

The Weekly Chronicle.

UNFIT FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

Again the argument that the Filipinos are capable of self-government is shattered by reports from Manila. Before peace measures have been fairly started, the people they are designed to benefit plan treachery of the basest description, including aid and comfort to the enemies of the nation paying their salaries and providing food for their families and friends.

What steps would be taken were a weaker power in the ascendancy in the Philippines one shudders to contemplate. Probably pure anarchy would obtain in a few months, with the islands divided against themselves and the hand of every man turned against his neighbor. Villages would be at war with each other, commerce would be destroyed, and the fields would go untilled. With a strong nation like America, backed by 70,000 troops, the insurrection is more under cover, but it is painfully in evidence, and some of the boldest natives do not hesitate to announce they will afford every opportunity for the carrying on of guerilla warfare.

It is to such a conglomeration of tribes and people the opponents of American dominion in the Philippines would give a free rein, offering the statement that they are intelligent, liberty-loving and capable of self-government. When the anti-annexationist and the opponent of American occupation of the Philippines asks this government to abandon the burdens which came with the peace treaty ending the Spanish-American war, they forget the first principles of good government. Honesty of purpose is one of the foundation stones of every civilized nation, and there can be no honesty where duplicity and treachery exist. No government can hold together where the people begin to plot against their leaders the moment peace is declared, and no nation will long survive where every tribe is at war with its neighbor and all the tribes war against progress.

It is apparent that without a strong governing hand in the Philippines the people of the islands would lapse into barbarism, a fertile country would become a jungle and the evidences of civilization which began to manifest themselves under the rule of a nation as corrupt as Spain would become memories. Outside the narrow radius of the suburbs of the larger cities no man's life would be safe.

Is it possible to believe these treacherous people could form a republic with Aguinaldo and his advisers as president and cabinet? How long would a government by these men last? How would they keep peace with the conflicting tribes in the islands? The truth is, the natives of the Philippines have never been fitted for self-government. Conditions there among all but a few isolated tribes approach so closely the ideals of the most rampant anarchist that it is curious the disciples of the red flag and dynamite do not establish colonies on the islands. Government by any set of natives selected from the officials now permitted to assist in carrying on civil functions of the islands would result in barefaced robbery, unbearable taxation and inevitable rebellion.

The fortunes of war have imposed upon the United States the task of educating these natives to embrace civilization. It can not be done by making citizens of tribesmen in this decade, or perhaps not in the following one. It will be years before the treacherous disposition of the natives has been remodeled. Only time will teach these misguided people that freedom means honesty of purpose and obedience to just laws.—Spokesman-Review.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

When president McKinley goes out on an electioneering tour, and delivers a number of addresses, his efforts are not always of a high order. At impromptu work he is not felicitous. But when the president sets about the careful preparation of an

address or state paper, the product is pretty sure to be worth reading.

This is apropos of his recent address before the Ohio Society of New York. Regardless of whether the individual reader agrees with all or a part of the doctrines therein coun- ciled, it is only fair to say that his address was strong, dignified and earnest.

The president was particularly forcible in his rebuke of the flam- boyant patriots who are betraying an apparent purpose to embroil us in a war with Great Britain. "There are unfortunately those among us," said President McKinley, "few in number, I am sure, who seem to thrive best under bad times, and who, when good times overtake them in the United States, feel constrained to put us on bad terms with the rest of mankind."

The president well says: "We are neither in alliance, nor entangle- ment, nor antagonism with any foreign power, but on terms of amity and cordiality with all. We buy from all of them and sell to all of them."

There is no reason to doubt this distinct and clear assurance. The truth is, the noisy clamor about imagi- nary "entangling alliances" comes for the most part from politicians who are doing all they can to pull the United States into an entangling alliance with the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and thereby pro- voke war or strained relations with Great Britain.

Its foreign policy has been the strongest and most admirable part of President McKinley's administration. We have come through one war with a power of Europe, and through a troublesome insurrection in the Phil- ippines, and remain free from entan- gling alliance or complication. In fact, we have cultivated more cordial relations with our neighbors everywhere.—Spokesman-Review.

THE WORLD'S NEW FINANCIAL CENTER.

The loan of \$25,000,000 which Russia has just made in New York is one of many recent evidences that the world's center of financial gravity is shifting to this side of the Atlantic. For many years that center was in Lisbon. Then it went to Amster- dam. Afterward it traveled to Lon- don, and it remained there two and a half centuries. Now it is moving to New York.

In many particulars New York has been beating London in recent years. London is still ahead of New York in population, though if the entire metropolitan district around the mouth of the Hudson were counted as one city, as it is in the case of the big town on the Thames, the British city would not contain many more inhabitants than the American center. In many partic- ulars, however, the American city is getting ahead of its rival on the other side of the Atlantic. New York's imports and exports are greater than London's. The aggregate of its bank clearances is much larger than those of England's city. Its growth in those respects, too, is much in excess of that of its rival. The number of millionaires which it contains is much larger.

Russia had the whole world open to it, but it came to New York to float its big loan. The loan, which is guaranteed by the government of the czar, is to be paid, principal and interest, in American money, and in New York. This is not the first loan of a European government which has been floated in this country. The transactions of this sort will un- doubtedly be frequent hereafter. The United States is the wealthiest country in the world. In this re- spect, indeed, it has gone so far be- yond the United Kingdom in the past twenty years that its holdings of property of all sorts very nearly equal those of the United Kingdom and France together, which stand second and third on the list, respec- tively.

