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PHILIPPINES' WEALTH

Probably the Richest Unexplored Territory in the Known World.

IT IS AN EARTHLY PARADISE

Estimate of the Islands by a Resident of Manila—Opportunities for Capital and Enterprise—What General Otis Has to Say.

"When the islands shall have been fully explored the country will probably be found to be the richest unexplored territory in the known world."

This is the estimate put upon the Philippines in a statement which General Otis has forwarded to the war department. The maker of it is a resident of Manila, whom Gen. Otis describes as a highly intelligent man. Gen. Francis V. Greene indorses the statement as fairly conservative and thoroughly trustworthy. To the officials of the war department this description of opportunities explains the information that has recently come to the formation of partnerships and associations among the American soldiers now serving there, having for their purpose various development projects in the archipelago. Considerable numbers of these soldiers have banded together with the avowed intention to settle in the Philippines and engage in various enterprises. Some of these American soldiers will send home two or three representatives to enlist capital in their respective communities. This movement among the soldiers has obtained sufficient magnitude to become the subject of considerable attention from the government. The basis for it is shown in the statement forwarded by General Otis. In the way of encouragement which conditions hold out for enterprise and investment the statement presents the following: "The river Pasig, dredged out to the mouth of the lake, and with its points cut down to make navigation easy for decent passenger steamers, would immediately attract capital to put on daily morning and evening service. Then the people of Manila could and would avail themselves of the service to pass the nights in the many cool spots fringing the lake. No heat in the daytime would be felt after a cool night. In a very short time Laguna de Bay, twenty-five miles by twenty miles in its greatest dimensions, would be studied over with yachts and pleasure craft of every kind to afford pleasurable recreation to all who could spare the time and expense. "With capital and enterprise the nearest approach to an earthly paradise is here at beck and call. It is perfectly amazing the strides made by progress within the last thirty years since the province steamers began to run in the islands. Some of the promoters of the enterprise can recall that as late as 1863 it took two weeks or more for one of the small schooners then employed to bring in outside produce a distance of 250 miles to the shipping ports. In 1863 twelve capitalists, mostly foreigners, got together \$60,000 to bring out a small boat to make trips to Iloilo and Cebu. The result was so perfectly satisfactory that boat after boat followed, until there is at the present time a line of fifty province steamers, large and small, running in the islands. "The short 120-mile railway put down by English capitalists gives but a faint idea of what a network of railroads could do, but it is enough to show what a profitable investment some roads can be made in this country under a liberal, up-to-date government. That which applies to Luzon applies equally to all the other islands, where the produce in most cases is left to rot in the fields for want of adequate means of conveyance. Roads, good public roads and railroads, would send the products ahead by leaps and bounds, and material progress would be the sure precursor of the light of civilization. "Why European governments, who have for centuries been opening up and civilizing the darkest countries, should have overlooked the Philippines without having a look into them, and, if necessary, force reform upon the ruling powers, seems inexplicable. "Take Luzon first, to give a faint idea of known resources. In the north is a rich and extensive tobacco country, where qualities equal to those grown in Cuba can be produced. Coming south, two Ilocos provinces comprise rich sugar and rice lands. Indigo also can be largely produced, and with more labor be increased in quantities and improved in quality. "In the long range of mountains, practically unexplored, copper, gold and other minerals are known to exist, and without doubt in considerable quantities. Copper has been worked for many years in the mountains of South Ilocos, Mangayan and Lepanto, want of communication being the great obstacle to mining on a large scale. In this district we have the district of Benguet, over 4,000 feet above the sea level, with a climate not to be beaten in Europe. In winter it borders on frost, and in summer it is never over 65 degrees Fahrenheit. "There is an extensive pine forest there, and exquisite potatoes and home vegetables of all kinds can be grown to any extent. The Spanish government had arranged to put up a sanitarium there, to send invalid troops and employees to Europe to recuperate. A

