

# Garrison to Critics of Philippine Policy

Secretary of War Garrison issued a formal statement, November 29, in answer to criticisms made against the administration's policy in the Philippines. The statement follows:

"War Department, Washington, November 24, 1915.—It is becoming very plain that the republican politicians are attempting to lay the foundation for campaign material with respect to the Philippine Islands. There have recently appeared a series of interviews or articles exhibiting a shameless intention in this matter. These statements are mendacious in character and mischievous in intent. Many of them proceed from sources so inconsiderable as to carry little if any weight, even if undenied. Others, however, are fathered by men whose names and prominence supposedly lend weight to their utterances. It is inconceivable that even partisan zeal would lead these men to so stultify themselves.

"Realizing that the honor and good faith of this nation were involved in its relations to the Filipino people, I have absolutely abstained from any partisan comment or conduct with respect to this subject. The United States took over an enormous responsibility which should be carried out in the highest spirit of good faith and altruism, and all those who respect the good name of this country should at least refrain from misrepresentation and false statements concerning conditions.

"The government instituted in the Islands by the United States was conceived in the best spirit and has in the main been carried out in the most worthy way. Such mistakes as have been made were only such as are inevitable in the conduct of human affairs. That government has been continued in the same spirit by the present administration, and conditions, governmentally considered, were never better than they are in the Philippine Islands today.

"The bill which was pending in the last congress and which will be brought before the next congress is exactly in line with all that has heretofore been done in the islands, and is simply the next proper logical step to be taken toward developing the people thereof for self-government. No honest reading and consideration of the measure can lead to any other conclusion. Because the preamble of that bill repeated in concrete language that which has been substantially stated to be the position of this country from the time of President McKinley on down, it has been falsely labeled an 'independence' bill, and the impression has been widely conveyed that it alters in some vital, radical way the orderly progress of the self-development of the Filipino people. Such an interpretation creates an absolutely false impression.

"President Taft, when governor-general of the Philippine islands, was the first one to announce that the motto of the American administration was 'The Philippines for the Filipinos.' He properly and bitterly resented criticisms against him for taking this position. He constantly stated that this was the only position which any one, acting in good faith and with the honor of his government in his keeping, could take; that from the very beginning this was the announced policy of this country constantly iterated and reiterated by the presidents of this country, by its representatives, and by its congress. No one has so plainly set forth as has President Taft the malicious misrepresentations, the mendacious statements, and the vicious assaults that proceed from those in the Philippine islands who are not permitted to exploit the natives and the country for their own benefit.

"President Taft was absolutely justified in his bitter denunciation of these attacks, which makes it all the more amazing to find him indulging in exactly the same conduct toward those who are now occupying positions of trust and responsibility in the Philippine government.

"There lately appeared a series of articles in a newspaper called the 'Oakland Tribune.' Subsequently they were published in a pamphlet entitled 'The Unhappy Conditions in the Philippine Islands,' by O. Garfield Jones, 'former member of the Philippine department of education, with an introduction by ex-President William Howard Taft, former governor-general of the Philippines.' In the introduction ex-President Taft says:

"I have read with much interest Mr. O. Garfield Jones' article on present conditions in the Philippines, published recently in the Oakland Tribune. It is not news to me.

"What he says of the demoralization in the

present government, due to the blind and foolish policy of President Wilson and Governor General Harrison, is confirmed by every report that I receive from the islands.'

"Undoubtedly any slander or lying statement can be confirmed by reports received from the islands. Mr. Taft has pointed out with entire clearness where such reports come from. He said, when suffering from similar misrepresentations, speaking with respect to the American press and the three newspapers in the islands who were supposed to speak the American public opinion in the islands, that they were engaged in—

"'Holding the Filipino up to contempt, exposing all his supposed vices, and giving him no credit whatever for any virtues, and it may be that this represents the feeling of the majority of the resident Americans in Manila. But can we not, in the end, be just, and give to the whole Filipino people their due? Should we wish the Filipino people to judge of Americans by the drunken, truculent American loafers who infest the small towns of these islands, living on the fruits of the labor of Filipino women, and give us more trouble than any other element in the islands?'

"Mr. Taft says that what Mr. Jones states in his article was not news to him—Mr. Taft. It was unquestionably news to Mr. Jones, because he made it up himself.

"In a letter written to Gen. McIntyre, the chief of the bureau of insular affairs of the war department, dated October 26, 1915, Mr. Jones says:

"'When I reached Berkeley August 12th, Mr. Loomis of the Oakland Tribune asked me for an anti-administration article. I told him that I had as much if not more to say for the administration than I had against it. But I gave him what he asked for by making the article a discussion of the treatment of Americans in the P. I's.

