

Bryan in the Philippines

In its issue of December 27 El Renacimiento, published at Manila, printed the following editorial:

"Bryan. This is a name among names. Others may boast of it but in their cases it does not mean so much. The daily press today fills column after column regarding him and his name is in the mouths of everyone. The events of yesterday claim special notice consisting, as they do, of more than mere generalities.

"Why do these simple people salute us? Do they treat the Americans here this way? These are questions which were asked of his companions during the trip through Paranaque, Las Pinas and Bacoor yesterday.

"The salutations are for you," replied a prominent Filipino, "because they know that it is you who is approaching. These people do not know you, but they have learned that you are here and your name is revered by them."

"In fact few names of Americans can be mentioned among Filipinos which will excite more feeling. Bryan did not need to come here in order to be popular.

"The principal impression produced by his presence, even upon his adversaries in politics is his consummate amiability and discretion. Bryan has made no statements or passed any judgment regarding the Philippine administration. He has not given any excuse for his being characterized as an agitator or a scoffer at the enterprise which the United States, as a nation, has undertaken in these islands.

"But does this signify that Bryan will abstain from collecting data for future use? We believe not. One can easily hope for a highly optimistic opinion from him, but a party man takes his ideas and prejudices with him wherever he goes and he sees things through the light of his convictions.

"There are those who see in this oriental trip significant connection with another trip made by him through the western country. Under the cloak of a newspaperman and traveler, the politician is preparing his weapons. The man of the world can be a statesman even after his overthrow. The man who collects his data in different countries in the guise of a democrat and writer would not make a bad chief of staff. The Philippine problem, of international interest in the Pacific and the shores of Asia, has attracted the notice of American politicians.

"It is undoubtable that the questions in these islands are becoming of more and more interest to people of the United States. Bryan will probably find his chief political adversaries among the members of the Taft party. It will be a good thing if, when the discussion becomes warm and they are called on to tell what they learned in the Philippines, he too will be able to speak from personal knowledge and face them with facts.

"We are getting on. These visits of statesmen from the United States, in the fight in which ideas, politics and opinions will figure so much, these islands cannot but be benefited.

"Although Bryan may not be a presidential possibility, he will always remain prominent in politics and in newspaper work and will always exercise a great influence on public opinion. As a democrat he will count on

the members of his party carrying out of his ideas.

"Therefore it is impossible to overestimate the importance of his visit to the Philippines. He is gathering the most pleasing impressions. His reception has not been marked with official ostentation. He receives kindly the attentions of government officials, commands the respect of Americans and the homage of the Filipinos, an homage which is at once spontaneous, sincere and cordial. Bryan with his penetration will see this. How much difference between the ritual and the purely voluntary reception. How many such have been given to Americans in the Philippines?"

The Manila Times, edited by George C. Sellner, prints the following editorial:

"In some ways the speech made yesterday by Mr. Bryan in response to the address advocating immediate independence is an epoch-making event. The democratic leader has come to be looked upon as the foremost spokesman in behalf of the doctrines which are held by those whom we have come to designate, without intending any unfair reflection, 'agitators,' and the utmost significance has been attached by them to all his utterances touching Philippine affairs. To have him therefore, after a warm welcome and with fervent declamation in behalf of immediate independence still ringing in his ears, turn on his hosts and in our frank, blunt, Anglo-Saxon way, tell them not what they wanted to hear but what he believed they ought to hear, counselling them to support the plans which the government has laid for their advancement and progress toward self-government, and by implication, advising them to forego their agitation in behalf of independence at this time, to have him do this shakes the very foundations of the hopes which have been cherished so fondly by these advocates of independence at this time. The speech also shows that Mr. Bryan's real attitude on the question of the disposition of the Philippines is not what many of these agitators for immediate independence have understood it to be.

