committed because no physical force had been used. This case, Mr. Worcester says, has blocked other slavery prosecutions.

New Governor General.

The report follows close on the heels of the announcement that President Wilson had appointed Representative Francis Burton Harrison of New York to be governor general of the Philippines to succeed W. Cameron Forbes, who has held that post since November, 1909.

The nearly simultaneous publication of the report and the appointment of

Isabella province in 1903, Mr. Taft referred them to Commissioner Wright, suggesting that anti-slavery laws ought to be incorporated in the new penal code which was being drawn up under Wright's supervision. The revision of that code was a tremendous piece of work, which has not been completed yet, and so Mr. Taft's recommendations might just as well not have been made.

"In my own annual report for the year 1912 I urged the passage of some law to penalize the slave trade, and on Oct. 24 of that year the Philippine commission did pass one. It went to the Philippine assembly on Jan. 8, 1913, and was promptly 'tabled.' It is 'tabled' still, and this is the status of the situation today.

"Some light may be thrown on the subject by going back to the year 1905, when my attention was first called to the subject of slavery by Louis D. Knight, governor of Nueva Viscaya province, who told me some harrowing tales of certain doings so that something might be done about it, and he wrote out a very lengthy and detailed account, including the prices at which women and children were sold into bondage, ranging from a few pesos to a hundred dollars.

Protections Unsuccessful.

"Three of these cases were presented before the court of Nueva Viscaya, and the slave traders were acquitted, the judge basing his action on the belief that the children sold were orphans and on the further ground that they were not locked up, guarded, menaced or threatened or otherwise deprived of liberty by force, at least while in the custody of the accused.

"Another test case was brought against Thomas Cabanag, a well known slave trader, who made a business of buying and selling Ifugao children. He was charged with illegal detention in connection with the admitted sale of an Ifugao girl named Jimaya. He was convicted in the lower court, but appealed to the supreme court March 16, 1907, and went scot free. This was the famous slave case in which Judge Tracey wrote the opinion.

"The girl in question was thirteen years old, and the evidence showed that she had been bought from her mother for some pigs, chickens, rice

and a cloak. Cabanag sold her to a man from Nueva Viscaya and the latter in turn to a native of Isabella. The court held that no law was violated since the girl was not detained by actual physical force. That decision has blocked every slavery prosecution we have attempted since.

"What reason has the Philippine assembly for blocking laws which would stop this traffic? That body has members from Pampanga, Tullao, Batang, Zambales, Isabella, Cagayan and numerous other provinces in which slavery flourishes, and it holds its sessions in Manila, where also slavery exists.

Island Assembly's Apathy.

"Without hesitation, I express the opinion that the chief reason why the assemblymen object to such a law as the one they have tabled is that it would not only prohibit and penalize slavery, but would necessarily penalize peonage as well. And peonage is so widespread that it must be called general. Indeed, I have no hesitation in asserting that it prevails in every municipality in the Philippine Islands.

"In Manila an assemblyman, Silvero D. Cecilia, was caught red handed in slave ownership, but no prosecution resulted, and the slave girl involved was left in the possession of the assemblyman, although she appealed to the courts and complained of brutal treatment. But why multiply cases?

"I could obtain conclusive evidence concerning a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand of them. It is simply a question of time and work. I have not made the slightest effort to get at the peonage records of the assemblymen on their farms back in the provinces; but, taking the cases as they come, I have already run across three which directly involved members or members of that body. Is there any wonder they would not pass the Philippine commission's anti-slavery bill?"

Children Sold to China.

"Ambos Camarines is a regularly organized province, under control of the Philippine assembly, yet since the American occupation children have been sold into slavery there for deportation into China. The essential facts were reported by the Filipino governor and the Filipino fiscal of the province."

Dean Worcester presents records to prove his assertions, including a letter from Lieutenant Governor Sanz of Rambon, where seventy children were enticed from home. Dr. Worcester then says:

"Sanz has subsequently recovered a number of these children, but to do so he had to enlist the aid of the secret service at Manila and the Philippine constabulary at Capiz. The greater part of the children, however, have never been located. The men concerned in these transactions were arrested and tried, and the principal, who was operating under an assumed name, was convicted of abduction of minors.

"The question will be asked, 'What has been done to stop this traffic in human flesh?' And I really do not know where to begin. Upon receiving reports of the slavery which existed in

DEFEAT FOR THAW

Get Him Out of Canada, Orders Premier.

COURT RESERVES DECISION.

Detention of Prisoner Branded as Scandal to Dominion, and Sherbrooke Jail is Sarcasically Referred to as a "Public Boarding House."

Sherbrooke, Que., Sept. 3.—Harry K. Thaw will find a haven for another day at least in the Sherbrooke jail, secure from the immigration authorities who seek to deport him.

Superior Judge Hutchinson reserved decision after hearing arguments for and against sustaining a writ of habeas corpus calling for the fugitive's release. Meanwhile Thaw will remain in his cell. Crowds gathered here for the fair cheered him wildly as he was driven up the hill on his return trip to the jail. He bowed in acknowledgment, but showed signs of extreme nervousness after the morning hearing.

Developments came fast. Alme Geoffrion, special representative for the provisional attorney general and premier, scotched the attempt of Thaw's lawyers to obtain adjournment of the habeas corpus proceedings by declaring that it was the attorney general's wish that the matter be disposed of forthwith.

This was a blow to the Thaw forces and to Thaw himself. His lawyers contended that to liberate Thaw on a writ sued out by his erstwhile captor, John Boudreau, chief of police of Coaticook, were perversion of the act and that, if necessary, they would carry the case to the "foot of the throne."

Prisoner Very Nervous.

