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Declares Filipinos All Want Independence

Former Illinois Congressman, Back From Philippines, Gives Interesting Views on Island Affairs.

By FORMER CONGRESSMAN CLYDE H. TAVENNER.



Clyde H. Tavenner.

The 10,500,000 inhabitants of the Philippines are practically unanimous in their desire for independence.

This is the strongest impression that I have brought back with me after touring the islands from one end to the other, and after having come in contact with all classes of the people.

I found, however, that the viewpoint of Americans in the Philippines, and Americans in the United States, on the subject of independence, is not the same.

The attitude of the American government, and the great mass of the people of the United States, is to consider the Philippine question from the unselfish viewpoint of what is best for the Filipino people. Ninety-five per cent of the opposition to independence emanates from American investors in the islands who are quite naturally more interested in the size of their dividends than the freedom of an alien people.

The unfortunate feature of the situation is that the opponents of independence, in order to convince the people of the United States that the Filipinos should not be granted their independence, find it necessary to libel an entire race. To tell a sensitive Christian people that they shall not have their promised independence because they are not fit for it will in the end prove a mistaken policy. It will only make their demand for independence the stronger.

At the present time, however, the masses of the Filipino people still have absolute confidence in the good faith of America. Their loyalty and gratitude to Uncle Sam has not as yet been impaired by the misrepresentations of the retentionists. Their leaders are intelligent enough to distinguish between those Americans who oppose their aspirations to independence for purely selfish reasons, and the great mass of the American people whom they know desire this government to do by the Filipinos only that which is just and right.

In this connection, it is interesting to review the development of the present friendly relationship between the Filipino and American peoples.

Previous to 1916 the Philippine-American relationship is declared to have been not of the best. But with the passage in that year of the Jones law by practically both the Republican and Democratic memberships of Congress, a better feeling developed. This "better feeling" has now grown into a very strong bond of sympathy and affection.

The happy attitude of the Filipino people toward America is due not principally to the fact that Americans have shown the Filipinos how to make their country a better place to live in; not principally to the fact we have superintended the implanting in the Philippines of one of the finest educational systems in the world; nor to the building of high class roads, bridges and public works—but is due principally to the fact that in the Jones law America gave the Filipinos her word of honor that as soon as a stable government could be established we would withdraw our sovereignty from the Philippine Islands.

It might, at first thought, seem strange that in their sincere appreciation of all that we have done for them the Filipino people should place most emphasis on the promise to grant them their independence. For it cannot be successfully denied that on the whole the United States has treated the Filipino people better than any nation ever treated a dependent alien people in all the days since the curtain rose on the dawn of civilization. If we do not spoil it, it is a record that we can be proud of.

But it really isn't so strange that the Filipino should love us more for our promise to give them sovereignty over themselves than for our other good works, for which, after all, outside of army and navy expenditures, the Filipinos have been taxed, and properly so, for every cent of the cost. If we but reverse the situation, and place ourselves in the shoes of the Filipinos, which cannot be said to be an unfair way of getting at the other fellow's viewpoint, we shall see that it is not strange.

Suppose that Great Britain or any other power that you can think of by referring to your geography or history, should impose its sovereignty upon us against our will and then give us an infinitely better government than we now enjoy? Could any such foreign power ever succeed in convincing us that it had our welfare more at heart than we have ourselves.

But to return to my story, the Filipinos heartily thanked us for the Jones law, considering it a sort of a covenant between the Filipino and American peoples, and immediately applied themselves to the task of setting up the prescribed stable government. And they set it up. It is in the Philippines now. America's own representative in the islands, the governor general, officially reports it is there, and recommends that since the Filipinos have earnestly fulfilled their part of the agreement, America should be as prompt in carrying out its part of the contract.

So that, in a few words, it is not the Philippines that now are on trial, but the United States.

There is but one answer. America will carry out its agreement. And since we are going to do it, we cannot afford to quibble and split hairs and hesitate until our tardiness robs us of half the glory of our achievement. Let us act with a promptness and willingness really worthy of America.

And when the people of the United States set up the Philippine Republic as the first Christian democracy of the Far East, they will be building a monument to themselves that will stand throughout eternity. On that day the beacon light of hope, humanity and justice will flash around the world. Such an example by America will accomplish more for the weak and struggling peoples of the earth than the four year world war, with all its cost in life and treasure.

COX'S VARIED ROLES

By SCOTT C. BONE

At "one" with Woodrow Wilson and for Wilsonism and all it implies, without reservation, yet beseeching a weary, tax-burdened country to elect him President. **That's Candidate Cox.**

An exponent, for campaign purposes, of progressive thought and lofty ideals, yet nominated and backed by Boss Murphy, Boss Brennan, Boss Taggart and Ed Moore! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Wettest of the wet aspirants for President, save Edwards, by Bryan's appraisement, in a Democratic Convention dominated by the wets, yet now endeavoring to convince an arid country that he is dry and ever has been a dry! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Charging that a corruption fund of $15,000,000 was being raised to buy up the Presidency, and then, at safe distance from the seat of inquiry, raising the amount to $30,000,000, yet without producing an iota of evidence in support of his wild charges. **That's Candidate Cox.**

