

# THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOURNAL

1921

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

## AMERICANS IN THE PHILIPPINES And Their Rights as Citizens in America's Far Eastern Possessions

By C. W. ROSENSTOCK

Who, and what are Americans in the Philippines?

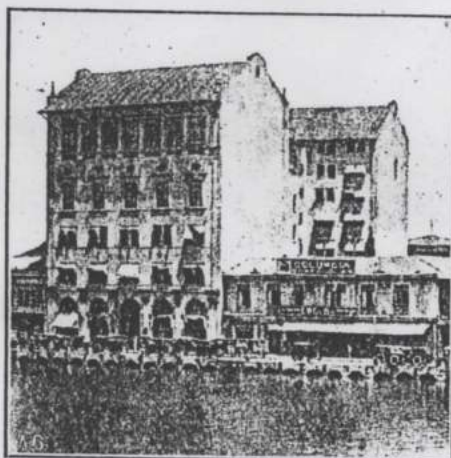
This question seems to be one that needs clarification.

It is too often asserted that Americans in the Philippines are "Foreigners," while, as a matter of fact, they possess by law all the rights and privileges of a citizen of this Country.

The statements made by some, that these Americans are unreliable and irresponsible, are not true and it is a disgrace to our country that disparaging remarks of this nature are being made by Americans in the United States. We can understand why certain political factions might try to discredit Americans here, if such factions believed it to their advantage to do so, but we can not comprehend why well-known American writers will pass judgment and write articles discrediting Americans in the Philippines and publish these articles broadcast in the columns of publications for which they are paid to write.

It should be understood that the character of the Americans residing in the Philippines compares very favorably with that of any group of Americans anywhere in the world.

Years and years ago, the Americans strongly resented the insinuations and reflections cast upon their communities by the "Older World". Our forefathers were referred to as ex-convicts, "ticket-of-leave" men, and worse. Early settlers who went West passed through the same vilification, and, later, the "Fortyniners" of California and other Pacific Coast



The Masonic Temple

States had a like experience. The pioneers of Canada and other Anglo-Saxon colonies went through the same thing in settling their colonies.

The pioneers and settlers of all these countries have now made good and the Old World looks with pride and respect upon the individuals who, in years gone by, were referred to in very derogatory terms.

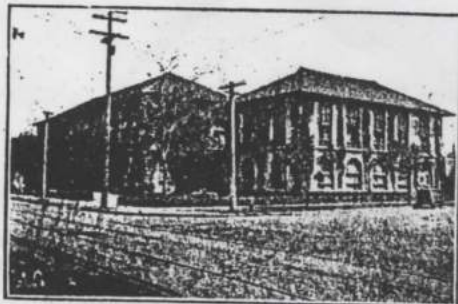
While it is not true that the Americans calculate on "settling" the Philippine Islands in the same way as the above mentioned countries have been settled, it is nevertheless true that the Americans, both officially and in private life, are pioneers of western ideas and customs and are exceedingly important factors in the development of this country.

The Americans in the Philippines have had a vastly different people to deal with than did the pioneers of the countries mentioned above. The Filipino is the highest intellectually of all the Malay races, and, as a consequence, the Filipino has stepped in line and worked with the Americans, and, as a result of this, has made great strides towards becoming one of the highest cultured races in the Orient. Even today he is the only Oriental possessing some Occidental ideas and customs.

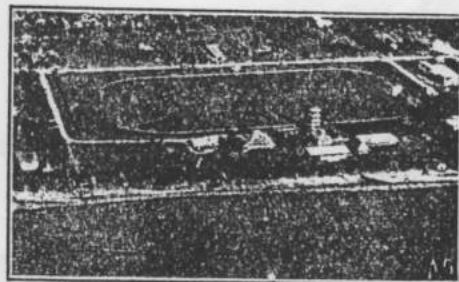
The Filipino being a Christian people and full of ambition and ideals, the American Government sent Americans of culture and education to this country to work out the great problem of establishing a stable government here. Many American employees did not remain long with the government, but became private citizens, engaging in all kinds of occupations. American commercial houses were formed, and their selection of employees was made from high grade educated Americans. All this meant that the Americans residing in the Philippines were not then and are not now of the class which some of our writers would make the public believe.

