

THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7, 1899.

A FILIPINO VIEW.

Fuller reports of the recent effort of Aguinaldo to treat for peace make it quite clear why General Otis could not accept the proposals made, and also serve to bring to notice the Filipino view of the war situation. General Otis was asked to receive an emissary of Aguinaldo's government, to treat for peace "on a basis of independence and honor." Otis refuses to recognize any native government in the Islands, or Aguinaldo as its President. The only basis on which he will consent to treat with Aguinaldo at all is as the commander of an armed force, and the only terms he can accept are unconditional surrender. So peace is yet in the distance.

General Alejandrino, the emissary sent by Aguinaldo to the American camp, had apparently no thought of surrender. His idea is either to secure the independence of the Islands, or to prolong the war indefinitely.

"How long can the Filipino army and people withstand 60 000 American troops?" was asked.

"Fighting in our way, we can maintain a state of war and the necessity for a large army of occupation indefinitely.

"You Americans are holding a few miles around Manila, a narrow line of railroad to Angeles, and a circle of country around San Fernando. But you are ignorant of the resources of Luzon. We hold the immense rich, productive northern country from which to draw. Our people contribute the money and food which maintain our army, and this is done at a minimum of cost.

"It is an interesting question what the cost to the American people is of maintaining the American troops in the Philippines. We do not, of course, know the amount, but it must be excessive. We perceive what an American soldier requires in this climate. On the other hand, a Filipino exists with a handful of rice and a pair of linen trousers. We do not have to pay our soldiers, and can practically hold up their wages as long as we desire. Even without our present supply of arms and ammunition we could keep your army occupied for years.

"With an expense that grows daily, how long will your people stand it? The Filipino people do not wish to continue the fighting. We have no army contractors. We have no business-men making profits from the maintenance of our army. There is nothing in it for us, nor are our salaries large enough to keep us fighting for money and position."

The war with the Filipinos has already lasted longer than the war of the United States with Spain. The insurgents had themselves held the armies of Spain at a stand for years before 1898. They are now "thoroughly injured to war as a chronic condition. And there is little doubt that the people of the United States are growing weary of a costly and difficult struggle of which the end is not yet in sight. In fact present prospects appear to confirm the view of General Alejandrino that the war may be prolonged for years. The United States cannot recede from the conflict and the Filipinos are apparently as far from being whipped into submission as they were three months ago.

Number Seven of the quarterly leaflets of Canadian History is to hand. It contains papers on Inheritances from our Historic Past, by Prof. Ganong; Traits of Indian Character, by Rev. W. O. Raymond, M. A.; Nicholas Denys, by James Han- nay, D. C. L.; The Maroons of Nova Scotia, by A. P. Silver; The first Siege and Capture of Louisbourg, by V. H. Paltsits; and The Defence of Mackinac in 1814, by Lieut-Col. Cruikshank. All these papers are of permanent interest and value. The full series of twelve numbers from the beginning, to be completed in five

numbers yet to be issued can be obtained for one dollar by addressing George U. Hay, Educational Review, St. John. They are of especial value to teachers and students, and have already secured a wide and increasing circulation.

It is now proposed that Britain shall complete a trans-Asiatic railway as an offset to Russia's Siberian road. The proposed route is from Alexandria or Port Said in Egypt through the Isthmus of Sinai, Northern Arabia and Balochistan to Kurrachee. There connection would be made with the Indian railway system which extends eastward to Mandalay. From there to Shanghai is 2,400 miles. The total length of the line would be 6,670 miles, of which 2,000 are already constructed. The engineering difficulties would not be nearly so great as have been met and overcome on the Siberian road, and a vast population would be tributary to the line. But the Siberian road is wholly on Russian soil, while several different governments control the route of the proposed great South Asian railway.

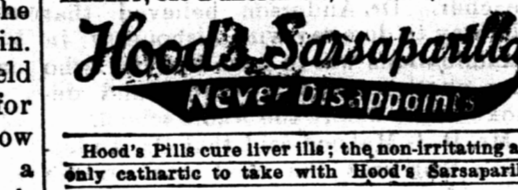
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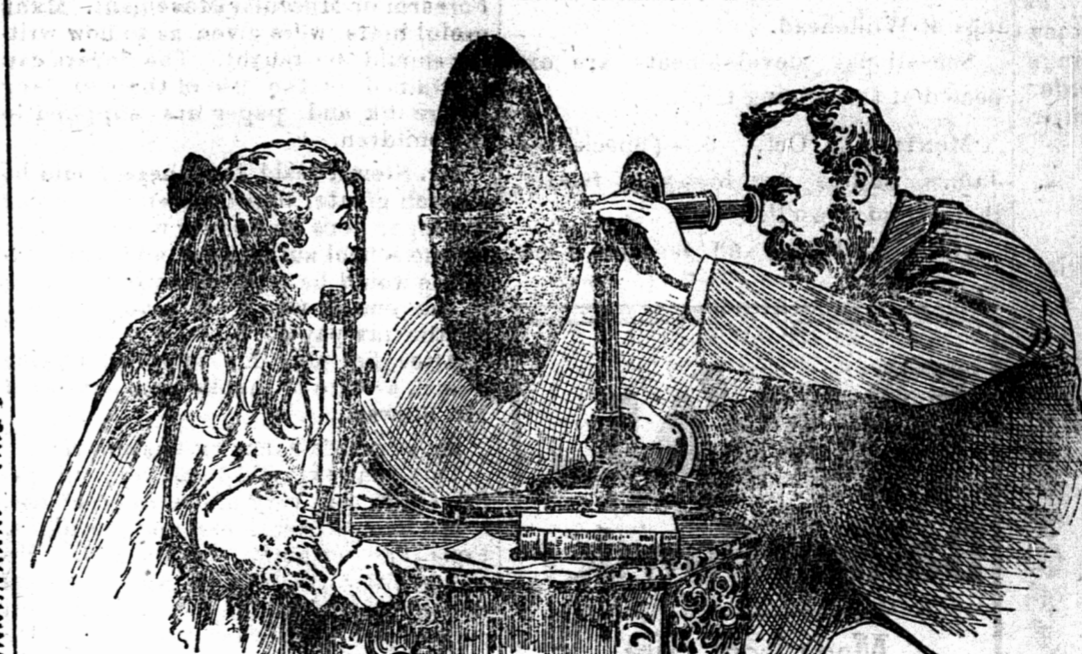
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