

The TORCH

Published When Needed by the Filipino Community
of Salinas Valley

OUR MOTTO: "An Eye for an Eye" and "Peace to Men of Good-Will."

JANUARY, 1930

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

No. 2

Justice of the Peace Rohrback of Pajaro Insults the Filipinos

With a Chain of False Statements Succeeds in Making the Northern Monterey County Chamber of Commerce to Pass a Resolution Against Them

By David P. De Tagle
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Just a few days after the "Good-Will-Trip" arrived in San Francisco from the Orient where Americans found a very hearty welcome; and not very far from the closing date of the Pan-Pacific conference in Japan where American delegates promised to work toward better understanding between Americans and Orientals whose friendly relations have been doomed lately by news sent across the Pacific from the East, saying that "racial-prejudice" is getting intolerable in this country, now comes the Justice of the Peace of Pajaro, California, insinuating violence against Filipinos.

Somewhere in this pamphlet you will read that Justice D. W. Rohrback is said "to have made a comprehensive study" of the whole subject. I wonder what slander could he say worse than what he said if he did not make the "study."

I would like to know who was the internal revenue officer who "dreamed" that there were boats arriving in the coast with thousands of Filipinos. I appeal to the U. S. Customs of the State of California who has a complete record of the number of Filipinos arriving in each steamer from Hawaii and the Islands and there was never a boat with more than 500 Filipinos, many with none.

The Filipinos by Constitutional rights can come to this country freely as Americans are guaranteed freedom to go and stay in the Philippines.

If Rohrback is really a good Justice of the Peace, he should advocate a peaceful settlement of the case;

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FILIPINO BAN URGED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT PAJARO CALIFORNIA

(Salinas Index-Journal, Jan. 11, 1930)

Northern Monterey county chamber of commerce is opposed to Filipino immigration, and even to the Filipinos who are already here, and its members are not only talking about their opposition, but are taking action to curb the immigration of the "little brown brothers."

At a meeting held in Pajaro, Wednesday night, the chamber passed a resolution charging the Filipino population of this district as undesirable and of possessing unhealthy habits and being destructive to the living wage scale of other nationalities in agricultural and industrial pursuits. Copies of the resolution are to be sent to the Monterey county board of supervisors, Governor C. C. Young and Senator Hiram Johnson, at Washington, D. C.

The resolution is said to have been drawn up by Justice of the Peace D. W. Rohrback, of Pajaro, who is said to have made a comprehensive study of the effect of the presence of the Filipinos in this district and in other parts of the state. Rohrback is reported to have said that this move on the part of the northern Monterey county chamber of commerce was but the beginning of an investigation of a situation "that will event-

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David de Tagle says:

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he should advocate the granting of Philippine Independence in exchange for the "shipping-back home" of all Filipinos in this country, if he so desires. (A thing we Filipinos will greatly appreciate.) He does not need to insult us because we can sure answer him back that if we are "deteriorating the white race" what about the Americans in the Philippines?

Did he find out in his "study" that most prostitutes in the Philippines now are abandoned daughters of American soldiers? Did he read the appeal made by the late Governor General Wood to the Americans regarding their countrymen's children left helpless in the Philippines? Can there be a greater "deterioration" than this pathetic picture?

Rohrback also says that we are "but 10 years removed from a bolo and a breechclout," we are proud of it, Mister. What is the use of a "high-hat" and a "full-dress"?

Read our criminal records in the Philippines and also read many speeches delivered by your own representatives and senators recorded in the files of Washington, where Filipinos were called law-abiding people.

And now read Brisbane who says in the San Francisco Examiner, the following: "There was never a nation, half civilized, with such disregard for law, such a frightful and growing wave of crime as may be found in this country."

Would you not feel proud to have "emerged" from "bolo and breechclout," and after ten years be a respectable citizen?

It is really too bad that I had to answer Rohrback, "using for him his own medicine."

Let us go further:

"Fifteen Filipinos will live in a room or two," he says. What about it? Forced by the circumstances, "super-complexed-people" sleep the same way in the slums of Chicago, New York and worse in London, where many rooms lack light and baths.

