

Ad. 18th March 1904.

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A VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES.

RETURN OF PROFESSOR WATSON.

Professor Watson returned from his tour in the Far East on Thursday in splendid health and spirits. His time was occupied principally in making scientific researches in the Philippine Islands, and he has come back with much valuable information. He left Adelaide on January 3 with Mr. R. T. Maurice, the explorer. The latter he left at Hongkong.

Government Scientific Work.

"At Manila," said the professor, "I met Dr. R. P. Strong, M.D., the director of the biological laboratory. The doctor came from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. The Government have established a bureau of laboratories, and the scientific advantages arising from their existence are very great, and the whole world will be benefited through the researches and discoveries, which take place in them.

Religious and Race Questions.

Touching general affairs in the Philippines, the Professor said, "The Americans have bought out the Spanish friars, who had held sway for about 350 years. They were in reality the rulers of the islands, and the archbishop was a greater man than the Governor-General. There are no friars in Manila now, though some are left in the country districts. The Americans are replacing the friars by American Roman Catholics, but they have retained the services of the Jesuits because of their great scientific attainments. Captain Crosswell, when he took the Protector to China, knew the value of their meteorological forecasts. They were asked as to the weather prospects, and they replied that he would be all right for two days. Their forecast was verified, and the Protector, by being placed under full steam, just missed an accurately-predicted storm. The Americans have already sent about 1,000 teachers out to the villages where the friars used to be. The English language is taught in the schools, which are attended by adults as well as children. The last Government strove to exclude the Chinese from the islands, but I was told that about 500 Chinese surreptitiously landed every week from Amoy. The presence of the Chinese is essential to the success of the country."

Fighting Still Going On.

Professor Watson mentioned that Australian hardwood was being used to pave the streets of Manila. "There is plenty of suitable wood locally," he added, "but there is an objection to the employment of Chinese, and the Filipinos will not work." After the next Presidential elections he believes the Chinese will be allowed to land without restriction. The American soldiers cannot yet bear their swords into pruning-hooks, for while the Filipinos have laid down their arms, the Mohammedans in the southern islands are still hostile, according to the professor, and troops are at work under Brigadier-General Wood.

Civilising the Islands.

Asked if the Filipinos had benefited by the American occupation, Professor Watson replied that they had. "The Americans," he added, "have paid close attention to questions affecting hygiene. The streets of Manila are being paved with wood blocks, electric trams are being provided, and the whole city is being brought up to date in other respects. Moats, turrets, and drawbridges existed when the Americans entered into possession, and they discovered thousands of prisoners in the dungeons who had been cast into prison through the influence of the priests. The Americans do not interfere with the religious belief of the people. With the exception of the Mohammedans the natives are Catholics. The Chief Justice is a native, and this fact shows that the Americans are giving the conquered people a fair chance."

Important Laboratory Work.

You made some enquiries respecting the laboratories established by the Americans? "Yes, and they are doing splendid work. There are similar laboratories in London and Liverpool, but none in Australia. Dr. Goldsmith, of the Northern Territory, has already urged the importance of establishing one in the Commonwealth, probably in Sydney. The Manila scientists have cleared the country of rinderpest, and if it broke out in Australia thousands of pounds would be required to keep it in check. An outbreak of such a disease in the Commonwealth would entail the expenditure of large sums of money. The Americans have selected their scientists from all parts of the world. They prefer Americans if they can get them, but they only employ the best men, irrespective of nationality. I consider that an efficient laboratory would cost £2,000 a year to maintain, but an outbreak of rinderpest would mean the loss of over £200,000, and Dr. Goldsmith believes £1,000 would be sufficient for the laboratory."

RETURN OF PROFESSOR WATSON.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Professor Watson, of the Adelaide University, returned to South Australia from his Far Eastern trip by the Melbourne express on Thursday, and gave to a representative of The Register some interesting notes concerning his travels. His original intention was to have reached Adelaide a fortnight before the reopening of the Medical School on Monday, March 14, but the boilers of the steamer Empire went wrong, and eight days were lost in effecting repairs, while the steamer also encountered the severe weather which so seriously affected the Aramac.

-A Mate and a Marriage.-

"I left Sydney in the steamer Empire on January 3," remarked Professor Watson, "in company with Mr. R. T. Maurice, the well-known explorer. We parted at Hongkong, as Mr. Maurice was about to proceed to Kobe, Japan, to marry a charming widow, whom he met on the voyage. The lady has great literary ability, a strong and attractive personality, and is further conspicuous for her remarkable golden bronze hair."

-American Rule in the Philippines.-

"I went on to Manila, and during my stay I learned and saw enough to convince me that a great transformation in social and industrial conditions is taking place in the Philippines under American rule. Having whipped the Spaniards, the United States authorities are endeavouring to bring the people generally up to a standard of modern civilization. They have bought out the Spanish friars, who for 350 years have really ruled the islands, and whose influence on the people had not been for the best. Why, the Archbishop used to be a greater man than the Governor-General. Capt. Crosswell, of the gunboat Protector, says that 30 years ago two mid-dies from the ship on which he also was a midshipman innocently hailed a cab in which the Archbishop was riding, when the divine called the nearest gendarme, and had them put in gaol. Of course, profuse and proper apologies were made afterwards by the Governor-General, but I only recall the incident to show the power that the Spanish priesthood possessed. In buying out the friars, however, the Americans have replaced them with Roman Catholic priests from the United States, whose presence is decidedly conducive to the good of the people. The Jesuits have also been retained, largely on account of their high scientific attainments. When our Protector was in Philippine waters at the time of the China war Capt. Crosswell signalled to the celebrated observatory of the Jesuits, and asked for a forecast of the weather. The reply came that the conditions would be quite safe for two days, and, sure enough, at the end of that time the Protector was just on the edge of a heavy storm. It is to the interest of all the nations that the Jesuits should remain."

