

### Business Opportunities in the Philippine Islands.

In considering the development of the Philippine Islands prior to the American occupation, it must be remembered that less than 25 per cent. of the area of the islands was directly under Spanish rule. The most favorably disposed and conveniently situated parts of the archipelago were given agricultural attention, while the other parts were allowed to lie fallow, or were left with such cultivation as the Filipinos cared to give them. As a rule the Spaniards did little to encourage the development of the country's resources—in fact, they seem to have stultified rather than fostered agricultural enterprise. This resulted from (a) an unjust system of taxation; (b) insufficient protection to property holders; (c) excessive support of the Church. An illustration of this latter is found in the fact that in many towns of a population of several thousand, the valuation of the church buildings exceeds that of the total of all other buildings. As a result of these conditions, the people have had but little inducement to develop the country or accumulate wealth. They preferred a poverty which yielded nothing to an increment which would be consumed by others. In consequence, real business opportunities were made available to only Spanish and foreign houses, who advanced money each year, wherever necessary, to small farmers and planters, thus securing the first lien on each year's products. The deadening results of such a system can easily be imagined.

Under American rule, with more adequate protection, just taxation, property rights respected, importation of modern farming implements and machinery and with the introduction of experimental farms and new methods, with education and improved sanitation to avoid epidemic diseases, and with general imports

greater than ever before, there should be development and growth all over the country. New conditions will create new demands; with this will come higher aspirations; the things which were formerly regarded as luxuries will now be looked upon as necessities. The result of all this should be an unprecedented stimulation in every phase of native life.

One of the results of such a reformation should be a general development of the country's wonderful resources. Of these, but little is at present known. Few persons realize that in these islands one acre of ground can produce sufficient to support a large family. Among the staple products, the principal are: hemp, sugar, tobacco, timber, indigo and rubber. The supply of these products can be increased almost without limit. Among other products are: cotton and grains. Experiments demonstrate that these two latter will flourish in a manner which compares advantageously with the most favored places of production.

The archipelago is equally well favored with minerals. Coal, copper and gold have been worked in many parts for centuries but in such a manner as to give only a hint of the great wealth now lying latent.

Among our present needs stands first of all, foreign labor. Native labor has proved thoroughly inefficient and unreliable. The necessity of labor other than Filipino, is universally recognized, and has commended itself even to the Filipino employer, who urges it quite as strongly as Americans and Europeans.

Another crying need is more capital. The wonderful opportunities for investment are altogether generally unrealized. Industries now in their infancy have a future whose horizon is unbounded.

Besides, this is a country not only for the capitalist, but for the man with

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