From the Youth's Companion.

THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY

By Gen. Frank McIntyre, U. S. A., Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs.

When the United States overthrew the government of Spain in the Philippines in 1898, international law required that a new government should immediately take the place of the old one. Under the conditions that existed there, nothing except military control could for the time being meet the needs of the situation. But however efficient military government may be,—and the military government of the Philippines was very efficient,—it is a form repugnant, except in an emergency, to American ideals; accordingly, even while the officers of the army were still in charge, military forms of government were, whenever possible, supplanted by civil forms.

The complete change from military to civil government, however, was long delayed by the Filipino insurrection against the United States that followed the overthrow of Spanish power. It was not until 1900 that civil government, even under a military governor, controlled the greater part of the archipelago, and not until 1901 that the military governor was replaced by a civil administrator.

One of the most important influences in the gradual change from military to civil goverment has been the Philippine Constabulary. That is a state police force directly under the control of the central insular government, but distributed thoughout the entire archipelago. Like most similar forces, the Philippine Constabulary is semimilitary in organization; it is divided into companies, each of which has its officers and privates, and some of the lower commissioned officers, are natives; the higher commissioned officers are Americans. The force now numbers about four thousand men, and about three hundred officers. The chief and his assistants are officers of the United States army who have been detailed for this duty for limited periods; all the other officers and men are civilians, and with the exception of about 250 of the higher officers, all are Filipinos.

Among the greater nations of the world the United States is perhaps the only one that has not long understood the use of a force of this kind for the police protection of a country like the Philippines. That is owing, of course, to the fact that the United States has but recently had possessions like the Philippines. Older nations have long been accustomed to use natives of their colonial dependencies to protect and educate in the art of government the inhabitants of those dependencies.

The United States has, then, only taken a leaf from the book of other nations' experience; but to those familiar with the conditions in the Philippines, it must appear that the United States has well revised all that it has taken, and that in the Philippine Constabulary it has made not a copy of the work of others, but a model for others to follow. Faithful to the precepts laid down by President McKinley, the Constabulary has had in view the educational and political training of the natives no less than their protection; it is not too much to say that a considerable part of the credit for the Filipinos' educational, sanitary, industrial and political advancement since 1898 is owing to that organization.

Thus the Constabularly is much more than a police force. Its members are police officers, to be sure, and their first duty is to suppress disorder and to arrest offenders against the law; but they are soldiers as well, who must, whenever necessary, take the field against bands of robbers, fanatics, or insurrectionists. Mcreover, they are teachers and governors, who both by precept and example must guide the inhabitants of the country to a higher order of life; and they are politicians and diplomats, who must control provinces and keep peace between suspicious and warring native tribes. Life in the Constabulary offers opportunities not only for excitement and adventure but for patriotic and self-sacrificing work for the advancement of a dependent and backward people toward peace and civilization.

The United States acquired from Spain the charge of nearly eight million alien people of many different races, tribes, languages, customs and habits of thought; these people were scattered throughout numerous islands of an archipelago exceeding greatly in total area all the New England States. Among them were educated men and women, but many hundred thousands more were densely ignorant. There were civilized and wild tribes, Christian, Mohammedan, and pagan, nearly all of which had for centuries been held in subjection by the governing power; even among the most civilized many accepted as necessary a system of vassalage, or the control of the masses by a few comparatively educated principales, or headmen.

THE POWERFUL HEADMEN

These headmen were all-powerful. They controlled the movements, the occupations, and the wages of their followers. They directed the ignorant masses to make war, to defy the law, or to remain at peace and obey lawful authority. It was no small factor in our Philippine problem that many of these headmen were not Filipinos, but mestizos, that is, men of mixed blood, part Filipino, and part Spanish or Chinese.

Again, only a few years before the American occupation there had been a Filipino insurrection against the Spanish government. When the Americans arrived the bitterness of that revolt still lingered in the minds of the people, and probably did more than everything else combined to bring about eventually the native insurrection against the United States.

The people in the sparsely settled and almost unexplored regions had never been brought closely under government control, or into any condition of enlightened civilization. Among these ignorant folk superstitions and customs, always powerful in the Orient, were stronger than the written law, and the local headmen were far mor powerful than the officers of the government.

Of those customs, ladronism was one of the most firmly established. In plain English ladronism means robbery. Ladrones are highwaymen, although in the past they frequently did their evil work under more dignified names.

By the time of the American occupation of the Philippines, ladronism had become almost a profession; often the leadership of a band of ladrones descended from father to son. There are instances where well known leaders remained in the same region for twenty-five or thirty years. The chiefs frequently used the guise of religion to cloak their nefarious designs, and they assumed the title of "Pope," with a singular disregard for all it implied.

