

# FACTS THAT STARE US IN THE FACE!

A speech delivered in the house of representatives by Hon. John W. Gaines of Tennessee should be read by every American citizen. Those who may not be successfully appealed to on moral grounds with relations to the Philippine question, may be persuaded to pause in the imperialistic path in the presence of the showing made by the gentleman from Tennessee.

In the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Gaines said:

If we hold on to these islands permanently, the fact stares us in the face that there must be an endless chain of soldiers sent there and an endless chain brought back—the sick and dead both—and that this policy is inevitable, and the proof of the fact is that this is what we are now doing, and the republicans are fixing to perpetuate conditions that necessarily force us to face an endless chain of responsibilities and burdens on the lives of American soldiers and upon the backs of the taxpayers of this country.

I want to know if we are to go into the business of breeding sons for the purpose of making soldiers for the army in the Philippines? Are we to adopt a fixed or permanent policy of conquest, of colonization, of imperialism, that necessitates sending our sons and fathers to the Philippine islands regularly, when they must come home sooner or later and perhaps drag out an existence the balance of their lives, broken in health and broken in spirit, with all their natural chance of fortune blighted, pensioners, if you please, upon a charitable or uncharitable government?

This is the question that comes sharply before us. It will not down and will continue to confront us as long as the American soldiers are sent to that island, even though their unfortunate wives and beautiful daughters follow them there, running the risk, as they do, of destroying their own lives to minister to fathers and brothers when stricken, and finally, perchance, bring them back to their native land to live, or die if they must, about their own vine and fig tree.

It is safe to say that any one who will carefully study the facts and figures presented by Mr. Gaines will conclude that he has correctly stated "the facts that stare us in the face."

Mr. Gaines quoted from the Commissioner of Pensions to show that 6 per cent of our Civil War veterans filed claims for pensions in the first seven years after the close of that war, and that 20 per cent of the number of the soldiers engaged in the Spanish war had, within three years, filed claims for pensions. The Commissioner further stated that there will be representatives on the pension roll at the beginning of the next century and he submitted a table showing the examination of, by the medical officer of the United States army, a certain "crack regiment" which was examined just before it was mustered out, and that, too, after sixty days of recuperation at Montauk, New York. This record showed that seventy per cent of the membership of this "crack regiment" were diseased when mustered out; and up to June 30th, 1901, 48 per cent of the membership of this "crack regiment" had applied for pension.

Mr. Gaines made many other interesting quotations.

Henry F. Hoyt, major and chief surgeon, in a letter to the Philippine peace commission under date of August 27th, 1899, declared that the white man could not successfully perform manual labor in the Philippine climate. He added that "small pox is prevalent everywhere in this latitude and longitude and is very fatal, especially to whites."

Major Charles F. Mason, another surgeon,

in his report to the surgeon general, declared that he did not believe that there was "any such thing as acclimatization of white men in tropical climates and that their health gradually deteriorated and that they became less fitted for active service."

Major-General Greenleaf, in his report of May 16th, 1901, said that even seasoned soldiers could not stand the Philippine climate, that "the most energetic and stalwart American, after a year's service here, loses energy, strength, and ambition."

The report of Major General Otis in the year 1899 was quoted to show that out of one regiment of 873 officers and men, 60 per cent were in the hospital and of the remainder there were not eight men in each company who had the strength to endure a one day's march.

The chief surgeon of General MacArthur's division was quoted as reporting that in four regiments having an enlisted strength of 3,701, 1,003 were sick and wounded, leaving an effective force of 2,698 which, after deducting necessary details for special duties yields only 2,307 for the firing line, many of whom could not march five miles under prevailing conditions. This report also said, "The difficulties are progressive, and without any apparent fluctuations are growing worse from day to day."

Mr. Gaines said that it was an outrage to permit white women of this country whom we could control, to go to that island at all. He said there is not a woman on the island who has been there any length of time "who has a blush in her cheek, not a one has a rose in her face, not one who does not look jaded, pale, and debilitated and sick." He saw a great number of American women in Japan and hundreds of them were hurrying to get out of the island to the United States looking pale and withered.

