

CONGRESSMEN FAVOR FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE



Congressman Edward J. King of Illinois.

Washington.—"The appointed hour is here: let the Philippines be free." This was the keynote of a speech by Congressman Edward J. King of Illinois, (Republican) in which he reviewed the American occupation of the islands from the first day to the present time. He declared that the United States was honor bound to grant independence without further delay.

Congressman King is one of an increasing number of Republicans in the House who are urging quick action on Philippine independence. Mr. King is the author of a bill which provides that within one year the Philippine government, under presidential proclamation, may assemble a convention and frame a constitution.

After the constitution is ratified by the Filipino people the President may recognize the Philippine islands as "a separate and self-governing nation." The transfer of authority is to be completed within one year. Provision is made for safeguarding American investments in the Philippines and for the providing of coaling stations and submarine bases in the islands by the United States.

Word from the Philippines is that the people expect early independence and will be sorely disappointed if they do not get it.

"No nation has the right," said Congressman King "to hold another people in peonage, even though it may be argued by the professoriate that the condition is simply one of tutelage."

"A little more observance of the golden rule in national and international affairs would soon dispel that desire for exploitation, the fiercest foe of freedom in the world today."

"When we went to the Philippines we declared before the whole world that we were not actuated by any selfish desire of conquest or territorial aggrandizement, but solely by humanitarian impulses."

Congressman King called attention to the fact that Filipinos are now raising funds to erect a monument to Admiral Dewey, which he said was in-

directly a tribute to the American people as well as to Dewey. He recalled the cable that Dewey had sent to President McKinley, which was as follows:

"In my opinion these people (Filipinos) are superior in intelligence and more capable of self government than the natives of Cuba, and I am familiar with both."

Congressman King then recited the preamble to the Jones law, passed August 29, 1916, and declared it was a definite pledge of independence. The preamble stated "It is as it has always been the purpose of the people of the United States to withdraw their sovereignty over the Philippine Islands and to recognize their independence as soon as a stable government can be established therein."

Congressman King stated there was no question but that the Filipinos had established the specified stable government and, therefore, it is the solemn duty of the United States to grant the promised independence.

Family of Seven Die Together.

Because they could no longer stand the agonies of starvation, a Chinese family of seven committed suicide. The father and mother first bound their five children together, then lashed themselves to the children, and all leaped into a river. The seven bodies, all bound together, were seen by L. V. Lewis of Portland, who recently returned from the famine section in North China.

"With 45,000,000 starving, the situation is a colossal tragedy," said Mr. Lewis, "and rather than see their children suffer any longer, parents all through the famine lands are killing their little ones and then themselves. There are millions of gaunt, emaciated, half-naked men, women and children roaming the famine lands, chewing roots and bark, and hanging tenaciously to life, in the effort to pull through until spring. The relief organizations are struggling against the overwhelming situation, and are saving some of those on the edge of the great famine district. Surely every man, woman and child in Oregon will want to give something towards the China Famine Fund."

Spreading over North China, with the speed of a hurricane, is a horrible calamity of suffering and starvation, of pestilence and death—all due to the most terrible famine the world has ever known. The following cable from Admiral Tsai Ting Kan, paints the gruesome picture:

"Five northern provinces are famine-ridden. Whole districts living on weeds and leaves. Selling or drowning children. Whole families committing suicide. Children suffer most. Calamity so colossal is hard secure funds for adequate relief. Epidemic feared in spring."

NEW MONTE CARLO IN CUBA?

Possibility That World-Famous Gambling Establishment May Be Located on the Island.

"The greatest gambling center in the world will be located in the western hemisphere if plans for 'palaces' in Cuba develop as given out," said Walter P. Harris of Havana. "Cuba is already beset with the gambling fever, and fortunes change hands there almost every day."

"Since the announcement of the prince of Monaco that he is preparing to close Monte Carlo, there have been extensive preparations for the establishment of great gambling palaces designed to attract the sporting element that now visits Monte Carlo to the 'Pearl of the Antilles.' Several villages have been surveyed with the view of locating this gambling center, but so far no definite decision has been reached."

"Gambling is already flourishing in Havana. The Casino de la Playa is a great garish temple of roulette, where wonderful dinners are served at less than cost. The profit to the house comes from the wheel. The men who take women to the Casino for dinner invariably back them at the wheel."

"The moratorium now in effect on the island has not affected the crowds at the Casino, because they are mostly composed of tourists, and the visitor is treated to the sight of a country, apparently bankrupt but gambling madly, where fortunes change hands overnight and the beggar of today may be the rich man of tomorrow."—Washington Post.

This Oil May Cure Leprosy.

The use of Chaulmoogra oil has been known for some time to have some virtue in the treatment of leprosy, and recently it has been discovered that there are a great many points of similarity between the germs of leprosy and those of tuberculosis. This has led to some government experiments in the direction of combating tuberculosis which will be conducted at Hawaii.

Iron Ore From the Alps.

A new iron ore field has been discovered in Switzerland which is estimated to contain 47,000,000 tons, which will assure to Switzerland, at prewar consumption rate, sufficient iron ore to last for 45 years. The federal council suggests a provision by the government of 1,200,000 francs upon condition that a total capital of 4,000,000 francs is raised for exploitation.

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