

# TEN YEARS UPLIFT IN THE PHILIPPINES-

TEACHING  
SEMI-BARBARIAN  
PEOPLES  
THE A,B,C'S,  
OF CIVILIZATION  
AND  
POLITICAL  
FREEDOM

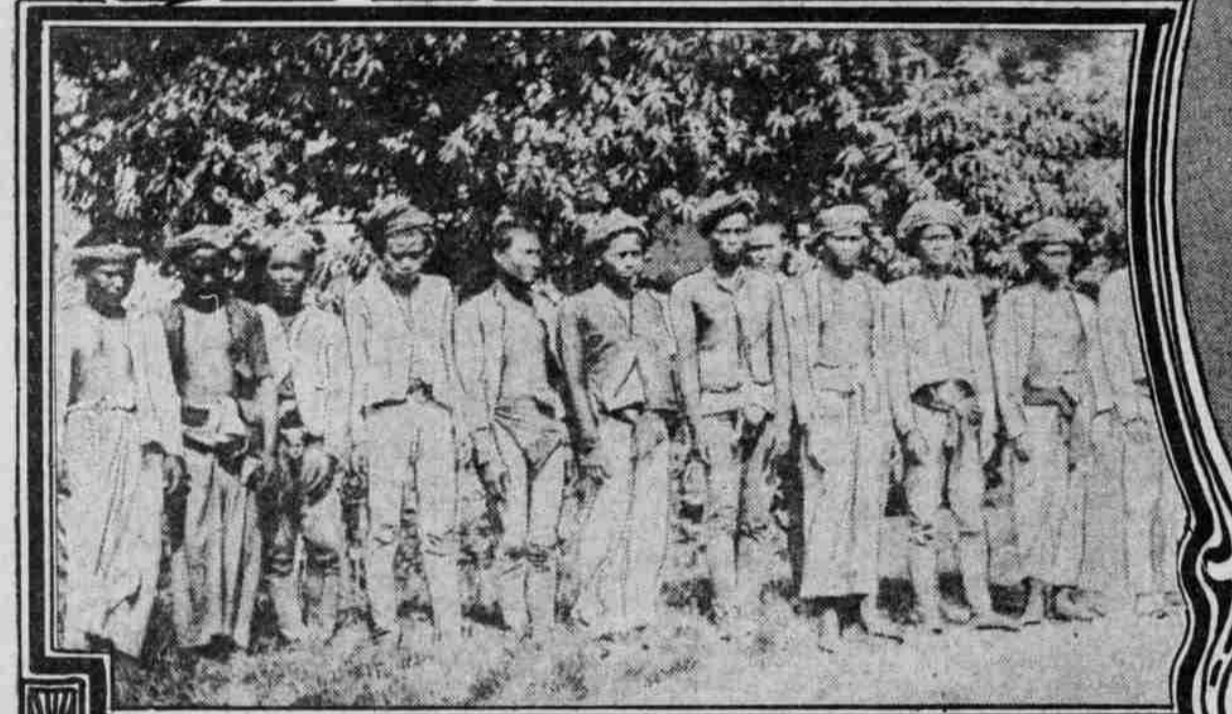
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IGORROTE CHILDREN AS THEY  
FIRST CAME TO ENROLL IN  
THE SCHOOLS



