

THE WOMAN'S CLUB

First Session For February Is An Interesting One.

GOOD SPEAKER LIVE TOPIC

Red Men's Hall Comfortably Filled With Ladies and Guests—Rev. W. S. Gilbert Occupied Rostrum With Lecture on Philippines—Business Meeting

The Astoria Woman's Club held its first meeting for February, yesterday afternoon, at the Red Men's hall on Exchange street, and the cosy little auditorium was filled with a host of handsomely gowned and deeply interested members.

The affairs of the club are under the capable direction of Vice-President, Mrs. F. D. Kuetner, and the program and business of yesterday's assemblage, were dispatched with precision and celerity, under her guidance.

Rev. W. S. Gilbert, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was the speaker of the day, and he chose for his theme "Present Conditions in the Philippine Islands," a subject, no one in Oregon is better equipped to expound than the popular chaplain of the famous Second Oregon regiment. The Astorian is pleased to present the major portion of Mr. Gilbert's address, and regrets it cannot give the entire message, including the abundant interpolations of personal experiences, humorous, sad, satirical, and explanatory. He said, in part:

When Admiral Dewey sunk the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, May 1, 1898, many of our people had scarcely heard of the Philippine Islands. When our transports left Honolulu en route to Manila, Capt. Glass of the Charleston signaled that in his sealed orders we were ordered to capture Guam. No one had ever heard of the place except

our old ship navigator who had stopped there many years before.

Since the beginning of the Spanish war we have learned much concerning the Philippine Islands; but to convince ourselves that we are poorly informed as to present conditions there we need only ask a few questions or endeavor to answer some. A man came to me two months ago and asked me to tell what the form of municipal government of Manila is. Does the city have a mayor, council, etc. I had to confess that I did not know. He eased my mind a little when he said he had just been to Harvey Scott and he couldn't tell, and also to several others. I determined to find out and went to a man in our city who had been there three years as a public official in Manila, and he answered, "They have had some kind of an election year there, but I'll be plagued if I know just what they elected."

Last week I asked one of our physicians, "Who is the governor of the Philippine Islands since Taft has become Secretary of War?" The prompt answer was, "Elihu Root." Last week I asked an audience of two hundred men if any one of them could tell any event that had taken place in the Philippine Islands last year, and no one said a word. So that I am sure we all need to keep a little keener interest in these islands that have come under our care, and while I have vowed never again to tell my war story, or rehearse or relash the events of '98-'99, still I am glad for the opportunity of presenting some of the remarkable facts of the present conditions.

The annual report of the Philippine Commission is the latest available authentic information concerning the islands. Last year was a remarkable year in the Philippine Islands, and present conditions give us much to think about.

I was amazed to find that there had been a famine there all last year. Our newspapers seem never to have mentioned it or only casually as a matter of small importance. At any rate, I have not been able to find any one who had heard of it (since writing, I did find one man who faintly remembered that the Oregonian mentioned it). The rice crop was an absolute failure on account of drought and pest of locusts, and the death, by Rinderpest, of ninety-five per cent of the caribou upon which the

people depend utterly for cultivation of lands.

The Philippine Commission had to come to the relief of the people. When the rice crops failed, American merchants, true to the American way, organized a syndicate and cornered all available rice and began to rob the people systematically. They cornered absolutely all the China product and even also the sugar market. The Philippine Commission was compelled to go to Calcutta, almost 4000 miles from Manila, to get rice; they imported \$10,000,000 worth of rice to feed the starving people. This was sold to the natives and on account of the poor quality of the Calcutta rice, and its destruction by weevil, the Commission lost \$248,000 on the transaction. But the corner was broken. Instead of giving the rice to the people, the Commission gave so much rice to any man, woman or child for every bushel of captured locusts. \$11,450 was invested in galvanized sheet iron, which was set up as fences, converging to narrow openings through which the natives would drive the locusts into trenches beyond; \$1000 was spent for locust nets. In almost all the provinces the locusts were so numerous as to utterly destroy every growing thing.

To supply caribou to the natives the Commission made a contract with a Chinese firm for 10,000 caribou from China; and the Chinese government, discovering so many of these useful animals were being deported, limited the contract to 1000. The price of a caribou in Manila is now \$75 in gold.

Another thing, our papers have not informed us upon, is the epidemic of cholera. Last year 100,000 people died from this plague.

