

CHANCES OF FORTUNE

WONDERFUL RESOURCES OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Natural Riches for American Enterprise to Develop—Mineral Wealth Besides Agricultural Products—Immense Chances to Make Money by Enterprise.

People do not realize yet how large the Philippine archipelago is. There are about 1,000 islands in all. Luzon itself is the size of Illinois and has a population of 3,000,000. Mindanao has an area of 33,000 square miles and a population of 2,000,000. About 8,000,000 more people are scattered among the other 1,800 odd islands, some of which are only half an acre in area and have only a few families of savages living on them. The climate conditions in the Philippines will be something the United States soldiers have never before experienced. This tropical archipelago reaches within four degrees of the equator on the south, and is in the same latitude as Venezuela. Some 200 of the islands varying in area from 50 to 606 square miles, have never been explored, and contain the fiercest and most barbarous races on the globe. A dozen distinct and different tongues are spoken in the Philippines. Spain has never tried to govern any of the group of islands outside Luzon, Mindanao, Su'u Samar and Negres.

The Chinese in the islands number nearly half a million. The true Spanish outside of the soldiers and sailors, who come and go every few years, never number more than 3,000; the British are about 500 strong, and the Americans about 150. The genuine natives, the aborigines, are of Malay origin and have the face, color, and manners of the Malays. The race is very conglomerate. The best natives are handsome, brown, lithe, and graceful, with hair as black as a raven's wing, and small hands and feet. Then there are what the Spanish call the Negritos. They number 3,000,000 of the Philippine population, and their origin is unknown. They are as wild as Hottentots on some remote islands, and have been known to eat human flesh. On Pumulou Island the Negritos have practiced human sacrifice for years. I was there once with several indigo buyers, and we saw the skulls of a score of the natives' former townsmen stuck up on the bamboo posts about heathen altars as a propitiation to some spirit. The Negritos have woolly heads and black skins. The brown-skinned or Malay aborigines who live in the northern part of the archipelago are known as Itocans, and there are fully fifteen tribes of them, each speaking a different dialect. The aborigines in the central islands of the Philippines are the Tagals. They are by far the most intelligent and industrious people. Some of them are about as fine people as one wishes to meet—a proud, generous, hospitable, honest people. The aborigines in the southern part of the archipelago are Visaians, and they are far removed from the Tagals in intelligence and worth, but are mild, very dirty, and lazy. The natives on Luzon and about the coast of Mindanao are almost wholly Tagals. Their servants and laborers are the Negritos.

Hemp is the greatest article of export in the Philippines, and the official documents in Manila show that in the last decade about 40 per cent of all the hemp grown on the islands has been sent to the United States. One firm in Boston paid an average of 3 cents a pound in Manila for 79,000 tons of hemp in the ten years previous to last January. During the same period the total quantity of hemp exported from the Philippines amounted to exactly 914,000 tons. For a dozen years the importations of hemp into the United States from the Philippines have averaged \$2,400,000 a year. There are immense possibilities in hemp culture in the Philippines, now that the grip of Spain on every legitimate industry has been shaken off. As sure as the sun rises and sets there will be millionaire fortunes made in hemp in the Philippines in the next decade. What the Yankee sugar planters have done in the fertile valleys of Hawaii in the last generation may be duplicated in hemp in Luzon, Mindanao, and Samar. There will be a Claus Spreckels and a Col. North in Philippine hemp before we know it.

Then there are some great possibilities also in the line of fortune making in the sugar industry in the Philippines. The annual imports of raw sugar into the United States from the Philippines during the last few years have averaged \$2,150,000. The total annual exports of raw sugar from the Philippines have averaged \$4,500,000 for some time. Sugar cane grows like magic in the well watered valleys of the five chief islands of the group. The decomposed lava soil from the extinct volcanoes, that run north and south through the larger Philippine islands, side

by side with the active earthquake making volcanoes, has exactly the qualities for growing sugar cane. The cane comes to maturity from seed in one year. The plantations of Samar hold the world's record for high production of rich cane to the acre. I have known Spanish planters on Samar and Luzon to make a clear profit of \$300 an acre in one year. The Negritos laborers get from 5 to 10 cents a cultivation. Nature does the rest. With American invention and energy many a man can become a millionaire in sugar growing in the Philippines. All the agricultural methods in the Philippines are 300 hundred years behind the times. Ox carts are used for transportation and oxen for ploughing. I have seen planters using a bent stick or a prod with an iron point for a plough. In crushing the cane and extracting the saccharine juice methods 500 years old are still employed.

