

FREDERIC HASKIN IN THE PHILIPPINES

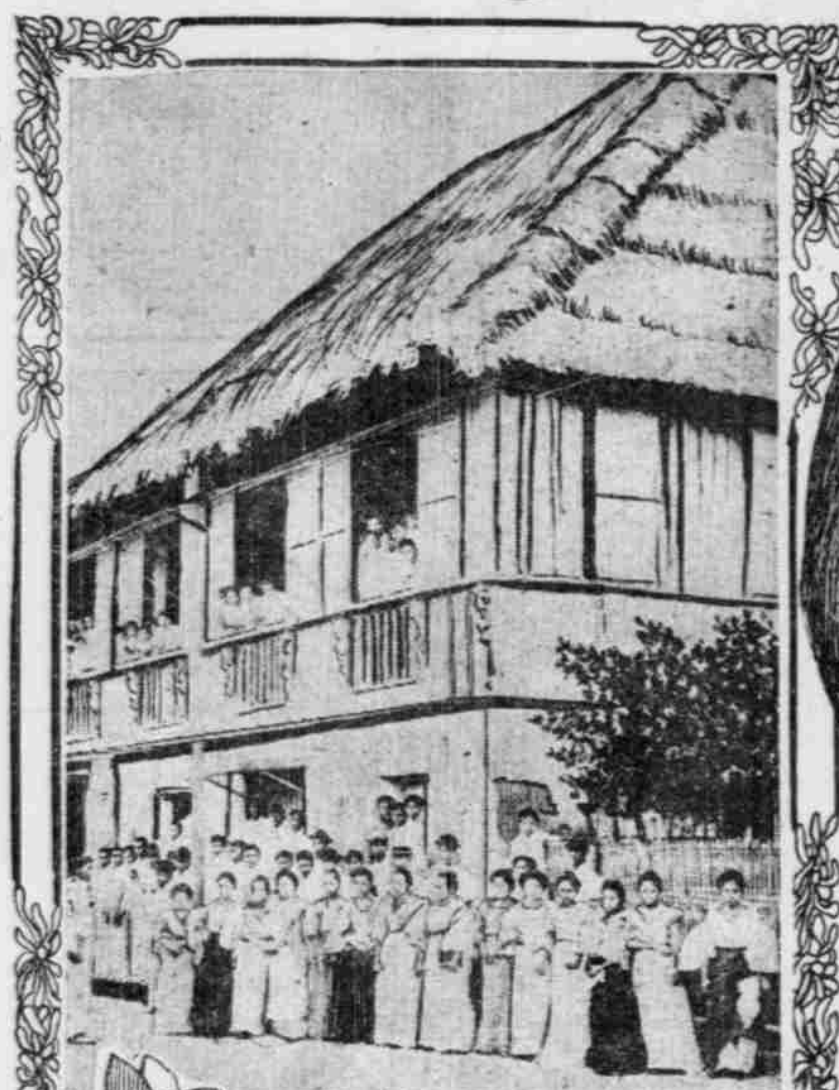
A GENERAL GLANCE AT OUR SOUTH SEA ISLAND POSSESSIONS

MANILA, July 18.—(Special Correspondence of the Sunday Oregonian.)—This article, being the first of a series from the Philippines, will be devoted to the main to statistics. The reader desirous of becoming posted on conditions existing in our Far Eastern possessions will do well to preserve the facts contained herein, as they will be conducive to a better understanding of the accounts to follow, and will be valuable for reference at all times.

Although hundreds of books and thousands of columns of newspaper articles have been written on this subject, new conditions are continually being formed which, together with the established facts, should be kept constantly before the people of the United States, because the future political privileges of the Philippines must be determined by American legislation. As the attempt is being made to educate the natives, the American should not remain in ignorance of the condition of his Government's ward. While all argument may be colored by the interests or prejudices of the individual, the actual statistics cannot be misleading, and are therefore worth remembering.

Size of the Philippines.

