LAW OF THE CASE

JUDGE DEAN DISCUSSES STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

HE IS AGAINST RECOGNITION

THIS COUNTRY ACQUIRED ISLANDS BY TREATY AND PURCHASE.

Large Number of Representative People Give Their Views—Overwhelming Sentiment Against Recognizing Insurgents—Should Whip Them First.

Below are given a large number of expressions of the opinion of representative people of Kansas City regarding the reported peace proposals of Aguinaldo and the disposition of the Philippines. The preponderance of opinion in favor of ignoring the insurgents is overwhelming.

Hon. O. H. Dean discussed the proposals at length, entering fully into the international law involved.

"I am not in favor of accepting the propositions which it is said the emissary of Aguinaldo will make to this country," said Mr. Dean. "In the first place, the United States by general treaty and purchase acquired the Philippine archipelago. This purchase is just as valid as the Louisiana purchase, or that of Alasga, or the Gadsden purchase, or the acquisition of California or New Mexico.

"In the second, we bound ourselves in our treaty with Spain for ten years to give that country the same advantages that we will have in the matter of commerce with the people of the archipelago. We are in good faith bound to carry out this treaty. This provision contemplates that we shall maintain a government there. In the third, we have further agreed by treaty with Spain that congress should establish a government for those islands, and in such government and in its sturdy maintenance the Spanish population of the Filipinos and that of every other inhabitant there, is profoundly interested. To fail to do this is to fail to carry out our treaty obligation; moreover, to throw the responsibility of government upon the chief of the Tagal and his murderous following would be an injustice to every other inhabitant of the islands, and to our commercial rights in that country as well.

"It is proposed that we shall have possession in Manila and military and naval reservations at Manila, Pasay, Mindora, Negros, Mashate, Samar, Mindoura, and such other islands as may be determined upon by the government. The proposition involves two things: first, that we have no title to what we have already acquired by the treaty with Spain and the purchase under the treaty. If we have anything by this treaty and purchase, it is the entire archipelago; the second, that it is a wise military measure that we establish in the East such military and naval stations as may be necessary to protect our great and growing commerce there. It is wise that we should have Manila and naval and military stations throughout the island. It is wise that we should own the country which surrounds those places. It should not be left in the hands of our enemies, and especially those displaying the treacherous character of the Filipinos. We should not put enemies at our back.

"Again, for whom does Aguinaldo and his emissary speak? He represents the Tagals on one island, and assumes to speak for the inhabitants of 1,200 islands or more. It is proposed that we should recognize Aguinaldo and his band of outlaws as an independent republic under the protectorate of the United States. This usually means that we shall fight their battles, and have but little direction of the government for which we are largely responsible to the outside world. When some of the former inhabitants of Italy were killed in New Orleans, a few years ago, because they were members of the Mafia, Italy threatened to go to war with us unless we made immediate reparation.

"This government has never undertaken anything hostile to the rights of the Filipinos. It relieved them from Spanish robbery and oppression. It does not propose to interfere with their property rights, their religious freedom, or to take away from them such rights of local self-government as they are capable of maintaining. This proclamation of our fair intentions was made to them by Professor Schurman months ago, and yet they go on murdering our soldiers.

"It has never been the declared purpose of this government to do other than to award to the inhabitants of all the islands of the archipelago the largest measure of liberty and self-government they are capable of maintaining. It were far better for us to assume the responsibility and direction of a government of our own establishment than to become morally and internationally responsible for a mere protectorate. When Aguinaldo and his associates who have arisen in rebellion against the lawful authority of the United States, lawfully acquired, shall have been suppressed, then the congress of the United States, should divise and carry into execution for all of the inhabitants of all of the islands of the archipelago such government or governments as may be consistent with the highest individual freedom and the maintenance of law and order among a people, a portion of whom started war without a grievance and made claim to an authority they never did and do not now possess.

"If we violate the Declaration of Independence in pursuing this course, we have frequently violated it before. We violated it when we failed to consult the various tribes of Indians who occupied the large domain included in the Louisiana purchase, as well as the civilized inhabitants who were then residing there. We ought also to have taken a vote of the people who occupied Alaska, New Mexico and California in order that those territorial acquisitions should have become valid in law and morals."

Other Opinions.

Other opinions expressed were as follows:

M. A. Pyle—I think the proposals are fair to the United States.

C. E. Yates—I think the subject in question should have the hearty support of every citizen of the United States.

E. T. Porterfield—I am in favor of their being adopted.

Judge J. W. Jenkins—I think these should not be adopted because Aguinaldo does not represent the bulk of the people of the Philippine Islands. He assumes this authority.

Colonel L. H. Waters—I think the Filipinos have every title to self-government if and when in a distant future an agreement and doubt that this attention will be given them until they submit.

Judge L. C. Slavens—I am opposed upon principle to the attempt of the government to subjugate the Filipinos. More than that, if the majority of the Filipinos wanted this islands to be annexed, the country would be bad policy for this country to assess them.