PHILIPPINO CHILDREN IN A  
WELL DEVELOPED  
SCHOOL



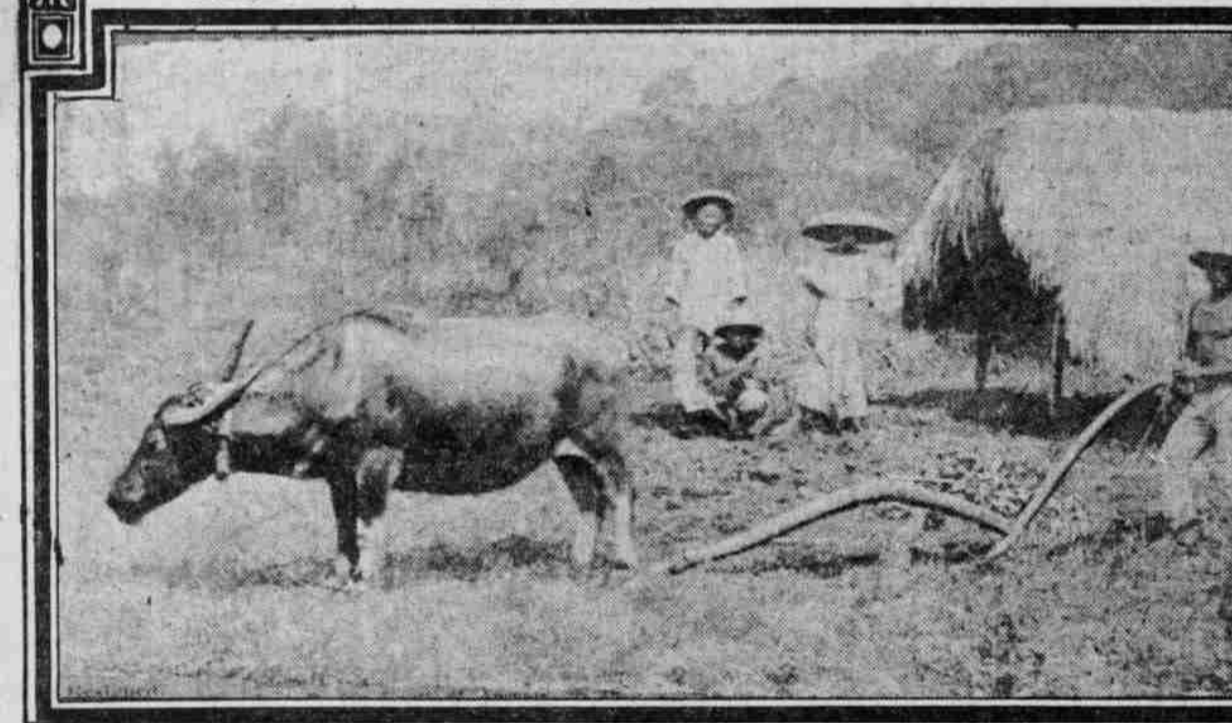
THE MOROS OF MINDANAO AT THE  
TIME OF THEIR ENLISTMENT



