

To the Editor of The Journal:—

In the April issue of Popular Science, I saw a short article called "Listen to the Nose Flute of the Untutored Filipino." A sentence was particularly interesting. It read, "Among the Filipinos a flute is never played in any other way, and it would create as much surprise in that country to see a man playing the flute with the mouth." Accompanying the article was the picture

of a naked man with a piece of bandage around his waist. During my two year stay in this country I have seen many similar articles which were amusing because of the alarming display of ignorance of things Philippine.

This is what I have to say about these articles. I have read no greater bunch of lies, I have seen no greater injustice done to the Filipino race, I have found no better example of man's rashness in drawing conclusions and lack of broadmindedness than these articles. Referring to the above in particular, I have lived 25 years with my people, and honestly and frankly, I have never seen a man play a flute with his nose, in spite of the fact that the article says that the flute is "never played in any other way." It is very possible that some such way of playing exists among the aborigines which inhabit the mountain regions and which constitute but a small fraction of the total inhabitants of the islands. I must add that the Filipinos are musicians by birth and lived up to this reputation when the Filipino band that toured the world was pronounced by experts to be second only to the Italian band.

I don't know why some Americans who have had the bare experience of seeing the Philippines, have that fiendish delight to picture my people wild, semibarbarous, head-hunters. To create something sensational, they exhibit the typical Filipino as a naked, uncivilized mountain dweller; and the honest unsuspecting "Americano," who has not seen the Philippines, will naturally believe these stories.

What will the people of the United States say if I should go back home and tell my people that the American Indian is the typical American? What will they do if I say that lynching is a universal practice as a sign of advanced civilization? Will not

every redblooded American who takes pride in calling himself an American rise up with indignation and shout, "You lie?" Well, a Filipino is capable of the same feeling.

All I demand is fairness and justice. The American people, as a race, I must admit, is the most honest people I have ever seen. And, taking advantage of this wonderful virtue, a malignant few after seeing the Philippines, go around lecturing or writing articles about the "wild Filipinos," calling everything typical that which is most rare. This tendency is sometimes impelled by ignorance of the actual state of affairs, sometimes by the desire to excite interest, sometimes by the desire to magnify their "adventures" and eclipse the daring exploits of the knights and princes of the Age of Chivalry. Blinded by these motives, they become the helpless victims of exaggeration and the unhappy tools to excite wrong public opinion.

Admiral Dewey has pronounced the Filipinos as more capable than the Cubans. By this statement I do not mean to disparage the Cubans, whom I respect and whose friendship I treasure. I simply wish to show that the Filipinos, by comparing them with a people better known to this country due to their geographical location, are not all wild and semi-barbarous head-hunters, and that only a small fraction of a percent may be called uncivilized. It is true, of course, that the average conditions here are higher than those in the Philippines, but this fact is not surprising if we recall that during the three and a half centuries of Spanish rule the natives were literally prevented from progressing.

I hope the American people will not misunderstand my attitude. After my country, I love America next. My people realize the benefits that the American rule has given them. They love and respect the Stars and Stripes. The 25,000 Filipinos who volunteered to fight for Uncle Sam constitute an eloquent example of their gratitude and loyalty to this country.

The American people, I hope, will soon find the truth about the Philippines. It will be one of my cherished hopes to see my country represented in this World's Greatest Republic as it really is and not what it was 100 years ago. I wish to refer the people of this country to the utterances of distinguished Americans, like Ex-President Taft, Admiral Dewey, Governor General Harrison, and many others, most of whose statements can be found in Mr. Kalaw's "The Case for the Filipinos," and lastly, I wish to say that any American who knowingly, intentionally, or maliciously misrepresents America's outlying possession before the eyes of the American people, deceives himself, deceives his country, and stains his hand with the blackest, the foulest, and the most despicable stain—the lie.

VIDAL A. TAN,
Cornell University.

Filipino's Views on Independence; An Answer to Mr. Calkins

Ithaca, N. Y., August 19, 1923.

