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**WITHOUT RESULTS** Filipino Commissioners Are Practically Without Power. **CONFERENCE HELD AT MANILA** American Envoys Met the Representatives of Aguinaldo. **DISAPPOINTMENT AT WASHINGTON** That the Natives Will Not Agree to Unconditional Surrender. **DEWEY BELIEVES THAT THE END IS NEAR** The Admiral Is Greatly Pleased that He Is to Have a Monument in His Native Village.

Manila, May 22, 11 a. m.—The Filipino commissioners who arrived here Saturday to negotiate with the United States commissioners held a conference this morning with Messrs. Schurman, Worcester and Denby. They say they are without power to bind the so-called Filipino government in any particular and can only refer any results of the present negotiations to Aguinaldo. Members of the present commission deny the story that Buencamino and Arguelles, of the first commission, have been arrested and the commission dissolved by General Luna.

They insist that the first commission was never recognized by Aguinaldo, but was elected by the Filipino congress, which declared in favor of peace on May 6. The Filipino military power controls the situation, not the congress. The commissioners say they want peace. They can not fight the Americans, who, they say, are destroying their country, but they express great surprise at seeing the thousands of native non-combatants behind our lines.

The Filipino commissioner, General Gregorio Del Pilar, Lieutenant Baretto, Major Zealita and Senor Gonsales, with their families, spent the day visiting friends in Manila and conferred with Senors Florencio Torres, Pablo Ocano and Teodoro Tanco, and the members of the local Filipino association who will participate in the meetings with the American commissioners. Senor Torres was a member of Aguinaldo's commission before the war. He opposes independence and favors autonomy, and he has been most influential in persuading the followers of Aguinaldo to make the present advances. He said that autonomy was the burden of the talk of the Filipino and thought that they would be converted soon. Senor Paterno, who has succeeded the irreconcilable Mabini as president of the so-called Filipino cabinet, is a student and a writer of ability. He once drew up a plan of autonomy under Spain which the Spanish government promised to adopt, there then being a troublesome rebellion on foot. The American commissioners are studying the question of Philippine government and have found some good points in this scheme. Paterno is now the strong man in Aguinaldo's party.

All the moneyed leaders of the insurrection see that it is hopeless and are anxious for peace. Those who want money think they may profit by harassing the Americans a while longer. On the suggestion of Mr. Schurman, president of the American commission, the local Filipino peace party has started a newspaper. Major Bobbe's expedition to open communication with General Lawton has been planned. About seven miles beyond Candaba on the Rio Grande, following the course of the stream. No insurgents were found there and the Pampangas along the river are friendly.

Last Friday Major Kobbe took Santa Ana, about six miles northeast of San Fernando on the road to San Isidro. A priest met the expedition with a white flag. Delegates from San Nicolas and Santiago, small villages just south of Ayatrat, came to him with the news that 300 insurgents who had been holding both places had withdrawn. They invited the Americans to enter and as the members of the expedition marched in the church bells were rung and the timid natives who had fled fled back.

Washington, May 21.—Distinct disappointment is felt in administration circles at the limited powers under which Aguinaldo's peace commission is acting. Unconditional surrender will be required and General Otis understands this as well as the officials at Washington. Just what is the object of the meeting



Not Dead, but in a Condition of "Innocuous Desuetude." —Denver Post.

which the Filipino commission had with the American commission is not known by the officials. General Otis being apparently unaware of it, though he states that "their powers are limited and apparently armistice is a condition precedent to negotiations."

It is assumed that the emissaries of the leaders desire to consider with the commission the details of the government which the United States proposes to give them and which the American commissioners presented to Colonel Arguelles, the first Filipino representative to put in an appearance at Manila. When this meeting is concluded it is presumed the commissioners will return to the new capital which Aguinaldo has established, and communicate the results of the conference.