mountain line of railroad for ascent and a short level line to connect with the Manila-Dagupan line would take passengers from Manila in about twelve hours to this desirable retreat. "The provinces of Union, Zambales, Pangasinan and Bulacan largely produce tobacco, sugar, rice, etc. The Angat mountains, Bulacan and Bosoboso, only a few miles from Manila, produce iron ore yielding upward of 72 per cent of pure metal. These mines have been worked but little. Some iron ore from Angat is stated to have produced 85 per cent of pure metal. The latter exists in large quantities, only requiring capital and enterprise to develop a large production. Lead, silver, gold and coal are to be found in many parts of Luzon. Hemp, sugar and coffee are also produced, the first two in large quantities. "Mindoro, close to Manila, is occupied by Europeans only in small spots, and is covered, as are many parts of Luzon, with valuable timber from the water's edge to the mountain top. The variety of hard and other woods numbers about seventy of known good woods. Valuable but undeveloped coal beds exist in Halcum, the highest mountain in the group. "Romblon is rich in marbles, covered with coconut trees, and only partially explored. The islands of Tubbataha, Marbute, Burias and Marinduque, etc., are good timber producers, and also possess excellent pasture lands. The large and fertile island of Panay produces sugar, rice and sapan wood in abundance, and there are indications of petroleum and coal in some places. Owing to a lack of roads, it is next to impossible to bring the produce to the shipping port, Iloilo, unless at an exorbitant and prohibitive cost. This island and its neighbor, Negros, are most promising fields for railways, the port of Iloilo bidding fair to be the principal exporting center of the archipelago at no distant date. In 1850 Negros and Iloilo exported about 600 tons of sugar. In 1897 the production was close to 200,000 tons. Rapid communication would increase the yield four-fold in a short time. "Cebu, Leyte, Samar and Bohol produce sugar, hemp, maize and tobacco. Excellent cattle are also raised. Cebu is full of coal. In the mountain side at Uling, the outcroppings indicate the existence of millions of tons. A couple of millions of tons could be extracted with very little mining. This is the largest coal bed thus far discovered, and with fifteen miles of railway the mineral can be put down in the port of Cebu at a cost of rather under than over five shillings per ton. The coal is of good steaming quality. The local steamer owners have found it to be fully as good as the best Japan coal. With an abundance of cheap labor, copper and iron within easy reach, many enterprises, having the raw material on the spot, could be at once proceeded with, such as ropewalks, sugar refineries, cement and brick works, docks, wharves, reclamations, port improvements, dredging, etc., for which there is an unlimited field all over the group. "Many of the above indig ries give handsome returns in Hong Kong and elsewhere, even after the payment of freight and charges on the raw material imported from Manila, Java, Japan, etc. The island of Mindanao is practically unexplored and unconquered, with the exception of a fringe around the coast. It is timbered from water's edge to mountain top, and produces hemp; gold and coal mines abound, all of which are unworked."

More Injunction Proceedings.

W. M. Thompson, of Butte, last Friday commenced suit in Judge Lindsay's court against the directors of the Combination Mining and Milling Co. to enjoin them from selling the stock of delinquent shareholders. A temporary restraining order was issued and the case has been set for tomorrow. The suit, which had been advertised for January 7th, did not take place, and has been postponed pending a decision in the matter. Considerable litigation was caused several months ago when the directors declared their intention of removing the books of the company to St. Louis, and it is said that this new suit is a continuation of the former trouble.

Anglo-Saxon Superiority.

M. Demolins, of Paris, editor of La Science Sociale, has written a book entitled, "To What is Due the Superiority of the Anglo-Saxons?" in which he says: "It is useless to deny the superiority of the Anglo-Saxons. We may be vexed by this superiority, but the fact remains despite our vexation. We cannot go anywhere about the world without meeting Englishmen. Over all our possessions of former times the English or the United States flag now floats. The Anglo-Saxon has supplanted us in North America, which we occupied from Canada to Louisiana; in Mauritius, once called the Isle of France; in Egypt. He dominates America by Canada and the United States; Africa by Egypt and the Cape; Asia by India and Burmah; Oceania by Australia and New Zealand; Europe and the entire world by his commerce, by his industry, and by his politics. The Anglo-Saxon world is to-day at the head of that civilization which is most active, most progressive, most devoting. Let this race establish itself anywhere on the globe and at once there is introduced with prodigious rapidity the latest progress of our western societies, and often these young societies pass us. Observe what we Frenchmen have done with New Caledonia and our other possessions in Oceania, and what the Anglo-Saxons have done in Australia and New Zealand. Observe what Spain and Portugal have made of South America, and what the Anglo-Saxons have made of North America. There is as much difference as between day and night."

ROCK CREEK PLACERS

Mining Operations Will Begin on an Extensive Scale Early Next Spring.

