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FRIDAY - - - - JUNE 9, 1899

**GEN. OTIS' REPORT.**

Events connected with the Tagal revolt in Luzon are reviewed in detail in the latest official report of Gen. Otis, which covers correspondence and operations to April 6th. After reading this candid and business-like statement, which is entirely calm in tone and fairly presents the whole case, every American who cares for his country will say that no war in which this nation ever engaged was more righteous and necessary than that with the armed Tagals of Luzon. Running through the correspondence is Aguinaldo's demand for independence, and this, even to the present moment, has never been modified. Early in January Gen. Otis appointed commissioners to confer with Aguinaldo as an individual, informing him then, as always, that he (Otis) had no authority to "recognize any national or civil power not already formally recognized by my government unless specially authorized to do so by the instruction of the executive of the United States." The insurgent commissioners declined to present any formulated statement of what they wanted, beyond the verbal paradox that they desired "absolute independence under the protection of the United States." They were asked to describe the nature and scope of the protection referred to, but could not explain, as might be supposed, because a protectorate over an absolutely independent state resolves itself into an absurdity.

In a letter dated January 9th Gen. Otis reminded Aguinaldo that the treaty was pending in the senate, and that the president could not announce a policy until action on the treaty was completed. The policy, he added, must conform to the will of the American people, as expressed through congress. "The Filipinos," wrote Gen. Otis, "appear to be of the opinion that we meditate attack, while I am under the strict orders of the president of the United States to avoid conflict in every way possible. There shall be no conflict if I am able to avoid it; and still I shall endeavor to maintain a position to meet all emergencies." In a letter of the same date to Gen. Otis, Aguinaldo spoke of "my government" and the assertion of independence is found in all his letters and proclamations. Later in January the native outposts became insulting and arrested some American soldiers and a newspaper correspondent inside our own lines. The Tagals insisted on extending and straightening their trenches, declaring openly that they intended to drive the Americans out of the Philippines.

Each day of forbearance on the part of the Americans made the Tagals more aggressive and eager to begin the bloodshed. Finally, they ignored the challenge of one of our small outposts, and the firing at once became general. Gen. Otis makes it

clear that hostilities were not provoked by his army. That is self-evident. If Aguinaldo had not been resolved to fight he would not have formed his lines within gunshot of ours. When two armies holding antagonistic views get as near as that a collision is certain. Something will inevitably happen to bring on a battle. Gen. Otis refers to the plot in Manila to aid Aguinaldo. It seems that 8000 men in the city were banded to rise at the critical moment. The conspiracy was defeated by the precautions taken, but under less able management it might have resulted in a frightful general massacre. All through the revolt the Tagals, with the cunning of serpents, have avoided an explicit statement of what they want. They have not asked, in so many words, that we tear up the treaty and sail away, on pain of forcible expulsion, but that is what they demand. It would not look well formally expressed, so they have undertaken to carry the program through without setting before the world its full insolence and crudity in attempted usurpation.

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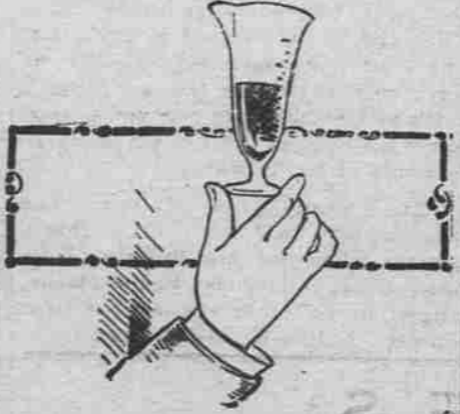
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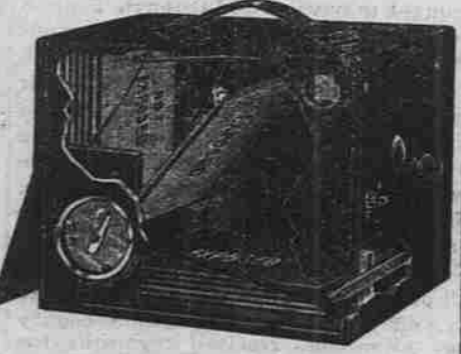
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