

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, September 8, 1907.

Those Oriental Islands: What have the Philippine Islands cost us? Some say enormous sums. What, if we retain them, will they continue to cost us? It is asserted that the sums will not diminish, and that the cost is the guide to the future. But what have they actually cost? It is probably an insoluble problem in arithmetic. Yet it may be possible to reach approximation. The conjecture of six hundred, four hundred, or even two hundred millions is wild. We mean as to total cost of the Philippines; not the cost of the islands from Spain, not including the actual expenses of the war which should not be named as part of the cost of keeping the islands.

It is obvious that the whole military and naval cost since the treaty of peace should not be included for we are our soldiers to maintain somewhere, and our war vessels, too; and neither Army or Navy is larger, as a consequence of our retention of the Philippines. But there have been additional charges for transportation of troops, munitions, subsistence of our troops and supplies. Also for quarters for the troops and construction of docks and fortifications. But these sums cannot possibly have been very large. All the expenses of local government in the islands are met by local revenue. So the sums in excess of what would have been the cost of the ordinary support of the military and naval establishments, cannot, as a consequence of our retention of the islands, be very large. Though the calculation is difficult, it is believed that segregation of the Philippine account may be made, approximately, and this work is in progress in the department of insular affairs at Washington. One thing is quite certain, namely, that the amount of cost has not been great enough to make itself felt in any serious way as a burden upon the Treasury of the United States.

What shall we do with them? What have we to sell? Our sovereignty? Would it look well for us to sell that? Besides, to what nation should we sell, or could we sell? The only possible buyer at this time would be one of the great nations of Europe. It is not probable that any of them would buy them there. Nor Japan, either; for Japan, now probably too poor to pay us any money, would ultimately, if she had the Philippines, find her way to the front as an exceeding great power, able to threaten our interests in the Pacific. It is not probable that any rapidly establishing important interests in the islands; and the educational system which our people are creating there is itself becoming bond of no mean importance. The Filipinos cannot yet, nor for many years, be left to themselves. We must stay, or turn them over to some other power who can govern them and keep the peace. If left to themselves their dissensions would speedily bring others on the scene—Japan probably, or Germany. Then the islands would become a menace to us. It is our interest, in high degree, to keep them out of the hands of any other great power. Should we quit them the time is most likely to come when we shall be sorry for it. Looking down the vista even of one hundred years, cannot any American see the probability that we shall have a fit of rebellion in military and naval life, and for lessons in civil administration. Our country should be prepared to meet the nations of the earth in every sort of activity and competition.

That the people of the United States will ever decide to quit the islands may be deemed highly improbable. Equally improbable is it that the people of the islands, after they become settled and arrive at an appreciation of what will wait us to withdraw. Free trade between them and the United States, which must come soon, will cement the interests of the islands with those of the United States. Maintenance of peace, with justice, will be another bond, and the educational system which our people are so fast building up throughout the archipelago, will rapidly prepare the minds of the young for an affectionate interest in "the mother country." Should the time ever come when the two parties will wish to separate, then the separation will be effected with dignity, peace and deliberation. But the longer the sovereignty of the United States shall continue, the less likelihood that separation will be desired by either party. In matters of this kind there is a destiny that points the way.

Japan as a Competitor: The promptness with which Japan is closing with industrial opportunities as presented by Western ingenuity, and enterprise is noted in the establishment in the city of Kyoto, of a modern cotton factory in which over 2000 operatives are employed. This mill has an equipment that is equal to any of its kind in the world. In accordance with the exclusive policy that for centuries guarded Japan from the outside world, this factory is jealously guarded from the intrusion of the ingenuity of the man or the wily competitor. The inner workings of the plant are only known to the few; the general public is denied admission; no one except officials of the government has access to the interior save, of course, the employees. The buildings of which there are three under one management, are modern and of solid masonry. The large one covers an area of over 200,000 square feet.

That which concerns us most to know regard to this industry is that it is turning out goods that are in direct competition with those manufactured in the United States for the Japanese, Chinese and Manchurian trade. The output of this cotton factory last year was over 900,000 pieces of cloth. The designs and colorings of these printed cotton cloths are three under one management, are modern and of solid masonry. The large one covers an area of over 200,000 square feet.

What is a Reasonable Rate? "All the traffic will bear" is quite likely a part of the policy of the railroads in fixing the freight rate on lumber to the East. In recent years lumber has become scarce in the East and the market for Coast lumber in that part of the country has been growing rapidly. At the same time prices of lumber have advanced, both in the state of sale, and in the supply. The Eastern lumbermen must be looked to for lumber, there is a practical certainty that quantities sufficient to meet a large part of the demand will be shipped even if prices be raised a little. The railroads therefore figure that the rate will bear a little heavier freight rate and they accordingly have raised the rate of course but the Western manufacturer, for an increase of \$3.30 per thousand in the freight rate either compels the consumer to pay the higher price or the producer to accept a lower price.