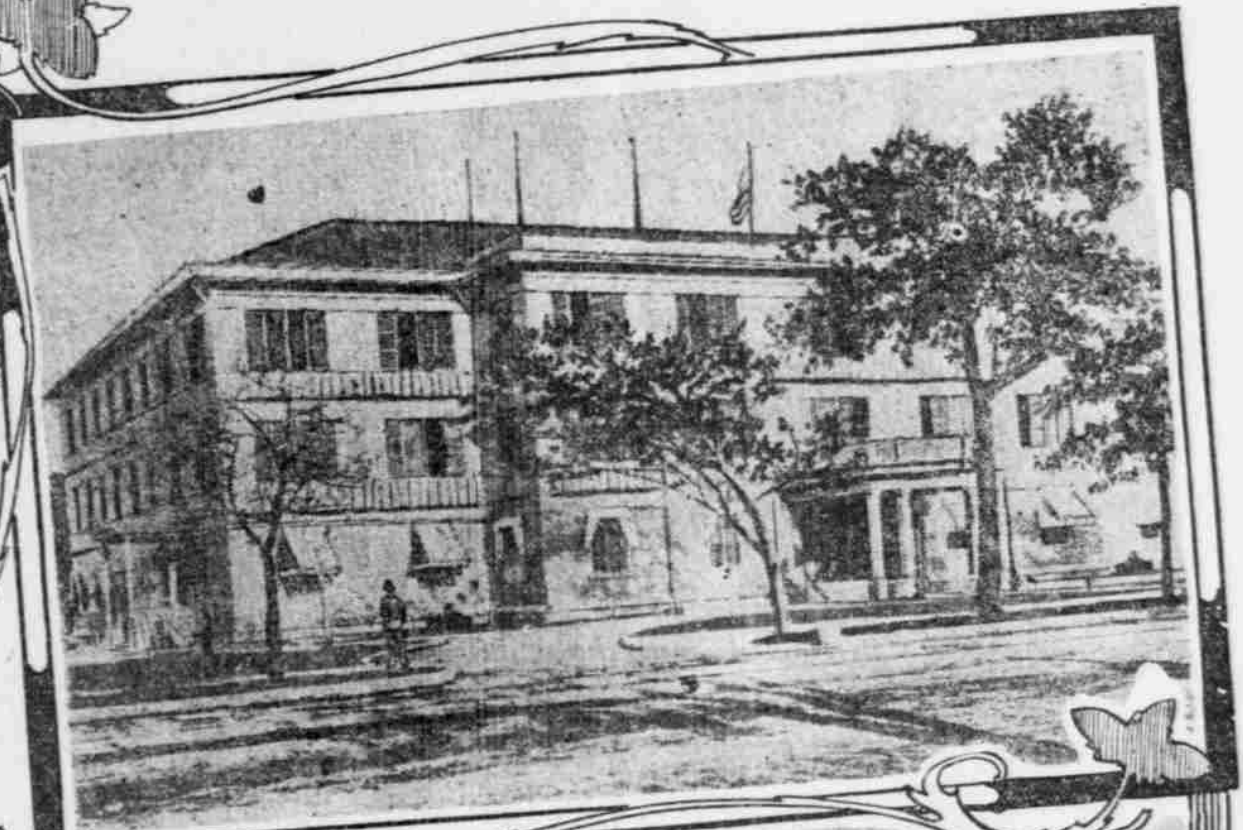
The Philippine Islands are a part of the East Indian Archipelago. They are located southeast of Asia, almost south of Japan, and north of Borneo. They are altogether tropical. The zone which was acquired from Spain as set forth by the treaty of Paris (December 10, 1898), including land and water, amounts to an area almost 13 times as large as all of the first accurate record of what our possessions here really amount to. This shows that there are more islands in the



COUNTRY SCHOOL IN PHILIPPINES



TYPICAL BUSINESS HOUSE IN MANILA



CITY HALL IN MANILA



A COUNTRY VILLAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

group than the Spaniards thought there were.