"Apart from these, perhaps the leading feature of the speech is the manner in which there is emphasized the fact that those Americans who do not believe in granting the islands independence at this time are as much the friends of the Filipino people as those who advocate immediate independence. By a perversion of judgment common to mankind these agitators have come to regard as friends among the American people only those who support the policy of at once turning the archipelago over to their inhabitants to govern. It is timely and refreshing, therefore, to have him whom they term their 'savior' to tell them that those among the American people who do not believe the islanders are yet fit to govern themselves are as much the friends of the Filipinos as are those who contend that they are. The republicans, as well as the democrats, have the welfare of the people of the archipelago at heart, and are trying to do what appears best for their welfare.

"Believing as we do, conscientiously, benevolently, and sincerely, that the worst that could happen to the people of the Philippine islands at this time would be to leave them to their own devices, we naturally welcome the attitude adopted by Mr. Bryan. We are only sorry that he has not time to devote to a thorough examination of the archipelago, and its people, visiting the almost savage Igorot, and the entirely savage Moro, and the many other tribes of the islands. We are afraid that he may leave the Philippines as so many more

of our visitors have done, with only a superficial and misleading impression of their people and their needs. Traveling only where civilized agencies have made travel convenient, he will not be able to form a true conception of the many heterogeneous elements, which are comprised in the term, Filipino people, or realize just how incompetent 'to speak for 'The Filipino people' are those orators who appeared before him yesterday. His speech, however, warrants the hope that he will take a broad and sane view of the conditions here, and base his opinions on those conditions. As to Mr. Bryan himself, if anything our pride in him as a man has been increased in that he has shown that he is more than a politician, that he is a statesman, and that he is more than a democrat, that he is an American."

One Manila paper prints the following:

The Elks gave a rousing reception last night to William Jennings Bryan at the club house on the Luneta and all Manila turned out to do homage to their distinguished guest. The club rooms were artistically arranged with flags and potted plants and the spacious halls were the scene of many groups of wellknown faces.

Punch and lemonade were served during the evening and the music was furnished by the constabulary band.

The guests were received by Colonel Dorrington and Mrs. Dorrington, Governor Ide and Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, and were ushered by Messrs. Reiser, Patstone, Stewart and Fisher.

There was considerable stir when Emilio Aguinaldo entered the hall and was ushered up to the receiving party. He was introduced to Mr. Bryan by Governor Ide. Aguinaldo said in Spanish, "I am glad to meet you and I have been very anxious to see you. I have heard a great deal of you." This was interpreted to Mr. Bryan, who said, "We have heard your name in our country also." Then Mr. Bryan said, taking hold of Aguinaldo's arm and turning to Mrs. Bryan, "This is Aguinaldo."

The Bryan family will enjoy a family dinner today, at the residence of their old Lincoln, Nebraska, friends, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Stewart. They will attend religious services at either the Methodist or Presbyterian church.

On Christmas Executive Secretary Fergusson will honor the Bryan family with a big Christmas dinner. The fattest gobbler in town was selected by Fergie himself.

Mr. Bryan cannot give definite information concerning his sojourn here, until he familiarizes himself with the steamship schedule. However, it was settled yesterday that he and his family would stay at least two weeks. They will travel some in the provinces, but will not be able to make the Southern trip.

At a meeting of prominent native citizens held in the office of the president of the municipal board and presided over by that official, the following program for entertaining Mr. Bryan was decided upon:

A public banquet at one of the hotels of Manila.

An evening entertainment at the Liceo de Manila, at 4 o'clock p. m., on January 6, with the following program:

1. Parade of the students.
2. Address of welcome to the Honorable William Jennings Bryan.
3. Band.
4. Speech by Mr. Bryan.
5. Theatrical performance by the students of the college.

An excursion to the Pagsanjan falls.

The following committees were appointed For the arrangement of the banquet: Senores Ramon Genato, Dr. Jose Aleman and Martin Ocampo. For the excursion Hon. T. H. Pardo de Tavera, Juan Cailles, Del Pan, V. Fernandez, R. Yangco, A. Cruz Herrera,

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