

Former Salt Laker on Tariff and Other Philippine Problems

"If a Utah volunteer should go back to his old Manila haunts, he would hardly be able to find his way around," declared Harold M. Pitt of Manila, P. I., to a "News" representative this morning.

Mr. Pitt is now one of the most substantial business men of the Philippines. He has been there since the beginning of American rule, and prior to that he was manager of Bradstreet's in Salt Lake, and was locally a well known young man. His mother still resides here at the old Pitt corner on North Temple, and his friends are many among the men who were boys a dozen years ago. Mr. Pitt has been in the states for four months on a business trip, and leaves Monday with his wife for Manila, P. I.

"The feeling in America seems to be that we paid too much for the islands, and that the money and lives thrown away would never be compensated for. Time is proving, however," he continued, "that they are more than worth while. Never in history has a nation picked up such a rich parcel of land at first, and we took the wrong view of the most advisable policy of government. A decade of American rule and the end of that time will see so many changes for the better that it will be apparent everywhere how great a blessing it was even for the Philippines themselves, that the Americans took an interest in them."

One of our mistaken ideas was that ultimately the Philippines would be given independence, and consequently there was a policy of preventing exploitation, in order to keep the islands intact for the Filipinos.

NO "INDEPENDENCE" HOPE.

The most vital thing America has done in recent years in its island policy was to announce through Secy. Taft on his last visit, that there was no hope for independence, either in the near future, or at a reasonably remote time. This announcement brought a great deal of foment to a close. The Filipinos will remember Buzacano, Pio Del Pilar, Montenegro, Alcantara, and a number of other Tagalog leaders. Out of their party there grew up in Manila a party of radicals who kept things stirred up in the hope of securing independence and being in a position to profit by it.

REBELS HAVE DISBANDED.

Since Taft's announcement this party has disbanded. From end to end of the Philippines there is peace, and the people are getting down to work in earnest. Aguinaldo, who made the government such long and continued trouble, is now a peaceful citizen of Cavite province, near Manila, and has settled down to the life of a rice farmer. He is doing well at it, too, and bids fair to grow wealthy. Alejandrino was in the employment of the government for a time, while most of the other leaders have sunk out of sight and are never heard of now in public life.

DIRECTION AND CONTROL.

"The Filipinos need direction and control for the more one knows them, the more he learns that they are helpless without someone to lead them. If a Filipino learns to till the land with a carbine, and if dies, he will starve with the richest of land around his house, never thinking that he can get out with a spade and do much better than with an animal. Initiative in the great missing quality of the Filipino make-up, and he will prosper more under guidance from others, who will use

his labor, and furnish him tools, than ever he could by himself.

THE PRESENT NEED.

"What do you think is the great present need of the islands?" was suggested.

"Well it is capital and brains, in a general way," Mr. Pitt replied. "The land is there, the labor is there, but the money to start the labor to work and to market the products of the land has not yet been supplied. When it is, the United States will find the Philippines one of the most productive portions of its domain. This is not an invitation to young Americans to rush over. In the days of the Utah battery the government spread a vast amount of money out through its army, and business was booming in a small way. Anyone could live at any kind of little business. Now conditions are on a more substantial basis and it is much harder to merely exist. If one wishes to go to the islands he needs to bring with him capital, at least in quantities sufficient to carry him for a year or two."

CAPITAL BEING INTERESTED.

"When will this capital come? Well it is starting now, but just barely starting. I know of a good deal that is coming over from the states. Now it is not a matter of money, but of organization and confidence. It is no American will live in the Philippines except in the hope of making commercial profit out of his life there. He would want to get rich and go away, probably, but he will at least want to get rich, and there are opportunities in plenty to make money and the place is good enough to live in. The American can get rich without doing injustice to anyone. This, too, is becoming apparent, and the Filipino is taking his place as one who can profit here in the hands of someone who will direct his efforts, and provide work, paying him the price of his labor. As commercial enterprise gets under way, the price of labor will go up, and hence the Filipino will profit by his neighbor's efforts."

