

# THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION

## Summary of Its Investigations in the Islands.

### EMPTY CLAIMS OF FILIPINOS

#### Dewey Made No Promises to Aguinaldo

A History of Events That Preceded the Spanish War.

Washington, Nov. 4.—In accordance with the understanding reached at the conference at the White House yesterday, the Philippine commission submitted to the president the preliminary report which it had promised to prepare.

The report appears to be a compact summary of conditions on the islands as the commission left them; of the historical events which preceded the Spanish war and led to the original Filipino insurrection; of the exchanges between Admiral Dewey and the other American commanders and the insurgents, the breaking out and progress of the present insurrection, and finally a statement of the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government. A notable feature of the report is a memorandum by Admiral Dewey, explanatory of his relations with Aguinaldo.

The commission tells briefly how it conducted the task entrusted to it, bearing statements from all classes of people in Manila as to the capability of the Filipinos for self-government, the habits and customs of the people, and also the establishment of municipal governments in many towns. All this matter is to be included in the final report.

#### History of the Islands.

Turning to the history of the islands, the commission attaches a little importance to the divers rebellions which had preceded that of 1896. As to this movement, it declares it was in no sense an attempt to win independence, but solely to obtain relief from intolerable abuses. To sustain this statement the commission quotes from an insurgent proclamation showing that what was demanded was the expulsion of the friars and the restitution to the people of their lands, with a division of the Episcopal sees between Spanish and native priests. It was also demanded that the Filipinos have parliamentary representation, freedom of the press, religious toleration, economic autonomy and laws similar to those of Spain. The abolition of the power of banishment was demanded, with a legal equality for all persons in law and equality in pay between Spanish and native civil servants.

The commission declares that these demands had good ground; that on paper the Spanish system of government was tolerable, but in practice every Spanish governor did what he saw fit, and the evil deeds of men in the government were hidden from Spain by strict press censorship. Allusion is made to the powerful Katipunan society, patterned on the Masonic order, and mainly made up of Tagals, as a powerful revolutionary force.

The war began in 1896 was terminated by the treaty of Biac-Na-Bato. The Filipinos were numerous, but possessed only about 800 small arms. The Spanish felt that it would require 100,000 men to capture their stronghold, and concluded to resort to the use of force.

The arrangement was not acceptable to the people. The promises were never carried out. Spanish abuses became fresh, in Manila alone more than 200 men being executed. Hence sporadic revolutions occurred, though they possessed nothing like the strength of the original movement. The insurgents lacked arms, ammunition and leaders. The treaty had ended the war, which, with the exception of an important outbreak in Cebu, had been confined to Luzon, Spain's sovereignty in the islands never having been questioned and the thought of independence never having been entertained.

The report then tells how General Augustini came to Manila as governor-general at this juncture, and war broke out between Spain and the United States. Augustini sought to secure the support of the Filipinos to defend Spain against America, promising them autonomy, but the Filipinos did not trust him. Then came the first of May and the destruction of the Spanish fleet by Dewey, with the resulting loss of prestige to Spain. Then in June, Aguinaldo came.

#### Relations With Aguinaldo.

On this point the commission says: "The following memorandum on this subject has been furnished the commission by Admiral Dewey:

"Memorandum of relations with Aguinaldo: On April 24, 1898, the following cipher dispatch was received from Hong Kong from E. Spencer Pratt, United States consul-general at Singa-

"Aguinaldo, insurgent leader, will come to Hong Kong, arrange with commodore for general cooperation insurgents Manila if desired. PRATT."

"On the same day Commodore Dewey telegraphed Mr. Pratt: 'Tell Aguinaldo come soon as possible.' The

necessity for haste being due to the fact that the squadron had been notified by the Hong Kong government to leave those waters by the following day. The squadron left Hong Kong on the morning of the 25th, and Mirs bay on the 27th. Aguinaldo did not leave Singapore until the 26th, and so did not arrive in Hong Kong in time to have a conference with the commodore."

"It had been reported to the commodore as early as March 1 by the United States consul at Manila and others, that the Filipinos had broken out in insurrection against the Spanish authority in the vicinity of Manila, and on March 30 Mr. Williams had telegraphed: 'Five thousand rebels armed in camp near city. Loyal to us in case of war.'"

Upon the arrival of the squadron at Manila it was found there was no insurrection to speak of, and it was accordingly decided to allow Aguinaldo to come to Cavite on board the McCulloch. He arrived, with 13 of his staff, on May 19, and immediately came on board the Olympia to call on the commander-in-chief, after which he was allowed to land at Cavite and organize an army. This was done with the purpose of strengthening the United States forces and weakening those of the enemy. No alliance of any kind was entered into with Aguinaldo, nor was any promise of independence made to him, then or at any other time."