The insurrection against Spain, and later the insurrection against the United States, gave the ladrones a new cloak for their designs; band after band of marauders set themselves up, independent of each other, as Philippine republics; the chief of each of these bands called himself the "president," and bestowed upon his loyal followers commissions as officials of his republic. During the insurrection these bands were more or less united with the insurgents, but as the insurrection died away and that means of livelihood was thereby lost, the bands drifted back to their old occupation of ladronism.

DRIFTING BACK TO LADRONISM

The leaders had absolute control over their followers, even to the point of death. They terrorized whole regions, the inhabitants of which dared not do otherwise than protect the marauders from the law. The depredations of the ladrones were seldom on a large scale; lingering along the trails, they would attack and rob, wound and even kill small parties of travelers, usually natives. They would drive off cattle, and sometimes raid small barrios, or villages. Even within recent years they have been known to attack small Constabularly posts in remote villages when they could catch the Constabulary off their guard.

The leaders of the bands seldom appeared in a place of danger. They boasted supernatural powers, and professed not only that they themselves could not be killed, but that, through charms, or antingantings, which they gave to their followers, those who were faithful to them would also be safe from death at the hands of their foes. By keeping out of danger, the chiefs made good the boast of their own immunity from death; and when occasionally some of their followers were killed, they easily convinced the superstitious that it was wholly because the dead men lacked faith.

War, of course, always interferes with the social, industrial, and commercial life of a people. That is especially true in the case of insurrection, when guerilla warfare spreads through a whole country, as it did in the Philippines. The native industries, which were almost wholly agricultural, were seriously checked; in some places there came times of actual want; even the simple social life of the people was interrupted, and suspicion supplanted the friendly intercourse that had existed in normal times. All that was naturally laid to the charge of the conquering nation, and aroused much bitterness against Americans.

After the insurrection, Asiatic cholera came to the islands; it took a heavy toll of life, and even where it did not kill, it frightened and scattered the people. Whole villages were deserted by their inhabitants, who left the dead behind, but spread broadcast the germs of the awful disease. And rinderpest, a disease no less deadly to animals than cholera is to men, came also, and spread with frightful rapidity. Soon after the insurrection, the work animals, which are the main dependence of the Filipino farmer, were dying at the rate of 300,000 a year.

To suppress these diseases, the strictest quarantine rules were necessary. But ignorant and superstitious people take unkindly to sanitary regulations. The Filipinos disobeyed the rules whenever they could; they regarded the epidemics as a curse cast upon them by the invading Americans. They thought the sanitary regulations were restrictions designed to insure a speedy and certain death from the ravages of disease rather than to prevent it.

The task of righting these conditions fell first upon the army; but as war and insurrection died away, and as the military administration was gradually replaced by civil government, the army was reduced, and the part that remained was gathered into larger garrisons in the populous centres. To replace the army, and to assume its duties in maintaining order and protecting life, came the Constabulary.

Originally, the officers were chosen largely from the military forces that were returning home. The officers were thus men who were familiar with the country and the people. Nevertheless, it was not a time when the wisest choice in personnel could be made. The field and the duties were new. It was a time of trial.

The Constabulary, let it be understood, was always successful, but in those early days it not unnaturally aroused much criticism from the very fact that its purpose was to exercise restraint among people who through ignorance or habit were unused to restraint. In the years that have since elapsed, that has all been changed. The Constabulary is now one of the most popular institutions in the Philippines. Men and officers alike are carefully selected. The men are proud of their place and their uniform, and are respected by their fellows in other walks of Philippine life.

The younger officers are selected from graudates of colleges and military schools of the United States. Before they are sent to the Philippines, their characters and their records as students are strictly examined. They begin as third lieutenants; their promotion is dependent upon the reputation they establish in the lower grades. There is a Constabulary school to which all officers are sent before they are assigned to duty.

In order to gain promotion, officers must become familiar with at least one native dialect. The officers are taught that, although they are members of the Constabulary who must use restraint and force, when necessary to maintain peace, they are also agents of the government who must help the people to a better understanding of the purposes of the central government. And as agents of the government they must promote harmony between the people and their officials, and must encourage commercial intercourse and industry, and everything likely to raise the standards of the Philippine people.

Complaints of overbearing treatment on the part of the Constabulary were once not uncommon; that was not surprising, for inexperienced officials stationed in remote regions often had to be granted much power. But now complaints of that kind rarely occur.

Owing to the Constabulary, ladronism in the Philippines is no longer prevalent. One by one the old bands have been dispersed; their leaders and the worst offenders have been killed, or captured and punished for their crimes. Years of persistent effort and courageous achievement by officers and men of the Constabulary have been necessary in order to effect this dispersal, but the result has shown that the struggle and sacrifices were worth while. In all except the wildest parts of the islands, life and property are as safe from violence as they are in the United States.

