

MANILA

status of the native inhabitants of the territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress.

Eleven days thereafter, on Dec. 21, the following direction was given to the commander of our forces in the Philippines: "The military commander of the United States is enjoined to make known to the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands that, in succeeding to the sovereignty of Spain, in assuming the former political relations of the inhabitants and in establishing a new political power, the authority of the United States is to be exerted for the securing of the persons and property of the people of the islands and for the confirmation of all their private rights and relations. It will be the duty of the commander of the forces of occupation to announce and proclaim in the most public manner that we come not as invaders or conquerors, but as friends, to protect the natives in their homes, in their employments and in their personal and religious rights."

Sent a Commission.
In order to facilitate the most humane, pacific and effective extension of authority throughout these islands, and to secure, with the least possible delay, the benefits of a wise and generous protection of life and property to the inhabitants, I appointed in January, 1899, a commission consisting of Jacob Gould Schurman of New York, Admiral George Dewey, U. S. N., Charles Dudley of Indiana, Professor Dean C. Worcester of Michigan, and Major General Ellwell S. Otis, U. S. A. Their instructions contained the following:

"In the performance of this duty the commissioners are enjoined to meet at the earliest possible day in the city of Manila, and to announce by public proclamation their presence and the mission intrusted to them, carefully setting forth that, while the military government already proclaimed is to be maintained and continued so long as necessity may require, efforts will be made to alleviate the burden of taxation, to establish industrial and commercial prosperity, and to provide for the safety of persons and of property by such means as may be found conducive to these ends.

Given Careful Instructions.
"The commissioners will endeavor, without interference with the military authorities of the United States now in control of the Philippines, to ascertain what ameliorations in the condition of the inhabitants and what improvements in public order may be practicable, and for this purpose they will study attentively the existing social and political state of the various populations, particularly as regards the forms of local government, the administration of justice, the collection of customs and other taxes, and the means of promoting the need of public improvements. They will report * * * the results of their observations and reflections, and will recommend such executive action as may from time to time seem to them wise and useful.

"The commissioners are hereby authorized to confer authoritatively with any persons resident in the islands from whom they may believe themselves able to derive information or suggestions valuable for the purposes of their commission, or whom they may choose to employ as agents, as may be necessary for this purpose. * * *

Avoided Harsh Measures.
"It is my desire that in all their relations with the inhabitants of the islands the commissioners exercise due respect for all the ideas, customs and institutions of the tribes which compose the population, emphasizing upon all occasions the just and beneficent intentions of the government of the United States. * * *

"It is also my wish and expectation that the commissioners may be received in a manner due to the honored and authorized representatives of the American Republic, duly commissioned on account of their knowledge, skill and integrity as bearers of the good will, the protection and the richest blessings of a liberating rather than a conquering nation. * * *

Pleased the Natives.
So great was the satisfaction of the insurgent commissioners with the form of government proposed by the American commissioners that the latter submitted the proposed scheme to me for approval, and my action thereon is shown by the cable message following: "The Schurman, Manila, January 4th received. You are authorized to propose that, under the military power of the President, pending action of Congress, government of the Philippine Islands shall consist of a governor general appointed by the President, cabinet appointed by the governor general, a general advisory council elected by the people, the qualifications of electors to be carefully considered and determined, and the governor general to have absolute veto. Judiciary strong and independent, principal judges appointed by the President. The cabinet and judges to be chosen from natives or Americans, or both, having regard to fitness. * * *

Signs of Treachery.
In the latter part of May another group of representatives came from the insurgent leader. The whole matter was fully discussed with them and promise of acceptance seemed near at hand. They assured our commissioners they would return after consulting with their leader, but they never did. As a result of the views expressed by the first Tagalog representative favorable to the plan of the commission, it appears that he was, by military order of the insurgent leader, stripped of his shoulder straps, dismissed from the army and sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment. * * *

and enthusiastic army. No alternative was left to us except ignominious retreat.

Had to Remain.
"It is not to be conceived that any American would have sanctioned the surrender of Manila to the insurgents. Our obligations to other nations and to the friendly Filipinos and to ourselves and our flag demanded that force should be met with force. Whatever the future of the Philippines may be, there is no course open to us now except the prosecution of the war until the insurgents are reduced to submission. * * *

"The commission is of the opinion that there has been no time since the destruction of the Spanish squadron by Admiral Dewey when it was possible to withdraw our forces from the islands either with honor to ourselves or with safety to the inhabitants. * * *

Would Invite Anarchy.
"Should our power by any fatality be withdrawn, the commission believes that the government of the Philippines would speedily lapse into anarchy, which would excite, if it did not necessitate, the intervention of other powers, and the eventual division of the islands among them. Only through American occupation, therefore, is the idea of a free, self-governing and united Philippine commonwealth at all conceivable. * * *