#### First Idea of Independence.

The commission's report then rapidly sketches events now historical. It tells in substance how the Filipinos attacked the Spanish, and how General Anderson arrived, and Aguinaldo, at his request, removed from Cavite to Bacoor.

The report states that Aguinaldo wished to attack the Americans when they landed at Paranaque, but was deterred by lack of arms and ammunition. From that point on there was a growing friction between the Filipinos and the American troops.

A brief chapter tells of the lack of success attending the effort made at this time by General Merritt, through a commission, to arrive at a mutual understanding with Aguinaldo as to the intention, purposes and desires of the Filipino people.

#### The Outbreak.

This brings the story up to the outbreak on the evening of February 4, with the attack upon the American troops following the action of the Nebraska sentinel. The commission, in concluding this chapter, says:

"After the landing of our troops, Aguinaldo made up his mind that it would be necessary to fight the Americans, and after the making of the treaty of peace at Paris his determination was strengthened. He did not only openly declare that he intended to fight the Americans, but he excited everybody, and especially the military, by claiming independence, and it is doubtful whether he had the power to check or control the army at the time hostilities broke out. Deplorable as war is, the one in which we are now engaged was unavoidable. We were attacked by bold, adventurous and enthusiastic army. No alternative was left to us except ignominious retreat."

"It is not to be conceived that any American had sanctioned the surrender of Manila to the insurgents. Our obligations to other nations and to the friendly Filipinos and to ourselves and our flag demanded that force should be met with force. Whatever the future of the Philippines may be, there is no course open to us now except the prosecution of the war until the insurgents are reduced to submission. The commission is of the opinion that there has been no time since the destruction of the Spanish squadron by Admiral Dewey when it was possible to withdraw our forces from the islands, either with honor to ourselves or with safety to the inhabitants."

"Should our power, by any fatality, be withdrawn the commission believes the government of the Philippines would speedily lapse into anarchy, which would excuse, if it did not necessitate, the intervention of other powers, and the eventual division of the islands among them. Only through American occupation, therefore, is the idea of a free government and united Philippine commonwealth at all conceivable."

#### GOVERNOR GEER PROCLAIMS

November 30 a Day of Thanksgiving—Things to Be Thankful For.

Salem, Nov. 3.—Governor Geer today proclaimed November 30 a day of general thanksgiving. The proclamation among other things contains the following:

"The year just drawing to a close has been one of general happiness and contentment. The earth has given forth abundance of its products, for which in all cases better compensation has been received than in former years. Our laboring classes are more generally employed at wages more nearly satisfactory than at any previous time for a generation."

"The mandates of spreading civilization are calling upon us as a great nation, to carry forward the banner of progress and enlightenment, and the task is being performed with willing and enthusiastic aid that do credit to our recognition of duty that we could not shirk if we would and would not if we could."

## MINES AND MINING.

### Copper Properties Around White Horse Are to Be Developed.

It was reported in Skagway recently by J. Almer McCormick that the extensive copper properties around White Horse have passed from the hands of Porter & Co., the original owners, to the British-American corporation. It is understood that Porter and his associates could not secure a charter for the properties, and that the British-American company got them under twenty different grants, and the properties are all now merged into one. The British-American corporation is one of the heaviest mining concerns operating on the coast. Last winter it purchased the famous Le Roi quartz mines of the Rossland, B. C., district, and not long ago acquired extensive hydraulic interests in the Atlin country. It is generally believed that if this company has actually secured the White Horse properties they will at once determine their value, and satisfactory results will be quickly followed by mills and smelters.

### Nelson Mining.

Recently the Hall mines, of Nelson, B. C., closed a contract for a new steel wire tramway rope 50,000 feet in length. This rope is of a high grade steel, and has a breaking strain of nearly 70 tons, and weighs about 35 tons. It is to replace the old cable, and will be specially manufactured for the work, and is the fourth cable used at the mine, each cable lasting an average of a year.

The Venus group of mines is employing 13 men. The tunnel is in about 200 feet and gives a depth of about 75 feet on the vein. At present the ledge maintains an average width of two and one-half feet. Assays upon the ore average \$60 to the ton.

The monthly report of the superintendent of the Exchequer mine shows a list of separate assays made during the month. They are for gold only and the list reads: \$77.72, \$99.22, \$86.81, \$30.59, \$68.21, \$83.11 and \$25.22.

### Atlin Is Growing.

Men returning from Atlin report the town to be assuming a more permanent aspect. A number of good frame buildings are being erected, among them a three-story structure for the Bank of Halifax. The Bank of British North America is also putting up a new home for itself, and buildings are being erected by McLean & McFeley, the Parsons Produce Company, Thomas Dunn, hardware dealer, and Fortin & LeCapelein, druggists.

