

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

While in the censor's office at the palace a few days ago a Chinese came in with a cable. It was in cipher and the man had a Chinese code book, which he showed to the censor, explaining that the message fixed the price of sugar in a big deal his master had on hand. When the man left the censor told me that the Chinese firm sending the cable did a business of about \$1,000,000 a month and that it spent hundreds a year on cables.

Palanca told me of a Chinese who has recently made \$200,000 in hamp. Pork is one of the chief exports of the Philippines to China. At the time of the insurrection against the Spanish many of the ports were closed and hamp became a drug in the markets. This was so in the island of Leyte. One of the Chinese merchants there cornered the product. He bought everything in sight and when the Americans took possession and opened the port he made a cool quarter of a million.

There are Chinese all over the Philippines dealing in hamp. I saw them buying it in southeastern Mindanao. They export shiploads of it from Sumar, Leyte and southeastern Luzon. They go about among the farmers and buy up the crop. They trade for hamp at their stores and buy it in quantity of native dealers and ship it to Manila. It is the same with sugar, rice, tobacco and copra, and in fact with everything in which there is a dollar to be made. The foreign tobacco merchants tell me the Chinese have cut the heart out of their profits and I hear the same from the English and other firms which do business in rice and sugar.

The Small Stores and Peddlers.
All of the small retail business and indeed a great deal of the large business as well is done by the Chinese. In a village, if there is a big establishment, it is sure to belong to a Chinaman. They control the trade of the Sulu group and most of that of the Visayan islands. In Luzon you find them at every crossroad and their peddlers go about with packs on their backs from house to house and show their wares to the women. The dry goods man with a load of bright cotton cloths almost as high as himself on his shoulder is to be seen every day in Manila, notwithstanding there

silver dollar and half an inch thick. One such piece costs 1 cent of our money.

The Chinese do a large part of the shoe business of Manila and almost all the shoe mending. You see the Chinese shoemaker on every corner. He carries his tools about in a basket and squats down and mends your soles while you wait. He does some of the washing, but this so far is largely monopolized by the Filipino women, who stand in the dirty water of the canals and pound the dirt out of the clothes with a stick. There are many Chinese in the markets, where they sell most of the fancy vegetables and pork, and in fact there is scarcely a place or a business in the whole island where they are not very much in evidence.

The Chinaman here has been of great advantage to the army, although Uncle Sam is now trying to dispense with him. He has been the litter bearer, going bravely out into the battlefields under the fire of the insurgents to carry off our wounded and dead. He has done a greater part of the transportation of goods during the march and has handled the most of the goods of the quartermaster's department at Manila. It is a common sight to see a train of fifty Chinese carrying great boxes on poles from one part of the town to the other and you find them loading and unloading the transports. There is no doubt but that they are far superior to the Filipinos as laborers and it is a serious question whether Uncle Sam is not making a mistake in trying to exclude them from the islands.

The development of the Philippines will require some other labor than the Filipinos can furnish. What Don Carlos Palanca has said about their unreliability is undoubtedly true. If the United States is to build railroads and public works we will need the Chinese, if we are to manufacture here for Asia we must have them, and if the mines, which seem to exist in the mountains, are to be developed it can best be done with Chinese labor. The question here is not the same as at home. Our people cannot stand hard work in this tropical climate. They will not work for the wages that are necessary in these Asiatic surroundings and it would seem that the Chinese are the only solution of the labor troubles which are to confront us sooner or later.

As to the danger of the country being

Mestizo. General Ignacio Pana has more Chinese than Filipino in him and the same may be said of others of the insurrection leaders.
FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Assimilation

Detroit Journal: We reproached the Lion with cowardice in attacking the Boar, thus:

"Benevolent assimilation, merely!" protested the Lion.
"In the sense that you are making a hog of yourself, possibly!" we sneered, as warmly as possible.

We fancied that the Lion winced at this, but perhaps he did not.

AT THE GATES OF PEKIN

Civilization Refuses to Halt at the Great Wall.

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It is a fixed determination of Europe and America that Oriental conservatism shall not defy the light of the west. Civilization refuses to halt at the great wall of the Celestial empire. Boxers and non-progressives shall not refuse to recognize the power which brightens and ennobles the great enlightened nations of the earth.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY, with a statesmanship which wins the encomiums of the globe, has announced his policy and the Chinese government must not refuse to accept the terms proposed. The salvation of the ancient kingdom depends upon the promptitude with which the Mongolian princes and the empress dowager move forward. No backward movement will be permitted.

LI HUNG CHANG, Prince Imperial, chiefest of the viceroys of China, best known of the leaders of the Far East, understands the conditions and America waits, confident that every foreigner now in Peking will be rescued and the allies will then assist the Chinese government in crushing the rebellion.