Amnesty Proclaimed.
"That all might share in the regeneration of the islands and participate in their government, the commission believes that the military government of the Philippines, to issue a proclamation of amnesty, which contained among other statements the following: "Manila, P. I., June 21, 1899.—By direction of the head of the American army, I have faithfully kept. As high and sacred an obligation rests upon the government of the United States to protect the lives, property and life, civil and religious freedom, and wise, firm and unselfish guidance in the path of progress and prosperity to all the people of the Philippine Islands. I charge this commission to labor for the full performance of this obligation, which is the sacred duty and conscience of their country. In the firm hope that through their labors all the inhabitants of the islands will be brought to feel the lack with gratitude to the day when God gave victory to American arms at Manila and the islands under the sovereignty and protection of the people of the United States. * * *

Working for Humanity.
"Creation of central government within eighteen months, under which substantially all rights described in the bill of rights of the United States shall be secured to the people of the Philippines, will bring to the islands peace, prosperity, education and civilization. * * *

Striking Phrases from President McKinley's Letter.
"It will be noted that the (Democratic) demand is for the immediate restoration of the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1. If another issue is paramount, this is immediate. It will admit of no delay and will suffer no postponement. * * *

Pay Offered for Rifles.
"In order to mitigate as much as possible consequences resulting from the various disturbances which since 1896 have succeeded each other through the islands, to provide in some measure for destitute Filipino soldiers during the transitory period which may ensue, and to give them an opportunity of military service, the United States will pay 30 pesos to each man who presents a rifle. * * *

Quotes the Commission.
"This commission, under date of Aug. 21, 1899, makes the following report, from which I quote the following extracts: "Hostility against Americans was originally aroused by absurd falsehoods of unscrupulous leaders. The distribution of troops in 300 posts has by contact largely dispelled the superstitions and the ignorant temper of people. This improvement is furthered by abuses of insurgents. Large numbers of people long for peace, and are willing to accept government under the United States. * * *

Plans Native Militia.
"Tagalogs alone active in leading guerrilla warfare. In Negros, Cebu, Romblon, Masbate, Sibuyan, Tablas, Bohol and other Philippine islands little disturbances exist, and civil government eagerly awaited. * * *

Denies Any Compact.
"In the report of the first Philippine commission on July 22, 1899, Admiral Dewey, one of its members, said: "No alliance of any kind was entered into by the United States in establishing its independence made to him at any time. * * *

Trade Follows Peace.
"Business interrupted by war much improved as peace exists. In Negros more sugar in cultivation than ever before. * * *

of primary education which shall be free to all, and which shall tend to fit the people for the duties of citizenship, and for the ordinary avocations of a civilized community. * * *

All Pledges Kept.
"The articles of capitulation of the City of Manila on terms of August, 1898, concluded with these words: 'This city, its inhabitants, its churches, and religious worship, its educational establishments and its private property of all descriptions, are placed under the special safeguard of the faith and honor of the American army. * * *

No Sign of Alliance.
"They 'are offering a stringent civil service law giving equal opportunity to Filipinos and Americans, with preference for the former. * * *

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Only One Course Open.
"Their untimely assault upon our soldiers at a time when the Senate was deliberating on the treaty shows that our government would have prevented the fighting, and leaves no doubt in my fair mind as to the complete responsibility assumed by the insurgents. * * *

Prolongs the Rebellion.
"The effect of a belief in the minds of the insurgents that the military support of Senators and Representatives of the people of all parties. * * *

Demands Cannot Be Met.
"More than this, we are asked to protect the rights of the people, to establish a government, and to this end repress all opposition of the majority. * * *

Philippines Took No Part.
"On Aug. 13 Manila was captured, and of the events subsequent to the Philippine commission says: "When the City of Manila was taken, Aug. 13, the Filipino took no part in the attack. * * *

No Promises Made.
"Generals Merritt, Greene and Anderson, who were in command at the beginning of our occupation and until the surrender of Manila, state that there was no alliance of independence. * * *

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New forestry regulations give impetus to timber trade and reduce high price of lumber. The customs collections for last quarter were 10 per cent greater than ever in Spanish history, and August collections show further increase. The total revenue for same period one-third greater than in any quarter under Spain, and practically abolished. * * *

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Feb. 10, 1890, says that he was present at the interview between Admiral Dewey and the insurgent leader, and that in this interview Admiral Dewey made no promises whatever. He adds: "The (Aguinaldo) asked me if my government was going to recognize his government. I answered that I was there simply in a military capacity; that I could not acknowledge his government, because I had no authority to do so. * * *

Easy to Find Fault.
"Would not our adversaries have sent Dewey's fleet to Manila to capture and destroy the Spanish sea power there, or dispatched their fleet to sail to the Spanish fleet; and if the latter, whether they were dispersed or not, whether they would have gone? What part in the Orient was opened to it? * * *

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to another power, which is without experience or training, or the ability to maintain a stable government at home and absolutely helpless to perform the international obligations with the rest of the world. * * *

Will Defend Our Title.
"To this we are opposed. We should not yield our title while our obligations last. In the language of our platform, 'our authority should not be less than our responsibility, and our present responsibility is to establish our authority in every part of the islands. * * *

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