At the termination of the Spanish-American war, many soldiers were discharged out here and have remained to help build up this country. Most of these men have made great names for themselves and have become leaders in their lines of endeavor. No soldier was allowed to remain in this country unless he had an honorable discharge and an A-1 service record. We Americans who live in the Philippine Islands are proud of the soldiers who remained here to assist in what has been one of the greatest problems our American Government has ever undertaken.

Our last census shows that there are 5,448 American residents in this country, including men, women, and children. (1921 females and 3,617 males.) The American population of Manila is 2,916. (1,085 females and 1,831 males.) This does not include the Army and Navy. (There are 736 Army Officers



The American-European Y. M. C. A.



The Manila Polo Club and Field  
from an Aeroplane



in the Islands, 250 of which are stationed in or near Manila.) Out of that number considerably over half of the men are either college graduates or have graduated from High School and taken up commercial courses or similar commercial training. More than half of the Americans here are married and have families.

The average salary of an American man is in excess of P500.00 (\$250.00 U. S. Cy.) per month.

There are three churches in Manila with American and English-speaking congregations, all well attended and supported by their respective congregations. Each church building is owned by its congregation. There are two Protestant bishops in Manila and also an American archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Masonic fraternity owns the largest office building in the city. It is made of

The Manila Golf Club has a membership of 270. Fifty per cent of this membership is composed of Americans. This organization owns its own club house and an 18 hole golf course. It is estimated that the value of its property is about P200,000.00.

The Manila Polo Club has a membership of 425. Eighty-five per cent of its membership is composed of Americans residing in the Philippines. This club also owns its own club house and its polo field, the value of which is over P1,000,000.00.

The Columbia Club has a membership of 300. Ninety per cent of its membership is composed of Americans residing in the Philippines. The club house and grounds are owned by the club, valued at P90,000.00.

The American-European Y. M. C. A. has a membership of 620, ninety per cent of whom are Americans. The total value of Y.M.C.A. property owned by Americans is P1,500,000.

The Army and Navy Club is owned by its membership, 735 in number, which is composed entirely of Army and Navy officers or ex-officers. This club also owns its own property and improvements, the value of which is estimated at over P1,000,000.00.

and representing such outlays of money, in any city in the United States, with less than 50,000 or even 100,000 inhabitants?

The foregoing, in itself, should show the American readers at home that the Americans residing in the Philippines are not of a type or class whose opinions on local matters can be ignored.

Americans who build up local community activities, head up charitable organizations, stand out for high ideals and honest and efficient government organization, are a class of Americans whose opinions must be listened to and respected by both the Americans in the homeland and the local Filipinos.

If these Americans express their honest views on any local subject, and these views do not coincide with the views of local political factions, or others, why should this not be considered only as natural differences of opinion?

There is, and moreover can be no question about Americans in the Philippines, who have acquired the necessary residence, to vote and otherwise exercise all the rights and privileges conceded the native born Filipino (including the right of suffrage and that to hold office). Therefore, if Americans who have lived the better parts of their lives in the Philippines and those Americans who contemplate continuing their residence in this country indefinitely, are entitled to all these privileges, why is it not within their province to discuss political questions as do other local citizens who are affiliated with local political parties and other organized or unorganized bodies or societies, without being criticised

