

THE PHILIPPINES AT WORLD'S FAIR.

Cover 43,000 Exhibits and 7,300 Exhibitors to Date—Report of Exposition Board at Manila Shows How Difficulties Have Been Surmounted—Adequate Showing of Filipino Resources.

Special Correspondence.

St. Louis, Dec. 9.—The Filipino exhibit at the World's fair in St. Louis next year will be an exposition within an exposition. Many persons who have visited the grounds within the past few weeks and watched the hundreds of men at work constructing buildings of large dimensions at various points on the forty-acre Filipino reservation have been led to express the opinion that the display made by the Philippine Islands will be the most interesting single feature of the fair. Every one expresses unbounded amazement at the magnitude of the exhibit, as indicated by the size and number of the buildings now in course of construction and the others mapped out on the grounds.

The annual report of the exposition board, which has headquarters at Manila and is preparing the various exhibits for the islands, has just been received in St. Louis. It contains facts and figures calculated to increase the amazement of those who have merely seen the work of preparing the grounds and buildings in progress.

This report carries the information that up to the end of September no less than 43,162 exhibits had been gathered by the exposition board. There were at that date 7,337 separate exhibitors. Every island in the great archipelago from which it was possible to obtain an exhibit was canvassed by agents of the board, and articles of interest and value were brought together from every nook and corner of the islands. Points never witnessed before by white men yielded treasure to enhance this great collection of curious and attractive products.

Thousands of natives and Americans in the archipelago have been at work for a year and a half in assisting the exposition board to prepare the exhibits. When the enterprise was first launched there was slow sailing for a time. The board confesses that at the beginning of the task the "manana" system prevailed and "philippinists" seemed to be endemic and very contagious. By exerting extraordinary efforts, however, the thrill of the great Louisiana purchase exposition was sent throughout the islands, prominent men and women became interested and enthusiastic, the common people enlisted in the cause, and ere long the contagion of enthusiasm has spread from island to island and province to province, until even the non-Christian tribes became interested and every Filipino who has heard of America was shouting for the success of the Philippine exhibit.

Less than three years ago, under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the Filipinos were fighting against the authority of the United States government in the islands. By force of arms they sought to prove their ability for self-government. Now they are fighting a battle of peace, with the same end in view; by the showing which they propose to make at St. Louis they hope to prove to America and the world that they have advanced far enough toward the standards set by white civilization to be permitted to govern themselves. Whether or not they will be able to demonstrate this claim with any degree of practical success, it is not to be disputed that the exploitation of Philippine progress and standing that will be shown at the forty-acre tract assigned to exclusive use of the Philippine people and the auxiliary displays in the general exhibit palaces will convince the western world that the little brown men of the archipelago are very well along on the road toward superior civilization.

Of the 43,162 exhibits gathered by the end of September, 10,504 belong to the department of manufactures, 7,354 to agriculture, 7,474 to forestry, 5,749 to fish and game, 3,530 to horticulture, 2,594 to anthropology, 2,102 to liberal arts, 1,044 to education, 729 to mines and metallurgy, 498 to fine arts, 252 to transportation, 180 to military supplies, 14 to machinery, 5 to social economy and one to physical sciences mentioned in the official classification of the World's Fair, except electricity, are represented in the Philippine collection. The exhibit is represented in 14 groups of 14 and in 388 classes out of 897. These figures give an idea as to the remarkably diversified character of the exhibits from the islands.

The aim of the Philippine exposition board is to show the natural riches of the archipelago and the great resources which it possesses in the fertility of its soil, and to present the activity and intelligence of its people to the view of the world. To this end the board has enlisted the co-operation of competent men in the various professions, politicians, officials of the government, scientists, artists, economists, priests, tradesmen, agriculturists, manufacturers—in short men in every branch of human activity that is represented in the islands.

The board has named its exclusive reservation at St. Louis, the Philippine exposition, and no one who had studied the plans for the exhibit, or who has seen the Philippine buildings growing under the workmen's hammers, can call it anything other than an exposition.

The history of the collection of the Philippine exhibits is the story of a struggle. Gov. Taft of the Philippines, while in the United States in the spring of 1902, conferred with President Roosevelt and Secy. of War Elihu Root, and it was decided that the Philippine insular government should devote at least \$250,000 to the preparation of a thoroughly creditable exhibit. Gov. Taft succeeded in increasing the working capital of the enterprise by having allotted to that purpose \$100,000 from the World's Fair company. Hon. John Barrett, then commissioner-general to Asia and Australia for the World's Fair, visited Manila to enlist the interest and co-operation of Filipinos and American residents in the enterprise.

Mr. Gustave Niederlein of the Philadelphia museum was called to Manila as special commissioner for the Philippine exhibits. Mr. Niederlein presented a plan which proposed the establishment of a permanent museum at Manila and the holding of a preliminary exposition in that city, and the founding of a Philippine Academy of Art, Science, Commerce and Industry. The idea of these proposed institutions was to unite professional men, officials, teachers, priests, economists, artists and business men of every branch in a grand effort to further the interests of the World's Fair exhibits from the islands. It was intended thereby to make a full exposition of the Philippine islands and collaborate for a brilliant display of the natural resources and the economic and social conditions of the archipelago.

Gov. Taft issued circular letters requesting the co-operation of all chiefs of bureaus of the insular government, other officers of the insular government and municipal officers throughout the islands. Associated with Mr. Niederlein on the exposition board was a leading native, Pedro A. Paterno. The first meeting of the board was held Nov. 17, 1902.

More than 50,000 pamphlets were distributed over the islands, containing the instructions as to gathering, classifying, packing and shipping the exhibits, translated into Spanish and the Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Cebuano, Pangasinan and Pampunian dialects. More than 100,000 circular letters in English, Spanish and many thousands of copies in the several native tongues were distributed, explaining the purposes of the exposition board and the plan and scope of the world's fair. The posters, it is interesting to note, bore the picture of McKinley, Roosevelt, Jefferson, Napoleon, Rial and Governor Taft.

Later in the month of the board in the person of Dr. William P. Wilson, director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, was appointed and Mr. Charles Taylor was made disbursing officer. Though for a long time the board had to depend upon voluntary contributions for the expenses of collecting exhibits from the various provinces, the civil commission not having appropriated

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