To the Editor of The Journal-News: Referring to Marcus T. Calkins' article on Philippine problems published in your Saturday issue, I wish to express my thanks for the sound information which he has given in connection with progress in the islands along the lines of education, sanitation and other economic and national improvements which are, indeed, established facts.

On the other hand, the only question which seems to meet with a great diversity of opinion is that of Philippine independence, and while a great majority of the American public, carried by their high sense of justice and fair play, sympathize with the Filipino people, the strongest factor which opposes our independence is, as is but humanly natural, made up of the group of business men who make their fortunes in the islands, and in yesterday's article I am sorry to notice that Mr. Calkins gathered his information and point of view on this matter from these same business men only. It seems that they fear for the safety of their investments should the Philippines be made an independent nation, but comparatively speaking, if foreign capital is safe in America, I do not see any reason why American capital should not be safe in a country already greatly Americanized, with a government patterned after that of the United States and the stability of which the Woods-Forbes report, itself, did not deny.

On the question of the Japanese menace, let me quote Congressman Frear of Wisconsin, who in 1920 said, "Manchuria, Korea, and Formosa, near Japan, all offer a fairly promising field to Japanese expansion, because of proximity and comparative small population to country occupied. Yet Japan has failed in its attempt to colonize Formosa. * * * If after many years Japan has been unsuccessful in fastening its government on the small island of Formosa, what probability is there of attempts to conquer the Philippines, with many times the area and population of Formosa; a people who are well educated, enlightened, of Christian religion, and of tested courage, living down in the tropics; a race that back in 1898 was declared by John Barrett then 'equal to the Japanese in statesmanship,' by General Anderson to be 'hard fighters,' and by Dewey as a race whose army in 1898 could have comprised the entire population."

Quite in contradiction to Mr. Calkins' information on an 83 per cent vote of the people against independence, the Wood-Forbes report states: "We find everywhere among the Christian Filipinos the desire for independence, generally under the protection of the United States. The non-Christians and the Americans are for the continuance of American control." The latest census shows that the non-Christians are only nine per cent of the total population and the American residents less than 3,000 in number. Christian Filipinos according to the census of 1918 number 9,381,357.

In his conclusion, Mr. Calkins said: "I have only spoken of the advantages of these islands to the United States in a commercial way, etc. * * * ; but when I come to see what a hold the British, French and Dutch have in the islands of the Pacific and how they have managed to acquire holdings in strategic places like Hong Kong, etc. * * * and Japan at our door, it would seem that we should hold the Philippines indefinitely, as well as Hawaii and the Panama Canal. If we hope to maintain the 'open door' in China and the islands of the Pacific. The intention of Congress in the Jones law was to give the Philippine people all possible powers of local self-government not incompatible with the sovereignty of the United States."

This Day In Ithaca's History

August 22, 1873 — 50 Years Ago.

The Spiritualist Society of McLean have a picnic in the Fall Creek Gorge today. Timber dealers up at Ovid are preparing to ship their commodity on the G. & I. Railroad.

August 22, 1893 — 30 Years Ago.

An excursion party of about 300 people from Elmira and vicinity visited this city today. The Ithaca Water Company's East Hill reservoir on the Bryant farm is almost completed.

In addition to this, I think is it but just to add another part of the preamble of the Jones Law: "Whereas it is, as it has always been, the purpose of the people of the United States to withdraw their sovereignty over the Philippine Islands and to recognize their independence as soon as a stable government can be established therein; * * * " Now, I have nothing to say to these concluding declarations of Mr. Calkins, but I only wish to ask this: Will it be fair for the United States, who has always stood for true democracy and championed the cause of smaller nations, to secure her sovereignty at the expense of a small country who honorably craves her national freedom? Very respectfully, PERFECTO A. COVAS.

Says Whole Filipino People is Asking For Independence

Ithaca, N. Y. August 26, 1923.