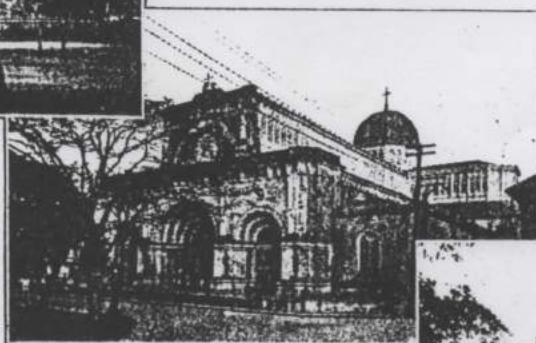


The Episcopal Cathedral

steel and concrete and is valued at about two million pesos. (A firm offer of P1,800,000.00 was refused for the property.) The Philippine National Bank and the International Bank, as well as many large commercial firms, have their quarters in this building. It is located on the Escolta, the principal retail street, and is, indeed, a great monument to the Masonic fraternity. While this building was built by the Masons, among whose membership are to be found all nationalities, including Filipinos, still it should be known that the moving spirit of this enterprise was an American business man, and his committee was composed of Americans, and 99% of the necessary money was secured from American Masons residing in the Philippines.

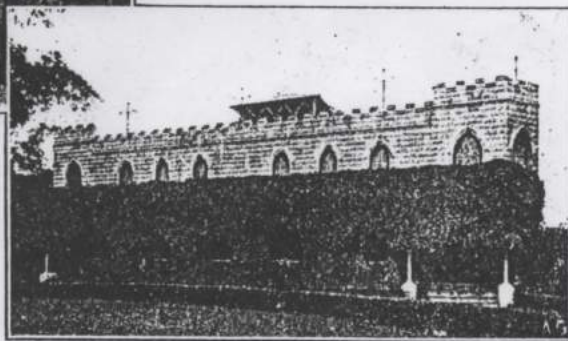
The Elks Club has a membership of 600 Americans. This club owns its own building, which is of concrete, the land and improvements being valued at P800,000.00. This enterprise was financed and is supported by Elks, all Americans, residing in the Philippines.

The University Club is composed of 126 members. The majority of its membership is composed of Americans residing in the Philippines. It has a long lease on its club building and a very healthy cash balance in the bank to its credit.



The Roman Catholic Cathedral

#### CHURCHES OF MANILA



The Union Church

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands is composed entirely of American citizens. It has 1,052 members in good standing. While this institution does not own its own building, it has over P80,000.00 in cash in its treasury and there is now some talk of erecting a large office building for its use.

If the reader will look over these American community activities, consider their class, and for what they really stand, it will be seen at once that the Americans residing in the Philippines are quite a bit "over average" in many ways.

What will you find in permanent community activities in an American city of less than 6,000 inhabitants? Will you find such prominent community centers of such size

for so doing as "meddling foreigners" or "radical Americans?"

The writer has read several recent articles on the Philippine Independence question written by well-known journalists and published in some of the leading publications of the United States. Invariably they state that the Americans residing in the Philippines are as a whole opposed to the withdrawal of American sovereignty from the Islands at this time.

One or two of these articles, and several local Filipino articles, have stated that Americans in the Philippine Islands are selfish in their attitude and that they resent the possibility of losing the distinction of being the "ruling race" of the country.



Most Americans feel that to take away the sovereignty of the United States from these Islands at this time would be the worst thing our country could do for the Filipinos. This is their honest, unselfish opinion, publicly expressed.

The Americans in the Philippines admire the Filipino who honestly desires to see his country become an independent nation, respected as such by the nations of the world. Many Americans have taught their Filipino friends to live and work for that eventuality, but these Americans, who have lived and worked in the Philippines for years, feel that if absolute independence were given to the Filipinos, at this time, it would be a grave mistake because of general world conditions.

A great many Americans residing in the Philippines would like to see the Filipinos enjoy the same freedom as they themselves do in the United States by making the Philippines a Territory of the United States. If the Philippines were chartered as a full fledged territory of the United States, the people in the Philippines would then enjoy all the rights and benefits of a territorial citizenship, the privileges of which are considered by Americans as giving the individual more freedom and personal protection than any government on earth. By wishing for the Filipino this privilege, the Americans believe that they cannot ask for him anything greater or better; it is the highest compliment we can pay the Filipinos.

enough and strong enough to reduce our local irregularities to a minimum, and to see that both Americans and Filipinos are protected in equal rights of citizenship and that American capital, and all other capital, is made secure in the Philippines. If this can be brought about by any other form of government equally as good as a territorial form of government and equally as effective, it will be seen that Americans in the Philippines will be what all good Americans have been throughout history, loyal supporters of and law-abiding citizens under such a government.

