

## The Commoner.

### Former Annexations.

So much has been said by the imperialists to the effect that the administration's Philippine policy is identical with the annexations of the past that it is important that the student of public affairs should clearly understand the facts relating to annexations.

**Northwest Territory.** The territory now forming the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, was called the "Northwest Territory." New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut severally laid claim to this territory, but finally each state ceded its interests to the general government. This may be called our first annexation. In 1787, congress provided for the government of this territory. It provided that after 1800 slavery within this territory should be prohibited. It was also provided that no property qualification should be required of electors. A temporary government was authorized to exist until the male population of the territory reached 5,000, at which time a permanent representative government would be permitted, with a representative in congress possessing the same privileges that our territorial delegates do today—entitled to debate, but not to vote. It was also provided that whenever the inhabitants of any one section of the territory numbered 60,000, that section should be admitted as a state.

**The Jay Treaty.** The first annexation treaty was with Great Britain, and was known as the Jay treaty. This was made Feb. 29, 1796. It contained this provision:

Article II.—All sellers and traders within the precincts or jurisdiction of the said posts \* \* \* Shall not be compelled to become citizens of the United States, but they shall be at full liberty to do so if they think proper, and they shall make and declare their election within a year after the evacuation aforesaid. And all persons who shall continue there after the expiration of the said year without having declared their intention of remaining subjects of his Britannic majesty shall be considered as having elected to become citizens of the United States.

**Louisiana Purchase.** The second treaty was the Louisiana Purchase treaty of October 21, 1803, made with France. It provided:

Article III.—The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal Constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of the citizens of the United States, and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion which they profess.

**The Florida Cession.** The third treaty involved the cession of Florida. It was made with Spain Feb. 22, 1821 and provided:

Article VI.—The inhabitants of the territories which his Catholic majesty cedes to the United States by this treaty shall be incorporated in the union of the United States as soon as may be consistent with the principles of the Federal Constitution, and admitted to the enjoyment of all the privileges, rights and immunities of the citizens of the United States.

**Our Treaties With Mexico.** The fourth and fifth treaties were executed July 4, 1848, and June 30, 1854. They were known as the Mexican treaty and the Gadsden Purchase treaty, and provided:

Article IX.—The Mexicans who in the territories aforesaid shall not preserve the character of citizens

of the Mexican republic shall be incorporated into the union of the United States, and be admitted at the proper time (to be judged of by the congress of the United States) to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States according to the Constitution, and in the meantime shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property and secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction.

**Annexation of Alaska.** The sixth treaty involved the Alaskan purchase. It was made with Russia June 20, 1867, and provided:

Article III.—The inhabitants of the ceded territory according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years, but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of the uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

**The Case of Hawaii.** The next instance of annexation was Hawaii. This was accomplished by joint resolution of Congress, which joint resolution provided as follows:

All white persons, including Portuguese and persons of African descent, and all persons descended from a Hawaiian race, on either the paternal or maternal side, who were citizens of the republic of Hawaii immediately prior to the transfer of the sovereignty thereof to the United States, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States.

**The Treaty With Spain.** The seventh treaty was made with Spain December, 10th, 1898. It was the peace treaty. This treaty provided:

Article IX.—Spanish subjects, natives of the peninsula \* \* \* may preserve their allegiance to the crown of Spain by making before a court of record, within a year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this treaty, a declaration of their decision to preserve such allegiance, in default of which declaration they shall be held to have renounced it and to have adopted the nationality of the territory in which they may reside.

The civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress.

It will not be difficult for the student to determine the difference between the administration's Philippine policy and the policy adopted in all former annexations. In all other instances citizenship for the people of the territory annexed was contemplated and provided for. In this instance citizenship was not guaranteed to the people of the annexed territory, but the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants were left for the determination of Congress.

**The McEnery Resolution.** The difference between the administration's Philippine policy and the policy adhered to with respect to all former annexations was emphasized when the United States Senate, after ratifying the peace treaty, adopted the McEnery resolution, which provided as follows:

That by the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain it is not intended to incorporate the inhabitants of the Philippines into citizenship of the United States, nor is it intended to permanently annex said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States; but it is the intention of the United States to establish on said islands a government suitable to the wants and conditions of the inhabitants of said islands, to prepare them for local self-government, and in due time to make such disposition of said islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the inhabitants of said islands.

This resolution was adopted in February,

1899. Two years have elapsed, and instead of getting nearer to the traditional policy of this government with respect to annexation, we have gone considerably farther by conferring upon persons to be named by the President "all military, civil and judicial powers" in the Philippines, said powers to be exercised under the President's direction.

It is important that we carefully observe the marked difference between the administration's policy and the traditional policy of this government with respect to annexation.

In every instance, previous to that relating to the Philippines, the inhabitants of the acquired territory were to become citizens of the United States, while the territory was to become part and parcel of the United States. In the case of the Philippines the political status was to be defined by Congress. And in ratifying the treaty the Senate said: "It is not intended to incorporate the inhabitants of the Philippines into citizenship of the United States. Nor is it intended to permanently annex said island as an integral part of the territory of the United States."

The people have been deceived by republican pretenses—they have refused to believe that a revolution in our form of government was intended. Each day makes clearer the purpose of the administration to discard American principles and mould our institutions to suit European ideas.

### Annabel Lee.

By Edgar Allen Poe.

It was many and many a year ago,  
In a kingdom by the sea,  
That a maiden there lived whom you may know  
By the name of Annabel Lee;  
And this maiden she lived with no other thought  
Than to love and be loved by me.

I was a child and she was a child,  
In this kingdom by the sea;  
But we loved with a love that was more than love—  
I and my Annabel Lee;  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me.  
And this was the reason that, long ago,  
In this kingdom by the sea,  
A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling  
My beautiful Annabel Lee;  
So that her high born kinsmen came  
And bore her away from me,  
To shut her up in a sepulchre  
In this kingdom by the sea.

The angels, not half so happy in heaven,  
Went envying her and me—  
Yes!—that was the reason (as all men know,  
In this kingdom by the sea)  
That the wind came out of a cloud by night,  
Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love  
Of those who were older than we—  
Of many far wiser than we;  
And neither the angels in heaven above,  
Nor the demons down under the sea,  
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
For the moon never beams, without bringing me  
dreams  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes  
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  
And so, all the night tide, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling—my darling—my life and my bride,  
In the sepulchre there by the sea,  
In her tomb by the sounding sea.