

The Philippines Look to the Future



A recent air view of Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands. Shown in the insets are President Manuel Quezon, making his inaugural address, and a peasant girl, typical of the agricultural regions.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY
INDEPENDENCE of the Philippines was not assured when President Roosevelt signed the new Islands' constitution, prepared under the Tydings-McDuffie act, and turned it over to a committee of islanders last spring. Although the act, justly welcomed by Filipinos as the achievement of victory in their never-ending campaign for independence, provides that all bonds between the United States and the tropical possessions in the south Pacific shall be severed once and for all on July 4, 1946, after the islands have had ten years of practice in governing themselves, the feeling is growing that before those ten years have passed the Philippines will be ready, even anxious, to amend the agreement into something which will leave them more certain safety from dangers which are becoming more apparent day by day.

Indeed, since the return of Vice President Garner and the large delegation of senators and congressmen who visited the islands to attend the inauguration of President Manuel Quezon, one question which has constantly presented itself to them is: Do the Filipinos actually want independence?

And the answer seems to be: Yes—and no. The desire of the "common tao"—the picker of coconuts, the worker on the sugar plantations, the laborer of the rice fields—is, as it has been for decades—INDEPENDENCE! "Independence" is set in capitals and followed by an exclamation point because to the Filipino of that level it is a cry, a political slogan, taught to him for many years by the politicians of Manila. It is a catchword that represents to him democracy, freedom in a vague sense that it is something a little better than the poor lot he has now. It never occurs to him that independence is possibly the thing that will prevent his enjoying "freedom" in the centuries to come.

For grave dangers confront an independent Philippine commonwealth that could easily destroy the very liberty the common tao associates with independence. They are both political and economic, both internal and external.

Fear Japanese Invasion.
The most imminent danger, as the average American sees it, is the menace of expanding Japanese imperialism in the Far East, ready to grab what it can in its need for room for a swelling population and for raw materials to feed its growing and efficient industries. The Philippines are 10,000 miles from the capital of the United States, but only 300 miles from Asia.

Most serious of the problems to the Filipino is the economic collapse that threatens when free trade with the United States is cut off. The Tydings-McDuffie act provides that in the fifth year of the ten-year period before complete independence is granted, Philippine export products will have to bear a 5 per cent duty, which will be graduated each year until it becomes 25 per cent in the tenth year. Since 80 per cent of Philippine exports now go to the United States, the dwindling of the American market will begin to be felt in five years. There are plenty of reliable economists who hold that the economic breakdown will come before 1945, unless the act is amended.

Nor are these the only problems. Certain acts of the new government, most recently the curtailment by President Quezon of the powers of the speaker of the assembly, have been pointed to by many as indications of impending dictatorship. The recent passage of a bill which would appropriate one-third of all the money available for appropriation to the building and maintenance of an army of 19,000, with a 500,000 reserve, has been hailed in some quarters as a step toward military fascism, especially since the reserve army will require compulsory military training of all

citizens. Further danger to the existing government is seen coming from the fields far beyond the cities, in the form of uprisings of the agrarian population, which has been reduced to a pitiable peonage, and which may find itself unable to secure a living if the principal market for Philippine raw products is destroyed. Most disastrous revolutions begin not in empty heads, but in empty stomachs.

First of the problems to be discussed officially in the United States will be the economic one, for President Roosevelt is expected to call a trade conference some time this year. Something may be done at that time to effect a revision of the tariff schedule which may be more favorable toward the islands.

As it is, various estimates have it that the first duty to be imposed—only 5 per cent—will wipe out from 37 to 63 per cent of the four-fifths of all Philippine exports which go to the United States.

Take sugar, for instance. Under the Jones-Costigan act, the islands' sugar quota is 1,045,000 short tons, and it enables the industry to make a good profit. But sugar exporters are loud in their insistence that with even a 5 per cent tax they cannot compete with Cuban sugar in the American market.

Our Own Trade Suffers.
The rule works both ways, too. The Philippines buy 30 per cent of all textiles exported by the United States. If tariff walls prevent the export of Philippine goods to America, it is hardly to be expected that the islands will protect our textile exports. All of the business will go to Japan. Japan has made terrific inroads on our textile business; in 1932 we sold 81 per cent of the textiles imported by the islands; in 1933, 74 per cent; in 1934, 43 per cent, and in late 1935 only 23 per cent. There is no doubt that the Philippine government would set up tariff barriers against textiles and other goods imported from foreign countries, if we were willing to make equivalent concessions. It must be remembered that we also sell the islands dairy products, canned fish, wheat flour and manufactured products—in fact, the Philippines are our ninth best customer. Under the Tydings-McDuffie act we stand to lose virtually all of that trade.

Many of the Philippine raw materials which now come into the United States duty free are profitable to this country, for they must be processed here, and therefore keep many industries going. Philippine sugar is refined here; copra is pressed into coconut oil; cigars are taxed and distributed; hemp fiber is made into rope and twine and distributed.

