



# THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

ALMOST coincident with the birth of the Australian commonwealth south of the equator comes the establishment of civil government in the Philippines, north of the equator. Both events are of worldwide interest, for they will have an important bearing upon oriental problems.

The first week in July, in which the initial attempt at a civil government in the Philippines and the installation of the new governor will occur, will doubtless be memorable to the Filipinos, and as the first American election in their islands took place on the Fourth of July last year the latter date will also be accentuated. Little more than three years have elapsed since the boom of Dewey's cannon in the harbor of Manila sounded the knell of Spanish rule in the Philippines, and during that period a great deal has transpired tending toward the final definition of the status of the archipelago's inhabitants. Had the 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 of people dwelling there been more homogeneous there might have been less difficulty in settling the vexed questions which have arisen in the process of pacification; but as it is, considering the multiplicity of the problems presented and the character of the people with whom our soldiers and civilians have had to deal, it must be admitted that great progress has been made.

The Philippines' first American military governor, Major General Merritt, held his position for but a brief period and was succeeded in August, 1898, by Major General Otis, who exercised supreme military and civil authority until the advent of Major General MacArthur in May, 1899. His successor, General Chaffee, who commanded our military forces in China, will have no further civil functions to perform, as his duties will be strictly military, for the time has now arrived. In the opinion of the Philippine commission appointed by President McKinley last year, for inaugurating the long promised, long deferred government of the people by the people so far as they are considered fit for self rule.

The first territorial governor of the Philippines, as already announced, is Judge William H. Taft, who for more than a year has been president of the commission sent out to pave the way for the new order of things. Judge Taft is a native of Ohio. He was born in 1857 and is a son of Hon. Alphonso Taft, a former attorney general of the United States. From the public schools of Cincinnati Judge Taft went to Yale, graduating with distinction in 1878, second in his class. After two years at the Cincinnati Law school he entered upon the practice of his profession and in 1881 was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney of Hamilton county. He was a collector of internal revenue for the First Ohio district in 1882, judge of the superior court of Cincinnati in 1887, solicitor general of the department of justice in 1890 and a judge of the federal bench in 1892. It was in February, 1899, that President McKinley appointed Judge Taft chairman, or president, of the second commission formed for inquiring into the condition of the Philippines and thus placed him in line for elevation to the high position which he at present occupies.

The original Philippine commission to formulate a report on the best scheme of government for the islands, consisting of Professor J. G. Schurman, Admiral George Dewey, Hon. Charles Denby and Professor Dean C. Worcester, reported to the president in January, 1899, recommending the appointment of an American governor general, to be assisted by a council comprising Filipino and Americans, and of provincial governments, preferably from the United States. This commission announced itself as unequivocally in favor of a government for the islands analogous to that of a territory of the United States, with a governor appointed by the president. The commissioners went into the subject thoroughly and as a body came to the conclusion that the United States could not withdraw from the Philippine Islands.

gress, for forwarding the scheme of government. As three of the commissioners resigned after presenting their report, Mr. McKinley created another body, with more extended scope, consisting of Judge Taft, Professor Dean C. Worcester, Hon. Luke E. Wright, Hon. Henry C. Ide and Professor Bernard Moses. They were to serve for two years or for such a period as might be necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose in view, and they were to go to the Philippines and establish themselves, with headquarters at Manila. All were prominent men of affairs in their respective states and were appointed for their known or assumed ability without reference to politics. Of the five Professor Worcester of Michigan was the best informed respecting the Philippines, having made several visits to the islands and written of them extensively. Mr. Wright is from Tennessee, Mr. Ide from Vermont and Mr. Moses from California; so the United States well represented geographically.

In his instructions to the commissioners, embodied in a letter addressed in April, 1899, to the secretary of war, President McKinley outlined the scope of their mission, which was to "continue and perfect the work of organizing and establishing civil government, already commenced by the military authorities, subject in all respects to any laws which congress may hereafter enact." As it was surmised that the transfer of authority from military commanders to civil officers would consume much time and necessitate perfect co-operation for its successful accomplishment, both services were to be directed during the transition period by the secretary of war, to whom the commission was instructed to report. These instructions have been followed to the letter, and the authorities, from Military Governor MacArthur down, have afforded every facility to the commissioners for the successful prosecution of their work. On their arrival at Manila they were comfortably established at a central official residence, whence, after familiarizing themselves with the natives, studying the situation, they paid visits to the various islands in the vast archipelago, being provided for the purpose with a special transport and escorts by the military government.

