

since any piece of rock that projects above water at high tide is called an island. Indeed, only 462 of the islands have an area of one square mile or more, and two of them—Luzon in the north and Mindanao in the south—contain 77,000 square miles of the total Philippines area of 114,000 square miles, a few thousand square miles larger than New Zealand. Another nine islands—Samar, Negros, Palawan, Panay, Mindoro, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, and Masbate—account for a further 33,000 square miles.

Through the islands there runs brokenly from north to south a volcanic mountain range in which about twenty volcanoes are active at intervals. Neither earthquakes, which are comparatively frequent, nor eruptions greatly disturb the life of the Filipinos, however, since most of the houses are bamboo and rattan and the reinforced-concrete buildings in Manila are built to withstand earthquakes. Trade winds bring heavy rain to the lands east of the range for eight months of the year, and the monsoon rains drench the lands to the west for three months, but the rains seldom last for long periods at a time. The climate is pleasant, with cool nights and few oppressively hot days.

The Philippines are a commonwealth linked with the United States. They were acquired after the Spanish-American War of 1898 in which America engaged to free Cuba where the people were in revolt against Spanish rule. In declaring war the United States Congress announced that it wanted no territory and would take none in the event of victory. During the war, which lasted only from the end of April to the beginning of August, Admiral Dewey destroyed a Spanish squadron in Manila Bay in one afternoon without losing a single man, and the Americans, when peace came, thus found themselves with an unexpected problem. In the face of their statement that they wanted no territory, what were they to do about the Philippines?

President McKinley wrestled with his conscience, and, after walking the White House "night after night until midnight" and praying for "light and guidance," late one night reached, in his own words, this decision:—

"(1) That we could not give them

back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonourable:

(2) That we could not turn them over to France and Germany—that would be bad business and discreditable:

(3) That we could not leave them to themselves—they were unfit for self-government, and they would soon have anarchy and misrule there worse than Spain's was:

(4) That there was nothing left for us to do but to take all the islands and to educate the Filipinos and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace do the very best we could for them as our fellow-men for whom Christ also died.

"And then I went to bed and went to sleep and slept soundly."

The President's decision was not quickly accepted by Spain, by the United States Senate, or by the Filipinos. Spain gave up the islands only after the payment of £4,000,000 for the public works built during her four hundred years of occupation from their discovery by Magellan in 1521. The Senate ratified the treaty by the necessary two-thirds majority after a long and heated debate. And the Filipinos, who had begun their struggle for freedom before America intervened, set up their own republic, and for three years carried on the fight. Even



A Carabao, the patient work animal for all Filipinos, lacks sweat glands and must rest every few hours in the warm smelly ooze of a water-hole or he would go berserk from the intense heat.