

youth. A Filipino boy who was working in the home of an English woman notified his mistress that he wanted to go to school. Being anxious to keep him, she offered to raise his wages from twenty pesos per month to forty, but he rejected the offer, saying that he loved wisdom more than he loved money.

Besides the public schools, primary, secondary, industrial and normal, there are a number of religious schools. The Jesuits had their schools and colleges under Spanish occupation, one of the boys' schools which we visited at Cebu being older than Harvard University. The Catholic sisters also have numerous girls' schools throughout the islands. At Manila the Jesuits have an observatory and weather bureau which for equipment and scientific accuracy probably has no superior anywhere.

The Protestant churches are also establishing schools, some of them industrial. Who will measure the effect upon coming generations of these multiplying agencies for the training of the boys and girls of the Philippines?

The northern islands are inhabited by a Christian population. Whatever may be said of the governmental methods of Spain or of the political corruption of her colonial representatives, she established the Christian faith in the islands. Prior to American occupation the higher officials of the church and many of the priests were Spanish, but since 1900 American and Filipino bishops and priests are being substituted. Under the lead of Archbishop Harty the work of the church is being vigorously pushed and a large number of baptisms are reported. Several of the Protestant churches are gaining a foothold, there being upwards of ten thousand Filipinos enrolled in the evangelical churches. The Presbyterian church of the Tondo district, Manila, has something like four hundred natives, Senor Buencafino, secretary of state under Aguinaldo, and afterwards a member of the civil service commission, being president of the Tondo congregation.

No discussion of the religious situation in the Philippines would be complete without a reference to the independent Catholic church of which Senor Gregorio Aglipay is the head. "Obispo Maximo" Aglipay is a native Filipino, 46 years, old with an intelligent face and fine presence. In three and a half years he has established a church with some three hundred priests and about seven hundred congregations. He claims a membership of about four million, but the clergy of the regular Catholic church do not concede nearly so large a following. In fact, they deny that he has made any considerable impression upon the Catholic population and as there is no accurate church census, it is impossible to say in what proportion the Catholic membership is divided between these two church organizations.

As to the honesty of the average Filipino, different opinions are to be heard from Americans, but we are told that less care was taken to lock the doors than in America, which would indicate less fear of burglary. The Philippine court records would embarrass us if we became too harsh in our reflections upon the integrity of the Filipino, for during the years 1902-3-4-5 thirty office-holding Americans were found guilty of shortages and defalcations, the total amount embezzled exceeding seventy thousand dollars, gold. Bilibid prison at Manila is the penitentiary for the northern islands and most (I think all) who receive more than a jail sentence are confined here. There are now about forty-six hundred prisoners in Bilibid, nearly eleven hundred serving terms for brigandage, insurrection, rebellion and sedition, the remainder for other crimes. If the convicts average a year's sentence each, the number of natives sent to the penitentiary during four years would have to be about twenty-five thousand to give the native population a criminal class equal to the proportion which the thirty convicted Americans bear to the entire American population in the islands, and it must be remembered that the defalcations have been among Americans selected because of their supposed character and capacity. There have been many defalcations among the fiscal officers appointed among the natives, but not knowing the total number of the Filipinos occupying fiduciary positions and the number of Americans occupying similar positions, I can not make a comparison. Our chief consolation is to be found in the fact that Americans guilty of dishonesty have been promptly punished by the American officials, but this does not entirely remove the stain which their conduct has brought upon our nation's good name.

I can not conclude this article without expressing my appreciation of the courtesy shown me by Acting Governor Ide, Secretary Ferguson, the members of the Philippine commission and the other officials, civil and military. They were all willing to furnish information, records and

statistics regarding the things done under American authority. While mistakes have been made, some of them expensive; while there have been outrages by the constabulary (which is merely a native army officered by Americans and serving under another name) and while there have been instances of seeming partiality to Americans where a conflict has occurred between them and natives, I believe that the serious evils to be complained of are not personal but are inherent in a colonial system and can not be eradicated so long as such a system is maintained.

The greatest need that I noted in the islands is an increase in what we call the middle class, but this need is noticeable in the other Spanish colonies which I have visited and will be corrected as education increases among the masses. With more education among the farmers there will be improved methods of agriculture, and with more education among the artisans will come diversification of industry. This middle class will be a balance wheel, as it were, to regulate the machinery of society, and it will furnish a public opinion which will control official representatives.

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THE LONG AMENDMENT

Senator Long's proposed amendment to the railroad rate bill would make it possible for the order of the commission to be suspended by the circuit court and to be so held in abeyance until the final determination of the case. This is directly at variance with the position Mr. Roosevelt has all along taken. All supporters of railway rate legislation have emphasized the importance of putting the rate fixed by the commission in effect and keeping it in effect until the final decision. If the rate may be suspended then the railroad company will not be concerned for speedy determination of the case. On the contrary, delay will be to its interests, and the shipper in that case will be worn out by the litigation with the powerful corporation.