The exact number, including everything which appears separately at high tide, is 344. However, 275 of these islands are very small, each being less than a square mile in area. About 120 of them are of such little consequence that they have never been named. The total area of all the islands in the group is 115,025 square miles. Fully half of this territory is contained within the limits of the two large islands, Luzon and Mindanao, the former being about the size of Louisiana and the latter about as large as Indiana. Thus it will be seen that there is considerably more water than land within the limits of the zone ceded to us. There are so many indentations in the archipelago, that its coast line, like that of Alaska, is greater than the combined Atlantic and Pacific coastlines of the United States. The American Government paid Spain \$20,000,000 for the islands, which was about 2 cents per acre for all the land contained in them.

Small Gains in Population.

The population of the Philippines has been found to consist of about 7,000,000 civilized inhabitants, and a little more than 500,000 savages. Included in those designated as civilized are 41,000 Chinese and 200 Japanese. Exclusive of the

Army there are over 600 Americans residing here at the present time, as well as about 400 Spaniards, 700 Englishmen and 400 Germans. The bulk of the native population is supposed to be Malay extraction. Although past records are very incomplete, the population of the Philippines is supposed to have been quadrupled within the last century. This is a very small increase when compared with the growth of the United States, which was 15 times as great during the same period. Relieved of the devastating effects of war and the ravages of disease, it is believed the population of the islands will increase during the next few years at a rate never before equaled in their history.

The establishment of accurate tables of mortality has disclosed a number of unexpected results. It is surprising to find that the death rate among the natives is very high, and correspondingly low among the foreigners. The mortality among the Philippine is greater than of any European race whose records are known, and is doubtless not exceeded anywhere unless it be in some of the more unhealthy provinces of British India. The greater loss is shown among children less than 1 year old, the rate among these having gone as high as 122 per 1000. This is said to be a forfeiture of infant life, due to ignorance rather than to the

climate. Mothers allow children to begin eating solid food when they are not strong enough to digest it, which is almost certain to cause cholera infantum and convulsions. Every effort is being made to make the natives understand that babies three or four months of age must not be fed on such things as rice, mangoes and bananas.

Time has shown that the foreman who will obey the rules of health prescribed for a hot climate can live in the Philippines with almost as much immunity from disease as if he were residing in the United States. This is proved by the record kept by the army and navy officials both in times of peace and war. Of course a person may quickly become diseased from dissipation or disobedience to the rules governing tropical diet. The use of liquor in a hot country is almost certain to be disastrous. Although long exposure to the climate is enervating, this can easily be overcome by frequent sojourns in a higher or cooler region.

Great Need of Education.

The great necessity for education in the Philippines is shown by the discovery of the fact that less than 10 per cent of the entire population

could speak a common language. It was supposed that the majority of the people understood Spanish, but this has been proved incorrect. It was the policy of the friars to learn the language of the people, rather than to teach their own, so they could interpret the law arbitrarily. There were many people counted as literate who could speak some Spanish, but were unable to read or write it. As a result of the educational system now in vogue throughout the islands, the bulk of the population will soon be able to affiliate by means of the English language.

There are now 257,000 children attending school in the Philippines. A few less than a thousand American school teachers are engaged here at the present time, and they have about five thousand native teachers assisting them. The number of American teachers will gradually diminish as the supply of natives eligible to engage in the work increases. The difficulties encountered by the first Americans who came here to teach can hardly be described. They succeeded Spanish instructors who taught the pupils to write upon banana leaves with a pointed stick. The process of counting was to cut notches in a piece of wood. Some of our teachers had to build their own school-houses, manufacture their own benches, and then work for months without salaries, books, or other material. Those who could not procure building material conducted their classes under shade trees.

Teacher Is a Leader.

