

# Scheme of General Miles

Washington, March 29.—The president today sent to the house of representatives the correspondence and papers bearing on the request of Gen. Miles to be assigned to the Philippines. The papers were sent to the house in response to a resolution introduced by Mr. Burleson of Texas, and passed by that body. They are as follows:

Headquarters of the Army, Washington, Feb. 17, 1902.—The Honorable Secretary of War.—Sir: I have the honor to invite attention to the subject which I have had under consideration for several months, and to request that this letter be laid before the president. It is now three months since the opening of hostilities between the forces of the United States and those of the Philippine Islands, and this warfare has been conducted with marked severity. More than 120,000 United States troops have been at different times engaged in the Philippines, and more than 100,000 men are now under arms there. It will remain on duty there, and the service, with the addition of the forces, involves an enormous expenditure of public money, as well as the loss of many valuable lives. The past century thousands of men have been called to the capital for consultation and council and under authority, sent to the Philippines to represent the United States to the tribes of Indians; the result of which has been a reconciliation and restoration of confidence, the cessation of war and the establishment of peace with the states and territories. Our relations with the people of Puerto Rico have been promoted by consultation with the representatives of those islands in Washington, both before and since the hostilities occurred, during the war and since; and I have found any people, whether savage or semi-civilized or civilized, who are not benefited by candid, frank and honest consultation and council. In view of the above considerations, I respectfully request that I be authorized to proceed to the Philippine Islands, taking with me ten men whom I may select from Cuba and Puerto Rico, whose assistance has been so useful in promoting friendly relations between the people of those islands and the United States and who will properly explain to the Filipinos the benefits their people have derived through friendly relations with this country, and while there to give such directions as I may deem advisable and judicious for the best interests of the United States. I desire to occupy the most healthful and strategic positions, with due regard to economy, and be afforded the most comfortable and beneficial accommodations; also such measures as will tend to restore as far as possible confidence to the people of those islands and demonstrate that the purpose of our government is prompted by the sense of justice; and that on my return I be authorized to bring to the capital such number of representative Filipinos as I may think desirable, in order that they may know the advantages of our civilization and realize the disposition of our government toward them at the same time affording an opportunity for a full consultation, where intelligent and definite action may be taken concerning their future. It is confidently believed that such measures could then be taken as would be satisfactory and beneficial to the ten millions of inhabitants of the islands and highly desirable to our government, and by such means we would be fully informed of the condition and want of the people of those islands, and they, on the other hand, would become apprised of the purpose and disposition of our government toward them. This need not reflect the slightest degree upon the services of the military, nor interfere with civil governments that have or may be established. Should this request be approved, I would respectfully request that I be authorized to visit Cuba, I was appealed to by members of the constitutional convention who said they wished to communicate directly with the president, and I advised them to make such a request. On returning to Washington I reported the fact to President McKinley and urged that he grant their request should it be made. He did so and the delegation came to Washington. The result was gratifying not only to the government authorities, but to the people of Cuba as well. All this was done without the slightest reflection on Maj. Gen. Wood or objection on his part, as far as I know. Referring to that part of my communication which states that the warfare in the Philippine islands had

been conducted with marked severity and to the remarks of the honorable secretary at that point, it is proper to say that I had in mind such information as is conveyed in the letter of Gov. W. H. Taft, addressed to the honorable secretary, dated Washington, February 7, 1902, as well as other communications that have been referred to these headquarters or received by me.

The suggestion contained in my letter, that in going to the Philippine islands I take certain natives of Cuba and Puerto Rico and on returning bring back certain of those of the Philippine islands, was prompted by my belief that the result would be satisfactory to all concerned. Since this measure is not deemed advisable, I do not ask for its further consideration, and, making my delayed visit to the Philippines, which I hope to do in the near future, I shall devote my attention to the condition and requirements of the troops in that division, the same as I have in respect to the other portions of the army.

NELSON A. MILES,  
Lieut. Gen. Commanding U.S.A.  
SECRETARY ROOT'S CRITICISM  
War Department,  
Washington, March 25, 1902.

Several weeks after the final disposition of the within application by the action of the president on the 6th of March, and after the introduction of a resolution in congress calling for the papers, the lieutenant-general attached to them a statement dated March 24, 1902, with the apparent purpose of showing that the action taken was wrong. Without commenting upon the propriety of a military officer undertaking to review the action of the president, I again submit the papers for such reconsideration as the president may think advisable, with the following remarks:

1. The delegation from Cuba referred to in this paper consisted of public officers with defined powers, charged with the performance of a specific duty as official representatives of the people of Cuba, and appointed by the constitutional convention elected by that people. The president's consent to receive the commission was asked for by Gen. Wood through the secretary of war, and was communicated to Gen. Wood by the secretary of war, who never heard Gen. Miles' name in connection with the transaction.

2. On the 18th of July, 1900, Gen. Miles applied to be sent to the Philippines and to China in his official capacity. At that time Gen. MacArthur had reported that not a single additional regiment could be spared from the Philippines without putting our interests there in jeopardy, and had shown the reasons and the gravity of the situation there in dispatches which had passed through General Miles' office. In the face of these dispatches Gen. Miles accompanied his application by a recommendation that 15,000 troops be withdrawn from the Philippines and be sent to China. The withdrawal from the Philippines of 15,000 troops would have made necessary the practical abandonment of a large part of the country and the restoration of insurgent control therein. At least two-thirds of the 15,000 were wholly unnecessary in China, unless for the purpose of enabling the United States to furnish a greater number of troops than any European power, and upon that score to claim the supreme command of the allied forces.

