THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines are essentially and naturally a native land, and in every sense except of complexion and race, a part of the Western world. In fact, the word "native" means "original inhabitant," and in referring to a person of native birth, the word signifies simply that he is descended from the people who inhabited the country at the time of its discovery by the Spanish. The term "native" is applied to all the inhabitants, whether they are of Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, American, or any other race.

The inhabitants present a striking contrast, some being as dark as the natives of the islands of the South Sea, and others as fair as the inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific.

The majority of the inhabitants are Catholics, and the government is a constitutional monarchy. The capital is Manila, and the official language is Spanish.

The climate is tropical, with a temperature ranging from 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, and a humidity of 75 to 90 per cent. The rainfall is abundant, and the country is well watered.

The chief exports of the Philippines are sugar, tobacco, coconuts, and hides. The chief imports are machinery, cotton goods, and other manufactured articles.

The population is about 11,000,000, and the country is divided into 76 provinces and 1,000 municipalities.

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