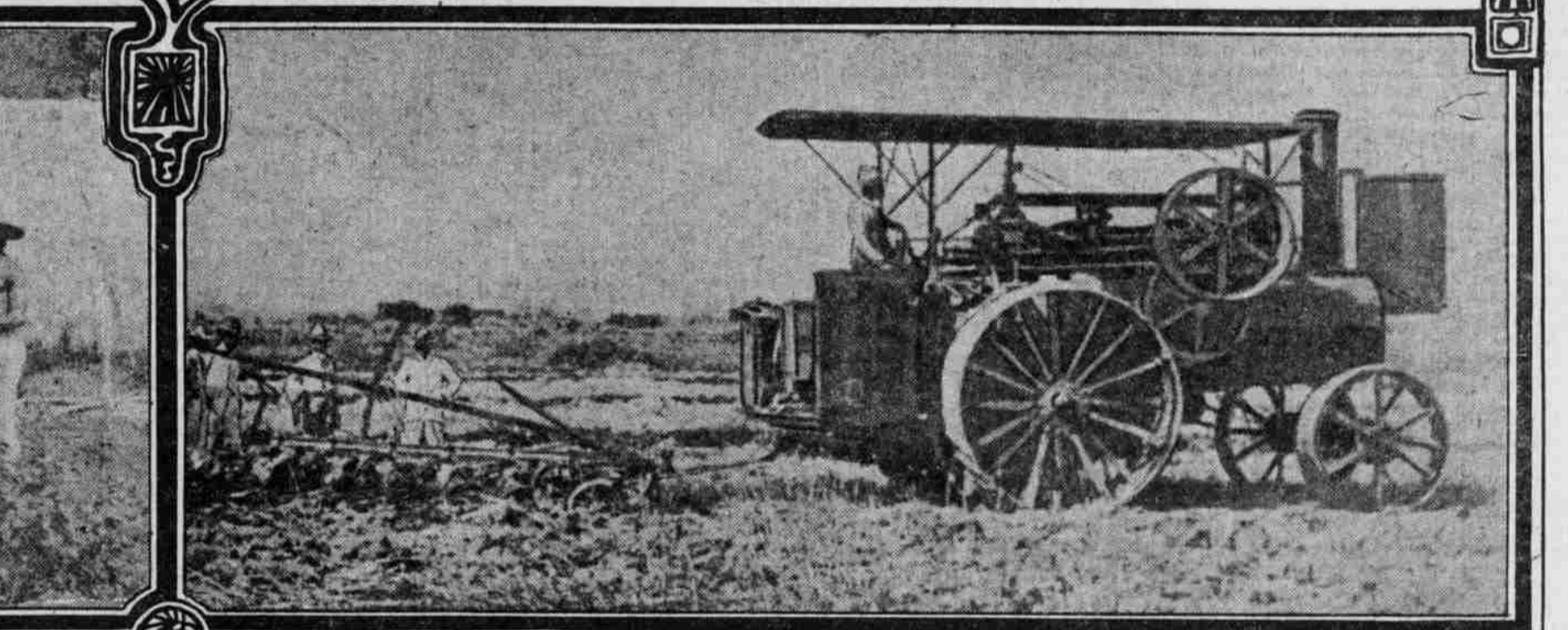
WILLIAM H. TAFT



MOROS, FOUR MONTHS AFTER  
ENLISTMENT



OLD METHOD OF PLOWING, WITH A WOODEN PLOW AND CARABAO



PLOWING THE FIELDS WITH AN AMERICAN TRACTION ENGINE  
AND A GANG OF TWELVE FLOWS

I have an abiding conviction that the Filipino people are capable of being taught self-government in the process of their development, that in carrying out the policy that we have laid down they will be improved physically and mentally, and that, as they acquire more rights their power to exercise moral restraint upon themselves will be strengthened and improved.

If the American Government can only remain in the islands long enough to educate the entire people, to give them a language which enables them to come in contact with modern civilization, and to extend to them from time to time additional political rights so that by the exercise of them they shall learn the use and responsibilities necessary to their proper exercise, independence can be granted with entire safety to the people.

WILLIAM H. TAFT  
Secretary of War.

BY WILLIAM A. DUNN.  
TEN years ago, on May 1, the Stars and Stripes flung out over Manila Bay waving a salutation and call to better things to a group of feudal, far-stretching tropical islands basked half asleep in the sun, home of 7,000,000 souls, nondescript, half-civilized natives steeped in ignorance for the most part, and broken into warring fragments by a dissimilarity of languages—despot-ridden, disease-ridden and hopeless.

Beneath the folds of that flag must have rested the wand of a good fairy, for certain it is that the call to the seemingly impossible has been answered, for, presto, a change has been wrought that is a marvel to the world. The hand of the despot has been wrenched away. Lie schemes of internal strife have been quieted, the light of education has been set to shine for 3500 schools, unpolluted water and air have been provided, for the strengthening of feeble frames, industries have been inaugurated that will bring a permanent prosperity to replace the ever-present poverty of old. All things possi-

ble in the best of Western civilization have been brought or are being brought to those who previously had nothing and dully they are awakening and grasping their opportunity though not without trepidation, for as yet they see through a glass darkly.

## THE NEW IDEA

IN the working out of these changes the United States has written an original page in the annals of history. She has appeared in the role of disinterested benevolence—a nation engaged in philanthropy on a scale never before conceived. She has presumed to dip into the control of distant lands, not with the time-worn idea of profit, but solely for the benefit of the people it has fallen to her lot to rule.