In the meantime, we must not get excited because Americans in the Philippines express their opinions on such matters which it is their right to do, as it is the right of other citizens of this country.

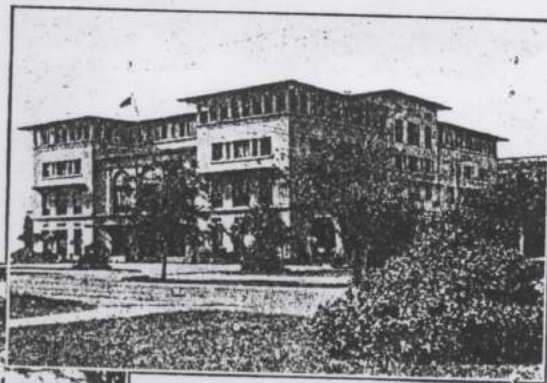
If Americans can invest money in this country at a profit to themselves, Filipinos can do likewise. If large industrial developments are made by American capital, it means that thousands of Filipinos will prosper by such investments. Look at the recent development of coconut oil and

true in respect to all enterprises requiring the investment of large sums of money.

No one has done more for the Filipinos than the American who has lived here for many years. The American individual has, with scarcely an exception, done more for the Filipinos than is generally known.

The American in the Philippines has, individually, been the greatest educator the Filipinos have had. Did these Americans rob and steal from the unsuspecting Filipino? No, they did not. Ask any Filipino in this country and he will tell you that he always received a "square deal" from Americans, whenever he appealed to them.

A few Americans have made money in the Philippines. Why should they not make money here as well as in the States, in Europe,



The Elks Club

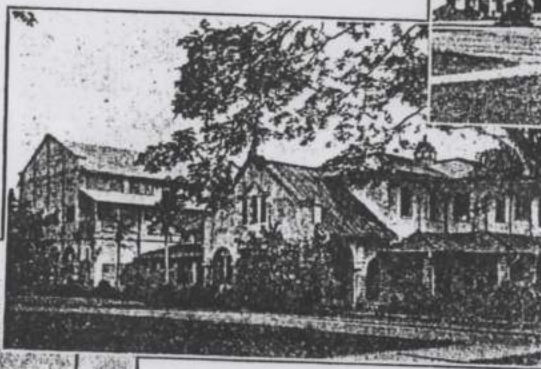
or South America, or in any other country? No American has made money in the Philippines without working hard for it.

The local laws and the Government officials have not favored Americans. On the contrary, our American law makers and executives have taken the stand that the Americans were here to help educate the Filipinos, and that Americans should set an example to Filipinos, and if an American broke a law his offense was greater for that reason.

The American individual residing in the Philippines has always assented in this government in the only way a real American can assent in the governing of any people by living a life of obedience to law and order, and by doing business on the square.

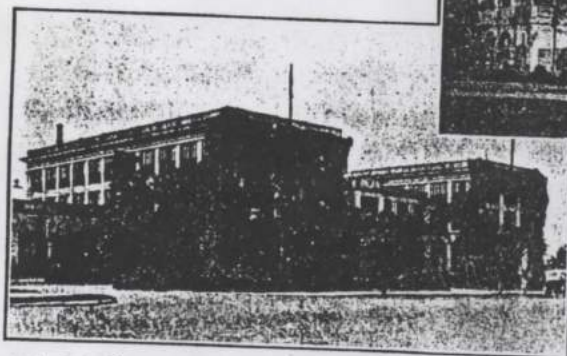
After living in the Philippines for from 10 to 24 years, is it surprising that an American will form some ideas of what the country is like, and what the people are like and how poorly some of the government departments are run, and a few other ideas of the country and its people?

