

after their defeat they continued to demand "Complete, Absolute, and Immediate Independence."

And so, more by accident than design, America gained an overseas possession of 7,000 islands with 10,000,000 people. These Filipino people are of two main races—the great majority of Malay stock with typical mongoloid features, straight, coarse, black hair, a smooth brown skin and with no beard. The second group is very small; it consists of the Negritos, pygmies under 4 ft. 9 in. in height with black skin and fuzzy hair. There are



Pirate ships of the Moros (Mohammedans) used to range the seas, raiding Christian towns. These, however, are peaceful trading vessels.

also a good number of Filipinos with mixed blood, the Mestizos, who have provided many political leaders. The first President of the Commonwealth, Manuel Quezon, who died in the United States in 1944, was a Spanish-Filipino; his successor, President Osmena, is a Chinese-Filipino. Of the total population of the islands in 1940, which by then had reached nearly 16,500,000, only 170,000 were foreigners, including 118,000 Chinese holding key positions in the wholesale and retail trades, 30,000 Japanese settled in Davao and engaged in the hemp and

fishing industries, and, excluding the members of the American Services and their wives, 9,000 Americans.

Although there are only two main racial types, eighty-seven different languages and dialects are used, but this problem is likely soon to disappear since the Filipinos recently adopted Tagalog, the language of an important group, as the language of the future. In a country where half the people are literate in the sense that they can read and write in one language, the change-over should not take very long. One result of Spanish rule is that nine out of ten Filipinos are Christians, the great majority Roman Catholics. The Moros, who live on Mindanao and on the Sulu Islands, form a Mohammedan minority of 4 per cent., while the Pagaos, another minority of 4 per cent., live in the mountains of Luzon.

Under American rule the condition of the Filipinos improved greatly. Epidemics of cholera, bubonic plague, and small-pox, once frequent and severe almost disappeared. Infant deaths were reduced. In 1900 four out of five babies died; in 1940 fourteen out of fifteen babies lived.

Commerce flourished. Free trade with the United States brought a market for the main crops—sugar, coconuts, tobacco, and abaca hemp for ropemaking. About four-fifths of all exports—£23,000,000 out of £29,000,000 in 1938—went to America; the rest to Japan. They brought the Filipino worker a wage of about 3s. a day in our money, much higher than the ordinary level in the Far East. This meant more rice for his family than ever before, a few American-made shirts for himself, and, perhaps, on easy terms, a sewing-machine for his wife. The resources of the islands were not however, fully developed; even by 1940 only £56,000,000 of American money was invested in them.

Nor did agriculture prosper, although in 1940 it still provided £57 in every £100 of the national income. The Filipinos, as a result of concentrating on the crops which gave them profitable exports, were forced, even in good times, to import much food from South East Asia. The old vicious system of landholding continued. Political and economic power