In view of the apparent hopelessness of definite results from the present conference, it is the expectation of the authorities that General Otis will direct General Lawton and MacArthur and Major Kobbe to confine their operations with a view to preventing the insurgents from obtaining time in which to reorganize their scattered army. The authorities have learned well the lesson that delay gives the Filipino the idea that the Americans are beaten, and it is believed that the quickest way to bring them to terms is to continue the campaign now in progress.

Washington, May 21.—There was a lack of news in official circles from General Otis at Manila or General Brooke at Havana. The president and the war department officials are awaiting with interest the report expected tomorrow from General Otis respecting the outcome of the meeting between the commissioners representing the United States and Aguinaldo, though the belief expressed by the American commander at Manila that the insurgents want an armistice as a condition precedent to treating for peace leads to the belief that no immediate results may come from the meeting.

**PHILIPPINE PLANT PRODUCTS.** Rice Is the Most Important of the Crop. Washington, May 21.—A report on the plant products of the Philippine islands has just been issued by the agricultural department. A preliminary note explains that the note had been issued to meet a popular demand. Of the area of the Philippine islands one-ninth of the area is devoted to agriculture. Taking into account the natural fertility of the soil and the vast portion of these rich lands not yet under cultivation, the total agricultural production could be increased to ten or fifteen times its present amount. One of the most important food products of the island is rice, which forms the staple food of not only the native population but also of the numerous Chinese inhabitants. More than 100 varieties are grown and two crops a year can be secured. The ordinary price of rice in the bulk is from 35 to 45 cents per bushel and when shelled brings from 90 to 95 cents per bushel. The annual production of this commodity is about 35,000,000 bushels, an amount far below the actual requirements of the population even when supplemented by maize, sweet potatoes, bananas and other native fruits and tubers. Maize, next to rice, is the most important of grain products. In several provinces it is the chief subsistence of the natives. Tuberos roots also constitute a valuable source of food. Fruita grow in great abundance, bananas heading the list, while other varieties are the mango, pineapple, tamarind, orange, lemon, plums, bread fruit and pawpaw. Large quantities of sugar cane are grown, but owing to the crude methods of manufacture the sugar made in the Philippines is inferior in quality and consequently brings a low price. About 500,000,000 pounds a year are exported, exceeding in importance all other exports except those of Manila hemp, of which nearly the entire crop is marketed abroad. The average yearly shipments of hemp amount to nearly 100,000 long tons. Cotton has recently lost much of its former importance partly because of excessive taxation but principally because of the successful competition of British fabrics. Indigo was once an important product and there are many kinds of dye plants grown. Coffee is grown but the plantations are not well managed and the article is not of the best quality. Tobacco grows to some extent in most of

**CURRENCY "REFORM."** Measure Proposed by House Republican Caucus. Washington, May 21.—It is understood that the house republican caucus committee appointed to frame a scheme on currency reform has agreed on a measure along the following lines: The redemption of all obligations of the government in gold on demand. Greenbacks, when once redeemed for gold, to be released only for gold. Permitting National banks to issue notes to the par value of their government bonds deposited in the treasury, instead of 90 per cent, as at present. This plan is much less comprehensive than ardent advocates of general currency revision have urged, but was adopted because harmonious agreement on it was possible, which was not the case when more radical measures were suggested.

**DEWEY BELIEVES END NEAR.** Admiral's Health Prevented Him Remaining in Witness It. New York, May 21.—The Herald's special cable from Manila says: "Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia, sailed from Manila. She is bound for America via the Suez canal, with the admiral aboard. Just before the Olympia sailed the Herald representative went aboard her and interviewed Admiral Dewey on his departure. In response to inquiries, he said: "I leave Manila today. I go with the less regret because I believe that this insurrection is breaking up. The repeated arrivals in our lines of emissaries sent from insurgent headquarters can only mean one thing. They point to the inevitable end. "Had I consulted my pride I could have remained here till peace was finally established. But there are other things in man's life beside his pride to be considered. My health, for instance, has been gradually undermined by the long strain placed upon it and by the constant care that has been necessarily imposed upon me for so long a time. And of course we are all glad to get home. "One of the things that touched me the most, among all the many expressions of warm feeling from the people at home, was the raising of a subscription in my native State—it was started at Boston, I believe—to build a bronze statue of me, to be placed in the statehouse at Montpelier, opposite the statue of Ethan Allen. "Many a time, when a boy, have I looked at that statue of Ethan Allen in wonder and admiration. "The inscription said, if I remember rightly, 'Surrender in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress.' "The way I feel is that no greater compliment could be paid me than the erection of my statue in such a place in my own village, you know."