Americans in the United States who live in a city for a long time develop a certain civic pride for that city. Americans in the States also (after a few years' residence in any particular place) develop a pride in their county and their state. A man from California is a Californian all through, and one wants to be careful how he speaks of California when in his presence.



The Columbia Club

#### CLUBS OF MANILA



The Army and Navy Club

What government on earth could be better than that? We Americans residing in the Philippines do not want laws enacted to favor us in the least. We are quite willing to see that any privilege granted to the American, be also granted to the Filipino; but we insist that this works both ways.

The Americans, believing that their Government is the best government in the world, naturally want to extend that government to the Philippines so that the Filipinos and local Americans may enjoy it together. The Americans in the Philippines are true and loyal friends of the Filipinos, regardless of what may be said to the contrary.

Political graft exists in all countries. The United States has its share of it, much to our regret and sorrow. What the Americans want in the Philippines is a government big

sugar. Wherever a sugar central is built, hundreds of Filipino planters are made happy by the increase in price of their sugar cane, and in the assurance of a ready market for cash. Advances of money to plant their crops are easily secured in such cases and at a moderate rate of interest. Compare that with the old method of pignoring their sugar to Chinese and local brokers who, in turn, sold to exporters at a profit to themselves. The price received by the planter under the old method was low and his market was uncertain. Advances for planting crops were obtained only by paying exorbitant rates of interest, often compounded monthly, running up to from 25% to 100% per year.

Ask any Filipino planter how he is treated by centrals controlled by American capital. He will tell you whether the Americans are a benefit or a hindrance to Filipino prosperity. What is true regarding sugar centrals is also



When this is true in the States, why should it be surprising to see American men and women, residing in the Philippines, show a civic pride for Manila, and a pride in the Philippines similar to that of a state pride in the mother country.

Above everything an American is an American and his national pride is one of his greatest virtues, but an American does not live who has no civic pride for his "Home town or State".

When Americans have this feeling about the Philippines, is it any wonder that they want to express it when they believe that their "City" or their "State" is being mismanaged? Could such an American stand by and say nothing when he honestly believed that well organized government bureaus, and government departments and government municipalities were going to pieces in the hands of inexperienced and many times incompetent office-holders, just because he happened to be an American and this "State" of his happens to be the Philippine Islands?

Every American resident in the Philippines has been proud of the economical, social, agricultural and commercial development of this country during the years of American occupation of these Islands.

We have been proud of every Filipino who has "come to the front" and who has made good as an executive in any department of government work or in other walks of life.

The Americans in the Philippines have encouraged and assisted in every way possible in developing individual Filipino ability whenever it showed itself, and have sung their praises to the world, whenever occasion offered.

Americans in the Philippines have all hoped that the day would come when Filipinos would be able to take over and operate the major portion of the government work of these Islands.

Every time a step forward was made in this direction, the local Americans have felt that progress was being made in the right direction and we all felt proud of the work America was doing in our "Island Possession".

Every American in the Philippines has had these feelings and to say that he is against the progress of Filipinos is untrue and unjust.

If the government of the Philippines by Filipinos had been undertaken at a time when the people of this country had been reasonably prepared for such responsibilities, the Americans, like all good citizens, would have been patient and would have made "excuses" for the inexperience of honest endeavor, but when it seemed to them that almost every department, every bureau, and every municipality and even the judiciary was interfered with, and in most cases, dictated to by those immature in experience, why should these Americans as citizens sit still and say nothing?

When these same Americans have thousands and thousands of close, intimate friends among the Filipinos, and when they know that the personal and private opinions of these Filipino friends are in most cases the same as their own, it is quite clear that someone is "putting one over" on the Americans in the mother country when they claim that the Americans in the Philippine Islands have

"an axe to grind," and that opinions expressed by them on things Philippine, are not to be taken seriously.