Indigo plants grow in incredible luxuriance throughout the Philippines. The soil is so fertile that the least labor gives surprising results. Indigo plants yield double the capital used. Many of the richest families in Manila—people who live in Paris about one-third of the time and keep up royal establishments—have made their wealth in the indigo trade. The Alvarado family owns an indigo plantation of about 25,000 acres and an indigo works on Samar, and it derives a revenue of fully \$40,000. An American with half an eye can see many improvements and economies that might be made there, but he would not be thanked for suggesting them to any Philippine or Spaniard.

Cocoon trees are a bigger resource than one might suppose. The fruit is demanded in the markets of the world as much as oranges and lemons. Every part of the tree is useful. The juices make oil and wine, the fibres of the leaves is woven into cloth, and the husks of the nuts are shipped by the boatload to England for door mats and other household articles. Profits of \$250 an acre from a grove of cocoons are common, but in this land of siestas and procrastination the people are so thrifless that they never rise to meet the market by extensive plantings of cocoon trees. To the native a cocoon tree is a veritable staff of life. It will furnish his food, intoxicant, oil, vinegar, vessels, brushes, fish lines, ropes, fuel and water. A cocoon produces fruit when six years old in the Philippines. I know a young Englishman who spent about \$5,000 in starting a cocoon grove seventeen miles from Cavite, on Luzon. The Spaniards were so afraid he would induce other enterprising British to come and do like him, that they ruined him in a few years by all manner of imposts and exactions. For instance, he had to pay about \$200 to the Government of Manila before he picked his first crop, and he had to pay an export duty of 10 per cent. extra because he was not a native.

To illustrate how marvellously fertile is the soil in the Philippines, let me tell about the coffee plants. About seventy years ago several Spaniards began the cultivation of coffee in a little valley away at the north end of Luzon. They were the first coffee plants ever known on the island. A little wild animal resembling the civet of Africa (a cross between a weasel and a fox) began eating and scattering the growing coffee berries. In a few years the plants growing from the scattered coffee berries were all over that part of Luzon. For years past there have been wild coffee bushes all over the island, and all come from the civets' scattering of the coffee seeds. Thousands of pounds are gathered from these wild bushes by the natives.

Nowhere else does rice grow so prolifically as in the Philippines. The Chinese control the rice industry of the islands, but the Negritos do the work. There are a dozen Chinese millionaires in Manila, and they have made their wealth largely in the rice and sugar trade. Under American management the profits of rice growing could be easily enlarged. I think I am conservative that by the crude, lazy ways of harvesting 30 per cent of the yield is wasted. It would make a turrity Yankee farmer groan to see the reckless waste of the natives.

Tobacco grows on all the principal islands. Vanilla, pepper, and cassia which are cultivated elsewhere in the world, grow wild and in great clumps on the Philippine Islands. Wheat and corn may be grown at the extreme north of the archipelago. Oranges, lemons and guavas flourish in the forests and back hills; not the least horticultural science has been exerted toward making superior varieties of these fruits. I have seen in the dense tropical forests of Mindanao thousands of the trees of costly woods, as logwood, ebony, mahogany, and iron wood. Great fortunes await the men who shall get a concession to go and operate there. Sailors who have ventured far into these forests tell me that the ebony and mahogany trees there are the finest they have ever seen. Pineapples and bananas abound in damp spots, and are a source of revenue on some islands, but the Central American products have kept these fruits out of the American markets.

An Electric Scarf Pin.