**IMPORTANT EXECUTIVE ORDER.** Collectors of Customs Will Have Consular Duties—Regulations. Washington, May 21.—President McKinley, through Assistant Secretary of War Melkior, has made the following important announcements relative to the internal affairs of the several islands under the military control of the United States: "1. Collectors of customs at the several

ports under military jurisdiction are directed to perform the duties of consuls or consular officers in said territory as far as concerns passports, vessels, clearances, etc. "2. No vessel is to be allowed to clear from any port in Cuba or Porto Rico for another port until all her cargo is landed or accounted for. "3. Coercion in schools, also hoops and shoddlings are only required to pay a duty of 12 cents per 100 lbs into Porto Rico. "4. The president directs that hereafter when the importation of beer takes place in barrels the receptacles shall be dutiable on per cent of gross weight (instead of 18 per cent as formerly). When the importation is effected in bottles or flasks packed in wood on cases or barrels, brewers and shippers will be relieved from the exacting duty upon the cases, bottles and flasks. Only the net weight on the liquid is to be paid duty and receptacles pay only according to the proper classification that they come under. "5. This order affects the Philippines as well as Cuba and Porto Rico. Full descriptive invoices must be made out hereafter."

**NEGRO KILLED, WHITES WOUNDED** Result of Trouble on Account of a Black Man's Wife. St. Louis, May 21.—A special to the Republic from Joplin, Mo., says: Andrew Woods, a negro barber, was killed in Main street at noon today and three white men were accidentally shot in the melee. Woods' wife, a white woman, was walking along Main street. Seeing Woods' wife standing in a door, Leonard asked her husband if she was alone in the house. Leonard struck her with his fist, knocking her out on the sidewalk. He returned the blow and went on his way with several companions. They were overtaken by the next block by Andrew with a pistol in his hand. His wife told him that a man wearing a white hat had struck her. Without asking for information, Woods struck with his pistol the first man he met who wore a white hat. He struck another and finally hit Leonard, knocking him down. Officer King appeared and demanded Woods' pistol. Woods refused to surrender or give up his revolver. Some one in the crowd said, "Kill the nigger," when Leonard snatched King's pistol. The proclamation shooting then began. Woods was shot in the shoulder and leg. Leonard's third bullet into the negro's heart, killing him instantly. Three bystanders, all white men, were hit by stray bullets. Leonard has a good reputation. Great excitement exists among the negroes and trouble is feared. The police are armed with Winchester ready to resist an attack.

**TRAIN OVERTURNED.** Fireman Killed, Engineer Injured and Passengers Bruised. Des Moines, Mo., May 21.—The engine of the Iron Mountain and Southern express, which left St. Louis at 2 o'clock this afternoon struck a cow at Tip Top, Mo., on Hog's Mountain, a few miles from here, at 6 o'clock this evening and jumped the track, completely overturning Freeman Fret Parker was killed and Engineer H. E. Walter severely injured, but not fatally. The abrupt stopping of the train caused several of the passengers to sustain bruises but none were seriously injured.

**LYNCHING PROPOSED** For an Indiana Woman-Killer, Who Gets Life Imprisonment. Bloomfield, Ind., May 21.—The jury in the case of Dr. Gray, for murdering Mrs. Melissa Skinner, returned tonight a verdict of guilty and life imprisonment. The murder was particularly atrocious. Mrs. Skinner had been divorced and she and Gray had sustained divided relations. The verdict is denounced as insufficient and a lynch mob may result.

