

(March 11th, 1912.)

Philippine Affairs.

BY RIGHT REV. C. H. BRENT, D.D.*

AT a regular luncheon of the Canadian Club held on March 11th, 1912, Bishop Brent said:

"*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Canadian Club*,—You do me great honor in bidding me here as your guest. I know of nothing that has happened in my visit to America on this occasion that has given me higher pleasure. I am in the land of my birth, and my Canadian blood still runs warm. (Applause.) I look toward Canada as one of the stalwart nations of the world, with a great future before it, a future which will tax the fine manhood that Canada is producing; and just because I know something of the meaning of Canadian manhood I do not fear for the future of Canada.

I have been asked to speak to you on a specific subject. I could take the entire time at my disposal, and yours, in considering either the opium question or the conditions in the Philippine Islands, and when I had exhausted all my time there would still remain much to be said. I think, therefore, I can best use these moments in trying to sketch for you what the American Government is trying in an altruistic way to do for the Philippine Islands.

Your President has said that he had no large knowledge concerning these Islands. I think very few Americans had before they realized that the waif had been put under the tutelage of the American Government. And as that inimitable person, Mr. Dooley, remarked in one of his philosophic treatises, "for the most part men don't know whether they are islands or canned goods." Some of us have had the privilege of learning by close contact since that day that they are islands. They are a dependency of the United States, and we find ourselves in the peculiar position of being a republic, and yet having dependencies. Such things have happened in past history, but it is a current saying, and I think on the

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it is not the genius of republics to
cy.
endency is one of considerable inter-
e to this our day and generation. It
the relation of a home country to
to a large extent a false philosophy.
t appeared,—and I believe I was
n Toronto to have a copy of that
Findlay, Attorney-General of New
recent Imperial Conference in Lon-
s just appeared, the author states—
the time of Lord Palmerston, there
nding a Secretary for the Colonies;
said, "I will take the colonies my-
, "Send somebody upstairs with me
ere these blank places are." There
of Great Britain, who was so ignor-
g the colonies as to speak of them
There was a time when the central
chief value of colonies was to give
ome to exploit the wealth and pro-
countries under their governmental
lay is long past, and now not merely
f Canada but those of other Over-
forward to the moment when there
hing the world has ever seen—true
ause) where the relations of the
olonies with the home country will
nd trusted character. One cannot
y of Great Britain in her relation
sponsibilities without being greatly
tance, that chapter of history which
ent statesman, Lord Cromer, after
distinguished service, laid down his
w of no book more worthy of spe-
those who have to shoulder large
Cromer's book on Egypt. The
unselfish in Egypt; it has brought
rupt state, with an almost hopeless
luence and some aspirations toward
again, passing over some hideous
ministration, and of exploitation of
ompany, we come down to a new
the finest Civil Service the world
the cleanest type of men, and the
ot for the sake of the home country

but for the sake of the Indians themselves. No man who has studied the conditions in the Far East can think without alarm of the withdrawal of Great Britain from India (Applause.) Maybe, in the far distant future, India will rise from racial to national consciousness, and attend to her own housekeeping. Till then, we hope the existing administration will try to live up to the great standard set and perform its duties in a way that will be worthy of the British nation and a credit to all mankind. (Applause.)

It was fortunate for the American people that the Philippine Islands came into their hands at the time they did; and I think that President McKinley's policy was the best we could have adopted. We did not desire dependencies; we did not want to add to the immense territory, undeveloped as it was, which we already had. It seemed—allowing for mistakes that were made—that we were asked that by Providence to take care of this foundling. Shortly after we took over the administration of the Islands, Lord Morley dropped a phrase which was full of meaning: "you Americans," he said, "have in the waters of the Pacific a peril and an opportunity." Only I would like to change the order and say we have an opportunity and a peril, for the opportunity comes first. And McKinley, when he outlined the policy with relation to the Islands, said, "We must use this opportunity to develop the capacity of the people so they will be able ultimately to establish some form of independent government." From the first day when it was known that the responsibility was ours, that policy has been pursued. (Applause.)

The Philippine Islands are peopled by a race of Malay origin, who were Christianized through the influence of Spain some three hundred years ago, and have been under the domination of western countries ever since that time. So in many respects they are allied more to the western than to the Oriental type of thought, and they have a measure of Christianity of course also. The population is about eight millions, the majority being more or less civilized, about one million, roughly speaking, representing primitive people. The vigorous descendants, Mohammedans in belief, of the Malay pirates who used to terrorize that part of the world, inhabit the Islands at the extreme south of the Archipelago.

After the Islands came into the hands of our Government, for a short time they were under military rule. In 1901 civil government was established, and the present President, Wm. H. Taft, became Governor. Since that time they have been greatly developed. I will outline how we have met our responsibility.

