

AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Historical Record from the Time of the Capitulation of Manila to Admiral Dewey and the United States Navy.

War with the Filipinos Has Been Fostered by the Democratic Allies of Aguinaldo—How the Enemies of Our Country Have Toasted William Jennings Bryan.

"Fire in the Rear" Prevents a Peaceful Administration of the Affairs of the Islands—Lawton's Letter and Dewey's Denial.

MANILA capitulated to the United States forces, commanded by Admiral Dewey, on May 13, 1898.

In order to become informed upon the condition of affairs in the Philippines, President McKinley, on Jan. 29, 1898, appointed a commission composed of President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University; Professor Dean Worcester, of the War Department; and Admiral Dewey and General Otis. The commission issued a report to President McKinley Nov. 28, 1898, and the same was transmitted to Congress by the President, Feb. 2, 1899. It reads in part as follows:

The undersigned commissioners appointed by you to investigate affairs in the Philippine Islands and to report the result of their investigations, together with such recommendations as might in their judgment be called for by the conditions which should be found to exist in these islands, have the honor to submit the following preliminary statement of compliance with your request.

No Alliance Made.

"Upon the arrival of the squadron at Manila it was found that there was no insurrection to speak of, and it was accordingly decided to allow Aguinaldo to come to Cavite on board the McCulloch. He arrived with thirteen of his staff on May 19, and immediately came on board the Olympia to call on the commander-in-chief, after which he was allowed to land at Cavite and organize an army.

Growth of Friction.

The report states that Aguinaldo wished to attack the Americans when they landed at Paranaque, but was deterred by lack of arms and ammunition. From that point on there was a growing friction between the Filipinos and the American troops.

Troops Bring Peace.

As to the state of affairs when the commission left the report says: "Before the commission left the Philippines nearly all the inhabitants had returned to their homes. Fields that had lain fallow for three years were green with growing crops. Municipal governments were established, and the people, protected by our troops, were enjoying peace, security and a degree of participation in their own government previously unknown in the history of the Philippines. Attempts of the insurgents to raise recruits and money in the province of Bulacan were proving abortive, except when backed by bayonets and bullets, and even in such cases the natives were applying to us for help to resist them."

Plan of Government.

There was general satisfaction that the Americans had come at last, and conditions seemed favorable for an American propaganda. The towns of Baroor and Imus were selected for the purpose of experiment, and after talks with the local "head men" a local form of government was established. Encouraged by the result, the work was continued at Paranaque and Las Pinas, with similar good results.

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also made up his mind that it would be necessary to fight the Americans, and after the making of the treaty of peace at Paris this determination was strengthened. He did not openly declare that he intended to fight the Americans, but he excited every body, and especially the military men, by claiming independence, and it is doubtful whether he had the power to check or control the army at the time hostilities broke out.

No Alternative Left.

"Deploable as was the case in which we are now engaged was unavoidable by us. We were attacked by a bold, adventurous and enthusiastic army. No alternative was left to us, except ignominious retreat. It is not to be conceived of that any American would have sanctioned the surrender of Manila to the insurgents. Our obligations to other nations, to the friendly Filipinos and to ourselves and our flag demanded that force should be met by force.

Reign of Terror.

The commissioners then take up the condition of the country at the time of their arrival, comparing it with conditions existing when they left a short time ago. A vivid picture is given of the anarchy existing among the inhabitants in and about Manila during the early spring.

Restoring Public Confidence.

The report then speaks of the issuance of the commission's proclamation and the good effects it had on public sentiment. The natives, accustomed to Spanish promises, urged upon the commission that acts instead of promises should be given them. As a result native law courts were established and this greatly aided in the restoration of public confidence.

Oppose the Tagalos.

"In Samar, Leyte and Masbate the Tagalo invaders are numerically few and are disliked by the natives of these islands, whom they have oppressed. We were assured that 200 men would suffice to restore order in Mindoro. Bobol was asking for troops. The Calamianes islands had sent word that they would welcome us. There can be no resistance in Palawan. Satisfactory relations had already been established with the warlike Moros, whose sultan had previously been conciliated by a member of the commission, and in Mindanao this tribe had even taken up our cause and attacked the insurgents, of whom there are very few in the island.

Ask American Help.

The machinery of insurgent "government" served only for plundering the people under the pretext of levying "war contributions, while many of the insurgent officials were rapidly accumulating wealth." It is stated that the insurgent administration throughout the interior was worse than in the days of Spanish misrule. In many provinces there was absolute anarchy, and from all sides came petitions for protection and help.

Waiting for Pretext.

Further evidence of the hostile intentions of the Filipinos was found in the organization of "popular clubs," which later on furnished a local militia to attack the Americans. The decrees of the Filipino congress are also cited, as well as the making of bolos (knives) in every shop in Manila.

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them liberties which they had never before enjoyed. This scheme was adopted and gave general satisfaction.

Secure Good Results.

With a single exception the officials elected proved worthy of the trust imposed in them, and conditions very rapidly improved in the newly organized towns. Governments were organized with more satisfactory results in Pandacan, Santa Ana, San Felipe, Meri, San Pedro and Ma-chet, while a slightly different system was put into effect in Malabon, Polo, Obando, Meycauya, Yang and Malolos.

Schools for Manila.

The commissioners sum up the situation at the time of their departure as follows: "When we left Manila a large volume of business was being done, and the streets were so crowded as to be hardly safe. The native population was quiet and orderly and all fear of an uprising had long since passed. An efficient corps of native policemen was on duty. A system of public schools in which English was taught had been advocated by the commission and established by Gen. Otis. Some 6,000 scholars were in attendance.

Rebellion Dying Out.

"Stories of the corruption of insurgent officers were becoming daily more common, and the disintegration of the enemy's forces was steadily progressing. The hope of assistance from outside sources seemed to be all that held them together."

Must Retain Rule.

"Fortunately, there are educated Filipinos, though they do not constitute a large proportion of the entire population, and their support and services will be of incalculable value in inaugurating and maintaining the new government. As education advances and experience ripens, the natives may be intrusted with a larger and more independent share of government, self-government, as the American ideal, being constantly kept in view as the goal. In this way American sovereignty over the archipelago will prove a great political boon to the people."

Efforts for Peace.

The efforts at conciliation with Aguinaldo and his various commissions are set forth in detail. These commissions were assured of the benevolent purposes of the United States and the President's readiness to grant the Filipino people as large a measure of home rule and as ample liberty as consistent with the end of government, "subject only to the recognition of the sovereignty of the United States—a point which, being established, the commission invariably refused even to discuss."

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Benefit to Islands.

"Manila, with the immunity which it has thus far enjoyed from that terrible pest, the bubonic plague, should become a distributing center for China, Siam, the Straits Settlements, Tongkin, Annam and Australia."

Dewey Heard From.

"On May 20, 1898, Admiral Dewey called to the Navy Department: 'Aguinaldo, the rebel commander-in-chief, was brought down by the McCulloch. Organizing forces near Cavite, and may render assistance which will be valuable.'"

Need of Education.

"That intelligent public opinion on which popular government rests does not exist in the Philippines. And it cannot exist until education has elevated the masses, broadened their intellectual horizon and disciplined their faculty of judgment. And even then the power of self-government cannot be assumed without considerable previous training and experience under the guidance and tutelage of an enlightened and liberal foreign power. For the bald fact is that the Filipinos have never had any experience in governing themselves."

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