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NEEDS OF FILIPINOS

FREE TRADE, MONEY FOR FARMERS AND RAILWAY SYSTEM

Colonel Edwards, Chief of Insular Bureau, Recommends Some Radical Changes to Improve Desperate Condition of Our Oriental Subjects

Washington, Dec. 4.—Col. Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, in his annual report to the secretary of war, states that the three most important needs of the Philippine islands today are a market, the opportunity for farmers to borrow money at reasonable rates of interest and adequate transportation facilities. Provision for the latter has been made by congress. He says the first of these needs, so far as it may be provided by the reduction of the Dingley tariff on Philippine products, gained the consideration of congress in its last days and a nine to nine verdict in favor of the proposition was given but too late to be finally acted upon by either the house or the senate.

No Cause for Apprehension

The report recites that it is understood that there is still considerable apprehension that this will interfere with the sugar and tobacco industries in this country, but the belief is expressed that with possibly one or two exceptions those congressmen who had an opportunity to investigate the subject at first hands last summer, are convinced that there is needless apprehension that any damage will obtain.

Colonel Edwards says the recommendation upon which the Curtis bill will be based will be presented to the coming congress with the additional recommendations.

Agricultural Bank

Attention is called to the consideration which has been given by the Philippine commission to an agricultural bank scheme, it being stated that at present the farmer and land owner find it next to impossible to borrow money upon their lands at a reasonable rate, the prevailing rates being from 2 to 10 per cent a month. The report says that the Philippine commission will probably ask that it be permitted to grant concessions and guarantees for a private bank, the Philippine government guaranteeing a dividend of 4 per cent for a certain period, and the commission regulating loans and limiting rates of interest.

Homesteads Too Small

It is stated that the limitations as to the size of the homestead imposed by existing laws has acted as a bar to the development of land for agricultural purposes, and the belief is expressed that the limitation should be increased to at least 160 acres for a single homestead entry and materially increased for corporations in the less populated islands, "especially in the islands of Mindora, Palawan and Mindanao, where only great inducements to capital will ever reclaim valuable lands from the jungle and savagery."

The rise in the price of silver, which has occurred within the last three years has culminated recently in a price which brings the bullion value in the Philippines up to the legal parity in gold and has caused fears that the coins might permanently go above parity. There would be danger that this would result in the exportation of the coins in such amounts as to leave the islands with an insufficient supply of currency.

Silver Will Not Down

While there are some reasons for thinking that the present price of silver may not be permanent, it seems desirable that congress should take measures to provide for the con-

tingency of a further rise which would embarrass the monetary circulation of the islands. It may, however, under the conditions which have now arisen, be found wise to meet the rise in the price of silver by authorizing a return to a coin containing less pure silver than now in use. This result could be attained by the reduction of the weight or fineness or both of the coins to be hereafter issued for the Philippine islands, with authority to recoin, in the discretion of the commission, the existing pieces.

Appropriate authority should be given the Philippine government, it is suggested, to legislate for naturalization as to citizenship in the islands. The aggregate revenue from the date of American occupation to January 30 last was \$82,733,108 and the expenditures for that period were \$77,710,736.

The United Kingdom continues to dominate the foreign carrying trades of the islands, nearly 60 per cent of the value of imports arriving and over 75 per cent of the exports departing under the British flag.

FEDERAL PURE FOOD BILL READY

Jurisdiction May be Given Through Interstate Commerce

Washington, Dec. 3.—Federal control of foods, drugs and liquors for the purpose of securing their purity is provided for in a comprehensive bill to be introduced in the senate soon by Senator Heyburn of Idaho. Jurisdiction of the government over these articles is declared in the measure when they become articles of interstate or foreign commerce, and a penalty of a maximum fine of \$500 and one year's imprisonment is provided for violators of the regulations set forth.

It is made unlawful to sell or manufacture any article of food, drugs, medicine or liquors which is adulterated or misbranded or which contains any poisonous or deleterious substance. Its terms prohibit the introduction into the United States or insular possessions from a foreign country of foods, drugs and liquors which are not pure or are misbranded.

To ascertain the purity of foods, drugs and liquors, both of foreign and domestic manufacture, jurisdiction is given to the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of commerce and labor, to prescribe uniform rules for the examinations of foods, drugs and liquors, such examination to be made by the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture.

In case an article is found upon examination to be adulterated notice is to be given by the secretary of agriculture to the person from which the article was obtained and a hearing arranged for.

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