



**A BRITISH VIEW OF PHILIPPINES.**  
 Consul at Manila Predicts a Great Commercial Future for that Post—No Place for Poor Men.

LONDON, June 6.—The report of the British Consul at Manila, Mr. Harford, on the trade of the Philippine Islands in 1899 has been received at the Foreign Office. He says the collapse of the insurrection and the reopening of the ports restored confidence and produced great commercial activity. The continuance of prosperity, however, he added, was dependent upon circumstances, for though the ports were safe the interior of the island was quite the contrary, and it would depend on the state of the country whether further exports were forthcoming. He explained that the immense size of the country rendered restoration of law and order a difficult task, as the influence of the leaders appeared strong enough to prevent the otherwise willing natives from surrendering.

"Improvements," he said, "are visible in every direction in Manila, and the work of draining the filthy town ditches and stagnant pools may possibly entail epidemics, but its advantage to posterity is inestimable. The recovered lands of the city walls and moat will provide building sites which American enterprise will know how to utilize, and though Manila will never become a fashionable watering place, it may become a great commercial power in these waters before the first quarter of the century has passed.

"The hemp and tobacco interests are likely to suffer severely for some time from the insurrection, but there is no doubt there are now golden opportunities for the employment of capital and talent in many local trades. Ice manufacturers, livery stables, hotels and general enterprises are much wanted, but I most strongly deprecate young men without capital, no matter what their education, coming in search of employment."

Regarding Holo, Vice-Consul Frye says: "The United States having now successfully occupied the better part of the island, the end of the year augurs well for a happier future, and when once peaceful rule is established many immediate improvements will be made."

**Grievance of the Boxers.**  
 I realize that it is a very unpopular position, but nevertheless there are two sides to the story of the Boxers in China. You will notice by the dispatches that there are railroad riots in the Shantung province, that the Belgian and German railway engineers have been assaulted and are afraid of assassination, and that work has been suspended on certain portions of the line now under construction. I have alluded to this matter before, and while no one can justify assassination or approve the cowardly methods which the Boxers have adopted to revenge themselves upon the "foreign devils" that have invaded their country, they can at least plead extraordinary provocation, for the Germans and the Belgians who are constructing railroads in the Shantung province have treated the natives in a most abominable manner, and have provoked the riots of which they now complain. That portion of China is one of the most densely populated sections of the earth, and the people have a desperate struggle for existence. Every inch of ground is cultivated; every straw and every sprig of vegetation is utilized in some way for the support of life. The country is divided into little farms, which are cultivated almost with a microscope, one might say, because it is necessary for the subsistence of some family, and the dead are buried in the gravel hills, where nothing can grow.

Through this country and under these conditions railways are being constructed by German and Belgian engineers, who show a most brutal indifference to the rights and the property of the people. They run their lines across the farms, they tear down houses, burn villages, destroy crops, seize supplies, impress labor and treat the people in a most cruel and arbitrary manner. If the same things should occur in the United States or in Europe or any other part of the world they would be attended by the same results. The Boxers were organized to resist and revenge these outrages, and they use the only means within their power to punish their oppressors. A Chinese never gets any sympathy either in America or elsewhere, and the consciousness of that fact compels him to carry on his operations with as great secrecy as possible. If the German and Belgian railroad people would treat the poor coolie farmers of the Shantung province in a just and honorable manner and give them fair compensation

for the property they have taken or destroyed there would be no need of sending fleets to the Chinese waters or demanding indemnity at the Tsung-li-Yamen.—W. E. Curtis in Chicago Record.

**TO BECOME A CROWN COLONY.**  
 British Plan for Governing the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

LONDON, June 12.—It is learned by the Associated Press that the Government has at last decided upon a plan for the civil settlement of South Africa. The details are kept most secret, but it can safely be said that the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal will become a crown colony. Sir Alfred Milner, it is declared, is to be High Commissioner of South Africa, in spite of the opposition he has incurred.

The crown colony form of government can be best understood by reference to the system in vogue in the West Indies, Sierra Leone and Ceylon. Endeavors will be made to put this in force as soon as possible in the Transvaal and Orange River colonies, though it is scarcely expected that the details will be announced or some parts of the work be begun for a few months. While the civil settlement will be drawn up so as to be eventually independent of military enforcement, it is realized that the initial work must be done with the co-operation of the troops. Sir Alfred Milner appears to believe that civil reorganization and military pacification can proceed simultaneously, and that a possible scattered rising will not seriously retard the progress of reorganization once it is begun. The Colonial Office is said to be of the opinion, however, that the maintenance of good-sized garrisons at such centers as Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Johannesburg and Pretoria will be necessary for a long time after the crown colony system gets in working order. For this reason and others put forward by Sir Alfred Milner the idea of granting an autonomous form of government has been abandoned. It is believed, though it cannot be verified, that a portion of the Transvaal will be partitioned off to Natal.

Regular subscribers not receiving this paper should telephone at once to the business office.

**THEY ARE TO MARRY.**

**Lady Randolph Churchill Is to Wed Young Cornwallis West.**  
 LONDON, June 12.—Despite all obstacles, it is now arranged that Lady Randolph Churchill will marry young George Cornwallis West in the course of the next month. This interesting information comes from the highest possible sources.

It will be remembered that this engagement was announced by Mrs. Cornwallis West, the young man's mother, at Cowes, during the regatta week last August. The disparity between the ages of Lady Randolph Churchill and her betrothed, who is only 26, caused much gossip, and the engagement was broken.

The outbreak of the Boer war brought both back to London, he to join the regiment of the Guards in which he is a lieutenant, she to see her son before he went to South Africa and to organize war charities. They met, and until West's departure to the war they were frequently seen together.

**Hard Drinks in Philippines.**

It does not seem to have occurred to the good people who denounce the administration for allowing the importation of liquors into the Philippines that there are several million people there who can make liquors of their own, and that the imported goods might possibly be temperance drinks as compared with the native preparations which would otherwise be consumed.—New York Tribune.

**SEALED TENDERS.**

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