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EDITORIAL

“AGUINALDO’S CAPTURE.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHILE the possibility of Aguinaldo having been captured by our troops can not be denied, no wise man will accept the news of the capture as true without further confirmation. For now nearly two years, one report after another, emanating from our military authorities in Manila, and promptly set afloat by the Administration in Washington was proved false. The “insurrection” has been “downed” at least a dozen times; fully twice a dozen times have “popular manifestations of peace” been illustrated by intensified hostile activity among the Filipinos; and times without number has the “undisputed military possession of the islands” turned out to be limited to only a few yards beyond the hundred and odd camps which we hold in a territory nearly five times as vast as all the New England States put together. As a source of reliable information touching the situation of the Philippine Islands, the Administration and its understrappers have lost all reputation for trust-worthiness.



EMILIO AGUINALDO (1869-1964)

To this instinct for mendacity a number of circumstances combine just now to add fresh fuel.

The recruiting agencies are in great trouble. The fumes of “patriotism” have been dispelled by the ghastly spectacle of massacres inflicted under the Stars and Stripes upon a people whose only serious blunder was that they trusted our Government’s word, and whose only offence is that they prefer death to subjection. Our would-be heroes realize that, under such circumstances, enlistment to the Philippines does not mean joining in a basket-picnic; and the letters from the soldiers across the Pacific have confirmed the theory. Accordingly, recruits are hard,

very hard to get. It would not be at all out of keeping with the capitalistic fraudulency of our ruling class to manufacture news intended to remove the dark prospects that are now keeping the recruits back. If they can be caught by false allurements of peace, that would not render their military superiors less exacting in the demand that they perform the gruesome task that is cut out for them.

Besides this consideration, there is another. “Ungrateful conspirators” in Cuba are just now holding threatening language towards McKinley. They also are shameless enough to demand that our Government keep faith with them; and with unspeakable brazenness they dare to say that they want to be free from foreign domination. It is undeniable that these “Cuban ingrates” gather no little encouragement in their bold bad plans from the circumstance of our Government’s having its hands full in the Philippines. News of pacification there, would surely somewhat moderate the gales of “ingrate rebellion” now rising in Cuba; at least, it is so hoped. And what is better calculated to this end than the capture of Aguinaldo?

It is not likely that Aguinaldo’s capture, or even surrender, would be tantamount to the abandonment by the present generation of Filipinos of the spirit of independence upon which they have been raised. But even if it turn out that this latest news, the capture of Aguinaldo, is not, like most other “news” from Manila has hitherto proved itself, a fabrication for political effect, one thing it is pretty safe to say now, and that is that the accompanying news of wholesale surrenders and the accompanying expressions of confidence that hostilities are at an end, may be entered among our latest imports and exports:—an import for consumption at our recruiting stations; an export for consumption in the councils of the “ingrate Cubans.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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