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**A PLOT IS ALLEGED** It is Said that Cuba Is to Be Made a Victim. **EXPANSIONISTS AT ROOT OF IT** Striving to Create a Sentiment Against the Cubans. **GERMANY HAS A NEW SCHEME NOW.** Will Establish a Press Bureau to Create a Favorable Impression. **MISS WHEELER'S WORK TO BE REMEMBERED** Ladies of Alabama Will Present Her with a Magnificent Silver Testimonial.

Washington, May 21.—The Washington Times publishes the following: "Cubans at Washington express fear that there is a plot, involving Americans of more or less note, to provoke the Cuban army that the plan for the transfer of arms may not be carried out. They believe that there is an element in the country which opposes the independence of the island, and which will not hesitate to do that which would make the Cubans seem to be recalcitrant. This plot is to make it appear that the Cubans are unready; that they are unwilling to lay down their arms; that they are hostile to the American government; that they are ungrateful for the service rendered them by the American people; and that, therefore, they are unworthy of further consideration. "Cubans at Washington think that the minds of Americans are being poisoned against the Cuban people, so that there may be no public clamor that the island shall be made free and independent, and that the powerful interests engaged in the prosecution of this scheme may control all the natural opportunities of the island when it shall have become an American possession. When Mr. Porter went to Cuba as the personal representative of President McKinley, and had a conference with General Haximo Gomez, the conclusion was reached that the soldiers of Cuba should accept from the American government the sum of \$5,000,000 and should turn over their arms to the municipal authorities. It was determined that the Cuban soldiers should not surrender their arms to the American military authorities. This determination was reached out of a consideration regard to the feelings and pride of the Cuban soldiers, who had carried their arms so bravely a weary march and had used them in many a bloody field. It was thought that it would be more delicate that these arms should be turned over to the municipal authorities. It is the belief of Cubans with whom a reporter of the Times spoke that this agreement, made between the personal representative of President McKinley and General Gomez, should be kept. "There is nothing in the agreement which would prevent the American military authorities from taking the surrendered arms out of the possession of the Cuban officers. But looking that the soldiers of Cuba should surrender their arms directly to the soldiers of America would be interpreted by the Cubans as evidence of lack of faith in them. For the honor of all concerned, and for the sake of avoiding friction, the agreement made between President McKinley and General Gomez should be kept, and the Cubans here. The Cubans at Washington declare that the suggestion which has been made that the islanders may turn their arms against the Americans is absurd. They hold that this is just another instance of the plot which has been laid. The Cubans declare that the natives will not resist American authorities. Such resistance, even though it were confined to Cuba, would be futile, and all the leaders in Cuba know this. If this government insists that the arms of the Cuban soldiers shall be turned over to the military authorities they will be surrendered," said a prominent Cuban today, "but then all the people of Cuba will believe that the American government did not stand by its agreement."

It is reported that the German government will soon add a "journalist" to the official corps of the embassy here. This innovation in diplomacy is not meant to keep tab on the ever-changing phases of American politics, but is intended to establish a newspaper propaganda, under the auspices of the embassy, surrounded by a semi-official atmosphere and operating under the auspices of the embassy, with a definite object, the official scribe's efforts will be directed toward influencing public opinion with respect to the relation between Germany and this government, and to so effect public sentiment as to establish a more friendly feeling among the American people generally toward the German government and to inspire confidence in the good intentions of the German emperor.

The ladies of Alabama have decided to present Miss Annie Wheeler, daughter of General Wheeler, with a handsome silver set as a testimonial of her work among the soldiers at Santiago during the war with Spain. Mrs. Wheeler's husband, General Wheeler, who is in Washington, has been asked when Miss Wheeler will visit Alabama to receive the testimonial. Miss Wheeler will go to Montgomery in June, unless she is sent to the Philippines as a nurse. She has asked the war department to send her to these islands, and is hopeful that her wishes will be gratified.

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