

to the country. There should be enough of such material in Nova Scotia to justify some company or syndicate in setting up works to treat it in Canada.

### AMERICAN EXPANSION—PAST AND PRESENT.

Now that the policy of territorial expansion is proposed by United States authorities and welcomed by a large section, if not the majority of the people, it is interesting to look back a hundred years or so and recall the circumstances which led to the expansion of the United States beyond their original boundaries. We find such a retrospect opportunely made by the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, in the course of an able article on the cession of the Philippine Islands by Spain. The article says:

"The demands of our Government have been accepted under protest by the Spanish Peace Commissioners and therewith end practically the negotiations. Therewith ends the Spanish colonial empire after the lapse of 406 years, and therewith ends the progressive succession of the United States of America to the Spanish estate. The Louisiana Purchase, nominally from France, was in substance an acquisition from Spain; the latter protested that the title to the province still rested in her, that she had not received the consideration that was promised to her, and that France had no title she was capable of transferring to the United States. All this was historically supported, but France had the power to surrender, had probably extorted Louisiana from Spain in order to use it in a trade with the United States, and the latter had the power to take possession; under these circumstances the protest of Spain was as futile as it is to-day. So much of the Oregon country as we did not simply take by right of discovery we took from Spain. The Florida Purchase was a step in the progressive eviction of Spain from the Western Hemisphere; it was a purchase that was forced from Spain. The California cession from Mexico, the tract covered by the Gadsden Purchase, the lands ceded by Texas, and the Republic of Texas itself had all been recently Spanish, and though transferred to the United States by the Republics of Mexico and Texas, they were in fact parts of the Spanish colonial empire which constituted much the greater part of the patrimony of the United States.

"The General Land Office reckons the acquisitions of the United States since it became a nation as 1,835,017,692 acres. But this includes 258,452,629 acres ceded by the original States to the National Government, and to which they possessed more or less right as British colonies. It does not include Texas itself, for none of the soil of that State as now constituted became the property of the nation. If we deduct the cessions to the nation by the original States and add Texas as a part of the addition to the national domain, though not a part of the property of the National Government, we find that the original States, starting out with an area of 466,483,829 acres, more than half of which was wilderness which they ceded to the General Government, have acquired since their national existence began 1,746,664,263 acres, of which 1,377,134,668 was at the time of acquisition, or had been a few years earlier, a part of the Spanish colonial empire, and 369,529,600 acres was bought from Russia. Compared with these enormous figures the present acquisition of Porto Rico, about the size of Connecticut, and the Philippines with an area of some 73,000,000 acres, look very small.

"Porto Rico has an ample population and the Philippines contain seven or eight million people. So far as morality is concerned, it was as criminal to buy Louisiana or Florida or California or Alaska with its sparse population as to buy the Philippines and take Porto Rico as an act of war with their ampler populations. But if the populations of the new acquisitions be regarded as a menace to our political institutions, it is to be remembered that the population of the United States is also far greater than it was when these additions were made to the nation's territory. The Philippines are more distant than the regions we have previously acquired, but the means of transport have so much improved that General Merritt's expedition to the Philippines was a much easier achievement than General Johnson's expedition to Utah forty years ago, and one

may travel around the world now more expeditiously and more economically than our citizens could get to California half a century ago.

"The American people will undertake their new responsibilities with a full consciousness of the cost and the responsibilities involved therein. Some would rather not have had the war occur; they would be glad to have things as they were a year ago if it were possible; but it is not possible. Rightly or wrongly the war came and it broke the Spanish power in the Philippines. Those who are alarmed because we are to assume the administration of the islands are too timid to urge that they be returned to Spain, and they try to find a way out by proposing their administration by a syndicate of nations—a scheme that has been too wretched a failure in Samoa to warrant its adoption on a larger scale—or their abandonment, to be quarreled over by European nations. Neither of these would be creditable to the national intelligence, courage or competency.

"There are costs, dangers and difficulties in our way. They are not greater, not by far so great as those which confronted our fathers and our grandfathers in their vast additions to the national domain and incidental additions to the national population. It is absurd to pretend that the acquisition of these islands presents any greater constitutional difficulties than the acquisition of the Gulf and Pacific Coasts. The same direful predictions of disaster that are now made have been made at every previous addition to the national area. The same constitutional objections have been urged, the same political dangers have been announced. Nearly all the opposition on former occasions, as on the present occasion, came from New England. Our administration of our national responsibilities has not been irreproachable, but on the whole it has been good. No one even in New England now regrets the additions already made. We hardly think that ten years hence anyone in New England will regret the addition now being made. The nation that has enlarged its area nearly 400 per cent., and added huge blocks of foreign population partly by these territorial additions and partly by immigration, may be trusted to do as well in the future as it has in the past.

"To these reassuring considerations there is the further reflection that an extension of our Asiatic commerce is absolutely necessary to us; that it is threatened by the encroachments of Russia and France; that our appropriation of the Philippines constitutes us an Asiatic power and avows our appreciation of our own interests and will check the Franco-Russian policy of commercial exclusivism supported by armed force in the Far East."

### WHEAT PRICES IN WESTERN CANADA.

That the farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest are not able to sell their wheat to advantage, by reason of a combination of grain buyers controlling storage facilities, is a complaint with which we are all familiar. The publicity which this matter has received is not unlikely to place the Canadian Northwest in a false light to possible immigrants. It is of little avail to own rich agricultural land if the products of this land cannot be sold in an open market. Although the evidence as to the existence of an organized monopoly of the grain merchants and flour milling companies is conflicting, it is tolerably certain that by reason of lack of competition on the part of buyers the farmers in many districts during the past few years have not received at all times prices for their wheat based on rates at Fort William or Eastern markets. Conditions have recently altered and only in the most backward and unprogressive settlements should there be anything now to prevent an open market with healthy competition. The Regina Leader, under the caption of "Local Wheat Prices," discusses this question in an interesting way, saying in part:

Any town which is dissatisfied with the conditions of its wheat market may easily remedy the conditions by placing a private buyer on the market. Let one of the merchants of the town buy wheat. He can do it without any extraordinary risk, and, if he is willing to do it modestly, will very probably make a snug profit. He will have to be prepared to buy and store, but let him confine his operations as much as possible to buying "on track." In this way a very material advantage may be gained over the elevator men. Wheat bought "on track" can always be sold immediately by wire. In this way trans-