TARIFF AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

"Now in regard to some of the problems the islands are confronting will just now. Of course the most important is the tariff, and a just tariff is being delayed on account of the four in America that Philippine sugar and tobacco will flood the American market, especially Philippine sugar. But this fear is not well founded. The great product of the islands is rice, and it can be raised to more profit than sugar. Hemp and coconut groves are next in importance, and as the islands grow these crops and not sugar, will be the principal ones raised. It is unfortunate for the islands that Americans consider sugar from the Philippines as liable to hurt the beet raising industry, but I think most of the senators and congressmen realize that the fear is not well grounded, and that free trade will benefit America—that is the states, fully as much as it will the islands."

THE RICE HARVEST.

"Take for instance in harvesting rice, only a few years ago a fourth or more of the crop was wasted owing to the crude methods. Now here and there is an American threshing machine, and when the tariff is taken down, the demand for American threshing machines will be immense."

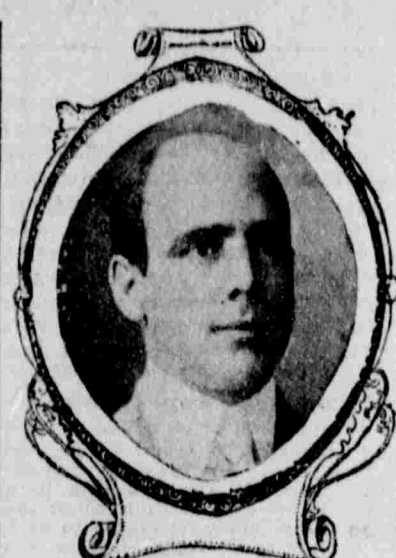
"One item acts as a barrier now to free trade. That is that the government derives about \$5,000,000 a year from tariff, out of a total revenue of \$11,000,000. In the treaty which closed the Spanish war it was stipulated that for 10 years Spain should receive the same tariff rates as those assumed by the most favored nation. Should the

tariff be removed in that time, all European business houses dealing with the Philippines would establish Spanish branch houses, and ship from Spain, which would help the situation only slightly."

FREE TRADE IN TWO YEARS.

"The Philippines are preparing, however, for the date two years hence, when they feel that free trade will be assured, and the government is preparing for the securing of revenues from sources other than the tariff, to compensate for what will be removed in that way. One of the biggest movements is that in the direction of making Manila a great harbor."

"When the Spanish were in control it will be remembered that the ships had little protection during a storm, and that big ships could not reach the docks. Now a great breakwater is nearing completion, and when finished, Manila will have a port unequaled in the orient. The breakwater extending from the south bank of the entrance to the Pasig encloses a big area. Fronting on the famous Malecon drive the bay has been filled in for a greater area than that of the old walled city. The new land fronts on the harbor, and will be



HAROLD M. PITT.
A Salt Laker Who Has Become Prominent in the Philippines.

Cruz district, connecting with Calle Iris, which runs from Bilibid prison, to the old Utah barracks. The Manila district is being improved rapidly, the new Victoria gateway opening out on a driveway that runs through to the government laboratories has been constructed.

FORT MCKINLEY.

"Fort McKinley is now the principal army post near Manila. It is up the river beyond the Santa Ana church, and comprises 1,800 acres. A driveway up to this post has been constructed. New bridges over the Pasig are being discussed, and those now in existence have been broadened and improved. The old toll bridge is to be purchased, and rebuilt when it will be made free. At the foot of Soledad street the Ebonio canal, formerly forced a very circuitous route to the custom houses. Now a big bridge goes over the canal, and it is heavily laden with traffic. The Ayala bridge over the Pasig has been rebuilt and broadened, and is now one of the most used bridges."

COMMERCIAL FUTURE.

"What is the immediate commercial future, so far as output is concerned? Mr.

will be a tremendous one. Hemp grows only in the Philippines. It is the best fibre for ropes known, and it grows everywhere, and wild. Last year out of a total of \$22,000,000 in exports, hemp made up \$22,000,000, and the industry is usually quick to learn, the long product can be increased without limit. In this item alone there is sufficient undeveloped wealth to more than repay the United States, for all its cash outlay on the islands."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

"The commercial situation is to be influenced shortly by the public schools, and too much credit cannot be given to these institutions. They are established in every village, and instruction is free, under the direction of American teachers. The daily attendance is over 500,000, and as the Filipino youth is usually quick to learn, the English language will in a generation supplant the language of the diversified population. The expense of these schools is the greatest item in the annual budget, but in giving these people a common language, it will prove the most profitable investment of public moneys that could be made."