So without precedent is the performance of the past ten years that the American people themselves do not realize what they have done and the other nations of the world, interpreting all colonial policy through their own, seeing only trade possibilities, money tribute to the governing country or strategic military advantage, look on without understanding. The United States, having little demand for additional market, having resources beyond all necessity and being most unimpaired in her tendencies, has no more need for a war of a tropical possession than has one of her millionaires for a nameless babe on his doorstep. But as the rich man might provide for his accidental charge, making its life wholesome and clean and opening it to the door of learning and opportunity, so is America making provision for the wail among nations.

The statement of these things does not seem like the mere putting down of facts, but upon second thought they will be found to be the same kind of truths as are being enacted for charity's sake in the George Junior Republic in New York, or Judge Lindsey's juvenile court in Denver. There is a great good being done to a great mass of people who have hitherto been touched but slightly by the onward march of civilization. They are being given peace and prosperity, and

with it the enlightenment of the world through the acquisition of a modern, world language.

The details are fascinating. The contrasts between the old and the new are remarkable considered in the light of the lapse of but ten years, and much of that time spent at war before the real progress began to be made. When the United States acquired the islands it was known that they were a miscellaneous group off the south of Asia, 1000 miles long by 500 wide, the map showed. A Malay race dwelt upon them and the Spaniards had been in possession of them for 250 years; but otherwise they had no history. Unrestrained lawlessness being recognized as the current condition and the portion of the population about Manila that could be reckoned with as having any semblance of government, being openly at war with the nation to which they were newly transferred, it fell to the men of the Army to make the acquaintance of the strange people of a land new to Americans, diagnose its ills and administer a cure.

The man of the Army found that in the mass of 7,000,000 people there were 18 separate and distinct languages spoken. The people of one section were unable to understand the language of those on a nearby island. Each dialect was unknown outside of the immediate neighborhood in which it was spoken and no other language that might bring in an idea of the outside world was understood. The whole of the archipelago was isolated from the world with the exception of one slender tie to Spain, and each tribe was cut off from its neighbors. These conditions eliminated the existence of trade and precipitated continual discord. The Spanish friar had brought the people one long step toward civilization by converting them to Christianity, which is the faith of the great majority, but otherwise they were little better off for the touch of European civilization.

In the network of water channels that wind in and out about the islands there has existed for hundreds of years piratical boats that preyed upon each other and towns of the immediate locality, making trade unsafe and piling up swashbuckling material for stories of

buccaneering without end. In the high-lands lived tribes that were always at war with those lower down. In the south were the Mohammedan Moros who were accustomed to attack the Christian and unconverted peoples of the north, butcher the men and bear away the women and trade them to the pirates for cattle or boats or what not. Even in the more civilized sections where the influence of the Spanish friar was strong there were well-organized bands of Ladrone, brigands that were wont to rob and pillage their own people and force tribute from large interests, such as the church, which owned property. These things were still taking place when the United States assumed charge.

## CONDITIONS OF TODAY

TODAY there is peace throughout the islands and the Zamboanga Mohammedans meet their ancient prey, the Sumbanos, and those who were cutting each other's throats a decade ago are sitting at the same board and exchanging products of peace at well-regulated country fairs, where a prize is offered for the largest pumpkin and the fattest hog, as in the best-regulated gatherings in the States.

Peace has been carried to every corner of the islands and with it the greatest influence upon their future, the American public school. It is through the public school that the United States will mould the future of the Philippines, and it is in this connection that she has done a thing that has been studiously avoided by any of the other nations of the world in their operation of colonial policies.

Other nations have always figured that through giving a subject race education it was made more difficult to control, constantly more dangerous and troublesome. Likewise it was made capable of grasping opportunities which it had been the policy of the conquerors to retain for themselves. The United States being indifferent to gain and

her people having ample opportunity at home, has chosen to pursue this plan and in the results that may come about lies the novelty of the first trial of a great experiment, the stake at issue being the future of millions of fellow creatures.