Some critics have insisted that too much money has been spent upon educational work, but that contention can hardly be justified. On account of the natives having so long been amenable to the influence of the Spanish friars, they are more easily controlled by the school teachers than by either the civil or military authorities. The rural teach-

er in the Philippines is the natural leader of his community, and his functions are so enormous and so novel as to be quite outside the limitations of the same calling in the United States. He is appealed to in cases of oppression, he settles political disputes, presides over all functions, superintends the building of roads and bridges and has even been called upon to assist in dispersing bandits. That the people are anxious for education is shown by the fact that the attendance is 62 per cent of the enrollment as compared with 74 per cent in the United States. The wisdom of the broad educational campaign inaugurated by General Otis is becoming more important every day. There is little variety in the permanent occupation of the Philippines. Forty per cent of the men are farmers. The women are very industrious, and are especially clever at spinning and weaving. With the crudest kind of looms they manufacture most exquisite fabrics and make hats, mats and carpets of an exceedingly fine quality. The returns of the recent census show that the proportion of women engaged in remunerative occupation in the Philippines is more than double those similarly employed in the United States, and three times greater than in either Porto Rico or Cuba. The count of wage-earners showed that the Philippine men work when very young. Only a small portion of the female population accepts work as domestic servants, this being a line of endeavor almost entirely monopolized by the men. Great difficulty was experienced in classifying the various occupations because of the tendency among the people to dabble in so many different kinds of work. For instance a man might be a farmer for several hours during the day, a coachman in the evening, and be looking after some fishing apparatus late at night.

A Jack of All Trades.

The Philippine is a jack-of-all-trades and

good at none. The range of occupation he will attempt seems to be beyond estimate. I heard a man telling about one versatile man, who, inside of two months had been a lawyer, a plantation overseer, a coachman, a bartender and a waiter in a restaurant. The stimulus to effort and concentration has not been great because of the fertility of the country and the small demands of the civilization. On account of having been a subject race so long the ambition of these people has been stunted by the seeming hopelessness of their future. But now that they have an opportunity to develop themselves and reap the reward of their endeavor, it is believed they will become responsive to the possibilities awaiting them.

The principal wealth of the Philippines has always been the products of the soil, but the individual holdings of the people are so small that they can hardly be called farms. The average size of each holding throughout the archipelago is only 15 acres, while in America the average size of all farms is about 150 acres. Less than half of the available agricultural land of the country is under cultivation. The most valuable product of the islands is hemp. This is the fiber taken from a sort of plantain, generally called abaca. It is similar to the banana plant and grows nowhere else except in this latitude. It is famed all over the world as "Manila hemp." It grows wild, and all attempts to propagate it in other climates have failed. The land upon which it grows is always fertile and well drained, and a strange fact in connection with it is that irrigation cannot be substituted for natural drainage. Nearly all the hemp exported from the Philippines finds its way to the United States and Europe where it is used in manufacturing ropes. That portion consumed in domestic use, however, is utilized in the manufacture of cloth for wearing apparel.

The Islands' Products.

Sugar ranks second to hemp in the value of the islands' products. It was formerly the most valuable crop of the islands, but a number of causes have

combined to give it a secondary place. The first of these was doubtless the competition of beet sugar. The unreliability of labor, the difficulty in procuring beasts of burden and poor transportation facilities, were other obstacles which the planters could not overcome. In 1881 over 600,000,000 pounds were exported but this amount fell until, during the year following American occupation, the amount produced for export was not quite 100,000,000 pounds. However, the recent advances in the price of sugar has encouraged the planters to renew their efforts, and the acreage is now being largely increased.

The third commercial crop of the islands is tobacco. The plant raised here is of American origin and was brought from Mexico by Spanish missionaries. For a time the industry was conducted as a government monopoly, but the embargo was removed in 1892. From that time its culture has enjoyed a rapid growth. The home consumption of cigars and cigarettes is very great, and this, together with the increasing foreign demand, makes the industry one of much promise. Luzon produces the best grade of the leaf.

The coconut is rapidly increasing in commercial value. The dried meat of this tropical luxury is called copra. Although it is a comparatively new product it now ranks fourth among the exportable commodities of the Philippines. The by-products of the coconut are used in every conceivable way. The sap and most provide the native with delicious food and drink. The shells are valuable as household utensils, and can be made into many kinds of ornaments. The tree provides lumber for the construction of houses and the foliage makes excellent roofing for the same. There are 33 distinct uses to which the substance of this wonderful tree may be put, ranging from the preparation of dyes and hair oil. There are great possibilities in its culture because it is extremely prolific, yielding six or seven crops of nuts every 12 months.

FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

TEN TOPICS THAT AMERICAN BOYS LIKE TO READ

Dime-Novel Publishers Have Found That Taste Has Changed for the Better.

IF YOU take a look at a newsstand where 5- and 10-cent novels are displayed these days, you will notice a lack of alliteration in the titles. Then, going a little further, if you should skim over the pages of one of the modern thrillers, you would find it free from blood-curdling statements.

The fact is that dime novels are not what they were. Publishers have ceased working over the adventures of the James Boys, and along with them have died such characters as Bowery Bill, the Bunco Bouncer, Buck Bumblebee, the Harlem Hummer, and Hurricane Hill.

Only two of the old characters have been able to hold their own. These are Nick Carter and Buffalo Bill. But these two have become so tame that they not only eat out of the reader's hand, but while doing so deliver lectures on temperance, morality and the triumph of truth.

As an illustration of this change, it may be said that one of the writers for the Nick Carter series is a woman, and that she was recently reprimanded by the publishers for killing 11 persons in the first chapter. It was too blood-thirsty, they said, for a dime novel.

In the dime novel of today the use of the word "damn" is strictly forbidden, as is any profane mention of the name of the Creator. The dime novel villain of these times must say "By heaven!" and "By Jove!" when he swears. Nothing stronger is permitted.

Two firms have practically a monopoly of the dime novel business in the United States. One of these is said to control 70 per cent of the output. A representative

of this firm endeavored to explain the other day just why the modern thriller has taken a moral tone.

"It's all due to the demands of the public," he said. "By the public I mean the small boys of America. They aren't so blood-thirsty nowadays as they were when we were youngsters."

"Of course, they still like Indian stories and they like lots of fighting for a just cause, in which right triumphs and evil is ground in the dust. The great growth of the school system in America may be responsible for this. The youngsters probably have their minds trained in the right direction before they start reading fiction, and by that time they won't have anything but good, healthy stuff."

"I've been writing cheap novels for ten years and have had about as good a chance as anybody to observe the change in their style. When I began, famous bandits and cut-throats of all kinds were blooded as heroes. Then the sale of these stories began falling off. An investigation convinced us that the kids of America wanted cleaner reading."

"One firm that had been pursuing the grim art of immortalizing thugs went to the wall. We took another tack and in no time worked gradually around to a better class of stuff. The result was a big jump in our sales. Now we are as careful as any religious paper about what we publish."

"There's an art about the way the modern cheap novel for boys is issued. We have the whole thing systematized in fine shape. In the first place, our field covers just ten subjects. I summarize them as follows:

"1. Athletics. The boy who goes to college and wins great victories at football, or who joins a circus and earns a fortune as a gymnast.

"2. The boy who succeeds against great

odds. This hero goes penniless to a great city and becomes a millionaire.

"3. The humorous boy. He travels, encounters various adventures and is cheerful and funny through it all.

"4. The boy detective. You know him.

"5. The boy pirate. He's a familiar one, too.

"6. The boy Indian slayer. He usually rescues a beautiful maiden from the redskins.

"7. The boy who blows a trail. He meets with various adventures in the lumber regions of the Northwest.

"8. The boy reformer. He generally rescues a friend from the clutches of gamblers and puts them out of business.

"9. The boy in history. This hero appears in a series devoted to the Revolutionary War.

"10. The boy in the United States Army. He goes to the front and fights either Indians or Filipinos.

"Of all these novels, the one devoted to the boy who succeeds against great odds is the most popular. Next in popularity come the Indian stories."

"Although it is generally supposed that novel-reading youngsters delight in tales of bold deeds by pirates, these stories are the least popular of any of the 10 and 10-cent series. They are kept up by us more as a matter of sentiment than anything else. It wouldn't ever do, you know, to knock the pirates entirely out of the novel field."

