

OIL & FAT INDUSTRIES

The Editor's Page

A Colonial Policy

THE Philippines are in a state of unrest and constant turmoil. The natives have been treated with such fostering care by the United States, that they now believe themselves fully capable of managing their own affairs without our assistance.

They accuse us of exploiting their country for our own selfish purposes, but impartial examination of the facts reveals that our development of the Philippines has taken into account only the welfare of their natives, with never a thought of our own.

We have given of our best in the effort to elevate their standards of living and their ambitions to a level with our own. The schools, colleges and university which we have organized for them are unsurpassed in the Orient. The improvement of roads and other means of communication and of sanitation has gone forward steadily during the twenty-three years of our occupation.

On the economic side, we have offered them *free* use of the greatest market in the world for the disposal of their products, and where any slight barrier has been raised, as in the customs duties on tobacco above a certain annual amount, we have stipulated that the duty shall be paid into their treasury, for the purposes of their government.

The Filipino is a Malay, by temperament and by heritage unfitted for industry of a manufacturing type. He is unsympathetic toward intensive agriculture. He finds his happiest metier in the harvesting of the bountiful crops with which nature has provided him, coconuts, hemp, tobacco and others requiring little cultivation in his tropical clime.

How much better for the Filipinos and for Americans it would be for this country to adopt a definite policy of encouraging the development in the Islands of those crops which cannot be produced in this country, such as

copra, cacao, rubber and coffee, closing our markets by means of reasonable tariffs to the importation of products which compete with our own produce, such as sugar, tobacco and many others, and protecting American crushers of vegetable oils, who are well able to handle the copra output of the Philippines, by placing a moderate duty upon oils, while leaving copra and other tropical oil-bearing materials on the free list.

Encouraging Progress

ANOTHER Annual Meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society is approaching. The American Chemical Society has just concluded a gathering in Indianapolis. At this season there is held a series of meetings of various scientific and engineering societies interested in all phases of scientific research and development.

We have previously, in these columns, directed the attention of crushers and refiners of oils to the value to be derived from encouragement of their chemists to join appropriate scientific societies and to take an active part in the deliberations of those bodies.

We take this occasion, again to urge that those who employ chemists and engineers for the solution of problems in connection with the production and refining of oils, should do all in their power to help their chemists and engineers to obtain the greatest possible benefit from contact with others interested in the same problems, at the meetings of their respective societies.

The expense of maintaining membership for your chemists in the American Chemical Society and the American Oil Chemists' Society, and of sending them to the convention of the latter body, at least, will undoubtedly be repaid many times over by the additions to their store of knowledge of oil and fat chemistry to be gained by such attendance.