Source of War Needs.
One of the most important sources of war materials is the Philippines. Copra furnishes coconut oil to make the glycerine that goes into high explosives, and the shell makes fine charcoal that is necessary in gas masks. Hardwood and hemp are necessities in building and maintaining a navy. The islands also have plenty of good iron, chromite and manganese. It is inevitable that in a war in the Pacific, Japan would seize the islands in no time if they were independent of the United States.

There are many able students of Philippine affairs who will have you believe that Japan is already taking over the islands, anyway, although in the peaceable ways of commerce and industrial development instead of military tactics. Be that as it may, there are still only about 25,000 Japanese in the islands, at the most, out of a total population of 13,055,220; there are approximately 71,000 Chinese, 7,700 Americans and 5,400 Spaniards. Japanese make up only .00151 per cent of the total population of the Philippines; yet in Hawaii, where there is far less walling about them, Japanese outnumber any other nationality.

Some 65 per cent of the Japanese in the archipelago live in a colony in the province of Davao on the island of Mindanao, where they dominate the growing of abaca, from which hemp is produced. There superior efficiency

and industry are rapidly taking advantage of the richest soil of the islands to assume the leadership of the hemp industry, which the Philippines alone possess.

The Japanese have improved roads in the hemp country, introduced mass-production methods, and installed machinery to strip the hemp fiber from the trunk of the abaca plant. They have introduced co-operative marketing direct to the shipper. Contrast this with the Filipino native who chops down a plant, carries home the trunk and strips off the fiber by hand—a back-breaking job, dries it in the sun, shares it with his landlord and gets a poor price for what is left, and it is easy to see why the Japanese colony controls 25 per cent of the total hemp production.

Japs Control Retail Trades.
The same superior business methods have enabled the Japanese to corner a large and ever-increasing share of the retail trade in the cities of the archipelago. One estimate, probably high, puts 40 per cent of all the retail business of the islands under Japanese control, with Americans and Filipinos holding 35 per cent and the Chinese 25 per cent or less.

Inability to compete with Japanese industry is but one of the things that has made of the Filipino farmer a peon. Another is the evil of the apportionment of land. Much of the land in the islands consists of a few great units held by the Roman Catholic church, which refuses to sell it, and by a handful of wealthy Filipinos.

For this reason, a large share of the farmers are tenants, share-croppers who have no opportunity to acquire their own land, and are often exploited by the land owners. Even the Filipino who does own the small strip of land he works is often a share-cropper. He obtains seed loans at the almost unbelievable interest rates of 10 to 20 per cent, compounded every month, and by the time he has repaid enough in crops to cover his debt he is lucky to have enough to provide for himself and his family.

Political campaigns have taught this peon to believe that the answer to the ills from which he suffers is independence, and his hot desires for his rights have often provoked him to actual acts against the government in Manila. An example was last May's uprising of many thousands of Sakdal peasants in the areas where landlordism exerts its tightest grip. They marched upon the capital city and formed a ring around it, and they were dispersed only after 60 of them had been killed.

Build Army for Defense.
Undoubtedly one of the reasons for the large army the Quezon government is building is the danger of further agrarian uprisings. However, the chief reason is the need for defense of the islands against invasion. It is admitted that an army of 19,000, with 500,000 reserves, would not be sufficient to save the islands from conquest by one of the major powers, but Quezon points out that it is a big enough army to make such a conquest so expensive that it would not be worth the trouble.

The army is going to be so expensive that it might seriously embarrass the government financially. The \$8,000,000 annually required to support it (a figure which would be rock bottom) is one-fourth the total national income. Since the army is to be created under the direction of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, former chief of staff of the United States army, it may be expected to function efficiently, however.

As it has been pointed out, there is much ground for the contention that the Philippines actually do not want independence because they don't know what independence means. When and if the Philippine people decide that they had better not give up the protecting wing of the United States for their dream of independence, the problem resolves itself into this: Do we want the islands back? That will be determined perhaps not so much by our desire to retain our ninth largest customer abroad as by our general Far Eastern policy.

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Many Have Achieved Fame While in Their Twenties

Records of World's Notables Are Encouragement to Today's Youth.

Ambitious youth seeking to find their places early in life in a maladjusted world will find encouragement if they will take a look into the pages of history. E. B. DeGroot, California Boy Scout executive, in the Rotarian Magazine tells of a few of the young men and women who have "done big things."

William Pitt, Mr. DeGroot cites as his first example, filled the responsible post of chancellor of the exchequer at twenty-three and served as prime minister of Great Britain at twenty-four. George Washington was only twenty-three when he led the Virginia troops against the Indians and French. Abraham Lincoln campaigned for public office at twenty-four. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote "Treasure Island" at twenty-three. Galois at nineteen proved that equations higher than the fifth order could not be solved algebraically, and thereby advanced the theory of groups for the solution of higher equations.