The American public school is the most popular institution in the islands today. There are 3500 of them, 1000 of which are presided over by American teachers and the others by Filipinos who understand and teach English. Altogether, there are enrolled at present in round numbers 500,000 children who are partaking of the public school education. There are already more people in the islands who speak English than Spanish, despite the long occupation by that country.

The native's desire for the new education amounts to a passion. The schools are over-crowded by pupils who voluntarily present themselves, and every energy is being bent to increase them in proportion to the demand, but in vain. In the great rice-growing section the poor and ignorant laborers in the fields save out of their pittance and club together that they may get funds to bring an American teacher to their children.

In Manila the natives have assumed a fondness for the private school in their aping of the Spanish grandee, but this tendency has been counteracted. The idea of the educated class has been to make of their sons "criollos" rather than workers with the hands, but the United States has forced in the trade schools and insisted upon manual training until the tide of popular approval has turned in that direction and the trade schools are now full.

In the interior districts the children crowd into the schoolrooms entirely innocent of any clothing, and those from the mountain districts have little acquaintance with either soap or water. These facts bring forth some humorous phases of the teacher's life among the natives. For example, one teacher introduced a good American institution, the shower bath. A new scholar is initiated into the school by being given over to some of the older and bigger boys armed with a bar of soap and a scrubbing brush

and these handle him with as much vigor as glee as he takes his first step toward civilization. The scrubbing brush and the soap are the instruments of torture that maintain discipline in this school.

A woman teacher remonstrated with the mothers of her pupils, insisting on something in the way of clothing. Nothing came of it, so she enlisted the assistance of some Army women, and a number of the simplest possible gowns were made and put upon the children. The next morning, however, they appeared as usual unclad. They were urged to wear the clothes, but insisted on keeping them for a feast day. It was finally found necessary to put the dresses upon them when they came in the morning and take them off when they left the school, and thus accustom them to this unusual magnificence by degrees.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IT is believed that within a generation the whole of the Philippines will have become, through the public school, an English-speaking whole. There is an element of the pathetic in this task, for the native language from the people, for it is probable that in a few generations they will not speak it at all. But the value of giving them a common language, which will bring them together nationally as a homogeneous whole, and make interchange possible, is worth it. Further, through English will be opened up to them the knowledge of the world, and every possibility will be theirs that is enjoyed by any of the progressive nations. The step from an unlettered collection of tribes speaking a great number of unwritten dialects, to a united whole reading good English, will be an unequalled step toward advancement.

The legends of the people may be preserved, for there are Americans in the islands who have come to under-

stand the native to such an extent that they may interpret them. Not long ago a band of Igorrotes sat around a camp-fire and their chief crooned a song which an Army scout interpreted to me, it being the native belief as to creation.

In the beginning of all things, according to the chant of the Igorrote, there was but the water and the sky. Above the crystal waters and amid the beauties of the cloudless sky, circled a great bird, the only living creature in the universe. Naught disturbed the soaring of the beautiful bird save the splashing of the waters from the sea which thrust its spray high into the air and dampened its brilliant plumage. That the brilliant plumage might ever be dry, the bird induced the ruler of the seas and the skies to place islands at the corner of the sea to hold the water down, that the splashing might no longer disturb him in his flights.

Then for ages he soared through space undisturbed, until finally, in passing one of the islands, the bird noticed the rearing of a tall stalk of bamboo. Through the acorns the birds had had nothing upon which to alight, and the tall bamboo offered the first haven of refuge. Pleasant days he passed upon the tall bamboo, and finally, from idleness, tried his hitherto unused bill in pecking its stalk. Finally the hard shell was pierced, and a way opened to the cavity within, when, lo! out stepped a man and a woman, who had been awaiting his coming for release, and so was started the peoples of the earth.

Aside from the public schools, the United States is giving a course in political education that is a still greater novelty and accomplishing great practical results. On May 8, 1899, General Lawton captured the interior town of Baliuag. On May 19, a municipal election was held, and the men chosen by the people were put in charge of the handling of its affairs, but under the guidance of a committee from the Army. The elected officers were taught and shown American methods of town government, and the enforcement of these methods were backed by the