

ing in Great Britain towards us is the fact that the English capitalists who have money invested in the Philippine Islands urge the United States to keep that Spanish possession. An Associated Press dispatch from London states that delegations of London men representing some of the most important interests in the Philippines have called upon Ambassador Hay to urge him to make representations to his government of their desire that the United States retain permanent possession of the Philippines. They are agreed in the belief that with a guarantee of a stable government the Philippines would become a richer and even more desirable possession than they are now. They are agreed also that the Spanish rule is one which discourages business enterprise and repels capital and that the legitimate profits of their business are mostly absorbed by direct and indirect bribes to Spanish officials. The president of an important Philippine company having its principal office in London, gives a recital of extortion by the officials who come from Spain to these islands, as they go to Cuba, with the sole purpose of acquiring as much money as possible in the shortest time. He ridiculed the suggestion that the Philippine insurgents could be induced by the Spaniards to form an alliance against the United States. The natives, he declared, would welcome any power which would relieve them from the domination of Spain. He told of the wonderful resources of the islands and added that the American government need not be deterred by fear of the climate from invading the Philippines with unseasoned troops. During a residence of ten years he had known but one epidemic of disease and that was not of a serious nature.

The friendly feelings manifested in Great Britain will go a long way towards determining the policy of other European countries. France would hesitate to abandon her tradition of friendship toward the United States. Russia has for more than a generation maintained a thoroughly good understanding with us and there is no apparent reason why this should be terminated by a change of government in a Spanish colony. Germany would not care to alone assume a hostile attitude, even if it were to be presumed that a desire to do so existed. But does it exist? Certainly not among the intelligent classes of the German people. We have millions of people in this country who, if not born in Germany themselves, are descended from parents or grandparents of German birth. The plain people of Germany have nothing in common with the people of Spain, while they feel that America, where all of them have relatives, is their second home. Why should they entertain unfriendly feelings towards this country?

But whether the policy of annexation meets the approval of the world at large or not, the United States seems to be a nation with a mission, a destiny. Its entire history, including the incidents of this war, point in this direction. If this is true the only safe course for this country to follow is to be faithful to this mission and to follow the road indicated by Providence. Ancient nations have prospered as long as they were faithful to the mission entrusted to them, and this course will never fail to lead to power, honor and glory.

#### EXPORT OF CORN.

In these times when war occupies the attention of the people to so large an extent, it is pleasing to note that here and there plans for the glorious conquests of peace are still being contemplated. The New York Chamber of

Commerce has passed a resolution asking Congress to appropriate a sufficient sum to enable the department of agriculture to convince the peoples of foreign lands of the merits of the American corn. It is urged that since corn is cheaper than wheat there should be a market abroad for the American product.

It seems that the export of corn is growing. The average for five years preceding the last was 63,000,000 bushels, but for the last year it amounted to 177,000,000 bushels, a considerable increase.

#### A RICH COUNTRY.

The following information regarding the resources of the Philippine islands from the Scientific American:

"The Philippine islands are very rich in forests and contain many valuable woods, mostly unknown even by name in the rest of the world. There are said to be thirty-two tinctorial woods, giving the entire series of colors and shades. Among the valuable ones is the ebony and the magkango is said to be absolutely indestructible by rot. The forests generally remain intact in the interior, except for Luzon, where they have been extensively thinned out.

"The chief domestic animal is that useful and tractable oriental beast, the buffalo, not our bison, but a buffalo proper. He is especially useful in the simple and rude tillage used by the natives. The ox, goat and hog do well, but the sheep are inferior. The most of these animals in places have escaped from domestication and large numbers of wild ones may be found, usually in herds.

"The native manufacturers of the Philippines are not few, and their textile fabrics are especially fine and worthy of a larger market than they have yet found. The natives make many pottery of great utility.

"Valuable minerals are generally diffused through the islands, but few are yet mined profitably. Gold exists generally over the entire area. There are two known coalfields, one in southern Luzon, the other on the western slopes of Cebu and Negros. One bed is known to be from ten to twenty feet thick. Iron ore of excellent quality is known in southern Luzon. Copper ore has long been known to exist. Traces of lead and mercury, also rock oil and sulphur are found."

#### UNION LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

When, somewhat more than a year ago, the consolidation was effected by which was created the Union Light and Power company, predictions were made and published to the effect that the movement would result in the oppression of the people of this city by an increase in the rates charged for electric lighting, gas and power. The company was said to be a trust, and the usual objections to trusts were urged against it. While a portion of the press and business men of the city took this view, a reverse opinion widely prevailed. The "News" expressed the belief, in effect, that the organization of the Union Light and Power company would prove to be a beneficent thing for this community, and a large proportion of the business men and property-owners of this city shared the same faith, which was based largely on the character, reputation and past course of the men who were in control of the new and mammoth concern.

Ample time has now elapsed since the Union company began practical operations in this city to fully demonstrate what its policy really is, and as figures comprise the strongest sort of arguments in a case of this kind, a few will be given. The company actually

began business in November last, and at every meeting of the directors held since then the question of the greatest reductions that could be made in the rates for lighting has been discussed, the purpose being to make them as low as possible. At length, at a meeting of the directors held last month, a cut of 25 per cent all along the line was ordered.

Before the Union company began business, and up to last month, the rate charged for residence lighting was twenty cents per unit, or one cent per ampere hour; since the cut the rate is fifteen cents per unit, or three-fourths of a cent per ampere hour. Under the old schedule the rates for commercial arc lighting were \$15, \$10 and \$8 per month, according to the number of hours. The present schedule is 25 per cent less, or \$11.25, \$7.50 and \$6. Prior to making its present contract with the Union company, the city was paying \$10.50 per month for street lights; now it is paying \$6. Formerly the minimum charge to any customer for lighting was \$1.50 per month; this has been reduced to \$1 per month, an important consideration to hundreds of poor families.

The facts relating to the lighting of the streets of this city, and the manner in which an onerous contract is being lived up to, reflect the highest credit upon the Union company. The city furnished the company a plot on which were indicated the points at which lights were to be located. In many instances half a mile of poles and wire had to be erected to feed a single light. In the south and southeastern portions of the city particularly the lights are far apart, and taking the city as a whole it exceeds any other in the United States in the extent of area lighted in proportion to the number of lights put up. This condition, combined with the extremely low figure at which the street lights are being furnished, has been very burdensome to the company, but it has fulfilled to the very letter the most exacting stipulations of its contract with the city, including the free lighting of public buildings and grounds.

The uniform policy of the directors of the Union company has been broad and liberal towards the public. At great cost to the company, and with no immediate prospect of reimbursement, they have caused to be made marked improvements in the service the company is furnishing to its patrons. It can be said and abundantly verified that the solicitude of the directors for the interests of their patrons and of the public generally is sincere and genuine. The directorate embraces men who have done as much as any others that could be named for the welfare and building up of this city and the entire State, and they are not the men to pursue a narrow or selfish policy.

Respecting the matter of furnishing natural gas, there is this to be said: The gas wells have failed to meet the demands upon them, and the company has been obliged to make up the deficiency by providing manufactured coal gas. The amount of the latter has exceeded one-half the total amount consumed in the city since the Union company began business, yet it has been furnished at the price charged for natural gas, namely, 50 cents per 1,000 feet. The loss to the company in furnishing manufactured gas at this price has been very heavy, and unless the flow from the wells becomes sufficient to supply the demand, the company will soon be obliged to cease furnishing gas at the present price.

Such is the record that has been made by the Union Light and Power company, proving to a demonstration that its purpose, spirit and genius are broad, liberal, progressive and benefi-