

will not be at all surprising if a formal move on this annexation proposition is made at an early day.

THE INTERESTING STATEMENT THAT from January 1 to June 1 no less than 21,077 citizens of the United States settled in the province of Manitoba and adjacent territories is made by a writer in the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. It is pointed out that 25,000,000 acres of land in the Canadian northwest are now owned by citizens of this country; 5,000,000 have been acquired during the present year, and about one-fifth of this area has been taken by bona fide settlers from the states. The remaining 4,000,000 acres has been sold to land companies who are now reselling it at a profit to the tide of emigrants who are pouring northward over the border. It is said that from a single Iowa neighborhood forty families have gone to this new territory within a few months.

THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA ARE BEING treated to a novel bit of "argument" these days. B. S. McGuire, the republican nominee for delegate to congress from Oklahoma, in an interview printed in the Kansas City Journal, says: "I have a hard fight on my hands, but I feel confident of success. I have the advantage in that Oklahoma cannot expect to get statehood from a republican congress next winter if it sends a democrat to congress in November. Many democrats in the territory have come out for me on that ground alone."

WEBSTER BALLENGER, IN A LETTER written to a citizen of Ardmore, I. T., makes this statement: "Opposition to the passage of the omnibus statehood bill through the senate next December will depend entirely upon the result of this fall's elections in Oklahoma and New Mexico. These territories are at present looked upon as surely republican, and if the republicans can demonstrate their numerical strength by not only electing republican delegates, but also a majority of the territorial legislatures, the bill will be favorably reported from the committee and passed by the senate within ten days after that body reconvenes in December. I make this statement upon the highest authority. The day before congress adjourned an informal meeting was held, at which six of the seven republican members of the committee on territories of the senate were present. It was decided then that a favorable report should be made on the bill, unless it should be shown at the fall elections that those territories were democratic, in which event the republicans of the committee would recommend adverse action, as they did not care to give the democrats six additional United States senators at this time. From assurances received from Delegate Flynn and Delegate Rodey, it was believed that this latter contingency would not arise, and Senator Beveridge was requested to draft a favorable report to be submitted to the full committee the day the senate convened." The people of Oklahoma are therefore confronted with a threat that if they do not vote the republican ticket they need not expect statehood at the hands of the republican party. Similar methods have been employed by republican leaders, and employed successfully, but it remains to be seen whether the people of Oklahoma will submit to the imposition.

IT HAS BEEN REMARKED THAT CARTER Harrison, mayor of Chicago, was omitted in the distribution of decorations to those who entertained Prince Henry during his recent visit to America. It develops, however, that this was not due to any intention on the part of the prince to slight Chicago's mayor. It is explained that it was announced to Mr. Harrison that he would be among the number to be decorated, but Mr. Harrison replied that he did not think it proper to accept such a distinction. He did, however, accept a portrait of the prince as a souvenir of the visit.

SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AGUINALDO was contemplating a visit to the United States for the purpose of relating to the American people the Filipino side of the story, the republican press has been having considerable sport at Aguinaldo's expense. The Chicago Post remarks that "the report that Aguinaldo is coming to this country to lecture will cause some to doubt the wisdom of that amnesty proclamation." The Chicago Record-Herald says that if Aguinaldo's visit to the United States "does not kill anti-imperialism, the administration may begin to take it seriously." The Washington Post suggests that Aguinaldo might "be able to make a satisfactory arrangement with some enterprising museum manager." The Detroit News says that the Filipino leader will probably be the guest of Edwin Atkinson and will

make arrangements and sign contracts with Major Pond for a lecture tour.

The American people have always claimed to be lovers of fair play. If truth is the thing sought for, what possible objection could there be to a visit at this time from the most conspicuous Filipino? On the contrary, would it not be advantageous to have this Filipino leader visit the American people and present to them the Filipino side of the story?

WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO LEARN OF conditions in the Philippine Islands. Statements that are now being made to the American people by certain soldiers and seamen who figured conspicuously in the Philippines are strikingly inconsistent with statements made by the same soldiers and seamen at the time when they seemed most anxious to entertain Aguinaldo as their guest. Those who have nothing to conceal and who have no interest in adding others to hide the truth ought to encourage, rather than discourage, this proposed visit.

On April 24, 1898, when the United States was engaged in war with Spain, E. Spencer Pratt, United States consul general at Singapore, cabled the American representatives at Hong Kong as follows: "Aguinaldo, insurgent leader, here. Will come Hong Kong; arrange with commodore for general co-operation insurgents. Manila if desired. Telegraph Pratt."

On the same day Admiral, then Commodore, Dewey, telegraphed Consul Pratt: "Tell Aguinaldo come as soon as possible."

AGUINALDO ACCEPTED THE INVITATION. He was provided with arms by Admiral Dewey. He organized the Filipino forces and whatever may have been said, or whatever may have been left unsaid, the fact remains that he was practically our ally in our fight against Spain. When we felt the need of his assistance in crushing Spanish authority in the Philippines, our representative telegraphed Aguinaldo to "come as soon as possible." Now that this Filipino leader claims that his people are in need of justice and he proposes to visit the American people and tell them what he conceives to be the truth of the situation, republican newspapers have nothing but jeers and sneers for the proposed visit.