"Americans are doing well in the ranch business. Along the coast of Mindanao, especially in the Davao country, there are over 40 American ranches, where Americans are utilizing native labor to plant coconut trees, rice, and to put in hemp in abundance. The old idea of keeping the islands for the natives and hoping for the day when each of them would own a piece of land of his own, and cultivate it, is passed. The government for years fed large numbers of starving natives who had land in abundance, but didn't know how to start to work it. Under American initiative and American direction, the ranches of Davao are prospering. A sure fortune awaits and American who will locate one of these big ranches, and most of them are owned by men without capital. They represent clubs of three or four government employees, who send one of their number to locate the ranch, while the rest of them furnish the funds to keep it going till crops are matured."

THE RICE SUPPLY.

"The rice crop has to produce an immense tonnage each year to feed the Philippines. In addition to all that has been raised a great deal has had to be imported in recent years, but the future is expected to bring a day soon when the Philippines export instead of import this commodity. Rice farming is more profitable than any other except hemp and coconuts."

RAISING OF COCONUTS.

"The coconut industry is profitable, but France so far has made most of the profit. Now a coconut oil refinery is being built on the Pasig river, and the market will shift. The French market has been so good that Japan has been unable to get any of the 'copra,' as the product is called."

OTHER CROPS, TOO.

"There are other crops, too, that will grow. Cocoa, tobacco, rubber, and coffee, can be produced in excellent quality, only the people are too poor to adopt these methods in getting the wealth out of the land. The country can't be held back, and as it opens, the United States will be able to receive under free trade, all the products of the islands from South American and other tropical countries. A return demand for machinery and manufactured goods will be created, which will make the islands a source of great wealth to American manufacturers. You see clearly enough, in view of these facts, that the islands

are no white elephant, and that they will one day be looked upon as a treasured possession of the nation."

UTAHNS ON THE ISLANDS.

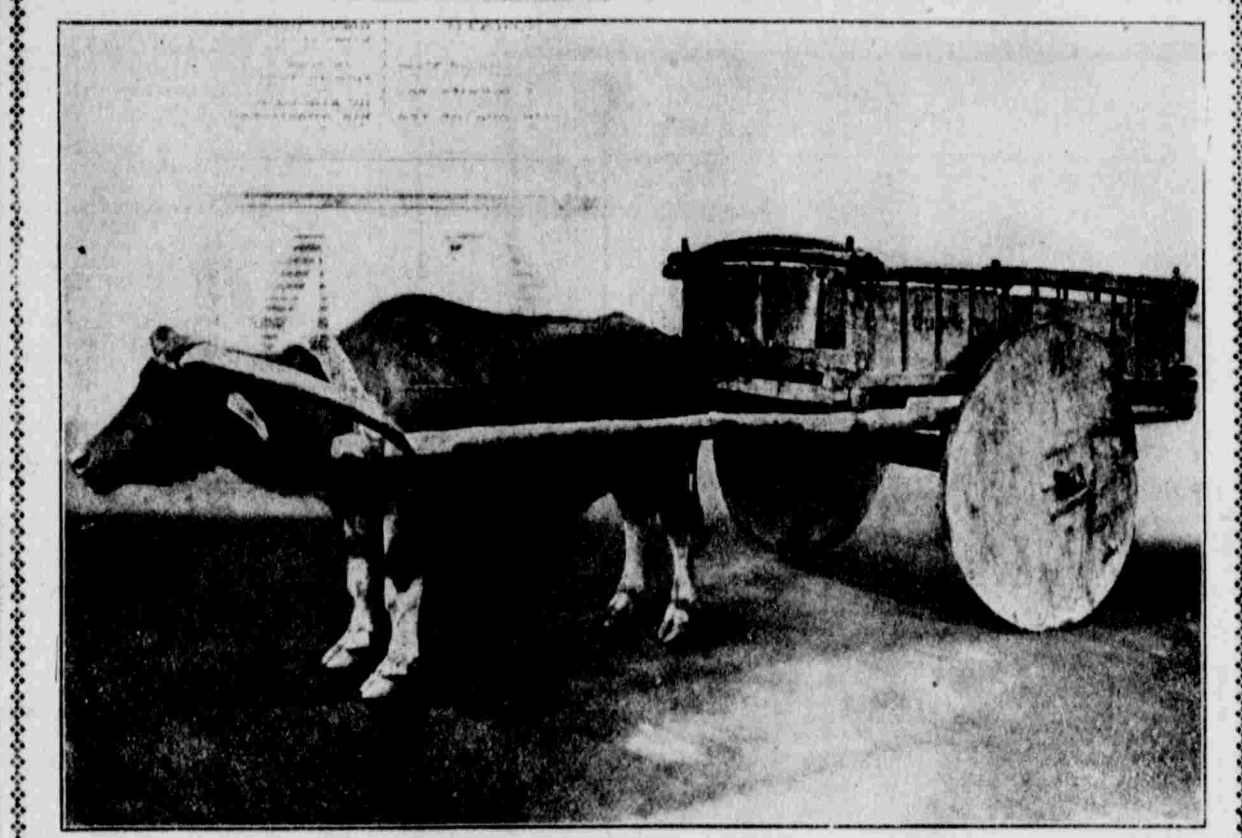
With Mr. and Mrs. Pitt in Salt Lake are two children born in the Philippines, and in health and vigor they suggest very strongly that the islands contain no terrors in the way of unhealthy conditions for American children. Discussing the other Utahns in Manila, Mr. Pitt said that Major Charles E. Stanton and Frank Shelby, his clerk, are together, and doing fine. They will be back in America in the near future, as their tour of island duty is nearly finished. Carlos Young, who recently visited here, is a trusted employee of Macandry & Co., large importers, and is doing well. Attorney Fred Waite, who practised here until 1898, is in business, and is thriving. Willis Beardsley is in the postal service, Carl Hard, formerly a newspaper man in Salt Lake, is in the detective bureau, and is acting chief of the department, he having been in the service a long time. Mr. and Mrs. Pitt with their children will go direct to Manila, sailing from Seattle on the Minnesota. While here Mr. Pitt visited Washington in the interest of Philippine measures now before Congress, and carries back with him the assurances that proposed Philippine legislation will go through without great opposition."

