

THE INDEPENDENT.

VOL. XIV.

HONOLULU, T. H., TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1902.

No. 2218.

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Honest Officer Tells the Truth.

Washington, May 1.—When the Senate Committee on the Philippines met today Senator Lodge, chairman of the committee, laid before the committee the report of Major Cornelius Gardener, Civil Governor of the Philippine province of Tayabas, to which reference was made by General Miles in his correspondence with Secretary Root.

This report had been withheld by Secretary Root, and this caused the adoption of a resolution at the last meeting of the committee requesting the Secretary of War to send the report to the committee.

The report is dated December 16, 1901, and is largely a review of the conditions in the province and tells what was done in the way of a campaign against the insurgents.

The Governor, in lengthy detail, tells about what has been done, and then recommends that the operations against the insurgents should be by a force of natives. He has traveled all over the province with no other escort than natives. In describing present conditions he says:

"As Civil Governor, I feel it my duty to say that it is my firm conviction that the United States troops should, at the earliest opportunity, be concentrated in one or two garrisons. If it is thought desirable that the good sentiment and loyalty that formerly existed to the United States Government among the people of this province should be conserved and encouraged. Being in close touch with the people, having visited all the pueblos one or more times, having lived with them in their homes, I know that such a sentiment once existed.

"Of late, by reason of the conduct of the troops, such as the extensive burning of the barrios in trying to lay waste the country so that the insurgents cannot occupy it; the torturing of natives by so-called water cure and other methods, in order to obtain information; the harsh treatment of natives generally, and the failure of inexperienced, lately appointed lieutenants commanding posts to distinguish between those who are friendly and those unfriendly, and to treat every native as if he were, whether or no, an insurrecto at heart, this favorable sentiment, above referred to, is being fast destroyed, and a deep hatred toward us engendered.

"If these things need be done, they had best be done by native troops, so that the people of the United States will not be credited therewith.

"Almost without exceptions, soldiers, and also many officers, refer to natives in their presence as 'niggers,' and natives are beginning to understand what the word 'nigger' means.

"The course now being pursued in this province, and in the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, and Samar, is, in my opinion, sowing the seeds for a perpetual revolution against us here-

after, whenever a good opportunity offers. Under present conditions the political situation in this province is slowly retrograding, and the American sentiment is decreasing, and we are daily making permanent enemies. In the course above referred to, the troops make no distinction often between the property of those natives who are insurgents, or insurgent sympathizers, and the property of those who heretofore have risked their lives by being loyal to the United States and giving us information against their countrymen in arms. Often every house in a barrio is burned.

"The attitude of the army, that is, meaning most of its officers and soldiers, is decidedly hostile to the provincial and municipal government in this province, and to civil government in these islands in general. In Manila, especially, it is intensely so, even among the higher officers. The work of the Commission in the establishment of provincial governments is ridiculous, even in presence of the natives.

"It is openly stated that the army should remain in charge for the next twenty years.

"Outrages committed by officers and soldiers in an organized municipality and province, when reported by the Presidente or Governor to the military authorities, are often not furnished.

"This in my opinion is unfortunate, because loyal natives begin to fear that local self-government promised them will not last long, and that any slight disturbance in a province may at any time be made the pretext to again place it under military rule, and this is just the thing the insurgents at heart most desire.

"It has been stated that a Filipino or an Oriental does not appreciate just or kindly treatment; that he considers it an evidence of weakness, and that severe and harsh measures are the only ones that are permanently effective with Filipinos. I have found that just and kind treatment, uniformed and continued, is the only way by which these people can be permanently made our friends and satisfied with United States sovereignty.

"Having been stationed for six years on the Rio Grande, I am well acquainted with the natives of the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and while stationed in the province of Santa Clara, Cuba, I visited every town in that province, and was able to observe the intelligence and education there. I believe that the people of Tayabas province are in every way superior in education, intelligence, morals and civilization to the people of Tamaulipas or Santa Clara.

"As an officer of the army, I regret that my duty as Civil Governor of this province impels me to state the attitude of the majority of my fellow officers toward civil government in these islands, and its effect upon the people, but I feel that the interests of the government involved, and the future of these people, for whose welfare we

(Continued on 4th page.)

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