A HINT FROM FRANKLIN.

In 1773 Franklin wrote some "rules for reducing a great empire to a small one." They were published in the London Public Advertiser, and were intended for the eyes of the king and his ministers. One of those

rules has some application to the pending measure for the government of Puerto Rico, and might be con- sidered with profit by President McKinley and the Republican leaders in congress. Franklin said:

"Take special care the provinces are never incorporated with the mother country; that they do not enjoy the same commercial rights, and have the same privileges in com- mon."

The Puerto Rican bill does not grant the people of the island the same commercial rights as are en- joyed by the "mother country" and her other territories. Alaska has free trade with the states. If the pend- ing bill becomes a law, Puerto Rico will not have free trade with this country. It does not alter the principle to say the tariff between Puerto Rico and the United States is only 15 per cent of the existing American tariff. To that extent we are exploiting the islands on selfish methods. We are making of Puerto Rico a part, and yet not a part of the common country. We are tax- ing its people for the use of our markets, and taxing them at both ends of the transaction.

The bill is a squint at imperialism. It weakens our cause with the Phil- ipinos, and it lowers us in the estima- tion of ourselves and the rest of civilization.—Spokesman-Review.

THE MOHR LINE BOATS.

Preliminary Arrangements for Their Construction Completed.

It is understood that necessary ar- rangements for the construction of the boats to be used on what is known as the Paul Mohr transportation line, have been made and that active operations will be commenced at once, says the Morning Astorian.

The dimensions of the boat will be: Length, 200 feet; beam, 32 feet; depth of hold, 8 feet. One will be fitted es- pecially for passenger traffic. Her cabins will be equipped with all the modern conveniences. The other will have first- class passenger accommodations, but will be able to carry a greater amount of freight. Both boats will be equipped with high pressure engines of great power. Their boilers will be capable of standing a high steam pressure and will probably use coal for fuel.

From Portland it is reported that a knock-down boat, the timbers for which have been recently sawed at Johnson's mill, is being loaded on the cars on the O. R. & N. switch on the East Side. It will be shipped to a point opposite Columbus on the upper river, and there put together. The boat which will be built at that point will be 165 feet in length, 32 feet beam and 6 feet depth of hold. It is understood that the boiler and engines are now on the ground. Captain Cochran having brought them from Chicago. The steamer Fredrick Billings, which was recently purchased from the Northern Pacific, will be sup- plied with a new boiler and will go into commission immediately as a construction boat. The report is current that the next move on the part of the com- pany will probably be the construction of a first-class, light-draught boat on Snake river, at some point above Riparia. For about three or four months in each year, Snake river is navigable from Pasco to Grand Ronde. The remainder of the year boats can operate only be- tween Riparia and pointing a few miles above Lewiston.

The Man Who Can.

There is but one straight road to suc- cess, and that is merit. The man who is successful in the man who is useful. It cannot remain undiscovers because it is sought by too many anxious to utilize it. A capable man on earth is more valuable than any precious deposit under the earth, and the object of a much more vigilant search. Whoever undertakes to build a house, to cultivate a farm, to work a mine, to obtain relief from pain, to maintain a legal contro- versy, or to perform any function of civilized life, is actively searching for other men qualified to aid him. To appreciate the thoroughness of the search it is necessary only to realize the number of persons engaged in all these pursuits and undertakings throughout the world. From such a search, no form of ability can remain concealed. If the possessor of capacity sought to hide himself, he would be discovered and induced to employ his ability for the benefit of those who need it.

To be successful, then, one has but to qualify himself thoroughly for some oc- cupation. Every man has some natural aptitude. In these days, the training by which natural aptitude is developed into effective ability can be obtained by every youth. No man can hope to be best in any field of labor, but everyone can hope to be among the best. Time occupied in worrying about opportuni- ties, openings and starts, is time wasted.—Walla Walla Statesman.

Public Lands for Soldiers.

Representative Jones, of Washington, a chairman of a sub-committee of the

house committee on public lands, will report favorably to the house a bill ex- tending the public land laws to the soldiers of the Spanish war, says the East Oregonian. Several bills looking to this purpose have been introduced in the house and all referred to the sub- committee of which Mr. Jones is the head. He has embodied the best features, all in one bill, which will be reported to the house with the sanction of the committee.

It provides that every soldier who en- listed for the Spanish war shall have credit upon a homestead claim equal to the amount of his service. Most of the measures as introduced provide that every soldier should have credit for a full two years, regardless of the term of his service.

The bill prepared by Representative Jones will give to every soldier who served any length of time under six months, six months' credit, and to those who served six months and less than twelve months, one year's credit. That is, every soldier, regular and volunteer, who may elect to take up a homestead, if he served over one year in the war with Spain, will only need to live on his homestead three years before making final proof. The bill also provides that widows and minor heirs of soldiers who died while in service, or as a result of service, shall receive the same credit as would have been allowed to the soldiers themselves.

Further, if a soldier died while in service, or as a result of his service, his widow or minor heirs will get the benefit of a full term of enlistment of two years credit upon the homestead claim.

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