To the Editor of The Journal-News:

In the Friday issue of The Journal-News, Mr. Calkins endeavored to prove the advantages of American rule over self government in the Philippines for the Filipino people. I wish to state, however, that there is no contention along that line. It is understood that such a great nation as America cannot but do good and give a lot of help to a small and striving country like the Philippines. The Filipino people admit before the world that America has been the greatest aiding factor in their country's development, a thing for which they are and will always be grateful to her.

To give a clearer understanding to the matter, I wish to emphasize that the present issue is no longer a question of American rule vs. self government in the Philippines. The Filipino people have already studied their situation and they have come to a definite conclusion. They want independence. This desire is not born of ingratitude

towards the United States, nor does it show lack of appreciation of the risks and dangers of international life. It is the logical outcome of more than 20 years of joint endeavor by Americans and Filipinos in educating the masses and inculcating in their minds America's high ideals of democracy and liberty. Now, they want freedom to work out their own salvation, to live their own lives, and to govern themselves as they see fit without the aid of America or any other nation. As to external invasion, America can easily make arrangements with the other powers for the neutralization of the islands. Even Japan, who has now been made all powerful in the Far East by the Washington conference on the limitation of armaments, made known through its late Premier Hara, "Once the United States decides to give the Philippines its freedom, the Japanese government will be first to sign an agreement for their neutralization."

At present, there is only one binding agreement that exists between America and the Philippines. It is the Jones law, the purpose of the United States as to the future political status of the people of the Philippine Islands, and to provide a more autonomous government for those islands." The Jones law, therefore, has become a virtual constitutional compact between the American and Filipino peoples, by means of which the Filipinos have accepted a temporary government under American sovereignty subject to the conditions: First, that it shall be autonomous, or chiefly in the hands of Filipinos; second, that American sovereignty shall not now be impaired; and, third, that it shall be only preparatory to a complete independence, such independence to be granted "as soon as a stable government can be established in the islands."

Steps to stabilizing the government in the Philippines have been taken for years and its actual existence has been officially reported to Congress by ex-President Wilson and ex-Governor General Harrison, who stayed seven years in the islands. Even the Wood-Forbes report did not deny these executive statements. It is therefore evident that Filipino people have already fulfilled their part of the specified conditions in the Jones law, and now they only ask America to do her duty by fulfilling her share of the agreement in granting the Filipinos their promised independence.

Just recently, the members of the Philippine Council of State and the secretaries of departments have resigned in protest against the present policy of Governor Wood. It is needless to enumerate the actions that lead to this disagreement, but one thing is certain: the Filipino people have unanimously asked for Governor Wood's recall. Following are some extracts that will give more light on this matter. From the letter of resignation: "This series of acts constitutes a clear violation of the fundamental law of the land, and other legal provisions, especially those of Act 2803, and of Section 2447 of the administrative code, and at the same time, is a backward step and a curtailment of Filipino autonomy guaranteed by the organic act and enjoyed by the Filipino people continuously since the operation of the Jones law." From the resolution passed by the Philippine Commission of Independence, which is composed of all members of all parties of the Philippine Legislature: "We confirm and ratify the stand of the members of the Philippine Council of State and the secretaries of departments in presenting in a formal document their grievances against the policy and acts of the governor general because of continual encroachments upon the attributes and duties of Filipino officials to the grave detriment of domestic autonomy." Also, "The council of state and the department secretaries resigned only after they were convinced that the governor was bent upon curtailing the autonomy granted by the organic act."

In conclusion, let me repeat that the Filipino people want their independence, and they want it almost to a man. Nothing that the United States has ever given us, or can ever give us, will compensate for the loss of our independence. It is our one dearest wish, our most sacred hope. Our self-respect and happiness require it. Our willingness to die in the battlefield in defense of it should prove to the American people how highly we cherish it.

Very respectfully, PERFECTO A. COVAS.

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SHAVES
Without Mug
Cuticura Soap is the favorite for safety razor shaving.