

no other plan can be described as democratic. Until this plan has failed no one has a right to say that the democratic system has failed.

It is a curious fact that some of the most strenuous objections to the initiative and referendum come from persons who favor an intelligent suffrage—that is, who advocate educational qualifications. The fact is curious because the initiative and referendum is the best-known method of limiting the suffrage to the intelligent. Those who understood and favored or opposed a measure initiated by or referred to the people would vote, while those who were indifferent would not. The unintelligent would thus voluntarily disfranchise themselves. This would be a far better test of voting qualifications than ability to read and write; and it would have the further advantage of being self-imposed and therefore entirely consistent with the fundamental American principle of government by consent of the governed.

As fast as men familiar with affairs in the Philippines get beyond the range of Mr. McKinley's Manila censor the people of this country learn the truth. The latest example is furnished by E. Spencer Pratt, the American consul general at Singapore, through whose friendly offices Dewey was put into communication with Aguinaldo. Mr. Pratt, who recently arrived in New York, has made public some of the facts he knows about American affairs in the Philippines. Manila, he says, is under martial law, and news is withheld from the American people. "The situation," he adds, "is as bad as it can be made." He continues: "It was almost impossible to believe that such things could be done under the American flag and in the name of the American government." On the subject of Filipino resistance, Mr. Pratt says that national sentiment among them is growing, not diminishing." He further explains:

The Filipino forces are in possession and are operating throughout the

greater part of the country; the American authority being recognized only within the limits of an army garrison. While I was in Manila there was fighting between our troops and the Filipinos almost within gunshot of the city. I will say further, that there is a condition of utter demoralization in Manila, with barrooms everywhere.

This is the kind of information that the Manila censorship is strenuously engaged in suppressing.

The great disparity in killed between the Americans and the Filipinos in the various skirmishes reported from time to time for several months past has been significant of something which the normal American mind cannot contemplate without horror. This significance has been emphasized by the fact that the Americans, though they win the engagements and kill scores and even hundreds to one, seldom report the taking of prisoners. But what has always been matter of reasonable inference is positively stated by letters from soldiers which now and then percolate through the sieve of the American censor at Manila. One of these letters, written by a private soldier in the Thirtieth United States volunteers, whose name is for his own sake discreetly withheld, but who seems to have entered into the game of slaughtering "niggers" with zest, writes to a relative in Detroit as follows, under date of July 3, which was at the very height of the time when newspaper reports told of the killing of scores of Filipinos to every American killed and were silent on the subject of prisoners:

We are having a hot time over in this country. The "niggers" are getting gay and would not pay their taxes, so at the point of the gun we made them shut up shop and not open to sell a thing to either natives or soldiers. They made a big kick, but it did them no good, and then what insurgents there were in town wearing "amigo" (friend) clothes posted up a sign, written in Tagalog, that any one paying taxes to the "American dogs" would be killed. We expect a scrap in town at any time, but it does not cut any ice with us. We've got lots of ammunition and can make it hot enough for them. Our orders are to kill and shoot everyone at sight, men, women

or children. Everything goes. At a little scrap we had at Mayjayjay with the "niggers" there were 39 rebels killed and we did not get a man hit. There is an American out of the Thirty-seventh who was a prisoner of the "niggers," who was leading them, and some of the Thirty-seventh's detachment saw him. It will go hard with the traitor if we get him, as it is ordered to shoot him on sight. We take prisoners no more. It is too much trouble to guard them.

Though anonymous letters are not usually entitled to special consideration, there are reasons why this should be regarded as an exception. For one thing, soldiers known to have written such letters home would be in serious danger even of their lives in a country where the American flag floats but the safeguards of American law are ignored. For another, facts are not allowed to reach the American people through ordinary news channels if the American censor thinks they might be unpleasant political reading at home. And in the third place, the statements of the letter are confirmed by circumstances. When the Americans kill many Filipinos, with slight loss to themselves, and take no prisoners though they invariably win the engagements in which so many Filipinos are slaughtered, it is a reasonable inference that the "orders are," as this soldier says they are, "to kill and shoot every one in sight."

"Adj. Gen. Corbin has instituted a rigorous investigation," says the Chicago Evening Post, one of Mr. McKinley's thickest and thinnest supporters, "into the source and reliability of letters published in this country, received from the Philippines, describing horrible butcheries of natives and looting and misconduct by the soldiers." As a result, according to the Post, a letter from E. E. Baker, company I, Forty-sixth infantry, addressed to his colonel, has been obtained, in which Baker says that his statement, in a private letter to his parents which has been published, that the soldiers "shot Filipinos like rabbits" was "intended as a joke." This re-