

WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

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Vol. XV., No. 2

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APRIL, 1937

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The Editor does not accept responsibility for views expressed by the writers. Communications may be sent to WORLD DOMINION PRESS, FOUNDER'S LODGE, MILDMA Y CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON, N. 1, and 156, FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK. Published Quarterly. Annual Subscription, 4/6, post paid; Single Copies, 1/2, post paid. The next number of the magazine will be published on the 21st June, 1937.

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The Philippine Islands

After Thirty Years

THE Philippine Islands are situated north of the Equator. There are 7,083 islands, of which only 1,095 are sufficiently large and fertile to be inhabited. Only eleven are over one thousand square miles in area, and these constitute ninety-five per cent of the total area of the islands, Luzon and Mindanao themselves being sixty-eight per cent of this area. Mount Apo in Mandanao is 9,600 feet high. Good rivers and rich alluvial plains abound, and every type of scenery is met with—wooded mountains, rolling uplands, great swamps, tropical rain, forests, and arid tracts.

The original inhabitants seem to have been Negritos and Caucasian and Mongolian pygmies, all of whom have largely disappeared. Four waves of proto-Malays have been traced: tall, aquiline-featured Indonesians, who are now the Kalingas of North Luzon; a darker type of Indonesian, represented by the Ilocanos who are of short stature and have small noses; after which came two waves of Malays who gradually amalgamated with the others. From the tenth century the Chinese have flowed steadily, though slowly, into the islands, and quite a number of Japanese are found in the province of Davao in Mindanao. The Spaniards ruled the islands for about three hundred years, but have left little trace of their blood in the people. The same is true of the Americans.

While eighty-seven different and hostile tribes of savages have been noted, for practical purposes only four racial groups may be considered: 56,000 woolly-headed, dwarf, black Negritos, savages in mountain forests, living on what they can pick up; 225,000 Igorots, with smooth black hair, 'yellowish copper-brown' skins and oblique black eyes, mountain-dwellers recently induced to lay aside their favourite Mindanao and Sulu sport of head-hunting; 443,000 Moros (Mohammedans), not so long since pirates, and very conscious that in personal combat they were more than a match for the Christian natives (these are found in the south); 11,633,000 'Christian' Filipinos with considerable civilization and numbering many tribes whose distinctions, however, have been over-emphasized. The average density is 110 to the square mile.

The three great language divisions are the Ilocano, Tagalog and Vicoyan. Seventeen dialects are extensively used. The languages are distinct though most have a common Malay basis. A general knowledge of English, therefore, is essential as a unifying influence.

The tribal system of pre-Spanish days gave place to the large land-holding of individuals, the Church and the companies of the

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Spanish days. The Church land-holding of 420,000 acres was purchased by the American Government and re-sold to the tenants. Many problems of land tenure have had to be faced and solved, and good available Government land has been settled during the last twenty-five years to the extent of 2,500,000 acres. Like all agricultural countries, problems of tenure, debt, injustice and usury, which resulted in what was practically slavery, are to be found. The administration has done much to alleviate these evils and to establish better methods of cultivation, good agricultural schools, agricultural co-operative credit societies, development of markets and other expedients devised to make the lot of the small farmer more tolerable.

The social division into *caciques* and *taos* is of great importance. The *taos* are the working people, for the most part ignorant. Half the population is still illiterate and most of them cannot speak Spanish. The *caciques*, on the other hand, are mostly Spanish creoles and make up six or seven per cent of the islanders. They are all literate and live in more or less European fashion. Miss Mayo says of them that the *cacique* 'has one occupation, politics; one industry, usury; and one hobby, gambling.' These *caciques* now own property and control the affairs of the islands under the American Government. The relationship of the *cacique* to the *tao* is the great social and political question of the Philippines.

Roughly 91 per cent of the population are Christians, of which 1.6 per cent are Protestants (200,000). Nine per cent are pagans and Moros (932,953). The Roman Catholics claim 7,433,153 adherents (1933). An independent Filipino Church was founded in 1902, and this seems to be increasing at the expense of the Roman Catholic community whose ritual it follows. It was reported in the 1918 census to have 1,417,448 followers, but in its own church census recently it claims 4,000,000. Its beliefs are a strange mixture. It sets 'science' above the Bible, denies miracles, conceives God as one. Its services are in Spanish and in the vernaculars. Its ministers can marry.

There are 24,263 Buddhists in the islands.

To-day there are ten Protestant missions, all American.

Two Independent Churches have also been organized.

Missionaries reside in thirty-eight centres and number 344, which is 28.4 to a million people.

The pastors in full charge of congregations number 248.

The future of the islands depends on the success of the ten years' experiment of self-government which has been inaugurated by the United States.