Thousands of Filipinos look to the local Americans to tell what they know as these Filipinos do not care to speak out publicly for reasons known to all who live in this country. Is it playing the game square for our Americans in the States to believe that the Americans out here are unreliable and selfish, when honest expression of their views is given?

Any nation in the world, excepting America, would rely upon the opinions of its nationals who had spent most of their lives in this country. America is too quick to believe that an American is not an American if he does not live in the U. S. A.

Most of the nations of the world have built up their world-wide prestige through the agency of their nationals living and doing business in other countries. Our own country has not only neglected to use this powerful agency, but it has actually discredited its nationals in all parts of the world by having a weak foreign policy. America does not seem to protect or support its nationals in foreign countries, and this has been a cross to be borne by every American residing or doing business outside of his own country.

This weakness in our foreign policy regarding our nationals in other countries has made it seem possible, to certain factions, to discredit the Americans in the Philippines, thereby nullifying their expression of opinion when such a great and important question is up as that of the future policy of the United States in the Orient.

It seems ridiculous to a plain business man that a great nation, such as the United States of America, could lose sight of such an important matter as the power that would be hers if she would develop the interests of her nationals in countries outside her own borders, and use the knowledge gained by those nationals after years and years of struggle against heavy odds.

The logical thing for anyone to do when he desires information is to ask someone who knows. Why should a newspaper man (no matter how well he writes or how popular he may be) be allowed to come out to the Philippines, spend a few days or a week or so here, and then go home and tell millions of American readers all the "real dope" on the Philippine question? This newspaper man may have a great reputation as a writer. He goes home and writes and he signs his articles and great daily newspapers and monthly and weekly magazines publish the "stories," and our great American public "reads and believes" and because these writings say that the Americans of the P. I. are unreliable in their opinions it is made so—and our dear public believes.

Is all this fair? Our editors who control the policy of such publications should not allow such things to be done unless they are playing politics and are interested in pulling off a campaign on some issue or other, and are indifferent to the facts stated so long as their object is attained.

## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETINGS

The greatest crowd which ever attended a luncheon meeting at the Chamber came out to pay tribute to Ex-Governor-General W. Cameron Forbes when he was the guest of the Chamber on Sept. 7th. One of the points he brought out in his speech which was enthusiastically received by those present was his statement that the Philippine Government should keep out of business.

On Sept. 14th, John H. Fowler, American Trade Commissioner on his way to the States after several years' investigation work in Dutch East Indies and the Straits Settlements, addressed the Chamber. He spoke most interestingly of the wonderful trade organizations built up by the Dutch and the British and pointed out some of the important lessons American firms could learn from them.

L. R. Cofer, Vice-President and Manager Foreign Department of the Wells Fargo Nevada National Bank, was the speaker at the Chamber luncheon on Sept. 21st. He spoke encouragingly on better business prospects in the near future, basing his talk on observations he had made during his recent trip to Java and the Federated Malay States. Mr. Cofer also pointed out the necessity of a Tourist Bureau for the Philippines.

## AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING SCHEDULE

October 11th:

Meeting of the active membership with the Board of Directors.

October 18th:

Meeting of the Board of Directors.

October 25th:

Meeting of the Board of Directors.

November 1st:

Meeting of the Board of Directors.

November 8th:

Meeting of the active membership with the Board of Directors.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

(Required by Act No. 2580 of the Philippine Legislature)

Title of Publication: American Chamber of Commerce Journal.

Period of Issue: Monthly.

Editor and Business Manager: H. Edmund Bullis, 627 Rizal Ave.

Publisher: American Chamber of Commerce, 2 Pinpin.

Owners or Stockholders holding 1 per cent. or more of interest, stock, bonds, or other securities: American Chamber of Commerce.

Bondholders, mortgages or other security holders of 1 per cent or more of total value: No outstanding securities.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOURNAL.

Per H. EDMUND BULLIS  
Editor.

Cedula, F-45668, Manila, P. I.,  
Jan. 21, 1921.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of September, 1921. My commission expires Dec. 31, 1922.

EWALD E. SELPH.