Westinghouse invented the air brake at twenty-three. Alexander the Great conquered and ruled the world before he was thirty. Sir Isaac Newton at twenty-four formulated the law of gravitation. Whitney was not more than twenty-nine when he invented the cotton gin. Charles Dickens wrote "Oliver Twist" at twenty-five. Napoleon at twenty-seven was in command of the Italian army. Patrick Henry was but twenty-seven when he made his conquering and historic speech against the Stamp act. Thomas Edison was not far above the Youth Service age level designated by Rotary (twenty-four years), when he astounded and benefited mankind with many of his inventions.

Paul Siple, an Eagle Scout, was only twenty when he qualified for

an important post on the first expedition of Admiral Byrd to the Antarctic regions, and he was chief biologist on the second Byrd expedition. The average age of the members of America's Continental congress was thirty-five. Two of its members, at least, were under thirty—Edward Rutledge, twenty-five, and John Jay, twenty-nine.

Lindbergh immortalized himself at twenty-five; moreover the best out of 500 poems on the Lindbergh flight across the Atlantic in 1927 was written by Nathalia Crane, a fourteen-year-old girl of Brooklyn, N. Y. And so on, almost without end could we record the achievements and services of youth in the fields of statesmanship, literature, science, education, invention and courage.—Kansas City Times.

Pension Plan for Employees Announced by Wrigley Co.

Recognizing the advantage and fairness of social security to workers and being in favor of an old age pension plan, the Wm. Wrigley Jr. company, has announced a pension plan, for its employees, effective at once. More than 1,300 employees are affected by the move.

Under the Wrigley plan the company and employees contribute for future service pension on a fifty-fifty basis. The plan provides for employees to be retired at the age of sixty-five.

A Mystery
Why would the average man rather be charged with malice than with making a blunder?

WONDERFUL FOR THESE SKIN BLEMISHES
Wonderful, thousands say, how the soothing penetration of CUTICURA Soap and Ointment helps banish ugly skin irritations due to external causes. Wonderful, how this mildly medicated Soap cleanses and soothes—how the Ointment relieves and helps heal! Wonderful, you'll agree, as even the first application aids and comforts.

CUTICURA SOAP AND OINTMENT

Album Contains Signature of Nearly Every Famed One

The signature of virtually every famous person in the world today has been recorded in at least one autograph album.

A recently completed collection of signatures, acquired by its owner through 25 years of travel and at a cost of \$50,000, contains every one of the 30,000 autographs that he wanted, including those of kings, presidents and dictators, with the one exception of Pope Pius XI.—Collier's.

Head COLDS
Put Mentholatum in the nostrils to relieve irritation and promote clear breathing.
MENTHOLATUM
Gives COMFORT Daily

Break up that COLD
Perhaps the surest way to prevent a cold from "catching hold" and getting worse is at once, to Cleanse Inter-nally. Do it the pleasant tea-cup way. Flush the system with a hot cup of Garfield GARFIELD TEA. It's the mild, easy-to-take liquid laxative. At drug-stores.

DICK GETS A NEW PARTNER

WHAT? RETURN THAT DRESS? I SHOULD SAY NOT! THINK WERE IN BUSINESS FOR FUN?

TELL HER YOU'LL BET SHE'S WORN IT! A DOZEN TIMES! AND ASK HER HOW ABOUT PAYING HER BILL!

JOHN, WE'VE SUNK EVERY PENNY WE HAD IN THIS STORE! AND NOW YOU'RE SO IRRITABLE YOU'RE DRIVING CUSTOMERS AWAY!

OH, YEAH? THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, DICK...BLAMING ME BECAUSE BUSINESS IS TERRIBLE!

WHAT'S HE CRABBING ABOUT? ALL HE'S LOST IS MONEY...YOU'RE LOSING YOUR MIND!

THE BANK WON'T LEND US ANOTHER DIME! WE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER. IT'S GOT ME WORRIED!

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, DEAR! DR. RIPLEY IS COMING TO SEE THE BABY...LET'S ASK HIM ABOUT YOU.

WHAT DOES SHE THINK THAT DOCTOR CAN DO? LEND YOU SOME MONEY OR BUY OUT THE STORE?

SO YOUR HEAD ACHES AND YOU CAN'T SLEEP—SOUNDS LIKE COFFEE-NERVES! WHY NOT QUIT COFFEE AND SWITCH TO POSTUM?

OH, ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T FEEL ANY WORSE THAN I DO NOW! CURSES! POSTUM ALWAYS WRECKS MY PLANS!

LATER

NEW CAR FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, DARLING! WE CAN AFFORD IT, TOO! BUSINESS IS GETTING BETTER EVERY DAY!

AND YOU'RE GETTING SWEETER EVERY DAY, JOHN...SINCE YOU SWITCHED TO POSTUM!

TAKE A TIP FROM ME...IF YOU'VE GOT COFFEE-NERVES... SWITCH TO POSTUM!

CHILDREN should never drink coffee, and...the caffeine in coffee disagrees with many grown-ups, too. If you are bothered by headaches or indigestion, or can't sleep soundly...try Postum for 30 days! It contains no caffeine. It is simply whole wheat and bran, roasted and slightly sweetened. Easy to make, costs less than one-half cent a cup. It's delicious, too...and may prove a real help. A product of General Foods.

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