### Deserting Dawson for Nome.

F. H. Vining, who arrived from Dawson, says the people of that city are far more excited over Cape Nome than are the citizens of Skagway, and it is believed there that Dawson will be crowded with people before spring ready to hurry to Nome as soon as the ice goes out of the Yukon. He continues: "It is believed that by going by the way of the Yukon river Nome will be reached two weeks earlier than by the ocean route."

### Will Add Copper Output.

Another mining tributary to Juneau will be opened in the spring, and this will add copper to Juneau's output to the wealth of the world. The Rainy Hollow district on the Dalton trail, 12 miles from Pleasant camp, and 60 miles from Pyramid harbor, will be the scene of considerable activity in the spring.

### Mining Notes.

The company of capitalists who recently bonded the Bonanza Queen group of nine mines, in the Silverton district, for \$150,000, are not of the average Eastern people looking for a safe investment. On the contrary, they are all old mining men, who for years have made the buying and developing of mines their business. They are: Messrs. Metcalfe, Shaw and Gallagher, from Montana. Their names are familiar to many of the best camps in the West, and their connection with Washington mines cannot but fail to give the properties added standing in the far East. This is the class of men needed here and every mining man tenders them a hearty welcome.

A strike of real importance has been made in the San Poil. A week ago a stringer of ore was encountered in the south drift in the lower level and this at once led into a fine body of pay ore. Thursday afternoon the clean ore was five feet wide and had every appearance of permanency. This last strike, it is claimed, puts the San Poil in fine shape as a producer. A rumor is extant that this property is about to change hands.

Another rich gold find is reported near Baker City, Oregon. The rich pay ore is an 18-inch vein, in which are found cubes of free gold. Six inches of the lead is phenomenal in the amount of free gold it contains. The lead is in the Pochontas Belle and the owners are two old Cripple Creekers, Charles Buzzard and Tom Rinehart.

Among outside improvements, states the Baker City Democrat, the Ibox people are constructing an underground water ditch to carry water 2,700 feet to the mine's hoisting machine and boarding-house. An ample supply of water will be conveyed in covered boxes. A gentleman says there is a foot of snow at the mine.

### Missourian's Contempt for a Surf Bath.

A Missourian at Manhattan beach looked with contempt at the men lolling in the sand. "Shucks," said he, "they think they are having fun. Have to come ashore to get in the sand. They ought to live in old Missouri, on the river. You get the sand and water mixed there. Sometimes a man gets more sand than water and has to go home and be washed off. Them mud baths in the northwest that you hear so much about ain't in it with a wash in the old Missouri."

### Thorite, the New Explosive.

Distinguished itself by passing through a 4½ inch steel plate. If its success continues, it will make as great a record in the military world as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in the medical world. Nothing has appeared which can equal this wonderful medicine for all diseases of the stomach, liver or kidneys.

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The recent raise of 20 per cent of the wages of the employes of the Atlantic (Ga.) Railway & Power Company, without solicitation, is commendable.

### \$100 REWARD \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

### A Burglary Story.

They were telling "burglary stories" on the veranda in front of the grocery store in a down-east town. "The man's hand was thrust through the hole he had cut in the door," said the star talker, "when the woman seized the wrist and held on in spite of the struggles of the man outside. In the morning the burglar was found dead, having cut his own throat when he found escape impossible; but the brave woman had not known he was dead, and so had not released her grasp on his wrist all night long." "Huh!" growled the skeptic in the corner; "why didn't she feel of his pulse?"—Buffalo Commercial.

The National Consumers' League have adopted a label to distinguish ladies' garments which are made in sweatshops or under unfair conditions as to wages and hours. It is not a rival of the regular trades union label, but will be used on goods produced by working men and women who get just treatment from employers, even if they do not belong to labor organizations.

The Walter Steel Company's plant in Reading has been absorbed by the Walter Steel Company of Jersey City, N. J., recently organized with a capital of \$100,000.

The agricultural department, Washington, D. C., has a machine for taking continuous photographs of growing plants. It works automatically, taking a picture each hour, and during the night an electric light is thrown into circuit as the exposures are made.

### "Duly Feed Man and Steed."

Feed your nerves, also, on pure blood if you would have them strong. Men and women who are nervous are so because their nerves are starved. When they make their blood rich and pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla their nervousness disappears because the nerves are properly fed.

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"HERBERT M. FISH," Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of November, 1895. LLOYD O. WOODRUFF, Notary Public. —From the Eagle, Cape Vincent, N. Y.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are never sold by the dozen or hundred, but always in packages. At all druggists, or direct from the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., 50 cents per box, 6 boxes \$2.50.

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## PHOTO

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