Mr. Taft have given utterance from
 "I quote two, though we must
 "are dangerous things as applied
 "more or less modifying. Here is
 "the Filipinos;" the government has
 "mind. "At present the government
 "a government of Americans aided
 "to change this so that eventually
 "Filipinos aided by Americans."

posed of a Governor-General, ap-
 of the United States with the con-
 s as his Privy Council, so to speak,
 is the Prvier expression, four Ameri-
 our Filipino Commissioners; these
 President of the United States with
 The function of the Commission-
 rest of the Legislature as a Senate
 tives.

os held by Commissioners, three at
 ics and one by a Filipino; they
 merce and Police, Justice and Fin-
 Instruction, and the Interior. That
 in the hands of a Filipino, Mr.
 le man. And I should say that
 ished men in the Philippines, whe-
 e stands higher than the Chief Jus-
 rt time since he was given a degree
 d herself in so doing! The Chief
 Supreme Court is a man against
 eard an adverse criticism, either as
 haracter.

e Legislature is composed of eighty-
 d by the electors of the Philippine
 ven to men of twenty-three years
 gettes in the Philippine Islands yet
 certain amount of property, or else
 te English or Spanish, or have held
 e Spanish Government. We have
 far as it seems up to date, an expedi-
 anxious to throw the responsibility
 as we can upon the whole mass of

annually. As all law-making rests
 be a concurrent vote by the two
 , or Commission, and Lower House,
 it is called. The Upper House has

no restriction upon its powers, except that it cannot originate
 a financial bill. At the present time there is an unfortunate
 deadlock, therefore the budget of the preceding year continues
 for the ensuing or current year.

The Governor-General is *ex-officio* President of the Commis-
 sion. The Vice-Governor is always chosen from the other
 Commissioners. Both the Governor-General and the Vice-
 Governor are Americans. The present Governor-General is
 of noble lineage, his grandfather on one side being John Mur-
 ray Forbes, the patriot who stood for, and did a great deal in
 connection with the emancipation of the negroes, and his
 grandfather on the other side being Ralph Waldo Emerson.
 So you see we send from America out to the Far East men
 of the very highest type. I would say that no country can
 afford to send out into such responsibilities those who are any-
 thing less than the best. (Applause.)

Although the Legislature has complete power of enacting
 laws, all its acts must receive, either implicitly or explicitly,
 the approval of Congress,—very much the same as in the rela-
 tion between India and the Parliament of Great Britain: the
 British Parliament is in the ultimate analysis the governing
 power of India, but it seldom or never interferes; the same is
 the case with the Congress of the United States; thus far all
 the acts of the Philippine Legislature have been effective upon
 passage, and not blocked in any way by Congress.

There is free trade between the Philippine Islands and the
 United States. The Philippines are looked upon as being as
 truly territory of the United States as Arkansas or New
 Mexico. Two Commissioners, elected annually, have seats
 in the United States Congress, and reside at Washington, but
 of course have no vote. The Resident Commissioners this
 year are Manuel Quezon and Benito Legarda. This, briefly
 speaking, is the Insular Government of the Archipelago,—
 which embraces a great number of islands, some three thou-
 sand if you count all the little ones, but even the large ones
 run up to a goodly number.

There is also a Provincial system of government,—there are
 thirty-eight Provinces altogether,—which is almost entirely in
 the hands of the natives. They have a certain amount of legis-
 lative power in the Provinces. The Treasurer is an appointee
 of the Insular Government, but otherwise all the offices are in
 the hands of the people and are given to those whom they
 choose. Municipal government has also been developed,
 which is entirely in the hands of the natives. It is mainly of
 the same kind as you and I are familiar with.

sed of a Supreme Court of seven
ype,—it is an excellent body, with
its head; then come the Courts of
the Justices of the Peace. In a
are concerned, or where a large
olved, there can be an appeal from
Philippine Islands to the Supreme
es. There have been a few cases
nal decision.

as the Moro Province, at the ex-
re a half a million Mohammedans,
x other provinces having a popula-
re directly under the Commission,
their Governors and legislates for

o know about education. We have
he Islands. The number of child-
650,000. They are taught English.
these Oriental people?" you ask.
ight or ten main languages in the
fifty dialects, and we want to get
h was never spoken by more than
, and as English is the commercial
eemed natural to teach all the Fili-
y there are more people speaking
lands than ever spoke Spanish. It
for instance, to hear, say a Visayan
student in English. The inter-
y in English among students from
ormal School. It would be rather
a conversation in any other tongue
might be those who spoke spec-
ano, Megindinao, Joloana, Ibinag,
tudinous dialects of the Islands.
one dialect does not carry with it
her. So you see English has a
r. We think it is going to tend to
Applause.)