"'He published this in two Sunday issues, and is now republishing it in pamphlet form with an introduction by ex-President Taft.

"'Now, I have written up a much better article on 'The Filipinos and the Democratic Regime' which is highly favorable, in my estimation, to the Harrison administration, but have not been able to sell it as yet. Will you please give me a list of the three or four big newspapers that are most pro-Wilson and are likely to want pro-administration articles on the P. I's?'

"A sickening sense of shame must overcome Mr. Taft when he realizes where his blind partisanship in this matter has led him. To be found in such company under such circumstances is, however, the inevitable result of such a campaign. There is no mitigating circumstance, because, with respect to every one of the charges, accusations and statements in the article, full records were at the disposal of Mr. Taft if he had cared to learn the truth.

"I suppose it is too much to hope for, even in a matter of this kind, affecting, as it does, the good name and honor of our country, that partisan zeal shall restrain itself within the bounds of truth, decency and fair dealing. It would be something of which we could be proud if it were so."

## ILL-TIMED

The Federal Advisory Council, in recommending the abolition of the office of comptroller of the currency, has taken a step which going to lead it into much trouble. The attacks on Comptroller Williams seemed to have some chance of success before the revelations in the Riggs bank case. Those revelations were so striking, however, that the country will not look on with indifference while the banking interests go after Mr. Williams' scalp. It is not only his scalp they are after. They are after Mr. McAdoo's also; and this in spite of the fact that the Federal Reserve act, which most of the bankers opposed, is working so well that many of those who did oppose it have come out in praise of it. Nevertheless, they are down on Mr. McAdoo because of the Riggs bank case and because of the shipping bill, and they are still more down on Mr. Williams, possibly because to a ruthless carrying out of his duty he adds an aggressive manner. When high public officials, however, do their duty in important emergencies, we do not believe it is today possible for special interests to arouse any really formidable sympathy with an attempt to throw those officials out.—Harper's Weekly.

## THE NAVY'S GROWTH

Statement showing number of officers of navy:

		Exclusive of Naval Cadets under probation at the Naval Academy
Jan. 1, 1891	1,483	239
Jan. 1, 1892	1,481	236
Jan. 1, 1893	1,486	234
Jan. 1, 1894	1,473	242
Jan. 1, 1895	1,475	237
Jan. 1, 1896	1,459	241
Jan. 1, 1897	1,450	251
Jan. 1, 1898	1,493	257
Jan. 1, 1899	1,580	278
Jan. 1, 1900	1,712	262
Jan. 1, 1901	1,702	280
Jan. 1, 1902	1,817	327
Jan. 1, 1903	1,931	406
Jan. 1, 1904	2,081	649
Jan. 1, 1905	2,158	822
Jan. 1, 1906	2,278	873
Jan. 1, 1907	2,448	748
Jan. 1, 1908	2,510	856
Jan. 1, 1909	2,678	805
Jan. 1, 1910	2,850	757
Jan. 1, 1911	2,883	760
Jan. 1, 1912	2,936	722
Jan. 1, 1913	3,093	763
Jan. 1, 1914	3,221	857
Jan. 1, 1915	3,403	912

Statement showing the amounts appropriated for the naval establishment for the fiscal years 1891 to 1915 inclusive:

1891	\$ 24,610,501.64
1892	32,706,004.50
1893	23,972,347.68
1894	22,467,840.06
1895	25,747,451.59
1896	30,628,421.64
1897	30,952,494.22
1898	21,122,495.88
1899	109,978,960.86
1900	50,016,711.61
1901	65,094,484.00
1902	81,710,906.73
1903	82,021,634.40
1904	88,386,217.08
1905	112,438,602.56
1906	104,417,814.31
1907	104,528,348.79
1908	109,029,421.40
1909	123,585,362.01
1910	137,779,172.38
1911	133,341,688.21
1912	127,957,362.74
1913	124,766,287.42
1914	142,908,549.38
1915	145,734,163.03

Statement showing number of enlisted men allowed and in service June 30th:

	Allowed.
1891	8250
1892	8250
1893	8250
1894	9000
1895	9000
1896	9000

Actual number of men in service

1897	10327
1898	22828
1899	14501
1900	16832
1901	18825
1902	21433
1903	27245
1904	29321
1905	30804
1906	32163
1907	33027
1908	39048
1909	44129
1910	45076
1911	47612
1912	47515
1913	48068
1914	52667
1915	52561

Those republicans who imagine, because the progressive party has apparently disappeared from sight in American politics, that progressivism is dead are due to be present at a sad awakening. The cold truth is that while the third party presents no menacing front, there are just as many progressive voters in the country, and that any convention that disregards their ideas of what our national policies shall be will have all its work for nothing.