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and then somebody else would come along and put us out of business.

"Figures which we are gathering all the time show us that New York and Chicago are the most fertile fields for cheap novels. We sell more of our stuff in Chicago, however, than we do in New York, notwithstanding the fact that there are 600,000 kids in this city and only 400,000 in Chicago. Our sales are much larger in the central section of the country than in the East.

"All the juvenile stories of this kind that are turned out in America are written by a regular corps of men. There are about 20 of these authors in this country, and most of them live around New York. Once in a while an outsider butts in with a good novel, which is accepted, but such cases are few and far between. The statement that 20 authors control the dime novel output of the United States is not an exaggerated one."

"Of this 20 only one is a woman, and she writes detective stories. She is about 35. She's one of the most bloodthirsty writers we ever had. She's always killing off somebody, and every once in a while she overdoes it."

"Dime-novel writers make very good money. Each one of them handles a certain series and is expected to produce a novel of 30,000 words every week. The sum of \$50 is paid for each novel, so the writers make \$50 a week. A few of them make a good deal more."

"One of our men has been writing on one character for 12 years. When he began 12 years ago, he received \$40 for writing 20,000 words. Then the length of the novel was increased to 30,000, and his salary was raised to \$50. After he had begun to make a pronounced success out of the series, his salary went up in proportion."

"Another man who occupies an important position with us has written 1000 short stories and 150 novels in his lifetime. His stories are 25,000 words in length, and his novels average from 60,000 to 120,000 words. That man began writing when he was 12, and he has never turned out anything but stories of adventure."

"I have my own troubles some times in editing the mountains of stuff turned over to me. A little while ago one of the stories had this: 'The thunder of defiance flashed in his eye.' Now, who ever heard of thunder flashing? Well, I knew better, but it got past me. Another writer was telling of the discovery of a murder. This is what he wrote:

"The body, a mass of bruises and bleeding cuts, lay near the old blockhouse. Our young hero knelt beside it and found that, besides being dead, the man was also internally injured."

"Can you beat that? Well, those are easy ones to catch."

"Are dime novels hard to write? Not at all, but it requires a certain knack. All of the dime-novel authors I have ever talked with tell me that when they begin a story, they never know what the plot will be. They simply study up a good opening. Then the rest works itself out."

"Taking it all in all, the business of writing dime novels has reached a comparatively high plane. The modern author doesn't retire to a garret with a quart of whisky when he starts out on a story. Instead, he lives with his family in some Jersey village, comes to New York every day, plugs out about 600 words, and then goes back home and takes things easy."

and to make his stories as clean as possible. Dime novels have undergone a strange transformation in the last decade. But the publishers are not responsible for it. The small boy worked the change."

The Bareheaded Girl.

Exchange.

The bareheaded girl is ubiquitous this Summer. In many uptown stores bareheaded women may be seen shopping or marketing, the open surface cars are full

of bareheaded women and girls, especially at night, and in Central Park the bareheaded girl may be seen walking or driving any day, and many a woman goes motoring with a sign of a hat. The fact is spreading every day. It has one thing to recommend it, which may not be said of all fads. It is the most inexpensive idea that has come to town this Summer. And, by the way, it is a fashion that New York has gathered from the West, where women have been going hatless for several Summers.

Is the joy of the household, for without it no happiness can be complete. How sweet the picture of mother and babe, angels smile at and commend the thoughts and aspirations of the mother bending over the cradle. The ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass, however, is so full of danger and suffering that she looks forward to the hour when she shall feel the exquisite thrill of motherhood with indescribable dread and fear. Every woman should know that the danger, pain and horror of child-birth can be entirely avoided by the use of Mother's Friend, a scientific liniment for external use only, which toughens and renders pliable all the parts, and assists nature in its sublime work. By its aid thousands of women have passed this great crisis in perfect safety and without pain. Sold at \$1.00 per bottle by druggists. Our book of priceless value to all women sent free. Address

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