On the 22nd of last December the Friar lands, consisting of 400,000 acres, mostly rich, cultivated lands, were bought by the government for \$7,230,000, so that by this event of last year, we may see the day coming soon when the lands of the islands shall be owned by the people. The great curse upon the Filipinos has been the system of land ownership and manifold taxation by the church; tax was collected for everything; to kill a hog was taxed; to marry, to be born, to die; so that the people were hopelessly poverty stricken. In 1898 there were 1013 Friar priests; today only 246. Not one Spanish Friar bishop remains. American bishops are being sent, and the Roman Catholic church there will be American and not Spanish in character. There are from 7000 to 15,000 lepers in the Philippine Islands. By this report of last year much has been done to gather these lepers into hospitals and reservations.

While America has blessed the Philippine Islands in many ways, it still is cause for our humiliation that we have cursed the islands with drunkenness. When Manila was captured by the American forces August 13, 1898. A steamer load of American beer was anchored in the harbor, and the next day was brought into port. This was the beginning of a spectacle of which this nation ought to be ashamed.

In the Manila papers Uncle Sam and the American people, instead of being characterized, as we see them in our papers, were always cartooned as a hog dressed in stars and stripes; drunkenness was practically unknown in the Philippine Islands before our occupation.

I quote from page 27, of the report: "One of the great obstacles that this government has to contend with, is the presence in the large majority of the towns of the archipelago of dissolute, drunken, and lawless Americans, who are willing to associate with low Filipino women, and live upon the proceeds of their labor; they are truculent and dishonest; they borrow, beg and steal from the native; their conduct and mode of life are not calculated to impress the native with the advantage of American civilization."

Quoting from page 26 of the report: "The smoking of opium is spreading among the native Filipinos. Under the Spanish regime, Filipinos were under penalty of fine or imprisonment for smoking opium. Under the tariff act now in force the tariff on opium was somewhat reduced. The result is that except for the tariff there is no restriction at all on the sale of opium at present."

A special committee on opium was appointed last year which will report in this present month.

Another chapter of which we cannot be very proud is presented on page 64 of the report: "Americans responsible for the government of these islands have suffered a most humiliating experience during the past year in the numerous defalcations of Aeriscus charged with the official duty of collecting and disbursing money." Out of 1104 employes of the government there were twenty defaulters convicted last year, almost 2 per cent.

A sentence, on page 46, arrests my attention, as it recalls such a different condition five years ago: "There is the utmost religious freedom enjoyed in these islands; and no one, whether Roman Catholic, Filipino Catholic, or

Protestant, is disturbed in worshipping God as he chooses." When we entered Manila, though there were 5000 English residents there. If any of them wished to be married, they had to go to Hong Kong to be married; no Protestant clergyman was allowed in Manila. I have the honor to be the first Protestant clergyman ever allowed there as such. I once heard a missionary who had entered the islands but he had to agree to certain restraints. He gave up his copy of the Bible and agreed not to preach while in the islands. I took the first box of Bibles into Manila. Ian Macleod, an English resident, had endeavored to bring Bibles into Manila, but they were confiscated in the customs house. To be sure, each Englishman could have his own Bible. Last year an average of 5000 bibles a month in native tongue were bought by the people.

Last year the change of the currency in the islands from a silver to a gold basis, was pushed as much as possible. This has been no easy task, and it will not be wholly completed for some time. All the coins have to be collected and exchanged and recoined. Considering the changeable values and the greed of speculators, the establishing of a stable currency will be slow.

No doubt we have all often wondered whether the islands will ever pay back the great amount of money they have cost, or whether they will always be a burden. The balance of trade against the islands in 1902, was \$8,214,163; last year the balance of trade in favor of the islands was \$149,898, an increase for the year of \$10,024,141. Notwithstanding the famine and the importation of \$10,000,000 worth of rice, and many other heavy expenditures as for Cholera relief, \$300,000; census, \$694,000; St. Louis Exposition, \$575,000; and \$2,500,000 for extensive port works. Exports last year were as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Hemp | \$21,700,000 |
| Copra | 4,400,000 |
| Sugar | 3,900,000 |
| Tobacco | 1,800,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,000,000 |
| Total | \$33,000,000 |

Imports from the United States for last year, not including the United States government imports for the army, etc., was \$17,507,000.

The report says, on page 4: "The conditions with respect to sugar and tobacco continue to be very unfavorable and the arguments in favor of a reduction of the Dingley tariff upon

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This Week is Pants Week

AT OUR STORE—EVERY PAIR OF TROUSERS IN THE STORE IS REDUCED IN PRICE.

Fine Values for \$2.70, 3.15, 3.60

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THE MIGHTY SALE

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IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR OUR NEW SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS WHICH ARE ARRIVING DAILY WE WILL GIVE A FEW MORE DAYS IN WHICH TO PURCHASE BARGAINS.