Perhaps the smallest electric motor in the world is in the scarf pin of D. Goodwin, of McKinney, Texas. He is a skilled watchmaker, and recently he constructed the motor, which is so small that a ten cent

piece will cover it. It weighs only 9-100ths of an ounce. The front of the motor is of highly-polished gold and the commutator and segments are of the same metal. Mr. Goodwin wears the curiosity in his necktie and it makes a very attractive decoration, the nature of which can only be discovered by close inspection.—Chicago Record.

SUFFERED FOR YEARS.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Joints and Limbs Were Swollen Three Times Their Natural Size—The Sufferer in Bed for a Year and a Half. From the Echo, Wiarnton, O. J.

Mrs. Wm. Thew, who is well known in the town of Wiarnton, was a sufferer from heart trouble and articular rheumatism for a period of fifteen years. Lately her condition has so much improved that a reporter of the Echo called upon her to ascertain to what cause the change was due. Mrs. Thew while not courting publicity, consented to give a brief statement of her case in hope that some other sufferer might be benefited. She said:—"My joints were all swollen up to three times their natural size and for a year and a half I was unable to leave my bed. I secured medical treatment and the doctors told me I would never be able to walk again. I took medicine they prescribed but it failed to give any relief. I took patent medicines but they did not help me. Having noticed an advertisement in a paper for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, I concluded to give them a trial and they gave me relief from the time I commenced using them about the first of January last. I have taken ten boxes. I am now able to go around without assistance and do all my housework." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure by going to the root of disease. They renew and build up the blood, and strengthen the nerves, thus driving disease from the system. Avoid imitations by insisting that every box you purchase is enclosed in a wrapper bearing the full trade mark, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

A Balloon of Spider's Web.

A net of spider's webs is being manufactured at the professional school at Antananarivo, and will be used as an experimental covering for a navigable balloon by M. Rnard, the head of the French military school at Chalais. The thread of several spiders is wound on winders, the quantity produced by each spider ranging from 15 to 40 yards. The covering of the web is removed by repeated washings, the web made into a thread of eight strands, which, when spun is easily woven into a gauze very fine but exceedingly strong.—Philadelphia Record.

by Kingdom for a Hen.

The product of the fructuous hen over-values all these enormous expenditures, products and values. There in this country today, in round numbers, 275,000,000 chickens and 40,000,000 other fowls, such as ducks, geese and turkeys. During 1897 the hens laid 14,400,000,000 eggs. The export price in New York City averaged 15 cents a dozen, which makes the value of the egg crop \$165,000,000. Poultry sold as meat brought \$125,000,000 more, making the total hen crop at a conservative rate the sum given above \$290,000,000.

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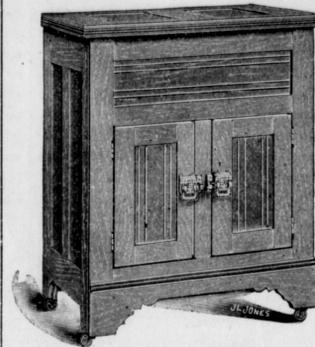
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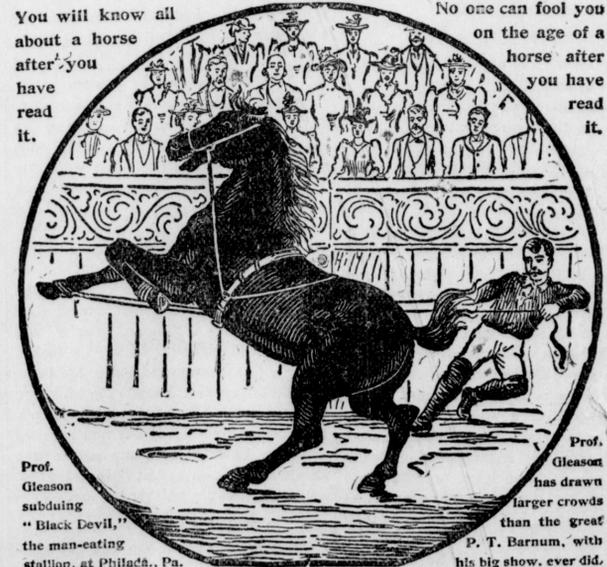
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