Mr. Gaines also quoted from a letter written by an army officer, which letter fully sustained the claim that the climatic conditions were not such as could be endured by white men.

Mr. Gaines quoted from the surgeon-general's report to show the death rate among troops serving in the United States per 1,000 of strength from disease was, in 1899, 6.56, and in 1900 4.83. The death rate per 1,000 of strength among troops serving in the Philippines from disease was, in 1899 15.30 and in 1900, 20.26.

Mr. Gaines said, "Just so long as we send out men to the Philippine islands and keep them there any length of time, as a rule just so long will we continue to bring back dead men or men so utterly disabled that when they return to their homes they will begin to apply for pensions the minute they strike the land, if not before."

He quoted from a visitor to the camp at San Francisco who said that they had two burial days per week. They buried on an average per week from sixteen to sixty soldiers there and the burial grounds had then been recently enlarged by the purchase of an adjoining farm for burying purposes.

Mr. Gaines said that when he sailed from Manila, aboard the Sheridan, about 1,500 soldiers were on the same vessel. Four hundred and fifty of these were sick with the list daily increasing, several of whom died. There were on board this vessel 21 insane and he had heard of other cases since he had left there.

Mr. Gaines took up the report made by the assistant surgeon-general in which he said, "It is gratifying to report a steady decrease in deaths." The assistant surgeon-general added, however, "This seems to be mainly due to the falling off

of the number of those killed in action and dying of wounds, but the figures showing deaths from disease give a decrease in some important particulars and the list is maintained of former rates in all others except dysentery."

Mr. Gaines also quoted from the assistant surgeon-general's report to show that about 4,000 invalid troops were sent home during nine months in 1900. Mr. Gaines also quoted a prominent physician in Manila as saying that more than 30 per cent of the children of the city of Manila died annually. He quoted from the assistant surgeon-general to show an annual death rate in the population of Manila excluding the officers of the army and the navy of 42.54 per 1,000.

Mr. Gaines said that almost without exception the military men in the Philippines say that for years and even after we have restored peace, we must police the Philippine islands with a huge navy to keep off other nations and be ready in case of war with from thirty to fifty thousand land force to act in concert with the navy.

Are the American people "paying too much for their whistle?"

## Roosevelt on Unwilling Citizens.

Among the books written by Theodore Roosevelt none are more interesting than that entitled "Life Work of Thomas H. Benton." On page 235 of this book will be found this:

Not only the Columbia, but also the Red river of the north and the Saskatchewan and Frazer as well, should lie wholly within our limits, less for our own sake than for the sake of the men who dwell along their banks. Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba would, as states of the American union, hold positions incomparably more important, grander and more dignified than they can ever hope to reach either as independent communities or as provincial dependencies of a foreign power that regards them with a kind of tolerance akin to contemptuous indifference. Of course, no one would wish to see these or any other settled communities now added to our domain by force; we want no unwilling citizens to enter our union. The time to have taken these lands was before settlers came into them. European nations war for the possession of thickly settled districts, which, if conquered, will for centuries remain alien and hostile to the conquerors. We, wiser in our generation, have seized the waste solitudes that lay near us, the limitless forests and never ending plains, and the valleys of the great, lonely rivers, and have thrust our own sons into them to take possession, and a score of years after each conquest we see the conquered land teeming with a people that is one with ourselves.

On this point the Kansas City platform says: "We are not opposed to territorial expansion when it takes in desirable territory which can be erected into states in the union, and whose people are willing and fit to become American citizens. We favor trade expansion by every peaceful and legitimate means. But we are unalterably opposed to seizing or purchasing distant islands to be governed outside the constitution, and whose people can never become citizens."

Now, if it was true as Author Roosevelt said that no one would wish to see these or any other settled communities now added to our domain by force, if it was true as Author Roosevelt said, "We want no unwilling citizens to enter our union," why then does not President Roosevelt act upon the well settled principles which Mr. Roosevelt, the author, indorsed in his "Life of Benton?"