PRINCELY DESCENDANT OF GENERAL GRANT.

Prince Michel Canalicuzene, the youngest grandson of General Ulysses S. Grant, and his small sister, the Princess Berthe, have recently been the guests



of their grandfather, General Frederick D. Grant, at his headquarters on Governors Island, New York harbor. The prince is five years of age and a very good linguist, speaking four languages fluently—Russian, German, French and English.



THE "OVERLAND MAIL" OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

leased for warehouses, docks, and wharves fronting on the harbor, and to allow the largest vessel that floats to come alongside.

A GROWING COMMERCE.

"The meaning of these improvements is that Manila will before long have a commerce that will make her the chief city of the orient, and in her bonded warehouses goods will be stored for distribution over the entire orient. Hongkong has little internal traffic to serve as a basis for her commerce, while Manila has a great deal. Manila should soon supersede Hongkong as the distributing point, as the trade with

Europe switches to the west coast of America.

GREAT MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

"In the city of Manila great improvements are under way in all branches of the government, and the city will soon be, and is rapidly becoming, a great market center. Sanitation was the first great problem, and in this field \$1,000,000 in bonds were recently voted by the city government, for a new sewer system. The old system befouled the waters of the moat around Manila, and now this moat is partly filled, while the new sewer outlets will be in the bay, pumping stations carrying the refuse out beyond the tide limits. With this system, a new water system will be built, the old one having proved inadequate for the city's needs."

WHERE YOUNG BOYS FELL.

"Members of the Utah batteries will remember the old pumping plant on the Marikina river on account of the fact that it took one of the hardest fights of the war to capture it, and in the work John and Harry Young lost their lives. It is now to be supplemented by a new plant further up the river. The hills on both sides have been set aside as a watershed, and no buildings or cattle will be allowed on them. The time never will come, however, when water will be fit to drink in the Philippines, and the white population will depend on bottled mineral water and distilled water. All the available supply seems to be infected with minute animal life."

"The old moat is now being surfaced, and is to be used as a site for government buildings, and for parks. New gateways have been cut through the walls of the old city, and many roundabout roads have been eliminated."

"Electric car lines commenced to run in an American syndicate having bought out the old Electricista company, and also the Transvaal Filipinas, it is now furnishing both power and light."

THE NEW PUBLIC PARKS.