Special stress was laid by President McKinley upon the desire of the administration that the Filipinos should have accorded them the largest measure of autonomy consistent with safety and commensurate with their capacity. The commissioners were to devote their efforts in the first instance to the establishment of municipal governments, in which the natives of the islands, both in the cities and in the rural communities, should be afforded opportunities to manage their own local affairs to the fullest extent of which they were capable and subject to the least degree of supervision and control consistent with the maintenance of law and order.

Next to be considered in order of importance was the organization of government in the larger divisions corresponding to counties or provinces, in which the common interests of many or several municipalities falling within the same tribal lines or the same natural geographical limits might best be at present organized. Whenever the commissioners should arrive at the conclusion that the condition of affairs in the islands was such that the central administration might safely be transferred from military to civil control they were to report that conclusion to the secretary of war at Washington, together with recommendations as to the best form to be adopted.

city of Manila in August, 1898, the United States guaranteed protection to its religious and educational institutions and to private property, which were placed under the special safeguard of the faith and honor of the American army. Believing that this pledge has been kept, the president reminded the commissioners that an equally high and sacred obligation rested upon the government of the United States "to give protection for property and life, civil and religious freedom and wise, firm and unselfish guidance in the path of peace and prosperity to all the people of the Philippine Islands." And he charged them earnestly to labor for the full performance of that obligation as vitally concerning the honor and conscience of their country, so that eventually the Filipinos should look upon the American occupation of the archipelago as the happiest event in their annals as a people.

In pursuance of their instructions the commissioners have made their investigations into municipal and insular affairs with great thoroughness and latently have been on a grand tour of inspection and rehabilitation, during which they visited the principal islands lying to the southward of Manila. In most of them they set up local and provincial governing bodies, composed mainly of natives of the people's own choosing, subject only to the veto power of the central junta or territorial governor. No educational qualification is demanded for voters, and the ballots of illiterates will be cast by the election officials. The requisites for the franchise are that the voter must be at least 23 years of age and a resident for six months in the municipality. Those

disqualified are delinquents in taxes, all who have been disfranchised by a court, all who have taken and violated the oath of allegiance to the United States, those in arms against American sovereignty and all insane or feeble minded persons.

A small property qualification is a requisite in municipal voting, and special legislation is recommended for the city of Manila and the non-Christian tribes, such as the Igorrota of the mountains and the pagan Bagabags.

During a tour of organization from which the commissioners recently returned after an absence of eight weeks and during which they traveled more than 3,000 miles they expressed themselves as satisfied with the conditions generally prevailing, except in the Sulu archipelago. Nearly all the other Filipinos, including even some of the semi-savage tribes of the interior, were eager for a chance for autonomous government and, above all, desirous for education. But the sultan of Sulu, with whom some time ago a special treaty was negotiated, still insisted that slavery and polygamy should remain features of his government and was jealous of any prospective encroachments. He and his "dattos" and subjects generally, living as they are in ignorance and semi-savagery, fell back upon the treaty negotiated by General Bates when the subject of self government was broached, shielding themselves behind the clause which provides that by consent of both high contracting parties. So the commissioners are still in doubt as to what should be done with the Mohammedan Sulus in the immediate future and even regard the fierce savages of the hills as in some respects more amenable to argument.

"Once a Mohammedan always a Mohammedan" applies in the Philippines as well as in Turkey, Egypt or Morocco, and, although there is the strongest guarantee on the part of the American government as to religious freedom, yet the fiercely fanatical Sulus know that their practices of slavery and polygamy cannot continue to be winked at by American civilization in the twentieth century.

Not less than 20 provinces have been officered and provided with government on advanced lines, and, following the suggestions in the president's instructions, the commissioners have in all cases when compatible with the public interest placed natives at the head of affairs. But while the Filipinos are generous, intelligent and apt political students they are naturally in sympathy with the insurgents, with whom they have racial affinity. It is hoped, however, that when they are perfectly convinced of the integrity of American purposes regarding them and better informed as to the character of our institutions they will serve loyally. Until that happy time arrives it will be absolutely necessary to support the civil administration with the military resources, and at present no picture of Philippine government will be complete without a background of guns and bayonets—not necessarily for use, but "as a guarantee of good faith."