-Secular Education and Labour.-

"The Americans have already sent out 1,000 teachers into the villages where the friars held sway, and secular education is being imparted and the English language taught. Even adults are attending the schools at night in large numbers. Towards the end of last year the American Government in the Philippines sent 100 Filipino youths, picked for their general fitness, to the United States for education in Western methods. Within two months of commencing his studies at an American University one of the most brilliant students developed leprosy, and is now on his road back to Manila, to be isolated in the San Lazaro Hospital for the remainder of his days. The United States authorities have been very anxious to keep the Chinese out of the Philippines, but the task is a very discouraging one on account of the natural laziness of the native population. As a rule the Filipino will work only until he has earned enough money with which to buy a fighting cock. A doctor on one of the British men-of-war informed me that despite the efforts of the authorities 500 Chinese were quietly passing into the Philippines from Amoy every month, and it is expected that after the next United States Presidential election the embargo on the Celestials will be removed altogether. At present wood blocks for paving the streets of Manila are being imported from Australia, although an excellent wood for the purpose is grown on the island. However, the natives will not cut it. You can imagine, therefore, that while this labour difficulty continues the country cannot go ahead financially."

-Modernizing Manila.-

"The Americans are rapidly making Manila an up-to-date city. They are installing a fine service of electric cars, which will form a strange contrast to the ancient moats, drawbridges, and turrets that form so conspicuous a feature of the old or walled city. They cleaned out the prisons and dungeons, and released about 6,000 of the unhappy inmates who had been incarcerated there, some of them for long periods, while the friars ruled. The United States people took great care of these prisoners. Some of them were so emaciated from wearing manacles that they could not stand up, but the physicians and surgeons made many of them walk again."

-From Doctor to Brigadier-General.-

"At present the only disturbed portion of the islands comprises the southern territory, occupied by the people who embrace the Mohammedan belief. These Moros were always left alone by the Spaniards, and they entered opposition to the American rule. The military operations are under the direction of Brig.-Gen. Leonard Wood. He was a volunteer doctor to Roosevelt's Roughriders, and although only a lieutenant attached to the medical department of the United States Army, the President made him a brigadier-general, and he has proved himself to be the right man in the right place. Wood was the doctor who cleaned Havana, and reduced the yellow fever to nil in two years. The American soldiers I saw are of a much better physique than the average British Tommy whom I saw in South Africa. The Americans are seeking in every way to meet the people in an amicable way, and I may say that the Chief Justice of the islands is a native. The Puisne Judges are Americans."

-Scientific Research.-

"The greatest good the Americans are doing is for the rest of the world at the expense of the United States. They have founded the Bureau of Government Laboratories, which is under the direction of Dr. Richard P. Strong, of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, one of the finest scientific schools in the world. At the Manila Institute scientific research is carried on in respect to all plants, animals, and insects, and diseases incidental to man, cattle, horses, and stock generally. The value of the work here performed cannot be exaggerated. Highly paid scientists are engaged from all parts of the world, and very many discoveries have been made which will prove of immense value to Australia. I was much impressed with their operations, and I am strongly of opinion that the Commonwealth of Australia should co-operate by establishing a similar institute on a smaller scale at say Sydney. Manila already co-operates with sister bodies in London and Liverpool. Hongkong should also have an institute of this kind. They have already got rid of the rinderpest and other diseases which affect stock in the Philippines, and South Australians will also be interested to know that swine fever has received profitable attention. Dr. Goldsmith, of the Northern Territory, says that an Australian

institute of the kind could be maintained for £1,000 a year. I think that at the outside £2,000 a year would cover the cost and the expenditure of that sum might be the means of saving £200,000 a month if, for instance, it checked a possible visitation of the rinderpest."

Reg. 22nd March

MUSIC IN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA.

ADDRESS BY DR. ENNIS.

Professor Ennis, Mus. Doc., gave his inaugural address in the concert hall of the Elder Conservatorium on Monday afternoon before a good audience, which included the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr. Barlow). In opening the professor said that his recent visit to the old country had brought forcibly before his mind the vast difference in the musical conditions of England and those existing at present in Australia; consequently he had determined to make this the subject of his address.

-Are the English Musical?-

The question had frequently been asked—"Were the English a musical nation?" He would emphatically say "Yes." There was at present tremendous activity in musical affairs at home, and the improvement that had taken place during recent years was remarkable. England had a musical record dating back to the time of Elizabeth of which she had every reason to feel proud. In the days of "glorious Queen Bess" music was commonly practised in domestic circles, especially vocal pieces, such as madrigals and glees, while quite a number of people played the virginal and spinet well. Then they should remember that Handel produced his great oratorio masterpieces for the English. Hadyn wrote symphonies for them, and one of Beethoven's greatest works was commissioned by the London Philharmonic Society.

-Influence of Mendelssohn.-

English musicians had enjoyed the benefit of Mendelssohn's presence in their midst, and this, too, was of the greatest importance, for Mendelssohn was not only a great musician and composer, but a great teacher; and to him the world was indebted for the resurrection of Bach's famous "St. Matthew Passion." His remarkable influence upon English music and musicians was perhaps best shown by the fact that it lasted for so many years after his death. He did not consider that this was altogether an unmitigated blessing, because so many writers contented themselves with slavishly imitating the great German, and the result was too often Mendelssohn and water.