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ADMIRAL DEWEY'S OPINION.

"I have the greatest enthusiasm in the future of the Philippines," says Admiral Dewey. "I hope to see America possess the key to Oriental commerce and civilization. We will never part with the Philippines, I am sure, and in future years the idea that anybody should have seriously suggested it will be one of the curiosities of history."

This is the opinion of a patriotic citizen, expressed at short range, says the Spokesman-Review. It is spoken on the authority of long and close study, and will carry weight against the utterances of the anti-expansionists, who have been speaking at random, with imperfect knowledge of conditions in the islands, and fanciful notions concerning the character of the Filipinos.

Admiral Dewey has read, of course, the history of his country, and recalls that every movement made in the past century to carry the flag west of the Mississippi river has been resisted by well-meaning but short-sighted politicians. They opposed Jefferson's acquisition of Louisiana. They were against the annexation of Texas. They ridiculed the movement to bring in the Pacific Northwest. They did not want California; and Seward's purchase of Alaska was characterized as an act of supreme folly. Thirty years ago the nation would not have cared a copper if Seward's deal for that territory had gone by the board. Today we are wrangling with Canada over a narrow strip representing an almost infinitesimal part of the area of Alaska. Why this remarkable change in sentiment? Because the great mind of the nation realizes that every mile of American territory is needed for the fullest development of American resources.

And thus will it be 20 or 30 years hence with the Philippines. From that base we shall develop an Oriental commerce which will add immensely to the wealth of the nation, and the day will come when the sons of the anti-expansionists of the present day would volunteer to shoulder a rifle for the defense of one of the smallest of these islands, if its ownership should be claimed by another power.

TWO POINTS MADE BY LAWTON.

In a letter from the Philippines to an old army friend, Gen. Lawton makes two statements of especial interest. Lawton is a man of deeds. In the war with Spain he directed the operations against the strongly fortified position at Caney, near Santiago. He went through that most trying campaign in full health and in due time was transferred to Manila. In the Calumpit advance he held the right, swinging his men swiftly and far into the enemy's country, cutting off their retreat to the east and threatening their rear. Lawton served in the civil war and is also known as the man who walked the Apaches to death. Comparing the volunteers of today with those of the civil war, he says: "The fighting qualities of the men are the same. The American soldier is one with courage, nerve and grit. He has been just the same at all times, as he always will be, a courageous and brave soldier." This compliment from a man who knows will be appreciated.

Referring to the Santiago campaign where he was at the extreme front from first to last, Lawton remarks: "We had a deadly climate to contend with; worse in that respect than anything we had in the civil war. It is true that for a few days we were short, but that was for lack of transportation, and then we were never without some portion of the ration, and that portion more than our soldiers had at the best during the civil war." Every soldier of the civil war remembers exigencies when no rations were to be had for

days together, and that full rations during active campaigns were seldom practicable. No army ever raised in this country had been as fully and liberally supplied as that which is now in service, or has recently been mustered out. This is no more than its due. The country is glad to bestow the most generous care upon its valiant defenders. And it is pleased also to have the acknowledgment from as thorough and distinguished a soldier as Lawton.

At Minneapolis on Friday the Presbyterian general assembly became involved in a controversy over the end of the nineteenth century. Some said it would end with the year 1899, and they were wrong. It will end at midnight of December 31, 1900. In other words, the year 1900 will be the last year in the present century. The 20th century will begin with the year 1901. This ought to be readily comprehended. The wheelman who rides 99 miles has not covered a "century." He must round out the 100th mile, and he will begin another "century" with mile 1.—Spokesman-Review.

It is cabled from Manila that Gen. Aguinaldo is absent from camp on "a scouting expedition." The cipher probably intended to say on "a scouting expedition."

A French scientist is trying to revive interest in Populism by declaring that he can grow hair thirty feet long on a head that may for years have been as bald as an egg.

GRADUATES OF '99

Fifteen High School Pupils Receive Their Diplomas—Some Splendid Exercises.

An exercise which always elicits widespread interest is that of commencement day, when the school work is ended, and at the commencement of real earnest life work, the graduates tell us of their aspirations and hopes for the future, while teachers, schoolmates, relatives and friends join with them in celebrating the momentous occasion which marks the closing of school labors and the opening of wider responsibilities.

