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COURIER ESTABLISHED MAY, 1883
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CONSOLIDATED SEPTEMBER, 1898

OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 1899. 17th YEAR, NO. 23

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The Filipinos.

The following communication was refused by the Portland Telegram after attacking the writer in very severe manner:

"William M. Coplan, 'late hospital steward U. S. A.,' writing in your columns recently, proves to be a veritable doubting Thomas.

He refuses to believe my assertion that there is no anarchy in the Philippines outside our lines because I have not been there to vouch for it with my own eyes. No, I have not been there to see but there are many things we are compelled to believe which we never saw. I have never seen Mark Hanna yet. I firmly believe the old scoundrel exists and is at the head of the G. O. P. Furthermore a negative proposition seldom requires affirmative proof.

I suppose a hospital steward ought to know a great deal about the Philippines as well as everything else, and, as this is one has not claimed there is anarchy in the insurgent lines, I have that further reason for asserting that there is none. It is presumed that every man is innocent until the contrary is shown. We must, therefore, conclude that the Filipinos are innocent of anarchy, until they are charged and convicted. I also have the word of one of our consular agents 'that from the time the Filipinos took charge of affairs in Luzon, law and order prevailed, life and property were protected and a woman's honor was sacred as it had not been in 300 years.'

General Anderson, who outranks a hospital steward a little, says, 'they are not far below the Japanese in intelligence and capabilities of culture. Nearly all who can read and write; they have many schools, and there are a number of newspapers. Their cities are populous, well laid out and kept. He is not unlike the Japanese citizen.

Brig. Gen. Charles King says: 'They are infinitely superior in point of education to the negroes of our southern states. Nine-tenths of them can read and write, and have some knowledge of geography and history.'

Ex-Minister Barrett has said that at Malolos they had an orderly government, and, further, he says, 'these men, whose sessions, I repeatedly attended, conducted themselves with great decorum and showed a knowledge of debate and parliamentry law that would not compare unfavorably with the Japanese parliament. Moreover, he, (Aguinaldo), has organized a government, which has practically been administering the affairs of that great island since the American occupation of Manila.'

Admiral Dewey sent two officers through Luzon last year and they found law and order everywhere. One of them has written a very interesting account of his trip and of his hospital treatment among the people, where he traveled, in a recent number of the Outlook, Mr. Sargent, in this article says: 'As a tribute to the efficiency of Aguinaldo's government and to the law abiding character of his people, I offer the fact that Mr. Wilcox and I pursued our journey throughout in perfect security, and returned to Manila with only most pleasing recollections of the quiet and orderly life, which we found the natives to be leading under the new regime.'

Admiral Dewey, in one of his official reports, which is probably more reliable than any interview, says: 'These people are far superior in intelligence and more capable of self government than the natives of Cuba."

Gen. Miller reported that when he went to Ilo Ilo to take that city, the foreign residents and business men sent a letter begging him not to attack the place and assuring him that the natives' government had established order and that life and property were amply protected.

Some Englishmen and Spaniards have recently come, or been sent in from the insurgent lines, and they bring no word of anarchy, lynchings or highway robberies.

Commander Ford, the fleet engineer of the Asiatic squadron, who has lately arrived in this country, says: "They have the intellect and the stamina to govern themselves, and have done it for 300 years, although under the rule of Spain. They are intelligent, liberty loving people.

Gen. Reeves, late chief of police of Manila, says: "The natives were engaged in all branches of industry. They were intelligent, industrious, peaceable and fond of home life. The diffusion of knowledge was general. The percentage of natives able to read and write was large. The enrollment of students in the San Tomas and Dominican Universities and the attention paid to such branches of knowledge as law, medicine, liberal arts and civil engineering excited my surprise. Five thousand students were enrolled at the Dominican University. Throughout the provinces of the island of Luzon good common schools and high schools are maintained. In the provinces we found courts and schools established and found local authorities administering affairs of government. Here was a system of collecting taxes and disbursing the money so collected in the interest of the governed.

Oscar F. Williams, U. S. Consul, reporting from Manila June 16th, 1898: says: "While the Spaniards cruelly and barbarously slaughtered Filipinos taken in arms, and often non-combatants, women and children, the insurgent victors, following American examample, spare life, protect the helpless, and nurse, feed and care for Spanish wounded as kindly as they care for the wounded, fallen from their own ranks."

I read an account where our troops had taken possession of a schoolhouse and the school children were being taught in a hut nearby. These facts may not be sufficient proof for a hospital steward "late U. S. A." but they will be for ordinary people.'

No single instance has been found where it was necessary for our forces to interfere, outside of our own army lines, to protect the life, liberty or property of a single individual, or to suppress a riot or to put down anarchy. It is a well established rule of evidence that when a condition of affairs is once proven to exist it is supposed to continue the same until the contrary is shown. I have shown the existence of a peaceful and law abiding community in Luzon outside our lines: Now let Mr. Coplan or any one else show that that condition has changed.

Now, as for anarchy on our side of the line: Otis has forbidden the wives of officers to go to Manila, saying, "it is no place for women." One soldier told me that, by order of his superior officer, he burned more than a hundred houses in one day. A correspondent in the Oregonian of May 18th, last, gave a particular account of how eight friendly natives had been shot by some disorderly soldiers and no notice was taken of it. Our scouts cut off the ears of the insurgents they killed and preserved them as trophies. Sacred relics are brought home, which must have been pillaged from churches. Libraries have been broken up and destroyed. I have talked with many officers and men of the Second Oregon, whose means of observation were perhaps as good as that of a "hospital steward U. S. A.", and they all have outlined such a state of affairs within our lines as is usually deemed anarchy.

