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OUR DUTY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

In the end practical views will prevail as to the future course of the United States in regard to the Philippines, says the Globe-Democrat. To reserve a coaling or naval station, and then wash our hands of the whole business, will not do. A calm examination of our responsibilities makes that much certain. We have completely broken the power of Spain in her colonies. The next step is to assert our just claims, and in doing it to insure that the colonies in which we have intervened shall either become a part of our own territory or enjoy, under our protection, a far better government than they have hitherto known. Spain is powerless to rule the Philippines further. Our arms have reduced it to this position. The Spanish troops at Manila are without resources. Spain can not supply nor pay them. It has no navy left to co-operate with them, and no money to continue the struggle with the insurgents. What Spain most needs is relief from the colonial drain, the cause of its present financial exhaustion. This necessity is tacitly recognized by the most intelligent Spanish statesmen. Without the colonies the revenues can be entirely devoted to the home government, which needs careful nursing to avert graver troubles than colonial wars.

To return the Philippines to the feeble hands of Spain could have but one speedy result, and that would be their transfer, for a consideration, to some European power. Another barrier to our Pacific commerce would then be erected on the eastern coast of Asia, a region where just such impediments of late have been multiplying. Probably Spain would sell the Philippines to France, which is deeply interested in Spanish bonds and on especially close terms with the Spanish people. France is the ally of Russia. If we give back the Philippines to Spain their future ownership will be French and Russian. At this moment there are three French warships at Manila, a fact indicating a more than ordinary degree of diplomatic interest. Relinquishing our claims upon the Philippines will simply build up the imperialism of certain European powers, and place them in control of territory which we fairly won in war. Such are the fruits of the policy recommended to this country by those who are against any further annexation.

We owe something more to the Philippine insurgents than immediate and complete abandonment. We owe something more to steadfast and unobtrusive English friendliness than to indirectly turn over the ownership of the important Pacific group of islands to France and Russia, or possibly to Germany. The insurgents are unfitted to take supreme control of an independent state, nor could they defend it against the navy of any European power. Aguinaldo's aspiration for a republic to be formed on the instant is a wild dream. Since we have won the Philippines by the valor of our navy and by transporting an army by ships, the plain duty ahead is to hold all that has been gained. To say that the advisability of this step is in doubt is simply to confirm its propriety, for as long as the question is in doubt it is not right to halt until the way is made clear. The splendid achievement of Dewey opened a new era for the Philippines. We have sent over an army to secure the victory. To give back nearly everything to Spain is a lame and impotent conclusion, and a course that would be deeply repented.

Bismarck was an expansionist, and no one in Germany seems to think that his policy of annexation ever detracted from the national honor and success.

The inhabitants of the Ladronez, also, are reported to be intensely

anxious to run up the United States flag on all the islands. If this keeps on, Spain itself will be asking for admission to the American union.

The 3 per cent bonds of the United States are quoted at 105, and the 4 per cent bonds of Spain at 41. It is plainly the opinion of the financial world that Spain needs peace and intelligent attention to its home affairs.

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