PRESIDENT B. H. ROBISON of the Bankers Reserve Life is engaged in a less momentous contest, but he is equally determined. The Bankers Reserve Life Association represents a principle of vast importance to the people of the west. It proposes to fight its way through the camps of its well entrenched enemies and to plant the banner of Home Life Insurance in every community in this great commonwealth.

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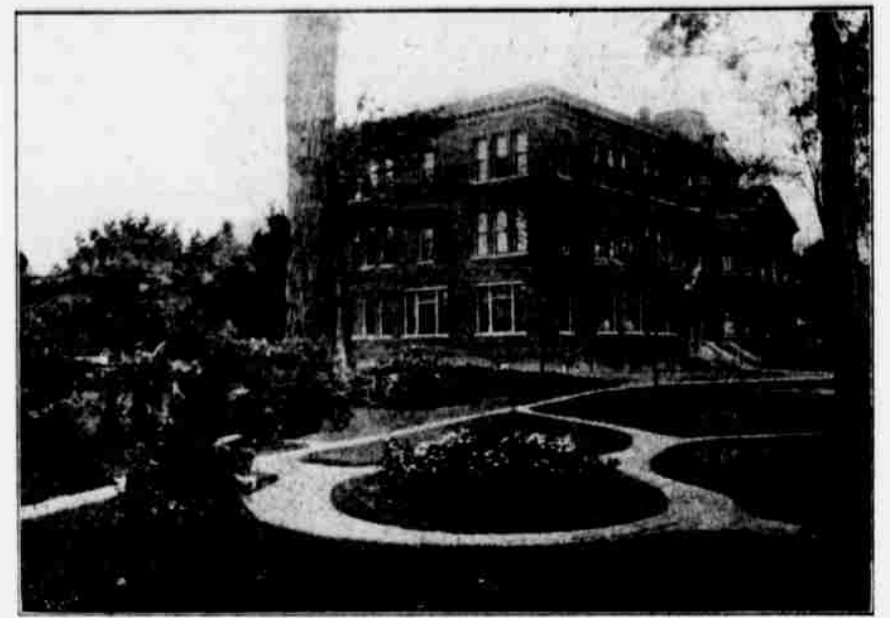
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DON CARLOS PALANCA—RICHEST CHINAMAN IN MANILA.

are whole streets given up to Chinese selling of the same articles.

The chief business street outside the Escalita is Calle Rosario. This is a great Chinese bazaar half a mile long, lined with Chinese stores packed with cottons, silks, hardware and notions. There are hundreds of little caves in the wall so full of cotton goods that there is no room in them for counters or cases. The goods are piled upon shelves, stacked up on the floors, hung from the ceilings and even put outside on the street in the arcade which runs from block to block. The stores have no doors and their whole fronts are taken away in the daytime. Some are not more than six feet in width and ten feet in depth. But each has one or two pig-tailed clerks and all seem to be busy.

The usual costume of the merchant is an undershirt and drawers. He is always bareheaded and usually barefooted, with the exception of his low slippers, which he often drops off. He usually sits in the street outside his store smoking a cigarette while he waits for custom. He is never asleep and is always ready to bargain and sell.

The Chinese stores are grouped much according to the articles sold in them. The dry goods stores take up a number of blocks, hardware stores have their own section and in other parts of Manila you find streets given up to Chinese shoemakers, tailors and sugar manufacturers. Many of them make sweetmeats and many manufacture chocolate from the cacao bean. Making soap from cocoanut oil is another great industry. It is made in little yellow disks about as big around as a

overrun by the celestials, they have been here for 300 years and at present they do not number one-eightieth of the population. They have not materially increased from year to year and any great influx could easily be controlled by future legislation.

At present about 1,500 Chinese arrive and depart every month. None can come in but those holding certificates showing that they have been in the islands before. Each of these certificates gives a description of its owner, but the Chinese look so much alike to us that they are often sold, the price in Amoy being, so I am told, from \$15 to \$50 per certificate.

The Chinese Mestizo.

Many of the Chinese who come to the Philippines return to China, but a great number remain here and take Filipino wives, or, more often, concubines. Don Carlos tells me that hundreds of them are living in concubinage who would have married had the laws of the Spaniards not provided that to do so they must become Christians and be baptized into the church. This, under the old regime, made a wedding cost all the way from \$100 to \$1,000 and as a ceremony seemed decidedly high.

The Chinese, however, take good care of their children, whether they are married or not, and today some of the best educated and highest of the Filipinos have Chinese blood in their veins. Indeed the most of the leaders of the insurrection are of this class. Aguinaldo is a Chinese Mestizo and his wife has Chinese blood mixed with the Tagalo in her veins. The mother of Pedro Paterno is a Chinese