The stage at the Votg presented an attractive appearance Saturday night. It had been decorated with palms and flowers and appropriately draped in our national colors, than which nothing could be more fitting for such an occasion. To add the finishing touches, during a selection by the Commercial band, eleven "sweet girl graduates" and four of the noblest boys of our city, took their places thereon, the class personal being Martha K. Baldwin, Harriet N. Cram, Harry E. Curtis, Nettie M. Fredden, Grace L. Hobson, Hester Kent, Lena C. M. Liebe, Ivan E. Oakes, Clyde W. Riddell, George H. Ruch, Martha A. Schooling, Lena L. Thompson, Ena E. Uren, Martha C. Whealdon, Grace N. Willerton.

The exercises opened with two splendid selections by the band and interspersed with the essays were the following musical numbers, perhaps the most classic as a whole yet given in the city: A piano overture by Misses Julia and Clara Nickelsen; vocal solo, "The Angels Serenade," with piano and violin accompaniment, by Miss Myrtle Michell; violin and piano duet by Clarence and Maude Gilbert; quartet, "Juanita" by Messrs. Landers, Northrup, Poling and Lundell.

As the exercises progressed, many were heard to remark that never had they listened to graduating essays which displayed more deep thought or advanced better ideas than those read on this occasion, some thoughts being truly wonderful coming from students of their years. THE CHRONICLE only regrets that its pages are not many times their size that it might reproduce them, for they were productions of which any city might justly feel proud, and as a minister was heard to remark yesterday in the pulpit, if their precepts are heeded in practical life will make an army of young men and women whose influence will be a power in a community.

Not alone were the essays good, but their delivery was such as to give every thought its proper weight and force and prevent that annoyance when but half the words are distinguishable.

The subjects were chosen as follows: "Gladstone" by Harry E. Curtis; "Build Three More Stately Mansions," Nettie M. Fredden; "English Poets of the Nineteenth Century," Martha A. Schooling; "Life is What We Make It," Lena L. Thompson; "The Influence of True Ideals," Martha K. Baldwin; "Creation's Crowning Jewel," Lena C. M. Liebe; "The Advance of Government," Clyde W. Riddell; "For Value Received I Promise to Pay," Martha C. Whealdon; "Shall They Who Wrong Begin Yet Rightly End," Hester Kent; "Leaves Yet Folded," Harriet N. Cram; "The Stars and Stripes," Grace L. Hobson. As speaking was left optional with the members of the class, the following withdrew that more time might be given

to those who took part: Ivan E. Oakes, whose subject was "Spirit of Party Politics Today;" George H. Ruch, "The Age in Which We Live;" Ena E. Uren, "The Value of Individuality;" Grace N. Willerton, "Earth's Battlefields."

At the close of the readings Supt. John Gavin presented the well-earned diplomas in a manner which plainly showed his interest in the graduates. He impressed upon them the idea conveyed in the word "commencement" and urged them to go forward or the inevitable result would be a backward tendency; there is no such thing as standing still. He also assured them of the good will which he and their former teachers felt for them as they leave the school room, and of their interest in their future welfare. Loud applause was given as the diplomas were awarded and the graduates received the reward of years of hard study, for one cannot leave The Dalles High school having skimmed over their work; but must be thorough.

And so ended the graduating exercises of '99, amid the congratulations of the hosts of friends present.

\$100 REWARD

A reward of \$50 each will be paid by the undersigned for the recovery of the bodies of Elmer and Bert Whitney, drowned in the Snake river at Palouse Rapids, near Lyons Ferry, on May 23, 1899.

DESCRIPTION

Elmer Whitney was 26 years old; height, 5 feet, 7 1/2 inches; weight 160 lbs. He has a dark mustache and was dressed in overalls; wore either a dark or light shirt; lace sportsman shoes, tan color.

Bert Whitney was 31 years old; weight about 175 pounds; height 5 feet, 11 in.; smooth shaved; dark brown hair. He wore dark pants with light stripes and heavy laced shoes, and has a tuft of light colored hair on the left, back side of head; two burn scars on body.

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