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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1899.
 A NEW STUDY.

It devolves upon Secretary Root who has succeeded to the Secretaryship for War in the United States, to arrange for the government of the new dependencies of the Republic. They are to be kept under military government until such time as the civil authority can take them over. Of course, in the Philippines it is first necessary to conquer the insubordinate natives before giving them a form of government. "First catch your hare," as the cook book says. It so happens that American statesmen have had no experience at all in the government of colonies and dependencies. And down to a recent date they had very little respect for British methods in that regard, their unfavorable judgement being chiefly based upon the bungling example set by King George in his futile efforts to regulate his thirteen or more North American colonies in '76. Just now, however, the Chicago Tribune tells us, Mr. Root finds the British Colonial system not only worth studying, but that it furnishes the only examples to which he can turn for useful information.

France, Spain, and Portugal in their colonial efforts furnish only ruinous examples. Their history as colonisers furnishes a series of danger signals, indicating the rocks and shoals upon which colonial systems may come to grief. But Britain has girdled the world with a galaxy of colonies and dependencies that are contented, happy and prosperous. They are peopled by all races, colors and creeds; they lie in tropic, temperate and frigid zones; they represent all shades of intelligence from blackest barbarism up to the most cultured civilization, yet British rule has adapted itself to them all.

These facts, as he studies them, have excited the admiration of Secretary Root, and he declares the British colonial system is the marvel of the age. He sees with wonder how easily a mere handful of British officials govern three hundred millions of East Indians, and how in Canada and Australia nations have been developed, free, self-governing and progressive, but still gratefully maintaining their allegiance to the British sovereign and the Old Flag.

We trust that Mr. Root and the Washington government will profit by the highly interesting study in which he is engaged, and that the Philippines, Porto Rico, Cuba and Hawaii may also derive some benefit when the lesson is learned and applied. In the meantime it is not without interest to Canadians to find that clever and accomplished American statesmen can yet learn something from the example of the Mother Country.

A Swede, engaged as a professor of chemistry in Washington has made, what is considered a remarkable discovery, out of tauric moss a peculiar lichen or fungus, which grows on rocks and roots of trees, he produces by a process of his own what he calls tauric acid, which will soften steel, sliver, gold, aluminium and certain other metals making them as easy to manipulate as putty. Swede although well aware that his discovery might yield him a fortune, is giving it freely to the world.

In speaking of the product of the Philippine Islands an exchange says: "The product which the United States has bought and used the most of for many years is Manila hemp. It was found to be specially adapted for the manufacture of binding twine, an article which has become one of the necessities of the American wheat grower. Two years ago Manila hemp was selling for \$70 a ton. Two months ago it was worth \$140 a ton. The latest London quotation is nearly \$200 a ton. Either the farmers of the Northwest will have to pay double prices for their binding twine, or the manufacturers will have to find some cheaper, satisfactory substitute for Manila hemp. The price has gone up because all peaceful industries in Luzon are in bad condition. Filipinos who are fighting under Aguinaldo, or who live in districts held one day by the Americans and another day by the insurgents, cannot be expected to be specially industrious. The hemp raised outside the American lines cannot reach Manila, and if all the ports held by the insurgents are blockaded it will not be shipped out of the Island. In that event the price of that article will be almost prohibitory. Therefore, the wheat raisers of the United States have a right to demand that military operations in the Philippines shall be pressed vigorously in order that the Island of Luzon may be pacified, the shipment of Manila hemp resumed, and the price of binding twine drop to the old, moderate standard. A sharp, decisive campaign in the Philippines this winter will lessen the cost of producing American wheat next year."

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 Sackville, N. B. July 30th. 1892 a w 3 w

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