



FILIPINOS CAN'T GET INDEPENDENCE

In the opinion of Capt. H. L. Heath, former McMillanville man, who is now president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Manila and who is spending some time touring the United States, the propaganda for independence of the Philippines will come to ultimate failure. Capt. Heath, who participated in Philippine campaigns during the Spanish-American war and the incidents following occupation of the Americans with an Oregon regiment, spent Tuesday here with his old comrade, T. S. Kelly. The two motored to Mt. Hood, where Capt. Heath called on O. M. DeWitt, former sergeant in the company he commanded in the regiment. On the way back to the city they visited the Dee Flat ranch of John R. Edgar, who for 17 years was engaged in business in Manila, and family.

Capt. Heath, who declares that he expounds the only sound American viewpoint of the situation in the Philippines, cited that in the Treaty of Paris, following the Spanish-American war, Spain ceded the Philippines, Porto Rico and Guam, while she merely relinquished her sovereignty over Cuba, which, it was understood, should gain independence at such time as conditions warranted. "A lot of misinformation has been spread through the United States," said Capt. Heath, "by paid propagandists of the Philippine Islands, who are keeping the question alive as a political asset to themselves, to the effect that congress can grant the islands their independence. This is erroneous. The Philippine Islands were ceded to the sovereign power of the United States. What is this sovereign power? It does not rest in congress or in any other body. We have acquired the Philippine Islands just as we did New Mexico and California. There was no difference in our acquisition of Alaska and Florida and Louisiana, other than the latter territory was ceded on purchase instead of a result of a trial by arms. There are just two ways in which we can get rid of the Philippines. We can amend our constitution or we can be kicked by some foreign power and be forced to cede it as a result of such kicking.

"It is true that congress has the power of adopting any laws that may seem justified in the jurisdiction of affairs in the islands but the American flag can never come down. The Philippine Islands do not belong to the people of the Philippines any more than Oregon does to the Umatilla or Cayuse Indians. "Philippine politicians in order to gain for themselves political prestige have been at work spreading propaganda to defeat this sound American doctrine. We are going to have chaotic conditions in the islands until congress by some authoritative action lets it be thoroughly understood both in America and in the Philippines themselves that America cannot give the Filipinos their independence."

Capt. Heath cited that Manila at the present time, because of the disruption created through racial prejudice stirred up by the island politicians, is making less progress than any of the large cities of the Orient. American capital and that of other nations, he said, is flowing into regions under the stable government of Holland. He cited that Shanghai and Hong Kong are making marvelous growth. "There is no reason why," said Capt. Heath, "millions and millions of American capital should not be invested in the development of the great natural resources of the Philippines in the next 20 years if steps are taken to firmly establish in the minds of all concerned that American sovereignty, that of the American people, is there to stay.

Capt. Heath cited that at the present time the Philippine situation is chaotic as a result of the complacent attitude of Gov. Gen. Harrison, appointed by President Wilson. Gov. Gen. Harrison appointed a council of state of seven members, he and the vice governor being the only two Americans. The Philippine legislative bodies then adopted laws providing for this body to put into execution the laws of the land. Capt. Heath declared that this action was illegal, but Harrison allowed it to proceed. When Gov. Gen. Wood succeeded the Wilson appointee, he was asked to abrogate the rule. While he has the power, according to Capt. Heath, he has declined to do so on the ground that it will revoke a whole list of laws adopted by the Philippine legislative bodies. The president of the United States, too, has declined to require the abrogation of the rule of the council of state, with the result that chaos exists.

Capt. Heath cited that the average American citizen thinks of the Philippine Islands as some far away country which does not concern him in the least. He said that only a comprehensive idea be gained when the story was told in the terms of a cake of soap, a strand of binder twine, a box of apples or a bag of flour. "It requires the product of 3,000 acres of orchards to supply the Philippines with apples," said Capt. Heath. "The flour of 200,000 acres of wheat land are needed for the bread of the islands. Island vegetable oils make your soap. You pay the wages of the native who harvests the coconuts on some plantation. Your wheat raisers pay the wages of the hemp farm laborers. You have often heard that we are not a colonial nation, that we are not expansionists. Who has started that thought? It is somebody who doesn't want you to be a colonizing government. I have just been across the United States twice by automobile. My observations have led me to believe the United States the greatest colonizing nation on the globe."

Capt. Heath said peace will prevail in the far east as long as the United States maintains the key situation in the Philippines. The instant she withdraws, he said, war will come, and quickly. "If the United States leaves the islands," he said, "we may expect Japan to take them. That will give them an unbroken link of two chains, hemming in the great Orient, with the exception of our small station at Guam. Once this happens, we will have to go back and take the Philippines and we will have to fight to get them. England and Holland and America are able to maintain peace in the Orient. Let the United States drop out and the other two nations will not have the strength to keep down Japanese aggression."

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