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F. A. Gallagley, Manager, Nyssa Yard

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SOME FACTS AND FANCIES ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

There Has Been Much Misrepresentation in America About People and Conditions.

By MAXIMO M. KALAW,
Secretary of the Philippine Mission.



A certain lady at the St. Louis Exposition saw at a ballroom a brown complexioned man in faultless evening dress and accosted him with the inquiry, "I suppose you are Japanese, sir?" The man addressed replied, "No, madam." "Then you must be Chinese," she said. "No, I am not. I am a Filipino," he replied. "How's that?" asked the lady. "I thought they were all savages living in the woods."

"Well, I'll tell you how I came here," he said. "A month before I left the Philippines I was living in the woods, but the American Governor decided to catch as many wild men as possible, train them and send them over here. So here I am, just as you see." And the St. Louis lady actually believed him.

That is what you would call fancies about the Philippines. The fact is, however, that the 11,000,000 Filipinos and their ancestors have been civilized and Christians for 300 years; that the non-Christian population, according to the census of 1918, is only 500,000, and even these are not all uncivilized.

Another fancy is that not until the coming of the Americans were school buildings seen in the Islands, roads built, or substantial houses erected. Do you know that for hundreds of years the Filipinos have had colleges and schools and that the University of Santo Tomas is only twenty-five years older than Harvard? That as early as 1806, out of a population of 4,000,000 people, there were 84 schools for boys and 833 for girls? That in 1892, eight years before the coming of the Americans, there were 2,137 schools?

"To grant self-government to Luzon under Aguinaldo would be like granting self-government to an Apache reservation under some local chief." Thus spoke a former President of the United States during the Filipino-American war. Exaggeration could be an excuse at a time when the dignity of the American people demanded the extinction of Filipino opposition, but do you know that the Philippine Republic, before the American occupation of the Islands, had the approval of prominent Americans who were on the spot—like John Barrett, Director of the Pan-American Union, who compared it favorably with the Japanese government? That Admiral Dewey considered the Filipinos better fitted for self-government than the Cubans? That they had drafted a constitution at Malolos which elicited the approval of distinguished Republicans like the late Senator George F. Hoar? That before the coming of the Americans they had produced national heroes like the martyred Jose Rizal, pronounced by a Republican congressman, Representative Cooper, as the noblest victim that has ever fallen into the clutches of tyranny?

And do you know that the Filipinos have not had for hundreds of years any caste system, blood distinction or royal families, and that, unlike their oriental sisters, they are the only Christian people in the orient?

People have pictured an ignorant mass of Filipinos, illiterate, poor, living a life of servitude for a few wealthy land owners and foreigners, with no houses or farms or property of their own. Do you know that 70 per cent. of the people above ten years of age can read and write and that this percentage of literacy is almost as high as some of the states of the Union? That it is higher than in any country of South America, higher than the literacy of the Spanish people, and unquestionably above that of any of the new countries recognized in Europe? Do you know that there are a million and a half farms in the Philippines and that 90 per cent. of these farms are owned by Filipinos. In other words, that out of the 11,000,000 Christian Filipinos, 8,000,000 of them at least live on their own farms, with houses of their own, independent of any absentee landlord or foreign master? That 91 per cent. of the urban property consisting of houses and lands is owned by the natives of the Philippines, and only 9 per cent. is in the hands of foreigners? Yet these are facts cabled by Acting Governor Charles Emmett Yeater to the War Department from the recent census estimates.

Having solemnly promised the Filipinos their independence and having gone before the world as the champion of self-determination, the Filipino people cannot understand how America can consistently refuse to make good these promises.

CLIMATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Islands have a mildly tropical climate. The nights are cool and sunstrokes are unknown. The temperature record for the past thirty years shows an average of 80 degrees.

IF YOU think furniture is high in Ontario get Montgomery Ward Catalogue No. 92 and Sears Roebuck Catalogue No 140 and compare prices.

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HOW TO FIND COUNTY AGENT

Monday, Vale.
Tuesday, 1st, Adrian, 2nd, Brogan, 3rd, Harper.
Wednesday, 1st, Nyssa, 2nd, Cowley, 3rd, Nyssa, 4th, Creston.
Thursday, 1st, Oregon Slope, 3rd, Liverdale 4th, Jordan Valley, Friday, 1st, President Hickox, Ontario.
Saturday, Ontario.
If you forget the dates, the chairman of your community bureau will have an itinerary and can tell you when and where to find the county agricultural agent.

FARMERS ATTENTION

Seed Grain recleaned at the mill or 10c per hundred pounds.
Chopping feed, 10c per hundred pounds.
Feed Barley chopped and soaked or 100 pounds \$3.50.
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Chopped Corn per 100 pounds \$3.30 or 100 pounds \$3.15.
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Seed Wheat, Bluestem, cleaned and ready to sow, per 100 pounds, \$4.50.
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