

## Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Fourteenth Page.)

thatched huts upon piles, and in the fields here and there women were working.

"That," said Mr. Van Deman, "is a sample of the greater part of this island. It is made up of rice and coconuts, with sugar plantations scattered here and there through it. The soil is exceedingly rich, and it produces enormously."

## Coffee and Fruits.

"How about fruits, lieutenant?" said I.

"I believe almost any kind of tropical fruit will grow, but none are cultivated. We have bananas which grow wild, and a fruit which the people call the naranga, but which is not an orange. It is of the shape and color of the orange, but is about twice as large as the grape fruit or shaddock which we have in our home markets. We have also bread fruit, but no oranges so far as I know. There are coffee plantations in Antique, but they do not raise enough to make coffee figure largely as one of the exports from the island. Before the war about \$1,500,000 worth of stuff was exported from Iloilo annually. The province of Capiz produced half this amount, and Antique still less. There is considerable tobacco raised and some indigo, as well as cacao, or chocolate, and hemp. I believe the land to be exceedingly rich and doubt not it could be made to yield many times as much as it does."

"How about the mountains?"

"We passed through them on our march across the island. They are generally wooded and are supposed to be uninhabited on account of the malaria, except by naked nomadic savages. The mountains are generally about 2,000 or 3,000 feet high, although in places they rise from 4,000 to 5,000 feet. Mount Bacloy is said to be 5,675 feet in altitude and the mountain Nangtud 6,720 feet, or higher than Mount Washington."

"Do you hear of any gold being discovered in the mountains?" I asked.

"Yes, I hear of it, but I really have no positive knowledge about it," was the reply. "There is black sand in every stream you cross and the Spaniards claimed that there was gold in the sands of the Cababaya in the province of Capiz. It is said there are quicksilver deposits in the same province and that copper exists in Antique. These matters will have to be settled by the prospector and by the government geologists. Just now we have our hands full in trying to keep the people quiet. I can only say that the land looks remarkably rich and that it can be cultivated high up in the mountains. The climate is, as far as I have seen, not unhealthy, but the people are semi-civilized and hard to control."

## District of the Visayans.

This military district is that of the Visayan islands. It embraces the larger islands of the middle of the archipelago lying between Luzon on the north and the Mohammedan islands of Mindanao and Sulu on the south. It embraces some of the richest and most thickly populated parts of

and it was due to his vigilance that the insurgents were prevented from uprising and burning the Philippine capital. For months after the occupation he slept in his clothes. There were rumors of uprisings almost every day, but to most of them General Hughes paid no attention. He merely kept his eyes open and said nothing. At last one day he doubled his guards and ordered that the troops be kept in readiness for trouble. He had noticed that the Filipinos were taking their women and children out of Manila. They were leaving at the rate of hundreds a day and their departure was to be followed by an uprising and the attempted massacre of the foreigners. The increase of force, however, prevented the insurrection and thus saved the city.

When General Hughes came here the natives burned the town upon leaving it. They said that the most of the buildings in it belonged to Chinese and the English and that their destruction would not hurt the natives, who live chiefly in the suburban villages of Molo and Harrow. They, therefore, soaked the principal houses with coal oil and lighted them. They burned all of the best buildings, including the industrial school and other public structures, so that today Iloilo is largely made up of ruins.

After the general took possession there were more rumors of insurrections and the murder of foreigners. He paid no attention, but one day his native clerk asked for an afternoon off, that he might take his family out of the city. The general thought that might mean business and he had the town searched for concealed weapons. He found that the natives had hundreds of knives concealed in their houses and that they had planned to unite with a band of Tagalos, who were to operate from the outside, and at a concerted signal to rise, set the city on fire and murder the foreigners.

The discovery of the plot prevented its being carried out and shortly after the general Hughes attacked 1,400 of the Tagalos outside the town and defeated them. He has now cleared the island of organized resistance, but he tells me it will be months before the banditti can be cleared out, as they will probably take to the mountains.