A machine-made politician, vouched for by Tammany, yet pretending to have been given the light in 1912 as a disciple of Theodore Roosevelt and Hiram Johnson! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Arraigning the press for not taking him seriously by printing his speeches, yet knowing, as a newspaper man, that the cost of print paper under this Administration is too high to give space to mere words! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Crying out against a mythical "Senate oligarchy," because the precious Wilson covenant failed of ratification, yet with full knowledge that hostility of Democratic Senators rendered ratification impossible! **That's Candidate Cox.**

A mild, dodging critic of Burlesonism and Palmerism, when confronted by hecklers out West, yet committed unqualifiedly to Burlesonism and Palmerism by the Democratic platform! **That's Candidate Cox.**

An apologist for the sinking of the Lusitania, a pacifist of the Newton Baker stripe as clouds gathered, and intervening on behalf of a rich slacker when war came on, yet today appealing for the support of American sons who went to the front! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Dry to the drys, wet to the wets, spirituelle to the spiritual, all things to all crowds, in the face of the G. O. P. landslide clearly impending, yet never daring to deviate in his devotion to Wilsonism or the Wilson League by the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t"! **That's Candidate Cox!**

And, finally—an acrobatic Ajax defying the lightning of public disapproval! **That's Candidate Cox.**

Vote for Harding and a return to sane, safe and economic government.

EDITORIAL.

A political party must of necessity be gauged by the utterances and acts of its leaders. President Wilson has been the head and mouth-piece of the Democratic party and he has declared the League of Nations to be the paramount issue of the campaign. Even more, he says it is the most important question in history because it will determine the future of the entire world.

He further stated that it was unthinkable that any change should be made in the League Covenant as every amendment or reservation suggested destroyed the perfect beauty of the Covenant and impaired and nullified its usefulness to such an extent as to jeopardize the future welfare and happiness of humanity.

Such was the sacredness of the League Covenant which was accepted by Candidate Cox as the big issue of his campaign and which he has been presenting for the worshipful admiration of his auditors throughout his canvass of the United States. To all of Mr. Wilson's utterances Mr. Cox has added his devout, amen. Thus has the Democratic party gone on record as militant promoters of the League Covenant, without reservations, and has classified all suggestions of change, modification or reservation as a crime against humanity and a conspiracy against the peace of the world.

The Democratic party was sincere and honest in its belief in the League Covenant, or it was making a shameless grand-stand play of purity of motives for the effect it might have on the election. Which was it?

Granting that it was honest in its praise of and reverence for the League Covenant, that its utterances were sincere, what will now be the attitude of the party toward Mr. Cox, in view of his speech at Huntingdon, W. Virginia, a few days ago?

Finding sentiment for the League not very strong in West Virginia, the shifty candidate threw the hallowed document of his exalted chief into the discard and shouted to his auditors: "If I am elected president of the United States I will sit down with the Senate and reach an agreement about going into this League." He further said: "I have every expectation that after November 2 much of the partizan spirit that has been visited upon the discussion of the League will have subsided. It cannot be an expression merely of Executive will, the popular will as voiced at the polls must control."

Not a word there about the "sacred duty of America to keep faith with her soldier dead" by accepting the League Covenant "without the stain of unholy fingers upon its fair pages."

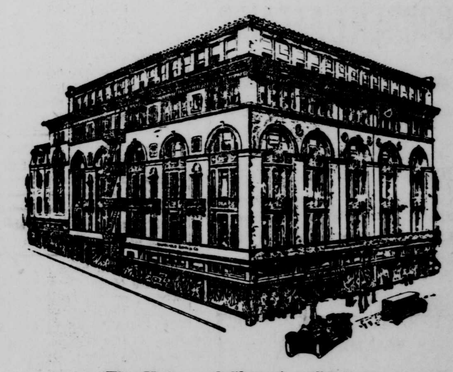
Now what will the Democratic party do? Will it continue to accept Cox as its leader and thereby show to the world that, like Cox, it has merely been using the League as a subterfuge to win votes? Or, will it repudiate its candidate who has so openly flouted its sacred teachings and joined the "gang of foul conspirators who are scheming to repudiate America's promises (MADE BY WILSON) and break the heart of of the world?"

As we said previously, the Democratic party was truthful and sincere in its admiration and veneration of the Wilson League Covenant, or it WAS NOT. If it was sincere Mr. Cox has earned, and will receive, the contempt and scorn of his party for his abandonment of its cherished ideals.

If the party was not sincere it will accept Mr. Cox's flop without protest and aid him in his new attitude to attract votes for the Democratic ticket. Thus we shall all know how false was the pretense of the party in its concern for the ideals of Mr. Wilson as set forth in the League of Nations Covenant.

That the Democratic party has been dishonest in its utterances will be proved if it accepts the "anything to win" policy of Candidate Cox. It has long been our opinion that the League Covenant discussion was a mere subterfuge to divert attention from Democratic mal-administration, criminal waste and other more vital issues.

WE SHALL SEE WHAT WE SHALL SEE!



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