It would be an error to say that he is sincere while they are not. Few preachers are hypocrites or exactly. Their discourses miss the mark widely. Their sermons might as well be pounded out on a brazen pot for all the good they do; but the trouble with them is, not so much insincerity as lack of understanding. The ministers who will shine the diadem of the routine pulpit who rehearse, parrot-like, his homedual platitudes and never converts anybody. Why cannot every preacher, in his degree, do a work like Billy Sunday's?

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Now we sing hymns and recant patristical and medieval dogmas, and wrangle over the precise function of the Godhead which Jesus contained; but we are neither perfect as he was nor do we keep his commandments. Not one of his commandments do we keep either in church or out of it. The fact is amazing, but it is undeniable, that many of them is anywhere observed by anybody, will some person please cite it? He forbade public prayers, but our ministers deliver long and eloquent petitions, nevertheless. He forbade showy almsgiving, but we sound the trumpet when we aid the poor or the needy. He forbade the damned riches, and we are all rich, or try to be. He commanded non-resistance to evil and laid down the golden rule. As to the golden rule the theologians have proved that Jesus taught a better one than Confucius and that society is better off for the sake of obeying it never enters their heads. As to non-resistance they tell us that it would destroy society, which is certainly a fine compliment either to Jesus or to society, we do not quite know which.

It would be interesting to see Jesus' doctrines put in practice. Not merely preached and preached about and explained away, but actually put in practice. We should like to see Christianity tried once on a large scale. Would it really plunge society into anarchy, or would it fill the world with peace and joy?

Samuel Adams: The third volume of "The Writings of Samuel Adams" has just been published. It contains his letters and miscellaneous essays written between 1778 and 1779, when he was a factor so active and important in the formation of the Revolution. Perhaps his principal work was the organization of the "Committee of correspondence" which kept the patriots throughout New England informed of one another's doings and of the machinations of the British and Tories. Considering that there was at that time no National post-office system and that travel was slow, difficult and expensive, it is wonderful how thoroughly news was distributed by letter-writers.

The Laborer and the Orchard: The man with a barrel of money who is buying sixty thousand young apple trees for a commercial orchard he is planning to plant in the scenic Mt. Hood National Home, Idaho, is evidently doing it without fear of the labor lord, the hired man. All other essentials are at hand. That section of Idaho is just right for the apple. The sun shines bright all Summer long to put the rosy red on the fruit; the selection of the irrigator gives the trees the water they need at the proper time; this same applied science will shut off the water that the sap may go down early and avoid winter killing; the temperature during the Winter months is all the orchardist can desire, for it is often on the thermometer, and the pest that would hibernate cannot get far enough into the ground to avoid freezing to death; the location on the Oregon Short Line is just right for shipping either way and the laws prevent excessive charges.

All these advantages swing the pendulum to the optimistic side, and the single discordant note in the harmony is labor. Right there the owner will find a bite too big to masticate. There is no floating body of workers in that section of Idaho, and the packing time. The men up there who have ranches of 160 or 320 acres, with a great part in alfalfa and more or less in grain, find their work altogether too little diversified to keep employed the year round in numbers sufficient to handle the crop in picking and packing time. The men up there who have ranches of 160 or 320 acres, with a great part in alfalfa and more or less in grain, find their work altogether too little diversified to keep employed the year round in numbers sufficient to handle the crop in picking and packing time.

Disappointment in Love: Disappointment in love is a marvel, past the power of any living man to explain. It might be inferred from this text that the following discourse is to be a 20th century Sunday vaudeville sermon. To encourage fearful readers, we shall enter a disclaimer, right here at the start. One might suppose, from reading the Friday news of the divorce courts, that most misery is dual. But the country newspapers everywhere reveal that a surprisingly large quantity is single. Disappointment is so rampant that the editor of the North Bend Harbor, Coos County, writes with "Make this the most of everything you have today; tomorrow's promises are not at par."

Disappointment is a hard master. It makes slaves of everybody but the pessimists, or rather they are the only ones who delude themselves believing they are free. "We are again minus a typewriter," says the Merrill Record, Klamath County, "one of the hotels is minus its wireless and incidentally a father came near being minus a daughter or plus a son-in-law. The father saved the daughter, but the hotel and the paper are total shipwrecks." And a philosopher in the Clatsop County, Tillamook County, observes: "They say that sometimes, when a fellow gets in and takes another fellow's girl to the county fair, he isn't always sure he can take her home."

Why Prohib So Gay? "The truth is a man doesn't care whether a girl can cook or not so long as he doesn't love her." "Feed the brute" is the woman's side of the case.

Deadly Milk Prices: DOTTIE COTTEL said to Bailey of her milk's so big a story of germs, that folks are dying Who never died before.

Fly in the Ointment: In a fertile "desert," the great railroad monarch, tired and soiled, rubbed his Aladdin lamp.

Young Hopefuls: TOT, 5 years old after dreaming that a baby arrived at her house, was telling her mother about it at breakfast.

Love and Cookery: "No, mother," responded Tot, "it was mine."

Aunt Polly's Philosophy: COUNTRY Fair-A place where statesmen come to meet the people and to snub each other.

Looking Far Ahead: CHARLES I. was just mounting the scaffold to be beheaded.

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COMMENT ON SUNDAY OREGON TOPICS

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