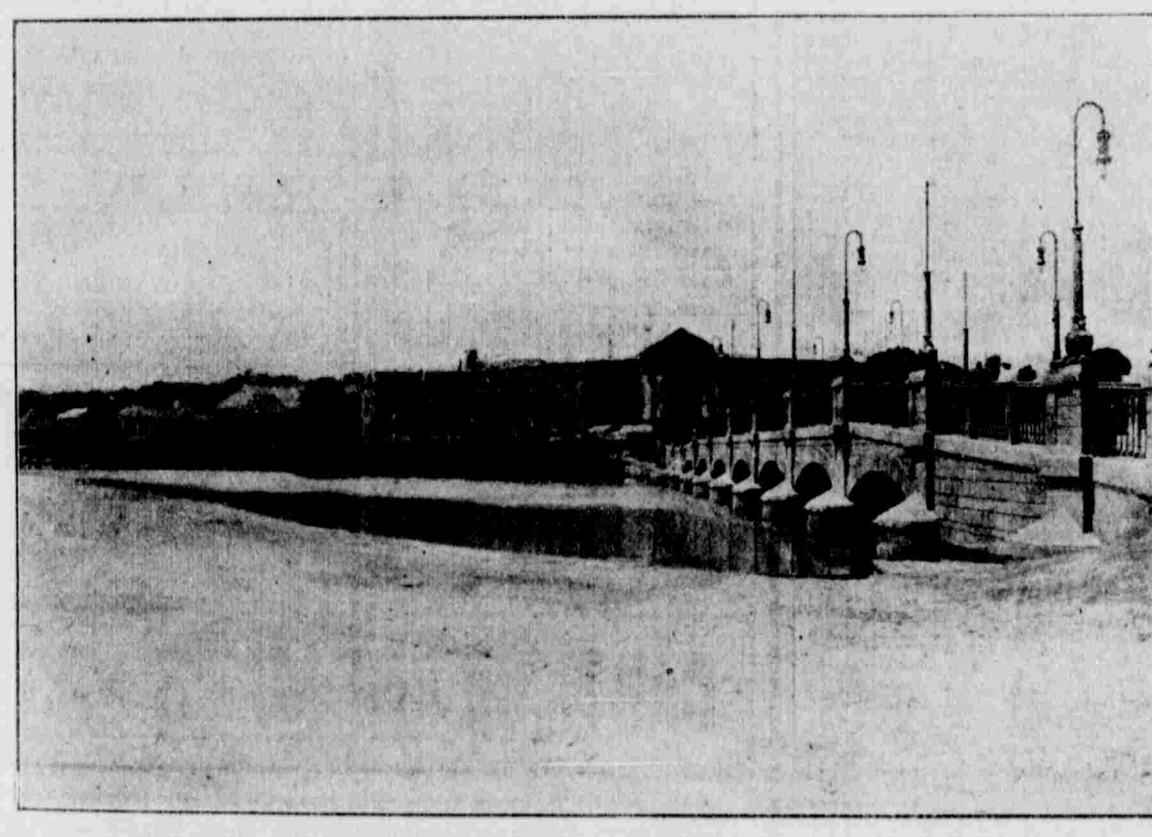
"The public parks are now a different thing from what they were when the batteries dragged their guns into the town. They are in perfect order and are beautiful, so far as it has been possible to make them so. A great deal of paving has been done, wooden blocks, covered with asphalt, being used in this work. Escalita, Moraga, Plaza Santa Cruz, Rosario, and Plaza Cervantes are all paved in this manner, and a big new avenue is being projected as a driveway through the Santa

HEMP THE GREAT INDUSTRY.

"The work is slow, and what machinery there is, follows the old hand methods. When a machine is invented, and one will be invented, the hemp industry



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TEA CONSUMPTION.

"The English board of trade has compiled some rather interesting statistics concerning the consumption of tea and coffee in various lands. The amount of tea used in England exceeds that of all the other countries of Europe and the United States together. In 1884 the tea consumption in that country was five pounds per head. In 1900 it rose to nearly six pounds."

Russia and the United States come next in the quantity which they consume, but they do not use more than a pound each, while the Frenchman cannot get rid of more than one-twentieth of a pound per annum."

But in the use of coffee there is a different story to tell. Except Russia, England drinks as little coffee as any nation in the world. Seven-tenths of a pound per year is sufficient for an Englishman, while an American requires ten and a half pounds. The next largest consumers are the Germans, with six pounds per head, and the French, who consume more than four and a half pounds."

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