Certain concessions also are requisite to the Filipino love of display and official ostentation, as, for example, in the provision for the Philippine councilors to wear a uniform while presiding and to carry "a black cylindrical cane with gold head, gilt ferrule and black cord and tassels." Such a cane or wand is in itself a symbol of authority among all natives accustomed to Spanish authority not only in the Philippines, but in Mexico and South America.

It was considered a daring stroke of policy to appoint as rulers of some of the provinces the more noted of the insurgent leaders lately in arms against the government; but, though the risk was considered great, the immediate effect upon those still in rebellion was marked and salutary.

One of the most conspicuous of those appointments was that of General Mariano Trías, who was commander in chief of the Filipino forces while Aguinaldo was in hiding. He surrendered in March and was recently made governor of Cavite. Another, Ambrosio Flores, was installed as governor of Rizal. But in both instances the treasurers of the provinces were American military officers.

While the old law of England meted out his revolutionism brought him to the foot of the gallows, but his courage saved him from punishment. The bar racks had been set on fire, and O'Brien risked his own life to save the women and children in their peril. The incident pleased the judge, and the death sentence was commuted. When, years after, Mr. O'Brien was amnestied, he settled down quietly in business and is now the mild, gentle looking man of whom you sit in parliament for Cork.

### WHEN WILLIE WENT UP WITH M'FADDEN'S BALLOON

A Fourth of July Poem  
BY EARLE H. EATON  
Copyright, 1901, by Earle H. Eaton.

Professor McFadden, the great aeronaut,  
For Fourth celebrations was very much sought.  
His "monster balloon" on the land's natal day  
Would hobnob with clouds in a hair raising way.  
And, clad in pink tights, from his flying trapeze  
The handsome professor would hang by his knees  
And "skin the cat," too, on his way toward the moon.  
And one time at Tompkins the town got some thrills  
Not mentioned at all on the posters and bills  
When Willie went up with McFadden's balloon  
On the glorious Fourth of July.

Now, Willie "was smart ez they made 'em," 'twas said,  
"They's heaps of hoss sense," 'twas observed, "in his head."  
That prize declamation he won in a walk,  
An he's the reel thing when he gits up to talk.  
And Willie hisself says he can't be kep' down;  
That he'll rise in life an surprise the ole town.  
Though not a boy borned with a bright silver spoon,  
Some folks thought him sappy, with no brains to spare,  
But this was the talk that was heard here and there  
When Willie went up with McFadden's balloon  
On the glorious Fourth of July.

The guy ropes that curbed the balloon were held tight  
By Willie and others of strength, weight and height,  
And Willie, for fear the balloon'd come to harm,  
Wound his several times 'round one leg and one arm.  
The park was well thronged when the "King of the Air,"  
Professor McFadden, his curly head bare,  
Cried "Lave go the ropes!" and shot up all too soon,  
For, caught by one leg in the coils of his rope,  
And shrieking for help like a soul without hope,  
Poor Willie went up with McFadden's balloon  
On the glorious Fourth of July.

He soared high in air, then came down in a tree,  
And there by the seat of his trousers hung he.  
Three men and a boy, watched by half of the town,  
Climbed up in the tree and had Willie soon down,  
And mead mead remarked: "People said he was great,  
An surely he gits there quite frequent of late.  
It's plain ez daylight tnat the boy ain't no leen,  
He said he would rise, an, by ginger, he's riz!  
That bag o' hot air was the thing done the biz!"  
When Willie went up with McFadden's balloon  
On the glorious Fourth of July.

### HAVE YOU THE JIGGERS?

In the far northwest of Canada are mighty sheep ranches. On each of these a solitary shepherd looks after his huge flock from an shearing to another. His duty it is to count the thousands of sheep as they come out of their inclosure.

He stands at the gate and with practiced eye takes note of the woolly cascade. By fours and fives he counts rapidly to a hundred, and as each hundred is reached he transfers a stone from his right coat pocket to his left. The effect of a few months of this work is to give the unfortunate shepherd the jiggers. At night, if he finds himself abed, his eyes are fixed upon the sky, and his hand keeps shifting from one pocket to the other. He is counting the stars without knowing it. Take him from his hut and place him in the principal street of Winnipeg, and he counts the passersby.

