

First Malay Republic

Editor Independent: Senator Foraker's public declaration, in the early portion of his first senatorial term, that, in his opinion, Emilio Aguinaldo compared favorably with any living statesman, not excepting President McKinley, may furnish food for reflection.

It is not the least of the misfortunes of national crimes that they inevitably obscure personal wrongs. In the closing years of the nineteenth century a drama was being enacted in a distant southern sea. It was that national drama to which a people looks back through the vista of whatever national achievement, as the proudest heritage of their national life—that drama of such surpassing interest to the Father of men and to the brotherhood of the just throughout the earth, when a people, true to the destiny of all peoples similarly situated, throws off a foreign yoke, and proclaims itself, under its own constitutional government, a free and independent nation.

The destruction of the Spanish fleet on May 1, 1898, and the subsequent cooperation of our marines with the Filipinos in the investment of Manila, by destroying the last stronghold of Spanish power, had enabled Aguinaldo, Mabini, and other patriotic statesmen to convene a Filipino congress and themselves assume executive power until, as they declared, their successors should be elected under the forms of a constitutional government. A provisional constitution, modeled on our own, was promulgated, and the fruition of the aspirations and struggles of two hundred years seemed at hand.

But just at this time, certain gentlemen, 8,000 miles away, the beneficiaries of every opportunity for personal honor and emolument which a great and free government can afford, not content with guiding the destinies of their own country, suddenly imagined that by seizing some tropical island on the other side of the globe, overthrowing the first republic of the Orient, and shooting the people into submission, they would aggrandize themselves and incidentally the United States. So the Filipino congress was dispersed, the provisional president of the republic was hunted into the mountains, and the secretary of state was exiled to a lonely island of the Pacific, 2,000 miles from his native land, to muse on the hypocrisy of American liberty.

The Filipino people were thus deprived of the able and patriotic leaders given them by Providence. But the wickedness of our course involved still more. The reasonable and honorable ambitions of the men comprising the first and only Filipino congress and cabinet—ambitions not so much for personal honor as to lay broad and deep the foundations of constitutional liberty for ten millions of their fellowmen—the same ambitions whose realization had brought imperishable honor to the fathers of the American republic—it was such honorable ambitions as these that were condemned to failure by the contemptible selfishness of the politicians who disgraced our government.

Aguinaldo, Mabini, and their devoted compatriots may not live to see, in this life, the fruition of their hopes. But one day they will face William McKinley and his associates before a tribunal not of man's establishment. And not the least of the indictments to which the Americans on that dread day, shall bow the head with shame unspeakable, will be, that they, in the pride of their power, as the chief representatives of a great, free, Christian nation, hesitated not, in the furtherance of their own unholy ambitions, to crush the fair prospects of the first republic-builders of the Malay race, and, by so doing, deny to those, their weak brown brothers of another clime, the realization of some of the noblest ambitions that can stir the human heart.

JOHN SAMPSON.

Washington, D. C.

HARDY'S COLUMN

Mark Hanna shows republican wisdom in rejecting Roosevelt for he knows eastern millionaires, trusts and corporations will not shell out five or ten millions to carry Roosevelt's election. Mark knows there is no way to beat Bryanism, only to use lots of money, just as he has the last two elections and more will be needed to carry the next election. Roosevelt is wise to fish and hunt among western voters, he knows all the fish of the east have gone into deep water and all the game has gone over the other side of the mountain.

The opinion and estimate of Alaska as an inhabitable country is undoubtedly about as far off as it was of Nebraska. The opinion once pre-

valued that the great American desert was a desert, as much so as any desert in Africa. We were told in Lincoln, in 1870, by every citizen we consulted that there was no plow land twenty miles west of the Missouri. Now what a change in opinion. Back still further we remember the opinion of Illinois and southern Wisconsin was almost as bad. It was thought the soil must be worthless or timber would cover it, and farmers must have timber.

