

GOOD TALK AT ASSEMBLY

The Assembly, Wednesday morning was given to Professor DeCou who took as the subject of his address, "Colonial Administration with Special Reference to the Philippines." Following is a brief synopsis:

"The victory of Dewey at Manila placed in the hands of the Americans the destinies of 80,000,000 people, alien in race and living in a tropical country. Two courses were open; either to turn back the islands to the tyranny of Spain, or to take them and bring them under our own flag. We chose the latter and with our faith in the ideal have strived to give them a civilization equal to our own.

"The conditions are very grave when they are considered in relation to the country taken before. All new land taken heretofore has been contiguous, of temperate climate and unpopulated. The Philippines are across the Pacific, a remote and tropical country, populated and in a condition very different from any other that we have ever had to face. The action of Secretary Taft in taking a party of eight senators and twenty-four representatives to study the conditions at first hand was the best for a rational discussion at the next Congress.

"About four hundred years ago the great period of colonial expansion began and Spain and Portugal were the leaders. Portugal founded colonies under the leadership of Prince Henry the Navigator who went merely for adventure. The object of Spain was different. Her desire was to spread Christianity among the heathen people.

"The work of Portugal was the forerunner of the greater and more reaching work of Holland. The Dutch found themselves either having to give up their trade or to fight with Spain. They fought and won. Their first colony, Java, was the greatest and has remained so. Holland's desire was one of trade and to gain trade and there was necessity for political power as well. The Dutch conquered the small Kingdoms of Java one after the other and demanded tribute which was paid in produce. The Dutch introduced the so-called culture system and to-day there is free labor and 80.00 are in the primary schools. The government is in the hands of a Governor-general and men called Residents who are tax gatherers and magistrates.

The government is fraternal in nature and does not force education on the people, but it is required only as necessity demands it.

"The same is true of the English. The English were wiser in the treatment of their colonies than were the Dutch and profited by the mistakes they made. After the Revolutionary War, England became much more liberal and as a result the English colonies are the most successful and the most prosperous of any in the world.

"The colonies are of various kinds. Some are in the temperate regions and have a democratic form of government as Canada and Australia, while some are in tropical countries with different conditions and alien people. I refer to Hong Kong, to Borneo, to Samarik and to a French province, east of Siam. By a strict civil service these colonies have been successful. The officers are well paid and given great power in managing affairs. They interfere as little as possible with the social and religious custom of the people. All taxes must be spent in building up the country. Education is given to the people only as they need it.

"When the Philippine question came up in 1899 the plan was to give as much as possible to the people—education, railroads, building up of economic conditions, good roads, and we have adopted these as the ultimate goal of self-government.

"Mistakes have been made and severe are the many problems that are facing us. Taxes are very high. We have been spending too much on education and not giving enough to railroads and other economical affairs. Another serious mistake is forcing our tariff system on them and it is one that has greatly hindered the economic development of the country. One thing upon which all agree is that a great deal has been done in regard to the question of health.

"The civil service requirements are not severe enough. Make them strict, pay the men high salaries and give them power and it will induce men of ability and integrity to seek office. The most important part of our policy in the Philippines is education. The purpose is to educate the people so that in time they can be on a plane of government, as far as possible, like ourselves.

"Next year we will give them legislative assemblies, and through education we

propose to make them self-governing. No tropical nation has ever reached the goal that we have set about in reaching in the Philippines. But we have a spiritual faith in our ideals, which gains, whether we win or fail, the praise of the world."

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