

at the rate of twenty or more words a minute, were chosen to be sent to a station in Zambales Province where they could receive further practical training. This caused quite a ripple of excitement among the Filipinos and the more it was discussed the more excited they became. The main troubles seemed to be the pay offered; the fear of Ladrones and of being considered "Americans;" and the disinclination of the parents to have their sons go to provinces other than their home one. Some had a notion that they were to receive seventy-five dollars, gold, a month, and the drop to thirty dollars, Mexican, was quite a fall. A genuine American strike took place. Some fifty of the would-be operators turned in their books and said that "it was no use to attend the classes further as they could not live on that sum." Under Spanish rule, the salary was not over twenty-five pesos and the probability is that each operator had to share that with the one who got him his position. Early in December all but one received promotion to the grade of first-class private. Since then a number have been sent out into the field. At present, though the telegraphy classes are not as full as they were, a more earnest set of young men are in attendance and one surprising feature of it all is that fully one-half of these are from the Ilocos Provinces and less than one-fourth from the city of Manila. In the other departments Tagalos are in the ascendency, but, as a rule, they are younger than the telegraphers. I have gone thus into detail regarding the work in telegraphy as it is a very good illustration of Filipino character.

FIRST INDIAN PRIEST.

Up to the present year there never has been a full-blooded Indian admitted to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic church. There have been thousands of zealous Indian converts since the first days following the discovery of America, but none has reached the priesthood until Father Negahnquet completed his four years' course in the Propaganda at Rome last June. Father Negahnquet was born in 1874, on the Pottawatomie Indians' former reservation near St. Mary's, Kan. The oldest of ten children, at a tender age he was taken to the Church of the Assumption at Topeka for baptism.

At the Government school for Indians in Indian Territory he attracted the attention of his teachers by his usual intelligence. At the School of the Sacred Heart, maintained by the Catholics in Oklahoma, he came under the notice of Mother Katherine Drexel, a member of the celebrated Philadelphia family, who, seeing his qualifications, interested her sister, Mrs. Morrell. Through their efforts he completed his studies at the Sacred Heart and was sent to Carlisle and later was transferred to the Catholic University at Washington to enter upon his studies for the priesthood proper. He is now ministering among his people in Indian Territory.

It is a singular fact that no Indian convert has before reached the priesthood, for Indians have been graduated from West Point Military Academy, from Dartmouth College and other colleges with distinction. The famous