The hundreds of islands along the coast of Alaska and back for miles on the main land the warm China sea current of water and air must be felt. The west coast of Europe is warmed by the American current the same way. Maine is not near as warm as the same latitude across the Atlantic. Grass, wheat, oats, rye and barley are reported to grow well wherever they have been tried. Gold, coal and fish with agriculture and health are going to populate the country equal to Norway and Sweden. In less than ten years it will be pleading to come in as a state.

The most severe dry spell, of forty days, has pinched the eastern and middle states. A million of acres of woodland in northern New York have been burned over. Wild game and almost everything valuable has been destroyed excepting trout. If there is such a thing as a firmament, dividing the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth, we suspect the western end has dropped down a little and the waters of New York and other states are falling in Nebraska.

If Cleveland and Hanna are nominated for president, neither of them will get my vote, neither will men like them get it. A man standing with, and for, the common people is the kind of man that some party should nominate, then the common people being largely in the majority can elect them if they choose. Our government is collecting too much tariff and tax from the common people while the wealthy ones are let out. Then the money is being spent, the most of it, to increase the number of millionaires.

Churches and school houses make a fair showing in Lincoln. The purest water is supplied at reasonable figures. Better conveniences should be supplied for watering horses on the street. Our city library we now are proud of. There is one thing short and that is public parks. We were in hopes the city dads would take charge of four or five blocks for delinquent taxes and make public parks of them. A quarter block would make quite a pretty park. Parks for play ground for children is almost as necessary as pure water and air.

Why spend so much money on our navy and army and at the same time not allow them to do anything to benefit the people only in time of war? Our navy could do commercial work from port to port just as well as to stand idle all the time. So our soldiers could do some work for their own support and to benefit the people. Then there is another class that could be made to earn their own living just as well and better for them than to do nothing, our criminal prisoners. It takes our sensibility to be compelled to work for their support.

The referendum doctrine and government ownership of public utilities, the corner stone of the first populist platform, is being put into use more and more every year. The corporations and trusts are fighting it harder and harder. They know that laws referred to a vote of the people will be more likely to be just and right. Just laws are not pleasing to them. The republican city of Philadelphia failed to enforce justice in granting street railways. The democratic city of Chicago has come out better. All the cities of Illinois are now under the referendum law. The governor has signed the Mueller bill—the one that the speaker undertook to trample underfoot.

The frauds and thefts now discovered in the postoffice department are strong evidence in favor of changing all the clerks every four years, at least every time the president is changed. The unlawful salaries of clerks commenced soon after McKinley came in. We do not believe in life officeholding. A change is the best way to discover fraud and the most likely method of correcting it.

H. W. HARDY.

Benevolent Vandalism

The action of President Cassatt of the Pennsylvania railroad in ordering out an army of axemen to cut down the poles of the Western Union Telegraph company along some twelve

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hundred miles of his road, as soon as the United States circuit court of appeals had rendered an injunction prohibiting the removal of the poles, will elevate him not at all in the estimation of his countrymen. The act resulted in the destruction of about a million dollars' worth of valuable property; and not only this, but it deprived a considerable section of the country of the larger share of its accustomed telegraph facilities. Having won his case in court, and being clothed with absolute power in the premises, he might well have avoided any such vindictive course, and allowed the defeated corporation the privilege of removing its property in such a way as to involve the smallest loss—bearing in mind, also, that an appeal was pending, and that a reversal of the decision by the supreme court might result in costly penalties for hasty action. The loss by the act of vandalism falls mainly upon Helen and George Gould and their family who are the largest stockholders in the Western Union; and it is needless to say that the sympathies of the country are on their side.—St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

To a man up a tree it looks as if the loss would eventually fall on the poor devils who do the world's work. George and Helen haven't lost their monopoly franchise yet.

In another column of this issue a fine half section stock and grain farm near Hastings, Neb., is advertised by Cornelius & Brown of Hastings, Neb. They are making a specialty of improved farms, alfalfa and stock ranches and will gladly give you additional information. They are a reliable firm to do business with.

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