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"Then these folk will grow papayas for themselves instead of profits for Americans."

### Under Spanish Rule

To break or not to break the American connection was the one question that troubled the literature half of Filipinos in the years just before Japan bumped their elbow. The archipelago, which roughly is the size and length of New Zealand, but totally tropical, green, and jungled down to the water's many edges, has never been independent. Magellan, who arrived in 1620 after his amazing non-stop transverse of the Pacific, wrote in his log of "kings" and "palaces"; but they would be local chiefs in nipa-palm bungalows-on-poles and their wholesale conversion and promise of allegiance to Spain must have been extremely superficial. Spanish government, gradually extending over nearly all the islands for the next four centuries, was on the whole good, the Filipinos gradually entering the heritage of Christian Europe as filtered through devoted missionaries and conscientious administrators. Its success showed politically—50 years after independence movements in the considerably similar Indian Spanish communities of South America—in the revolts of Rizal and Aguinaldo. But before the latter could succeed, the Islands passed into American hands in 1899 as an unpremeditated result of the Spanish-American War.

Hence Filipino life now shows a four-decade veneer of high-speed Americanisation over a four century soaking in Spanish Christianity.

### Some Probable Headaches

Sergio Osmena, the half-caste Filipino-Chinese President, has returned with the latest invaders, bringing in his pocket, it is rumoured, a Roosevelt-sponsored Declaration of Independence to be proclaimed immediately the last Japanese has left. This means, it is admitted, handing the Philippines over to some sort of Latin-American "Dictator-Democracy." But then both North American "Party-Machine Democracy" and British "Governing-Class Democracy" look just as undemocratic to outsiders; though they work, in their respective milieus, to a degree that Pure Democracy has worked nowhere yet on the earth. The real Philippine troubles are likely to come not from politics but from trade and minorities. Trade will give headaches because the United States (which in 1900 was taking only 18% of Philippine exports) by 1935 was taking 80%, and because imports from America sprang from 9% to 64% in those 35 years. Minorities may give trouble because the Ifugao and others remain persistently heathen and dirty, and, while an occasional hillman walking in less than underpants down the almost purely American main street of the country-club town of Bagio may look picturesque to tourists, he looks to his more civilised countrymen merely a disgrace to themselves—so that a reforming native government might rush in where foreign administrators have feared to tread. More seriously, the Mohammedan Moros who recently were head-hunters and still actively despise the other 96% of the population, are unlikely to continue lying down to the transfer of families from over-populated Cebu into their own vast but scarcely-occupied Mindanao.



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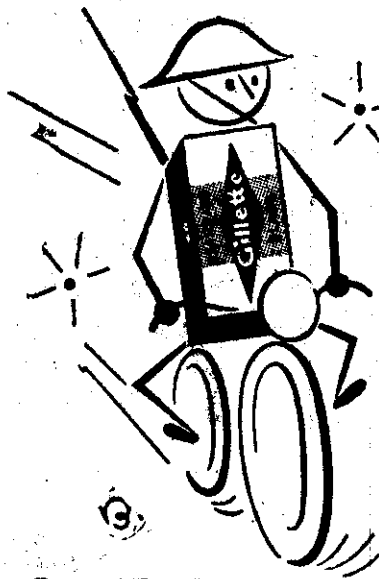
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