

for instance, the Spanish government holds large tracts of land, the revenues of which have until now gone to the crown. Syndicates are being formed already to secure these lands and other concessions and grants. These shrewd financiers want them for speculation.

Hon. L. F. Livingston, of Georgia, who was chairman of the committee on appropriations when the Democrats controlled the House, recently said: "I do not want to see lobbyists and syndicates secure these public lands. I agree that it would be a good thing to parcel out these lands to the soldiers and sailors. First, it would be a recognition by the government of the work they have done. Second, it would be the entering wedge for better citizenship in these islands and form a nucleus of citizens that might revolutionize social conditions to the betterment of the islands. If the Cuban citizens should not prove thrifty our soldiers and sailors and other Americans who would join them soon would buy them out and gradually make the islands American."

Other expressions of opinion by members of Congress are given, each in substance the same as the foregoing and each showing a decided opposition to any scheme by means of which speculators can obtain control and compel those who would like to secure homes there to pay exorbitant rates for them. It seems apparent that the Americanizing of all the government's new possessions is the fiat of fate, and by no faster, more secure or more acceptable means can this be accomplished than through bona fide colonization from the United States. Besides this, we can afford to be just, even a little generous to the brave fellows who periled everything that those lands might be brought under our flag.

#### GERMANY AND THE PHILIPPINES.

The attitude of German naval commanders in the Philippine waters has been a mystery, and the aid given to August to escape from Manila rather intensifies it. It should be borne in mind, though, that German interest in the proceedings there is due not to any hostile feelings towards this country, but to the race of European powers for colonial possessions in eastern Asia. To the overcrowded old countries expansion of territory is a vital question. As a matter of self-preservation they reach out for new colonies and the rivalry is so keen as to threaten a general struggle in which the weaker must go to the wall.

According to consular reports just published the inland trade of China will soon be carried on by means of canals. Germany, England, France and Russia are competing for the most advantageous places from which to enter upon the enterprise of obtaining the Chinese trade. The Philippines are regarded as the gateway to the east and were consequently made the place of rendezvous of the fleets of the various nations, eagerly watching the developments there since the famous naval battle on May 1. England and Japan have from the beginning shown a willingness to accord to the United States the right of control, while the other powers have manifested a somewhat nervous disposition.

The United States is at present in possession, at least of the key to the group, and it will devolve upon the peace commission to make a final disposition of it, but the peace commissioners should bear in view that the importance of the Philippines to the United States is at least as great as to any other power on earth.

It may be remarked in this connection

that the Monroe doctrine has no bearing upon the questions at issue. The principle laid down by President Monroe was that this hemisphere should no longer be considered as territory open to colonial discovery and occupation by European powers. It was aimed at the so-called Holy Alliance, which was considering the project of assisting Spain to reconquer her revolted colonies in South America. But as to the action of this country in reference to colonies lost by any of the old powers, the Monroe doctrine is silent. We may give up or hold the Philippine islands, for instance, without in the least deviating from the traditional political doctrine promulgated in 1823 and adhered to ever since.

#### THE PEACE COMMISSION.

There are signs which seem to be trustworthy that many if not most of the Spanish statesmen are taking the proper view of the situation and intend in a manly, honest way to make the most of, if not actually to profit by the overwhelming misfortunes which have overtaken their country. This is as gratifying to the great mass of the American people as it must, if properly worked out, eventually be to the Spanish themselves.

In a recent interview with a New York World correspondent at Madrid, Senor Moret expressed the opinion that the conditions of peace were not likely to provoke much opposition from Spain "in her present weary, disgusted, disillusioned frame of mind." It sounds very much like one who was disposed to a condition of mind known as drooping, yet the conclusion reached is gratifying enough to dissipate somewhat the sadness of tone in which it is expressed. Our New York cotemporary thinks it a most significant sentence in being what the officials at Washington justly regard as a valuable statement of Spanish views, showing that Senor Moret, who will probably sit on the peace commission, is in the proper frame of mind for truly patriotic service at Paris. Spain's power of resistance is gone. She cannot haggle over our terms of peace.