An officer writes home "I have seen real war with all its horrors. I have seen 200 acres of houses burned. I have put the match, myself to houses while old women knelt at my feet begging me to spare their shack of palm leaves. I have ordered the destruction of acres of vegetables and fruit trees, which meant months of labor and the only means of living to the poor fellow, who was on his knees to me."

I think these facts are ample reasons why our troops should be withdrawn from the island of Luzon as soon as in dignity we can, and the natives be permitted to manage their own affairs. There was no anarchy in that island until after McKinley's proclamation of war of January 5th. We have recently been put much to shame by the report referring to our army as 4500 rakes and drunkards in the Philippines, and the further fact that before we went to Manila there were only one or two saloons, but that now there are 450, and many other places worse than the saloons, and all this contrasted with the honorable and humane conduct of the insurgents in the treatment of our men held by them as prisoners, and their very generous release of these prisoners.

We ought, in very shame, to be tired of this senseless and brutal war.

The Filipinos are more interested in maintaining law and order in the neighborhood of their homes than the men we send there can possibly be.

We are laying waste the country with fire and sword. The Filipinos appear to be trying to defend their homes.

This William M. Coplan, late hospital steward U. S. A., says I weep bitterly ever our injustice to the Filipino. I suppose he rejoices at it. I suppose he loves to see people's property, their life time savings, destroyed, churches desecrated, schools broken up and a people deprived of their liberties. I suppose he glories in the killing of a people, the making of widows and orphans and desolate homes. Now, I am not given to weeping, but I have wept over the partition and subjugation of Poland, the oppression of Ireland, and burned with indignation over Spanish outrages in Cuba and in the Philippines. I sympathize with the Boers in South Africa, and when the Filipinos are finally crushed and turned over bleeding and manacled to the tender mercies of the Hannas, McKinleys, Algers and Eagans to be exploited by the carpet baggers, politicians, government contractors and other scoundrels, I shall no doubt weep for them. My country, right or wrong, is perhaps a very good motto under appropriate circumstances, but this is not the occasion to use such a motto, nor is Mark Hanna my country.

H. B. NICHOLAS.

Portland, Or.

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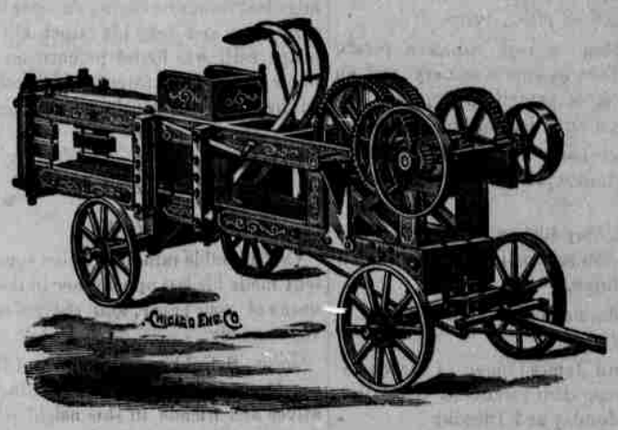

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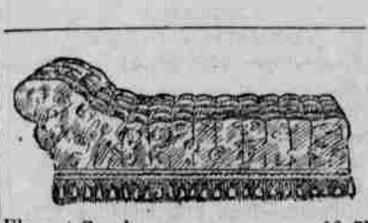

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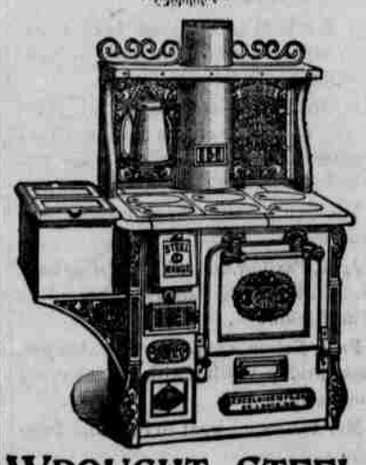

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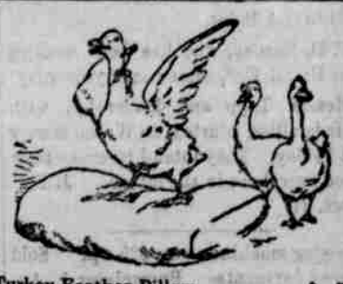

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	Reg. Ptice	Cut Price
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Pure gum scarlet bulb syringe (The finest rubber it is possible to get)	2 00	1 50
Black bulb syringe (Usually sold for 75c)	60	50
White bulb syringe (A good cheap syringe)	50	40
Fountain syringe, wood box	1 25	90
" " " "	1 50	1 00
Pure gum hotwater bottle, 3 qt (Every bottle guaranteed perfect)	2 10	1 50
Pure gum hotwater bottle (Same as above, 2 qt.)	1 75	1 25
Throat Atomizers Can you afford to have a sore throat with atomizers at this price?	40	25
Black bulb Atomizer	50	40
Best quality	1 00	75
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