PROSPECTS OF MOOSE GULCH

Splendid Results Are Expected From That Section—Prospectors Are Anxiously Awaiting the Approach of Spring—Quartz Gulch.

Quartz gulch has been the center of operations in the well known placer district of Rock creek. The claims owned by the Eureka Mining company comprise, perhaps, the greater portion of the placer ground in the gulch, and they have for several years past been successfully operated during the placer mining season. Everything is now in readiness, and washing will begin as early as possible in the spring. The ditches, flumes and hydraulic machinery are in perfect repair and no time will be lost when the season opens.

Since the discovery of the Quartz gulch placers considerable attention has been given to other gulches in that district and encouraging results have been obtained in several instances. W. T. Hull, a prominent Rock creek resident, expects to do considerable placer mining in a gulch not very far from his ranch. The gulch heads in the same mountain range as Quartz gulch, and good prospects have been found in several places. A number of claims were located several years ago by Phillipsburg parties and considerable prospecting was done, but the pay-streak was not discovered. During the past summer Mr. Hull did some prospecting in this gulch, and the gravel panned sufficiently well to convince him of the value of the ground, and he subsequently purchased the rights and claims from the original locators. Additional developments last fall assured him that the pay-streak was there and that he had found it; at least he feels positive that the gravel will pay to work. Flumes and other appliances for placer mining will be put on the ground and a working test will be made as soon as the snow disappears in the spring.

Another gulch that is attracting considerable attention is Moose gulch, a tributary to Stony creek. This gulch heads in the same vicinity as the famous Quartz gulch and it gives promise of developing into another placer bonanza. The waters of Moose and Quartz gulches have practically the same source, as the gulches head very closely together, Quartz gulch taking a northerly course while Moose gulch turns westward and forms a tributary of Stony creek. Perhaps the best placer ground in the gulch is owned by Stingle brothers and Rodgers, who are also among the largest stockholders of the Eureka company. The possessions of these gentlemen consist of three claims, and considerable development work has been done on these claims during last summer and fall. The value of the ground has for some time been determined, and bedrock was reached at a depth of 25 feet. The gulch was rather difficult to prospect, owing to the water and swampy condition, and the sinking of a shaft was out of the question. An open cut about 130 feet long, however, proved that bedrock was about 25 feet deep and that gold existed in paying quantities. The fortunate owners commenced the construction of a reservoir at once, which was completed last fall, and active mining operations will be carried on this summer. The gulch contains sufficient water for hydraulic mining, and with the aid of the reservoir operations can be carried on all summer. This will prove a great advantage over Quartz gulch, where the season for washing is limited to several weeks, and as the gravel is believed to be equally as rich, the gold extracted during the summer will be considerable. Messrs. Stingle and Rodgers feel that they have a good mine in Moose gulch, and confidently expect much larger returns from this property than from their interests in the well-known Eureka placers.

The efforts of prospectors in the mountains west of Rock creek have been amply rewarded by nature, and the coming summer will find more men in this promising mining section than ever before. Several parties from this city have already declared that they expect to depart for the mountains west of Rock creek as soon as the snow disappears, and no doubt other valuable miners will be added to Granite county's producers of wealth.

The Ladrone Islands.

A perfectly direct line drawn from San Francisco to Manila passes through the Ladrone group. Honolulu lies some distance south of that line. Nevertheless, a direct line from Honolulu to Manila also passes through the Ladrone group. The Ladrone group extends from north to south in a row 400 or 500 miles long, and are usually said to comprise about twenty islands. They lie directly north of the Caroline group, and are about 1500 miles from Manila and 3500 from Honolulu. They have a population of only 8000 or 10,000, the natives being akin to those of the Philippines. They are small islands, but by no means insignificant, for their total area is usually set down as about 1250 square miles. They are of considerable commercial importance. They have a varied

topography, with mountains and valleys and abundant rainfall, and they are extremely productive. Under improved methods of government and agriculture, such as the United States will introduce, the already important exports of the Ladrone would be very rapidly increased. They are exceedingly salubrious, and would yield large supplies of products, both of the temperate zone and of the tropics, under American exploitation. A direct cable line to Manila would naturally find a halting place at San Ignacio de Agana, which is the capital of the islands and is situated on the largest of the group, Guajan, which is of a rounded contour and 30 or 40 miles long.