3. SOUGHT COMMAND IN CHINA.—The application and recommendation were in fact accompanied by a request by Gen. Miles that such supreme command of the allied forces should be obtained for him. Under the circumstances President McKinley declined to authorize the sending of Gen. Miles either to the Philippines or to China. A year afterward the secretary of war authorized the lieutenant-general to extend his inspection to the Philippines for the purpose of inspecting only. He has never been authorized to go for any other purpose. The question whether the order which the lieutenant-general asks sending him to the Philippines would interfere with the present military and civil control must be determined not by what the application says about the order, but by the terms of the proposed order itself. The lieutenant-general asks authority "to give such direct instructions as I (he) may deem advisable and judicious for the best disposition of the United States military forces." That, of course, means to command Gen. Chaffee, and he asks authority "also to take such measures as will tend to restore as far as possible confidence to the people of those islands and demonstrate that the purpose of our government is prompted by the highest sense of justice." That means, if it means anything, authority to do him, if, or to require the civil officers of the Philippines to do under his direction, the very duties which were charged

upon the Philippine commission and the civil governor in the islands by President McKinley and which they are now engaged in doing. The authority asked is not to recommend but to take measures. If the measures to be taken are to be determined by Gen. Miles, then the power of the commission to determine upon them must end. There is no pace for any such authority under the present government and if it were to be granted the system of civil government by which we are gradually and steadily superseding the military control and have superseded it throughout the greater part of the archipelago, would again be subordinated to military power and the people of the islands would be subjected to the arbitrary control of a military dictator.

REGRETTABLE ASSUMPTION.—The reference in the memorandum to the letter of Gov. Taft to the secretary of war, dated February 7, 1902, is to a letter transmitting, for the purpose of an investigation by the military authorities a report by the civil governor of the province of Tayabas, containing in general terms and without specifications or names, serious charges against the military administration in that province, and against the conduct of the army generally in its relations to the civil government. This report was on the 19th of February sent to Gen. Chaffee, with the direction that a careful inquiry be made concerning those statements, and if they be found true that the necessary measures be applied to correct these evils.

There has not yet been time for the report to be made, and the directions for the investigation can only just now have reached Manila. It is to be regretted that the officer of the highest rank in the army should assume the truth of charges reflecting upon the credit of the army in advance of the investigation which has been ordered, and without giving Gen. Chaffee, upon whose particular command the charges reflect, an opportunity to be heard.

As the lieutenant general's memorandum of March 24 was not made until after the introduction of a resolution in the house of representatives calling for all correspondence and papers in the matter of his application to go to the Philippines, the putting in these papers of the specific reference to the letter transmitting the charges plainly evidenced a design to procure the publication of the charges and of the lieutenant general's acceptance thereof as true, in advance of the investigation of their truth, and of a report thereon by Gen. Chaffee. In the interest of good discipline and effective service such a course is much to be regretted.

Such charges ought not to be published against our countrymen whom we have sent to labor and fight under our flag on the other side of the world before they can be heard in their own defense.

ELIHU ROOT,  
Secretary of War.  
White House,  
Washington, March 28, 1902.

The memorandum of the secretary of war is approved as a whole, and as to every part. Had there been any doubt as to the wisdom of denying Gen. Miles' request these papers would remove such doubt.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT,  
Shot His Rival.  
Vienna, Ill., March 22.—At a spelling match given at the school at Double Bridges, this county, a desperate shooting affray occurred. Frank Rushing and John Adams, two young men of the neighborhood, had been paying their respects to the same young woman, and she had told Adams that she would have nothing to do with him. This so enraged him that it is said he swore vengeance on his rival. At the close of the exercises as Rushing came out of the school house door young Adams walked up behind him, and without a word of warning, shot Rushing in the back. Rushing fell off the porch and Adams shot him twice after he had fallen inflicting fatal wounds. Adams then shot Greeley Jones, the teacher of the district, inflicting a slight wound on the shoulder, after which he escaped.

Against Tontine System.  
Victoria, March 30.—A press dispatch from Minneapolis says: "Judge McGee on Thursday last filed a decision finding the plan and management of the Tontine Savings Association fraudulent, forfeiting the charter and appointing a receiver. The Tontine has branches at Spokane, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, Butte, Oakland, Victoria, Vancouver and many other western cities. Its scheme is to collect money from subscribers in weekly payments, promising to return them double their money as fast as their policies become the oldest outstanding matured."

The effect of Judge McGee's decision will mean, of course, the practical suspension of all local business. Fred. Carne, the Victoria agent, says he hardly understands why the Tontine Savings Association should be singled out from among similar insurance companies in the United States for condemnation. The same trouble that has arisen in Minneapolis has been experienced in California and Oregon, and in each case the Tontine people have come out best.

In this instance, he says that the judgment which has just been rendered by Judge McGee will by no means be taken as final. The matter will be fought out. In so far as his dealings with the company are concerned, the business has been conducted on the most proper and above board principles, and he has yet to know any man who has not received all that was coming to him, or who has in any way been cheated.

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