CHILDREN'S COATS WE ARE CLOSING OUT AT AN EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICE

25 Per Cent Discount on All Children's Dresses

65c AND 85c FANCY FRENCH FLANNEL WAISTINGS WHILE THEY LAST AT 49c THE YARD.

WE HAVE ON DISPLAY SOME \$25 AND \$30 SUITS WHICH WE ARE OFFERING FOR \$12.95.

One-third off on all Ladies' Wool Waists

WE HAVE PLACED ON SALE A FEW WINTER SKIRTS WHICH WE WILL CLOSE OUT AT HALF PRICE.

Note the Window Display of New Spring Mohairs.

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ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE.

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New embroidery and shirt waists.

New white shirt Waists.

New ginghams, percales and domestic wash goods.



THE BEEHIVE

these articles to 25 per cent of the rates of that tariff on sugar and tobacco from the Philippines grow stronger instead of weaker."

When the Oregon regiment left the islands there were 70,000 soldiers stationed in 600 posts. Now there are 15,000 stationed in 100 posts. A sentence on page 49, is significant: "The number of Americans that the American merchants or any merchants can count upon in these islands for business demands is never likely to exceed 20,000."

The Oregon regiment left one of her number in Manila as the first superintendent of public instruction. Last year 10 per cent of the population of the islands of school age, or 150,000, were in school.

Last October 100 Filipino boys were brought to the schools of Southern California for the purpose of education in this country. This number will be increased year by year. The Commission urgently recommends a \$3,000,000 appropriation for school houses and teachers. The crying demand there today is for education.

Last year the census of the islands was gathered. The papers are now in Washington being compiled. This census will be published next October.

"In two years after this census is published, there will be a general election in the islands for the purpose of sending representatives to meet in a co-ordinate branch of a legislature to be composed of the Commission and the legislative assembly."

This concession on the part of the Congress of the United States is a remarkable step. It may never lead to self-government for it is quite certain. (If we can judge from Cuba) that when the time may come that the Filipinos may be able to govern themselves they will want to be a part of the United States.

While present conditions in the islands are not in every respect what we might wish there were still in the four constructive years past great improvements have been made and the experiences of the four years give every assurance of an ever brighter future for the people who for so long had sat in darkness.

A woman worries until she gets wrinkles, then worries because she has them. If she takes Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea she would have neither. Bright, smiling face follows its use. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Sold by Frank Hart.

On Sunday, December 17th, the Denver & Rio Grande railroad will inaugurate a daily line of standard and tourist sleeping cars between Denver and Los Angeles in connection with the new Clark road. Both cars will leave Denver daily at 9:30 a. m., and arrive at Salt Lake City at 1:35 p. m., the next day. At this point the cars will be held over until midnight, thus allowing through passengers the privilege of a stop-over of ten hours and a half in Salt Lake City. Eastbound, these cars will leave Los Angeles at 8 p. m., and arrive at Salt Lake City at 6:30 a. m., second morning where they will remain over until 3:00 p. m., thence to Denver where they will arrive at 4:20 the following afternoon. This stop-over at Salt Lake City of the regular line of sleeping cars promises to be an attractive feature for transcontinental travelers.

Scrub yourself daily, you're not clean inside. This means clean stomach bowels, blood, liver, clean healthy tissue in every organ. MGRAL: Take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Sold by Frank Hart.

If You Want Something Nice

try a can of our Paris brand of corn. Tender, creamy and excellent flavor; so much like fresh. Price 15 cents per can. Fancy asparagus, 30 cents per can; fancy canned peas, 15 and 20 cents per can. Buy your canned fruit and vegetables from us, and you are sure to get the best.

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TO THE PUBLIC

A long felt want has at last been supplied. The Astoria Commission and Auction Co., 365 Commercial street will open for business Monday, February 12. We will buy and sell anything at private sale or auction.

Will carry a full line of furniture, carpets and general merchandise at prices never heard of before in Astoria. A call will convince.

Parties wishing to dispose of their furniture stores or private effects at private sale or auction will do well by seeing us.

On Monday Next, Feb. 12

Commencing at 10 a. m. we will sell at AUCTION

to the highest bidder without reserve, furniture viz: Bedroom suits, chairs, parlor sets, couches, writing desks also single beds, mattresses, springs, carpets, rugs, draperies, beddings. A consignment of men's shoes, stationery, toilet cases and other articles to numerous to mention. Private parties and dealers will find it their advantage by attending our Auction Sales.

COME and you can get what you want at your own price.

REMEMBER the date and place—FEBRUARY 12, 10 a. m.

Private sales conducted during the week.

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