Charles H. Warner—My opinion is that the United States government has the Philippine islands absolutely as a part of its territory by virtue of our treaty and it is not necessary to make any further agreement.

M. Campbell—I think Aguinaldo makes a very fair offer to the United States.

Walter M. Daniels—I am in favor of giving them the right enjoyed in the past and entitled to in the future by the Tagal.

R. S. Griffith—By no means should we accept Aguinaldo's proposals be considered.

Marshal Hodges—We should keep the insurgents by all means. I am with our government and its flag in this fight.

Ed Bedell—There is no government to recognize, should a set of rebels to subject.

Charles Gilbert—I am in favor of whipping the insurgents about the leg for money.

W. O. Speer—We should kick Aguinaldo before we talk to him; otherwise I think that we will always have trouble.

Joseph S. Rose—I think we should either own the Philippine islands unconditionally or leave them alone.

H. J. Bremermann—I am in favor of every form of self-government for the people of the country.

Henry Hamlin—All these propositions will favor a renewed attempt upon the Insurgents.

J. M. Cole—I do not believe in war; the settlement between the two countries should be amicably made and on every way desirable and proper.

F. W. L. Stanstead—I am in favor of the adoption of these terms.

Walter Lowe—When them fellows shot and then give them a chance to establish a government.

J. Scott Harrison—Peace commissioners cannot talk to a rebel chief. It is a recognition of a war that called to meet the unconditional surrender.

Aaron Cohn—Aguinaldo is a rebel and should be treated as such. He has no government to be recognized.

F. J. W. Crowe—There is but one government to recognize in connection with the islands, and that is the United States government.

W. Buck—I believe that we should treat Aguinaldo as a savage. I am in favor of attacking the islands.

H. S. Cummings—The insurgents should be treated as such. Recognize no treaties.

J. Kilgore—We acquired the islands from Spain and we have a perfect right and authority to govern them. There is no other government to be recognized and none of the United States.

United States Marshal E. H. Dulaney—There is no government in Aguinaldo and this is a time to show the Filipinos that the rebels are willing to surrender unconditionally.

Nathan Burns, of Hennessy, Tate—No more peace talk; a friend of Aguinaldo. He is a traitor, and should be conquered or exterminated.

Charles A. Mosher—I think, our intelligent duty is to treat with them on the basis of a government and doubt that any attention will be given them until they submit.

Judge L. C. Slavens—I am opposed upon principle to the attempt of the government to subjugate the Filipinos. More than that, if the majority of the Filipinos wanted this islands to be annexed, the country would be bad policy for this country to assess them.

Charles H. Warner—My opinion is that the United States government has the Philippine islands absolutely as a part of its territory by virtue of our treaty and it is not necessary to make any further agreement.

M. Campbell—I think Aguinaldo makes a very fair offer to the United States.

Walter M. Daniels—I am in favor of giving them the right enjoyed in the past and entitled to in the future by the Tagal.

R. S. Griffith—By no means should we accept Aguinaldo's proposals be considered.

Marshal Hodges—We should keep the insurgents by all means. I am with our government and its flag in this fight.

Ed Bedell—There is no government to recognize, should a set of rebels to subject.

Charles Gilbert—I am in favor of whipping the insurgents about the leg for money.

W. O. Speer—We should kick Aguinaldo before we talk to him; otherwise I think that we will always have trouble.

Joseph S. Rose—I think we should either own the Philippine islands unconditionally or leave them alone.

H. J. Bremermann—I am in favor of every form of self-government for the people of the country.

Henry Hamlin—All these propositions will favor a renewed attempt upon the Insurgents.

J. M. Cole—I do not believe in war; the settlement between the two countries should be amicably made and on every way desirable and proper.

F. W. L. Stanstead—I am in favor of the adoption of these terms.

Walter Lowe—When them fellows shot and then give them a chance to establish a government.

J. Scott Harrison—Peace commissioners cannot talk to a rebel chief. It is a recognition of a war that called to meet the unconditional surrender.

Aaron Cohn—Aguinaldo is a rebel and should be treated as such. He has no government to be recognized.

F. J. W. Crowe—There is but one government to recognize in connection with the islands, and that is the United States government.

W. Buck—I believe that we should treat Aguinaldo as a savage. I am in favor of attacking the islands.

H. S. Cummings—The insurgents should be treated as such. Recognize no treaties.

J. Kilgore—We acquired the islands from Spain and we have a perfect right and authority to govern them. There is no other government to be recognized and none of the United States.

United States Marshal E. H. Dulaney—There is no government in Aguinaldo and this is a time to show the Filipinos that the rebels are willing to surrender unconditionally.

Nathan Burns, of Hennessy, Tate—No more peace talk; a friend of Aguinaldo. He is a traitor, and should be conquered or exterminated.

Charles A. Mosher—I think, our intelligent duty is to treat with them on the basis of a government and doubt that any attention will be given them until they submit.

Judge L. C. Slavens—I am opposed upon principle to the attempt of the government to subjugate the Filipinos. More that