It is charged that the Long amendment was agreed upon at a White House conference, and because of that fact it is known in some quarters as the Roosevelt amendment. It is admitted that Mr. Roosevelt approves the amendment, and it is indeed regrettable. Mr. Roosevelt has had the support of men of all parties in his campaign for railway rate legislation. According to his own testimony, the very point which he seems now to have yielded is an all-important point, and if the bill as passed shall contain a provision similar to the one contained in the Long amendment, or the Roosevelt amendment, then the campaign for railroad legislation commenced under auspicious conditions will terminate in one of the most disgraceful fiascos in American history.

Senator Bailey has, we think, made it clear that congress has the power to forbid the suspension of this rate by the lower courts, and because it is of the highest importance that the rate go immediately into effect and remain in effect until final decision, the Bailey amendment or something like it should be adopted. Mr. Roosevelt and all other men who would have the people believe them to be serious in the matter of railroad reform ought to strive for the enactment of a law that will give adequate protection to the shipper and material relief to the public.

ORGANIZATION

William Looser of Greenville, Pa., writing to The Commoner says: "Allow me to say that you cannot give too much space in pointing out to democracy's rank and file the necessity of everyone doing his duty at the primaries by personally seeing to it that the men who are chosen for office are men distinguished by their disassociation with the corporate and financial interests who partially succeeded in 1904 and who now aim, especially here in the east, to make of the democratic party—like the republican party—an organized lobby for the oppressors and spoilers of the people. If you can arouse democracy's rank and file to a realization of the fact that democracy's worst enemies are today, as they ever have been, of its own household, there will be something doing."

It is not only a citizen's privilege to vote, but it is his duty to vote; and the citizen's duty is not discharged when he absents himself from his party's primaries and is content with casting his vote for the ticket named and the policy adopted by the comparatively small number of men who, having special interests at stake, are active and diligent where men whose interest is

only in the general welfare are indifferent or negligent. It is of the utmost importance that in every precinct in every state in the union democrats effect a thorough organization, using that organization to see to it that every democrat participates in the primaries of his party and manifests interest at the election. The Commoner's primary pledge plan may be used to good advantage in these precinct organizations. Every democrat should be induced to sign a primary pledge, promising to participate in every primary election.

It would be well if democratic neighbors got acquainted with one another. They will be surprised to find how much may be accomplished for their party and their country through an organization beginning with a small number of faithful democrats. This is a good time for the democrat who has heretofore neglected his duty to his party to turn over a new leaf.

Let democrats living in the same precinct visit one another, and where there are no precinct clubs see that such organizations are made. Where clubs have been organized, let democrats make it a point to attend their meetings regularly, and in word and in deed give encouragement to their fellows.

The enemies of good government act as one man with unlimited means at their disposal. The people have only their votes, and they must cast them together or suffer defeat. Democrats who believe their party should be a party of the people have it in their power through systematic organization to so shape their party's policies and govern its environment for the 1908 campaign that it will command the support of all men who have grown weary of the exactions made by special interests.

THE CHICAGO ELECTION

While the result of the municipal election in Chicago was not all that was desired, it was a distinct victory for municipal ownership. The people of Chicago approved the issue of \$75,000,000 of certificates, the same to be used for the purchase of the street railway lines. A majority was required to carry this proposition, but because the proposition providing for municipal operation of the street railways failed to receive the necessary three-fifths vote, that proposition met defeat.

The first step will be to test the legality of the \$75,000,000 in certificates, and if the courts pass favorably upon that point, the city of Chicago may proceed to acquire the street railway lines. Mayor Dunne believes that when the reform has been pushed that far it will be an easy matter to obtain the formal consent of the people for the lines to be operated by the city rather than leased to private parties.

Mayor Dunne and other advocates of municipal ownership in Chicago have made a brave fight against mighty odds, for all of which they are entitled to the thanks of the people of Chicago, and the thanks, also, of municipal ownership advocates everywhere who believe that a fair test in the city by the lake will result in the establishment of the reform throughout the United States.

TILLMAN AT THE OLD STAND

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, a republican paper, says: "Senator Tillman is said to be displeased with the court review amendment that has secured the approval of President Roosevelt. The fact that it is called the White House amendment would be enough to prejudice its case with the pitchfork wielder if there was nothing else the matter with it."

Mr. Roosevelt repeatedly declared in favor of the provisions which Mr. Tillman says are necessary for the protection of the public. It has all along been claimed that those provisions represented Mr. Roosevelt's doctrine. But that fact did not stir Mr. Tillman's prejudices.

It has all along been claimed that railroad rate legislation is Mr. Roosevelt's special property. But that claim did not stir the prejudices of Mr. Tillman nor of his democratic associates on the committee; and it will be remembered that the votes of democratic senators were required in order to report the bill to the senate.

Senator Tillman demands that protection for the public which Mr. Roosevelt has repeatedly demanded, and if there be any difference between the two gentlemen at this time, then Mr. Roosevelt has beaten a retreat, while the senator from South Carolina, true to his characteristics, is doing business at the old stand.