Manila. We have made a mistake,
e made,—we have rather over-
de of the native, and not attended
training. We are trying to remedy
r the system that has been inaugu-
me have large schools throughout
manual instruction. The Filipino,
not a specially active person: he

prefers to do something that gives him not too much bodily
exertion. It is not that the climate is such a dreadful one—
this may clear up some misapprehensions on the subject—or
that the diseases which menace foreigners in Eastern lands
are so terrible. Frequently that which is attributed to climate
is really the result of the bad living of the men themselves.
Among the most disastrous habits that can prevail in a tropi-
cal country is that of the abuse of intoxicants. What we used
to think was the result of self-sacrifice in braving the terrors
of the Indian climate—I mean the "Indian liver"—is nothing
but a common whisky liver! (Laughter.) As a matter of fact,
a man in normal health, who lives a decent life, can expect
to live and work in the tropics as well as anywhere else. I
don't think I myself am a very bad advertisement for the
climate of the Philippine Islands as a health resort! (Laugh-
ter.)

Of course you have inconveniences, and some things that
are disagreeable. The typhoons, for instance, are no gentle
zephyrs, and when the earth gets a fit of ague it is not very
comfortable. Or if a volcano takes a notion to blow up, it has
unpleasant consequences—on a recent occasion the seismo-
graph in the Manila Observatory showed that we had nine
hundred earthquakes in the two weeks following an eruption!
Of course most of them were very minor ones, but some few
were of considerable force.

As to scientific matters, the American Government has done
nobly. It has equipped a magnificent Bureau of Laboratories
in the city of Manila, and meteorological work of the highest
order is done at the Observatory. I wish I could take time
to tell you of some of the things done. Our medical men have
made a large contribution to medical science in relation to
tropical diseases. One of the most distinguished men on the
International Plague Commission, appointed to grapple with
the conditions in China on the outbreak of the pneumonic
plague, was Dr. R. P. Strong, chief of the Biological Depart-
ment of the Laboratory at Manila.

Manila is a city of some three hundred thousand people. It
is as well drained and clean as your city of Toronto (laugh-
ter)—may be cleaner, I don't know—I have only seen Toronto
under some dirty snow.

We are doing a large amount of anthropological study, a
theoretical study second to none. Once a year the Medical
Association meets, a local association which has expanded
into the Far Eastern Medical Association; it is making notable
contributions to science. A few weeks ago I was spending a
day with a famous American, Dr. Osler (a voice—"Can-

a Canadian—they tried to make it—and I remarked to him that I thought the root of the disease beri-beri show you a report I have just from the Islands, which contains the latest on the subject." Sir William is incorporeating research in the Philippine Islands in his *Materia Medica*.

It is in the neighborhood of 25,000,000 being equivalent to fifty cents per acre cost the American Government has never have cost anything, but have saved from the outset. There was one (100) in a time of great stress, but land tax, the internal revenue, and the great bulk of the revenue; so the

my subject I want to touch on, the is, Christian work. (Hearty applause, since I went to the Far East, must hold in civilization. It must civilization is going to crumble into pieces if civilization will fail, and your Christianity is essential to the world's history of the world during the present stage in the development of the world is too much unless you have something, such as can come from Christianity.) It must be no half-hearted Christianity of the whole man. Lots of people have that noble name, but it is so poor and weak, and we don't want it! It must be something that spends itself in loyal service, and is not afraid to look up into the face of God, that counts it the greatest privilege to approach Him in times of weakness of sorrow and of joy. If there has been as done for the Filipinos marking the fact that it came into charge of the work done there. The work done in the rough Spain for the Filipinos has not; it has raised those people above the level of the stock, and it needs only very superlative difference that is made by the Christian work in the Philippine Islands,—the difference

it makes in them from the people who have been under the domination we will say of the Mohammedan belief.

And therefore it is because I am mainly and first of all a Christian, and secondly an American, that I am in the Philippine Islands. I am there to try to aid these people, it is true, to develop themselves to the utmost of their capacity, so they will be able to attend to their own affairs and govern their own country; but chiefly that I may in some simple way deepen and extend the Kingdom of God. I cannot refrain from saying this, in conclusion, to you who form such a splendid bulwark of this city and of Canada itself. Canada is calling to you to-day for your very best service; but you cannot be your very best unless your life is in touch with God. Why should you be ashamed of speaking of things of this kind, why should we speak of them generally under our breath, when of commerce and other things we talk in trumpet tones? Rather let it be the other way; let us boast of the fact that we are first of all sons of God and after that sons of our nation. Then we shall be able to go out and do the big things our country expects us to do. (Applause.)

There is running through my memory at this time one of Browning's poems. If I remember it rightly the lines are these:—

Nobly, nobly Cape Saint Vincent to the Northwest died away;
Sunset ran, one glorious blood-red, reeking into Cadiz Bay;
Bluish 'mid the burning water, full in face Trafalgar lay;
In the dimmest Northeast distance dawned Gibraltar grand
and gray;

"Here and here did England help me: how can I help England?"—say,

Whoso turns as I, this evening, turn to God to praise and pray,
While Jove's planet rises yonder, silent over Africa.

"Here and here has England helped me." Gentlemen, your country has made you what you are! Your Church has made you what you are! Now, what are you going to do for your country? What are you going to do for your Church? One of your own members said to me just a moment ago: "It is a fine thing to die for the nation, to give your life for the nation." But there is a bigger war cry than that: "For God and the nation!" (Long applause.)