

The Philippine Embroglio.

A recent despatch from Hong Kong states that the press censorship at Manila has become so strict that the correspondents are uniting in a protest against the military authorities of the United States. The representative of the Philadelphia "Times" reports that "nothing is allowed to be sent out on matters which affect the administration at Washington, and unless despatches are rosy and optimistic, they are not allowed to go."

Another page of history has been written since President McKinley, declining to assume the solemn responsibility of declaring war against Spain, delivered his celebrated message to Congress. In that message he referred to Cuba as "the fertile domain at our threshold ravaged by fire and sword," and added:—

"Our trade has suffered, the capital invested by our citizens in Cuba has been largely lost, and the temper and forbearance of our people have been so severely tried as to beget a perilous unrest among our own citizens, which has inevitably found expression from time to time in the national legislature, so that issues wholly external to our own body politic engross attention and stand in the way of that close devotion to domestic advancement that becomes a self-contained commonwealth whose primal maxim has been the avoidance of all foreign entanglements."

The avoidance of all foreign entanglements! Since the presentation of this historic message, the world has seen Cuba pass into the possession of the United States, and, by a set of curious chances, Manila has become "the fertile domain ravaged by fire and sword;" and other nations are now complaining that their trade is suffering by reason of the sorry condition of affairs in the far away Philippines. Despite the peace conference at the Hague, the talk of general disarmament, and the lip-devotion of all nations at the shrine of peace, it seems unlikely that the earth-hunger of the English speaking people will ever be satisfied.

However, war is so great an evil that to have engaged in it without a clear necessity would indeed be a cause for sorrow, and, if the division of opinion apparently existing in the United States upon the Philippine embroglio does not lead to an early termination to hostilities, surely the news from Manilla, published by the New York "Commercial Bulletin," on the 21st inst. (despite the press censorship), ought to cause our gallant neighbours to abandon any further attempt to subjugate the Filipinos. The despatch in question reads:—

"General Otis recently received a letter signed by native women of the province declaring that if all the men were killed the women would still keep up the fight against the Americans."

THE INCREASING LONGEVITY OF ANNUITANTS.

From a report just published of the results of an enquiry made into the mortality of annuitants, it is evident that the expectation of life amongst this class has risen perceptibly in the last sixteen years. The examination into this question has been conducted by an Actuarial Committee whose preliminary report is before us. The number of annuities comprised in the record is about 34,000, of which the larger proportion are on female lives. The Committee reports that, further work has yet to be done to bring the results down, as we say, to a finer point, but the figures presented will not be changed, save to an inappreciable extent. The report gives the following data which shows the improvement in the expectation of life which has taken place since 1883:—

	EXPECTATION OF LIFE.					
	Male.			Female.		
	age 60 years.	age 70 years.	age 80 years.	age 60 years.	age 70 years.	age 80 years.
Life Offices Experience '99.	14.86	9.25	5.21	16.97	10.05	5.63
Government '83.	14.61	8.95	5.05	16.26	10.00	5.46

It will be noted that the advance runs through all the years, and is seen to have been much the same in female lives as in male, the longevity of the female at, and after sixty years of age, being higher than the male. The increases may not appear to be very considerable, but when annuities run into millions, a very slight change in the expectation of life means an important saving, or otherwise. At the age of 70, for instance, if the life of annuitants were, on the average, extended six months, it would mean an addition of five per cent. The table issued by the Committee is of value also as confirming the view regarding the relative longer duration of female life. Of course, the figures are those of a special class of lives, annuitants only, but they are drawn from well-nigh all classes. The Carlisle table gives the average expectation of female life at 60 as 13.84, whereas the table of annuitants recently published gives it as 16.97. It is understood that the great advances made in sanitation and in medical science in the last ten or twenty years have been especially beneficial to females. The larger companies who do an annuity business, have, to some extent, anticipated the above data, as they have learnt the tendency to an increase of longevity amongst annuitants by observing their own. As the rate of interest is on the decline and the longevity of annuitants is increasing, annuities will cost more and more to purchasers. But, as the increased cost indicates a better prospect of a long life, the class who rely upon an annuity for a settled income will have some compensation for the extra outlay, by anticipating a prolonged enjoyment of the annual income.

NEW BANK DIRECTORS.

The Bank of Nova Scotia having decided to increase its directorate Mr. R. L. Borden, Q.C., the representative of Halifax, in the Dominion parliament, and Mr. George S. Campbell, of the firm of F. D. Corbett & Co., have been appointed members of the Board. This increases the directorate of the bank to seven.