AN END OF TRIBAL WARS

Securing this safety has been only part of the work of this organization. The Constabulary has ended the tribal wars among the wild peoples of the islands. It has brought peace among the pagans and Mohammedans, and brought them all under the influence of the government. Working with the sanitary service, it has helped to eradicate cholera and to suppress rinderpest. These tasks have demanded self-control and courage.

In this police service, as elsewhere, the government has worked upon the various tribes by means of members of the tribes themselves. The men of the Constabulary are drawn from all tribes, but they are detailed generally for work among their own people. Thus, the Constabulary companies stationed ordinarily from the Tagalogs. The ordinarily from the Tangalogs. The same thing is true even of wild tribes like the Moros; companies of Moro Constabulary hold in check the wildest people of their own fanatical kind; and among the Igorots, or head-hunters of Luzon, companies of trained Igorot Constabulary have done more perhaps than anything else to bring head-hunting into disrepute.

It would be hard indeed to recount any part of the history of the Philippines for the last few years in which the Constabulary has not had a share; it would be wholly impossible in any brief account to tell of all the instances of strahi and struggle, of self-denial and noble heroism, in which its members have figured. In Samar and Leyte, bands of fanatics grew beyond the control of the civil government, and terroized whole islands, until the army had again to be called into the field; but the Constabulary still shared in the dangers and in the fighting, and equally in the credit and honor, for the final suppression of those bands.

At Mount Dajo, in the island of Sulu, took place in March, 1906, perhaps the most desperate struggle known to modern history, and one of the most unfortunate but necessary events in connection with our occupation of the Philippines. In the final assault on the stronghold, the Constabulary stood side by side with the troops of the regular forces, and bore its part of the loss in dead and wounded. Some six hundred fanatical Moros withdrew into the crater of an extinct volcano 2,100 feet high, from which for many months they sallied out to rob and murder among the peaceful people of the region. There they finally barricaded themselves and swore to resist until the last one of them was killed. And they kept their oath.

It was a terrible but necessary lesson that the Americans administered; all the archipelago, especially the wild Mohammedan part, has profited from it ever since. But to teach that lesson called for a kind of courage that is rare in this world, and that is seldom appreciated by those who lack the same quality in their own hearts; in the desperate charge up the sheer heights of Bud Dajo, the brown men of the Constabulary showed that courage, as they have showed it on many other occasions.

Life in the Constabulary offers a wide field of endeavor, work, and adventure. The need may be for the policeman or the soldier, for the school-teacher or the politician, for the arbitrator or the diplomat—the Constabulary must meet every demand. Whether to suppress local disorder, or to go far into the hills in search of a band of desperadoes, whether to enforce quarantine regulations against some deadly scourge, or to render help in time of distress when some earthquake or flood has laid waste the country—the Constabulary must be ready. And to its credit the Constabulary has met all these demands; in an emergency it has never been found wanting.

It is not easy to divide fairly the honor for these achievements between the American officers and the Filipino officers and men. Certainly, without the guidance and support of the American officers, the same results could not have been achieved, and without them now it would be impossible to maintain the same high order of service. On the other hand, without the faithful service and the willing sacrifice of the natives, without their great loyalty to the American officers, the good results attained could never have been reached.

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It is commonly felt that the memory of the fallen heroes of '61 is not properly honored Memorial day, unless the ball team plays a double header game on the home grounds.

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MELROSE

A delegation of farmers went to Westminster on Monday last to confer with those who promised to give us the much needed State road. Farmers are the heaviest tax payers, considering they are in the majority in the number of residents who pay taxes. Then why should they not have fair play?

On Thursday of last week quite a number of accidents occurred between Manchester and Greenmount. There was one runaway and one collision, both resulting in damaged buggies. There were two bicycle accidents, bith resulting in minor bruises and breaks.

Your correspondent talked with a man from Pittsburgh who says that the city is so dense with smoke that lamps and lanterns must be lit during the day. He said when he saw wheat being blown by the wind that it reminded him of waves on the Ohio river.

Mr. Henry Black's familiar figure is missed from our midst. Thus it is here on earth loved ones leave families, homes and neighborhods never again to return.

A man came to our town and said that he spent $1400.00 in fourteen days. When asked in what way he said by gambling. The man had been working in the Bittinger lime kiln.

Erwin Stemer has a pigeon that has four legs. It is a curiosity.

It is expected that factories that make clothing and boots and shoes will have slack times, but one can hardly believe the announcement that any of the automobile shops are running slack.

Mr. E. M. Mellor, of Sykesville, this county, was drawn to serve on the grand jury of the United States District Court, for the June Term.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters of administration on the estate of AMELIA E. BABYLON, late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber on or before the 11th day of December, 1914, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

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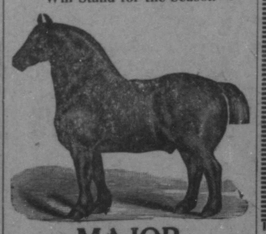
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