

PHILIPPINES NO BAIT TO JAPAN

NO TEMPTATION for Japan lies in the Philippines, at least so the journals of Nippon assure us, and they say that the idea that Japan is anxious for the United States to cast the islands adrift so that she can annex them obtains more credence in America than in Japan. The newspapers emphasize with singular unanimity the point of Japan's complete indifference to the fate of our wards in the Far East. None the less, foreign residents in Japan continue to believe that if the United States withdraws from the Philippines the islands will inevitably fall to Japan, and this view is reflected in the papers published in English by the Anglo-American colony in the Mikado's realm. As an example of the typical Japanese view we may quote the Tokyo *Jiji-Shimpo*, which says:

"Every time the future of the Islands was discussed in America, Japan has been charged with having ambitions in the Philippines, to our great annoyance. The Japanese, in truth, have no other thought concerning the government of the Philippines than that America shall continue her rule there, so that the Philippines may lead a happy life. It would be a great loss to the Philippines to become independent of America. Mr. Taft two years ago defended the Republican policy therein by saying that if independence be allowed to the Filipinos the Philippines would become like Mexico."

Another influential Tokyo paper, the *Chuwa*, bids America rest easy, but seizes the opportunity to take a fling at what it calls our "imperialism":

"What America fears most is that, even if independence be allowed the Philippines, they may fall into the possession of another Power. In other words, would not Japan take the Philippines by foul means? As far as Japan is concerned, she has no ambition of that nature in the Philippines. Yet the Americans imagine that Japan has such ambition. They are looking at Japan with the eye of suspicion. Especially as America is now inclined toward imperialism and is trying to extend her power to the Orient, it would be a great blow to her to lose the Philippines, which is her base of operations in the Orient."

Turning to the Osaka papers, we find the same sentiment expressed, even in the *Asahi*, a paper which has been regarded as slightly "yellow" and excitable. It says:

"Whether America will retain the present system, or give self-rule to the Philippines, we do not care. We would not feel any pain at all, whatever comes. The Japanese-American Agreement of 1908 guarantees the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Pacific Ocean. The motive for making that agreement was to show that Japan has no ambition in the Philippines. The Taft Administration and the Democrats also should remember that agreement. We therefore maintain that the anxiety of the American statesmen is groundless. But it is strange that they should still entertain such anxiety."

The foreign residents seem to believe that an independent Philippine nation would drift by force of circumstances into the arms of the Japanese, whether the Mikado willed it or no. This view is succinctly expressed by *The Japan Weekly Chronicle*, a paper published in Tokyo for the English residents there:

"It is perfectly accurate to say that Japan has no unfriendly designs on the Philippines; it may even be true that if the United States were to leave the Philippines to-day Japan would be willing to sign a convention recognizing their neutralization. . . . It is almost certain that if the United States withdraws from the Philippines the archipelago will become Japanese. As German advocates have for some months been explaining, circumstances are often more important than conventions."

TURKISH PESSIMISM—The fall of Trebizond, the greatest Turkish port on the Asia-Minor coast of the Black Sea, will prove a hard nut for the Turkish press to crack. While the organs in Stamboul are consistently optimistic, they no doubt reflect the feelings both of the inhabitants of the Turkish capital generally and of the dominant Young Turk party in particular.

When we turn to the Turkish papers published outside the Sultan's realm we find a decidedly different tone. The Opposition organ of the Liberal Union party, *Bayan el-Lak*, published in the security of Greek Saloniki, says:

"Unfortunate Turkey appears to-day a sick person in the stage of agony, surrendering the last gasp and dying owing to the faults of the governing body. We who are following with pain the developments should go to her assistance. Let us emerge from this apathy and endeavor to save her. The peril is great. Van, Erzerum, and the best parts of the Caucasus are occupied by the Russians; and who knows if we are not going to lose all by continuing the war to serve German interests?"