The Canadian shepherd may be said to be a victim to the jiggers in an abnormally acute form.

The jigger suffers from jiggers when he fingers his favorite air on the fall of a seat as he travels. The butler cannot forget his trade on Sunday, but passes his thumb along the edge of his prayer book to see if it is properly kept. The tired seamstress makes over again the dress that a client is wearing in a neighboring pew.

### A REMARKABLE ISLAND.

There is an island in the Gulf of Mexico a day's sail from New Orleans the first sight of which makes even lifeless travelers gasp with wonder. Twice daily, with the change of tide, the golden or its broad beaches change color by magic. With the incoming tide the sands are purple, but with the ebbing they swiftly transform themselves into gold. The key to the phenomenon may be found in the name of the island. It is called Snail's isle. Myriads of tiny purple snails, crawling in the wake of the ebbing tide, accomplish the miracle.

The island is scarcely more than two miles long. Half covered by the warm waters of the Gulf at high tide, it seems to bear a charmed existence. Other islands larger and higher than this have been swept away by the heavy storms. Its sands are of golden yellow color, and when the rising tide spreads over the wide, shell strewn beach the gilded bits of earth glitter in the sunlight. But when the tide ebbs seaward the golden sands become purple. As the tide recedes the purple deepens, and the beach becomes dark as the royal robe of an emperor. When the tide falls, they issue from the wet sand in search of food with remarkable rapidity.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S PLYTHINGS.

Most people are aware of the very great interest that the late Queen Victoria took in all the plythings or sports articles of her younger days. It is generally well known that she herself had a special place made for the preservation of the dolls which she had played with as a girl, and she had kept the portfolio of drawings which she executed while under tuition in her later maidenhood. Her most important dresses have been carefully preserved, and it is said that the queen was never so happy as when she beheld her old doll to have a dress which was worn on some particular occasion long years ago brought out from the room where these robes were kept and placed for her inspection. She explained to those around her the niceties of each, and her differed from those of today, and her remarks upon styles past and present would have proven very valuable to many dressmakers of repute.

### TIDBITS OF INFORMATION.

Second Assistant Secretary of State A. A. Adee is said to be better versed in the language of diplomacy than any other living American. He writes nearly all the state papers intended for foreign reading.

Lloyd Osbourne, the stepson of Robert Louis Stevenson, intends, it is reported, to give his valuable collection of Stevenson's manuscripts to the University of Edinburgh.

Rev. Dr. Frederick Z. Rooker, just appointed chaplain to the pope, is the first American to be made a member of the pontifical household. He is a native of New York city, 46 years old, and it was intended by his father and uncle, both newspaper men, that he should also take to their line of life. The young man's taste lay in another direction. He is now secretary of the papal legation in Washington.

The biggest fur fairs are held at Leipzig, in Germany, and Nijni Novgorod, in Russia. At the latter place \$4,000,000 worth of furs change hands each year.

Until the year 1800 the English kings were also called kings of France, although the last continental possession was lost during the reign of Mary. Until the French revolution of 1789 the French kings styled themselves, among other things, kings of Jerusalem.

It is related in London that an inquisitive ecclesiastic asked Mr. Morgan bluntly how much he paid for Gainsborough's "Duchess of Devonshire," and the head of the so-called American "steel octopus" wriggled as he replied: "Nobody will ever know. If the truth came out, I might be considered a candidate for a lunatic asylum."

There are not many men living who have had the pleasure of being sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. One of the few is James Francis Xavier O'Brien. Long ago Mr. O'Brien led an armed party against a police barracks in Ireland, and for this offense he was condemned to die the ignominious death

which the old law of England meted out. His revolutionism brought him to the foot of the gallows, but his courage saved him from punishment. The bar racks had been set on fire, and O'Brien risked his own life to save the women and children in their peril. The incident pleased the judge, and the death sentence was commuted. When, years after, Mr. O'Brien was amnestied, he settled down quietly in business and is now the mild, gentle looking man of whom you sit in parliament for Cork.

A coal gas explosion cannot occur until there are six parts of gas in every 100 of the air in the room, but a per cent of coal gas will cause suffocation.

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