## They Believe in Bryan.

In talking of the situation, General Hughes said:

"I believe a great deal of harm is being done by the people of the United States discussing the advisability of leaving the islands. All such reports are published over here, and they have led the people to believe that the Americans will eventually give up the struggle. They had been assured that congress, as soon as it met, would stop the war and withdraw the troops, and have been told that Mr. Bryan had advised that this should be done. You will be surprised to know that some of them can quote Bryan's speeches and can name others of the anti-expansionists. Bryan has been pictured as almost equal to the president in power. They have been given only one side of the case, and this has come from the



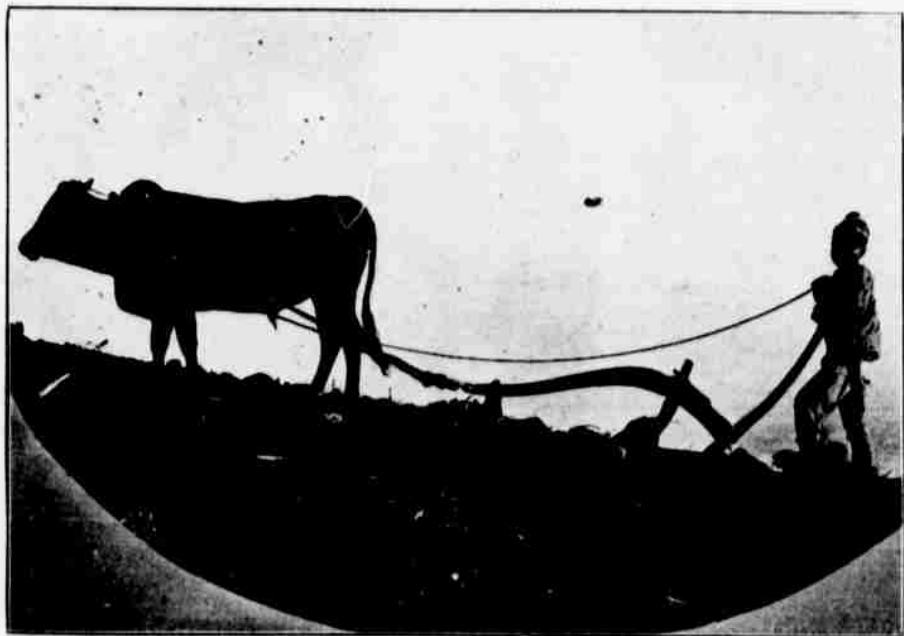
Group of Students of Boyles Commercial and Shorthand College, taken at the noon hour in the Court of the Bee Building.



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HOW THEY FARM IN PANAY.

the Philippines, and a number of large islands which are noted for their products of sugar, hemp and for their possibilities in the way of coal and other minerals. Cebu, for instance, is a great hemp-raising region, Samar produces sugar, rice and coffee. Negros, which I can see from Iloilo, has some of the best sugar plantations, and the island of Bohol is noted for its pearl fisheries. These islands are populated by a different people from the Tagalos, who are the rebels of Luzon, known as the Visayans. They have a different language and customs, but in most of the islands they have united with the Tagalos to oppose our troops. They are not as aggressive as the Tagalos, but are quite as vicious in many of their ways and are of about the same grade of intelligence and civilization, both of which I should say are decidedly low. Both people are naturally untrustworthy, and the greatest care has to be taken to guard against surprises. The islands, while there are no large armies upon them, are everywhere overrun with brigades and banditti, and there are parts of them which have not yet been subdued. Garrisons will have to be furnished for the chief towns and the principal roads should be patrolled by mounted cavalry to allow the people to work their fields and to make them feel safe.

General R. P. Hughes, who is in charge of the Visayans, is well fitted for the position. He had a good chance to study the Filipino character when he was provost marshal of the city of Manila. He took that place as soon as the city was occupied by our troops

Filipino newspapers, which are saying nothing favorable of the army of the Americans."

## Unit for Citizenship.

"What do you think of the people here, general, as possible American citizens?" I asked.

"They may make Americans some day, but it will be a long time before they will be able to govern themselves according to our ideas of citizenship. We shall have to put our best ticks on the next generation, and by education and example we may teach them American ideas and personal and political morality and honor. As it is their training has been in the policy of the Spaniards as to such matters. They believe it right and proper for officials to receive bribes, and they expect to pay them. I have just had trouble with a notary whom I appointed. He has charged the English bank here \$50 for protesting a note. They have reported it and I have cut his charge down to \$15, which is less than allowed by the Spanish law. It is so with every class of business. All the officials have been accustomed to making all they could out of their offices, and I don't see how the abuses can be remedied. If we had some American officials, young men and honest men, who could come out here prepared to remain for twenty years or so on the assurance that they would be retained in office we might be able to do something in the way of reform by and by, but as it is the situation is rather discouraging."

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