While on this subject of visits, it may not be out of place to refer to a fact that has doubtless been overlooked by many people. When Agoncillo, the representative of Aguinaldo, came to this country prior to the ratification of the peace treaty, no sooner had he landed in the states than the republican newspapers began to chide him for his impertinence in coming to this country to interfere with this country's affairs. A great many people who had been kept in the dark by the republican newspapers actually came to regard this visit as a piece of impertinence. Many of these did not know and many of them do not yet know that Agoncillo came to this country upon the express invitation of the American administration.

THE TRUTH IS THAT MURAT HALSTEAD went to the Philippines bearing a commission signed by R. A. Alger, then secretary of war, designating Halstead as the official historian of the war department. Mr. Halstead in his book entitled "The Story of the Philippines," relates that he called upon Aguinaldo and suggested to him the advisability of sending a representative to Washington, and also to Paris, where the treaty of peace was under consideration. Mr. Halstead relates that Aguinaldo said that he had thought of sending a representative to Washington, but he did not think it advisable to send one to Paris, because he took it for granted that the American representatives there would protect the interests of the Filipinos.

Mr. Halstead relates that as a result of this suggestion and this conference Aguinaldo sent for Agoncillo and that General Merritt provided means for the transportation of Agoncillo to this country. After this invitation was extended by representatives of the republican administration, after the invitation had been accepted, after means of transportation had been provided by an American general, when Agoncillo arrived in this country he was met by the sneers and jeers of republican organs. Something had happened in the meantime to impress upon the republican politicians the notion that a visit from Aguinaldo's representative might not, after all, be "good politics."

AFTER ALL THE EFFORT MADE BY those citizens of the United States who participated in the coronation ceremonies of the king to appear to advantage, it seems that they did not meet the favor of the English critics. A London paper, discussing the dress of the visitors from several countries, has this to say concerning

the American: "The American—there is no mistaking him when he wears the clothes he has brought with him, and he holds first place as a matter of trade interest. He almost always wears a jacket of the lounge type, which somehow seems to have been cut with the special idea of making him appear to have very round and uncommonly fat shoulders. His jacket hangs away at the waist. This, together with his singular fondness for straw hats which, both in shape and texture, suggest the idea of carving from corn-cob, gives a dumpiness to his figure, which is still further accentuated by the closeness of fit in his trouser legs. There is thus an appearance of heaviness about his body which is in striking contrast to the alertness of his face, and so far as tailoring is concerned the effect is exactly opposite to that aimed at and generally produced in the much more graceful lines of the dress of the English gentleman." This is perhaps the penalty we paid for permitting Whitelaw Reid to come home before the ceremonies took place. Had Mr. Reid been there at the proper time, we have no doubt that he would have set for his fellow Americans such an example in dress that it would have met the approval of the English critics.

THE LATE SENATOR McMILLAN WAS A man of few words, and he seldom addressed the senate. He is credited with one of the shortest and one of the best speeches ever delivered in that body. When the subject of Cuban intervention was under discussion the board of trade of a Michigan city sent him a memorial protesting against intervention on the ground that it would injure business. Senator McMillan presented the memorial and said: "Mr. President: There are some things worse than war, and some things better than money." This one sentence covered the ground thoroughly and his stand was ratified by the people.

THE WEST HAS ACHIEVED PROMINENCE lately in other lines than politics and business. Three of the greatest secret and fraternal orders in the world have recently chosen western men to the highest offices in those orders. The Ancient and Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine elected Henry Aiken of Omaha to the position of imperial potentate. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks elected George Cronk of Omaha to the position of exalted grand ruler, and the Knights of Pythias have elected Tracey R. Bangs of Grand Forks, S. D., to the position of supreme chancellor. All three of these officers are from the trans-Mississippi country, and two of them from the trans-Missouri country.

HAVING JUST RESIGNED FROM THE SU-preme bench of the United States, Judge Gray is credited with having sprung but one joke in his whole judicial career, and that one while court was in session. An attorney representing the plaintiff in a mining suit held in his hand a map of the disputed property and occasionally pointed the court to different sections thereof. After peering down at the attorney for a while, Judge Gray asked: "What is that you have in your hand?" "That, your honor, is a birdseye view of the property in dispute." Leaning back in his chair Judge Gray said: "Well, sir, the court regrets to say that it is not a bird." The attorney hastily secured a larger map of the property.

KING EDWARD HAS RECEIVED A GREAT meed of praise for having given Osborne House to the English people to be used as an orphanage or hospital. This reminds the Johnstown Democrat that it is very easy to be liberal with other people's money and property. Osborne House was built and maintained out of the revenues of the kingdom, and the Democrat remarks that "it may strike Theodore Roosevelt one of these days as a handsome thing to do to give the White house to the American people for an orphanage or a refuge for decayed exemplars of the strenuous life."

WHEN MR. NEELEY WAS ARRESTED FOR complicity in the Cuban postal frauds he had \$6,000 upon his person. This money was sent to the war department and was one of the exhibits during the trial. It will be remembered that Neeley was found guilty and sentenced to a long term in jail. When President Palma was inaugurated he pardoned all American prisoners, thus liberating Neeley. Now Mr. Neeley has applied to the war department for the return of the money found on his person when he was arrested. Mr. Neeley figures that even if he did steal the money he was sent to prison for the theft and then pardoned, thus becoming the rightful owner of the stolen funds. The contention has aroused widespread interest and the courts may yet have to pass upon the matter.