It is thereupon claimed that no one need be disquieted by Senor Moret's remark that "there are many substantial reasons for believing that the settlement of the Cuban debt is likely to get a hearing, even with the American government." Senor Moret may be right in saying that "the negotiations will last for weeks," but the exchange thinks it pretty safe to say that not many minutes will be wasted by Spain in trying to convince us that we ought to pay her for provoking us to war by oppressing and robbing the Cubans.

Speculations as to what will or will not be done by the peace commission are of course premature and in great measure so much guessing in the dark. Each party will undoubtedly contend for every point of vantage which appears as a ground of controversy, and such will be numerous. The greater and primary questions are already settled beyond recall—such matters as the cession of Porto Rico, one of the Ladrões and the occupation of Manila figuring only in the most nominal manner as so many things accomplished. But there are likely to be a thousand and one matters not at present prominent, if even thought of, that will arise in that department of the commission's labor relating to Cuban evacuation and subsequent management, and each of these will have separate treatment and disposition. So also as to the Philippines, and yet if the spirit of Senor Moret's utterances first above quoted shall obtain throughout, there should be but little time spent upon

them or any of them. Let Spain remember at each and every point that she is utterly crushed and is having a voice in the arrangement of affairs relating to herself, solely through the generosity and forbearance of the greatest nation in the world, and it is almost a certainty that she will then receive more than if she persists in untenable demands and irritating protestations.

#### HONORS TO THE BRAVE.

A movement has lately sprung up which is gaining increased support every day to revive the rank of admiral in the navy and confer it upon George Dewey, commander of the American oriental fleet at the Philippine Islands. It is a timely suggestion and should not be permitted to pass into desuetude. In the fitness of things nothing can be more fit than a great nation fully recognizing deeds of merit and skill on the part of the defenders of its honor and its standing in the world, and what one of them has done and dared equal to Rear Admiral Dewey? This is not meant invidiously by any means. Schley's great work at Santiago, measured by the immediate results and the wonderful judgment displayed at a trying time, may even be classed as superior to that of Manilla, where the Spanish ships stood still and met their doom; but it was as a hasty albeit successful dash compared with the deliberate and unchanging working out of a carefully arranged plan looking to mighty results, all of which were accomplished in full and in the presence of hidden as well as visible dangers. All of Dewey's work at that time and since showed the master hand working in consonance with the clear and balanced mind behind it.

This is only a part. The achievement of the destruction of Montijo's fleet without loss to the destroyer, although one of the greatest victories ever recorded in history, might have resulted in grave calamities and disasters dire had Dewey been only a fighter. As soon as the spars of the Spanish ships were all of them that remained above the waves and the white flag fluttered fitfully from the masthead at Cavite, a newer and graver responsibility was visited upon the American commander. He was formerly a commodore only, now in addition to that a guardian of the peace, a protector of the right, a defender of all that had been gained; in other words, the soldier to make his victory full-orbed and permit no part of the great achievement to dwindle, must also be a statesman, a diplomat, a lawyer, a cavalier. He must make no breaches of the international code; must do and permit to be done nothing violative of the rights of our country or any other; must at once preserve courteous relations with and maintain a reasonable distance between himself and the representatives of other powers; must permit commerce, trade and commingling within certain limits and know how to restrict it to those limits as well as how and when to punish infractions of the rules; must know how to write any kind of note, either originally or in reply, and in short, must be an unfailing gubernatorial factotum. Dewey was equal to it all. Not one mistake was made, not one point lost. Manilla is in the possession of the United States, the insurgents are placated, cable communication is restored and the march of occidental empire in oriental lands has begun.

Dewey did it, but he is too really big to permit all the honors to fall to himself. Whenever he speaks of his achievements, the brave men and true