Masquerade Ball at Granite.

A grand masquerade ball will be given at Miners' Union hall, Granite, next Friday evening (January 20), under the auspices and management of the Granite Social club. Nothing will be left undone to make the affair a grand success, and it will no doubt prove the most enjoyable party of the season. Miners' Union hall offers advantages for a party of this kind not to be found anywhere else in the county. The floor was especially constructed for dancing purposes and the accommodations are excellent. Prizes will be awarded to the two handsomest costumes—lady and gentleman—and also for the two best sustained characters—lady and gentleman—as follows: The ladies' prize for most handsome costume, a silk parasol; gentlemen's prize, silver mounted umbrella; ladies prize for the most original character, cut glass atomizer; gentlemen's prize, silver shaving cup. Prizes are on exhibition at S. E. McClees' jewelry store, Philipsburg.

All will be required to unmask before entering the hall. Tickets, admitting a gentleman, are \$1; ladies free. Costumes will be on display at the Moore house parlors from the 18th to 20th, inclusive. Supper will be served at the Metropolitan hotel.

The following committees have been appointed: Arrangement—Henry Steber, James C. Duffy, Malcolm McDonald, James McGurk, Peter Nelson, Hector McDonald, James Brennan, A. J. McDonald.

Reception—Harry Lewney, T. W. Bradley, K. H. McLeod, Abe Northey, Henry Steber.

Floor Director, Malcolm McDonald; Floor Managers—James Richards, Hector McDonald, James McGurk, A. J. McDonald, James Brennan, A. V. McDonald, Charles Arthurson, Peter Nelson, James C. Duffy.

The Philipsburg Social Club.

Several of the young men are engaged in organizing a social club and will give weekly entertainments at Fireman's hall, to which the general public is cordially invited. The first social will take place to-morrow (Saturday) evening, but a regular night has as yet not been selected since Saturday is perhaps rather inconvenient to many and it will be left to a majority of the members to decide. The Philipsburg orchestra of five pieces will furnish the music.

MUSINGS FROM DUNKLEBERG.

This camp, which, along in the '80s contributed not a little to the stock of white metal, cuts but very little ice in the mining reports of today. The hills which erstwhile resounded to the musical rhythm of the tool-sharpeners' hammer, or the thunderous diapason of the frequent blast, are now silent, save for the merry warble of the wood-hauler as he flits from tree to tree, or the long-drawn howl of the prowling tie-chopper as he answers to the shrill scream of his savage mate. Occasionally you will meet with a prospector who has hung on to his claims, hoping against hope that something will be done for silver, who, as he draws his tattered overcoat around his cadaverous form to hide the vacant places in his last year's overalls, anxiously asks: "What's silver worth?" or "Is there any talk of opening the Injun mints?"

Some of them seem to have an idea that the Indian mints are a kind of jack-pot and that Uncle Sam's bag opens in his hand—if the goldbugs would only let him use them.

Time was when, on New Year's eve, the hills were full of chain-jumpers, but this year not a solitary instance of relocating has come to our notice. You might go and relocate the patented claims and nobody would kick.

L. F. Perriman's mine, the Bryan, is the only shipper in the camp, and as the ore carries good values in gold and lead Frank aint losing any sleep over the Indian mints.

Col. Baker and staff have just finished a shaft-house on their claim above the smelter, which runs away up—on the hill.

Dick Crimmons is representing his copper mine at the head of Douglas creek. Dick says the Anaconda is a mere strata alongside of it.

"Say," said the bunchgrass philosopher, "how do you pronounce the name of that ex-queen of the Sandwich Islands—Li-li-li-lo?"

"I don't try to pronounce it at all," said the mining expert: "I just call her High-low-jack-and-the-game for short."

"What's all this racket I see in the papers about the Injun mints; why can't they open 'em?" asked the mining expert.

"O, the blamed Injuns has lost the key, or forgot the combination, or something," said the bunchgrass philosopher.

"Well," said the sawmill man, "if they'd send some o' them Granite Mountain fellers over there, with hammer and steel and a few sticks o' giant, they'd open 'em up bloody quick, you."

If the climate of Cuba makes a northern man ill, will that of the Philippines make a Manila? (Joke: not classified; probably belongs to the Devonian, or old red sandstone period.)

—Observer.

THE MAIL FOR JOB PRINTING