W. L. Shurtleff of counsel for Thaw questioned the right of the attorney general to intervene, and H. R. Fraser defied the lawyers acting for New York state to cite one instance on record where a writ has been sustained when the prisoner was an unwilling party to the proceedings, as is the present case.

Thaw, paler than usual, sat through it all scrunched up on a lounge. He twirled his new straw hat to ease the tension, bit his nails and now and then scribbled notes, using his hat crown to rest the paper on.

Sir Lomer Gouin, attorney general and premier, intervened in the case through Alme Geoffrion, as special representative, and demanded that steps be taken at once to bring about his liberation from the Sherbrooke jail where for two weeks Thaw has defied deportation.

His detention was branded as a scandal to the Dominion, the jail was described sarcastically as a "public boarding house." Thaw as one who had boasted that he laughed at outwitting the authorities.

Probably 200 persons waited without the jail to watch Thaw make the trip down to the courthouse.

Outside the main entrance there were fully 15,000 persons. Several ran up to clap Thaw on the back as he made his way through the crowd, but La Force shoved them forcibly back.

13 DUBLIN FAMILIES BURIED.

Houses Collapse—Seven Dead Extricated—53 Persons Missing.

Dublin, Sept. 3.—Two houses in Church street, occupied by thirteen families, collapsed, burying all the inmates.

A large force of rescuers was speedily at work, and seven dead and many injured have been extricated.

It is feared that the death toll will be heavy, as it is reported that fifty-three persons are missing.

Heartrending cries are heard from the ruins, as many persons still alive are imprisoned in the wreckage.

The houses fell without the slightest warning. Church street consists of old, dilapidated tenement buildings, occupied by members of the very poor classes.

HARRISON RESIGNATION IN.

Addressed "To the Governor," It Goes to Mr. Sulzer.

Albany, Sept. 3.—The resignation of Francis Burton Harrison as congressman, representing the Twentieth New York district, to take effect Sept. 1, was received by William Sulzer. Mr. Harrison recently was appointed governor general of the Philippines.

The resignation was addressed, "To the governor of the state of New York." Following out the policy in effect since both Mr. Sulzer and Lieutenant Governor Gynn laid claim to the gubernatorial prerogatives, the postoffice authorities placed the letter in the postoffice box of which Mr. Sulzer had the key.

BONDS FOUND, MAN SEIZED.

Police Trace to House Securities Taken in Buffalo Station.

Buffalo, Sept. 3.—The police announced that bonds valued at \$15,000, stolen last week from John C. Lalor in the New York Central station, were recovered.

The securities were found in the home of Fred Werner, and Werner was placed under arrest on an open charge. Jewelry valued at \$500, which Lalor said also was in the satchel with the bonds, has not been found.

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W. CAMERON FORBES.

the new governor general are regarded in official circles as Washington as significant. At the same time it is understood that President Wilson will not announce a definite Philippine policy until Mr. Harrison has had ample opportunity to investigate conditions there.

Pending his report the government will endeavor to block at once further traffic in human beings in the islands if it is found to be possible.

Dean Worcester's report follows a request for information made to the war department by the senate on May 1, when Senator Borah read a letter from Dr. Worcester stating in a general way that slavery existed to such an extent as to make it one of the most serious problems confronting the government. The report is all the more interesting because the war department informed the senate that it had no information concerning slavery in the islands.

The commissioner says he made a report on slavery to the bureau of insular affairs in 1910 and another in 1912. Defining peonage as the condition of a debtor held by his creditor in involuntary servitude and slavery, as a condition in which a human being is held as a chattel, fed and clothed, but not paid, Dr. Worcester describes in detail the forms of human traffic, the impossibility of suppressing the business under the present laws and the futile efforts at new legislation since the American occupation of the islands. The citations cover the entire period down to the present time.

Slavery Common.

"It has been and still is a common thing for Filipinos living in a territory adjacent to that inhabited by Negritos, Tagabanas, Engots or Ifugos," says the report, "to obtain children by capture or purchase and hold them as slaves, selling them to others whenever it proves financially advantageous to do so. Such unfortunate are clearly chattel slaves and often are repeatedly sold and resold.

"A typical case is that of Tagbanau of Palawan, Lasso, who was bought from one Patricio Tabastabas by Pastor Medina for 40 pesos. Medina sold him to Vicente Bacull for the same price, and Tabastabas bought him back in 1912 for 45 pesos. This year he



Photo by American Press Association. FRANCIS BURTON HARRISON.

so ignorant of conditions there as to be unaware of the conditions I have just described and of the fact that many Moros of that place held slaves until compelled to give them up by the provincial government administered by me as secretary of the interior, but if so he has no right to claim that he is a 'Filipino familiar with conditions.'

"Isabella is a province also subject to the authority of the Philippine assembly, but it differs from Palawan in that the large majority of its inhabitants are Christians and in the further fact that it is organized under the provincial government act and is therefore not in any way subject to me as secretary of the interior. Yet slavery has been common in this province from the beginning of historic times, and it is common there today. Its occurrence is admitted, and its conditions are described in a report made by a fellow townsman of Senator Quezon, Francisco Dichoso, who was governor of the province when he made the report in 1903.

"William H. Taft was civil governor of the Philippines at the time, and he directed that a full investigation of these facts be made. Among other things Governor Dichoso himself had been charged with owning slaves, but he denied it, not because there were no slaves to be had, but because it was against his nature to treat human beings as property.

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United States Needs Press Agent.

The United States wants a press agent to boom the good roads movement, according to an announcement of the Chicago branch of the federal civil service commission. The position may be competed for by any male, but a trained newspaper man is preferred. The position will pay \$8 a day for each day employed.