Why don't this Rohrback begin the "cleaning" among those of his own "color"?

And if the Filipino housing conditions are bad in his own opinion, why not endorse the case to the State's Building Inspector? Unhealthy? Ring the Health Officer of the State. Don't sit and cry like Job.

If Rohrback made a conscientious study of unemployment in this country he should have found out that the main causes of it are the following: Machinery which is turning out of work the greatest number

of laborers; women, who quit housework and are replacing men in many factory and office jobs; systematization and simplification of work, and employment of children.

There are about 75,000 Filipinos in the whole United States and about 45,000 to 50,000 are in California during winter as many go to the middle states in summer. If Filipinos are taking the white mens' job the white-men unemployed must approximately correspond to the number of Filipinos, and not come to millions as is the case at present.

Most Filipinos work in the lettuce fields. The lettuce is a new product in the Salinas Valley. No white-men thinned lettuce before the Filipinos. Work in the lettuce fields is very hard. Why "kick" if Filipinos want to share in some easy work?

Filipinos can never be treated as slaves. If Rohrback wants to see the Filipinos out of the City, "jailed" in the field and camp, not "mixing" with white people, he will have to go to the grave without seeing it. From the primary school in the Islands we begin to get familiar with Lincoln.

"As Filipinos eat cheap food, they will soon be well clothed, and strutting about like a peacock, they endeavor to attract the eyes of the young American and Mexican girls" Rohrback says.

That is the law of Nature, the male must do his utmost to attract the attention of the female and vice-versa.

We Filipinos were brought up under the Christian principle that God created men equal, and so we do not believe in "racial-superiority." We welcome Americans and other nationalities in our family circles, and Americans, more than any other foreigners in the Philippines take more Filipino women to the altar. We feel that as human beings we have the same inalienable rights in this country to take those who love us as our legitimate wife.

To discuss the Filipino diet is stupid. Each nation has a particular diet and it is unreasonable to measure the standard of living of its people by what they eat or drink.

Now I will let Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana give his own opinion about standards of living. The Senator says: "We Americans immediately attempt to judge the Filipino people according to American standards. We say, 'You do not live in accordance with our particular standard of living, and therefore we think that you are not capable of self-government.' In other words, we set ourselves up as examples, and we say that our standard of living is the only correct standard of living; our religion is the only kind of religion that should be adopted in the world;

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our methods and manners of living are the only kind to be followed. 'You ought to eat the kind of food we eat; you ought to dress the same way we dress'; and of course if we judge the Filipinos according to American standards, if we judge the Japanese according to American standards, if we judge the Russian people or the Italians, or a great many other people throughout the world by the American standard, then we would say that, according to our standard, they were not capable of self-government." (U. S. Senate, October 9, 1929).

What is bad if "the Filipinos form partnership and buy good cars and roll along the highways like Solomon in all his glory"? As an American, Rohrbach should be glad that the Filipinos, instead of sending their honest-earned money to the Islands they spend in cars, tires, gas and repairs, leaving therefore the DOLLARS where they found it. And by the way was Rohrbach ever approached by a Filipino begging for a nickel to get a cup of coffee? If Filipinos can afford to buy a car without bothering anybody why be fussy about it?

If not because I am positive that Rohrbach is a very busy man, I was going to include him in Calvin Coolidge's classification, of men called "fringe of idle, vicious, boisterous wastrels." Men who devote their useful time in useless things.

I do not believe that Rohrbach thinks that because there are more Filipino men than women in this country, we are a moral menace here. If he believes that that is the case, he must also admit being under the same circumstances, that the Americans in the Islands are a menace too. In the Philippines American men outnumber American women greatly.

Another big BLUNDER is what Rohrbach said that there were 75,000 Filipinos in a convention in Los Angeles the other day.

Let us be honest in bringing figures. I am sure that nobody can prove that there was such a big gathering of Filipinos in Los Angeles neither in any place in this country. It is impossible to gather such great numbers of Filipinos, and only in the mind of an "alarmist" such fancy could be created.

"We do not advocate violence," said the Judge. But there is not a bit of doubt in my mind that those words were uttered maliciously putting under cover an insinuation to his audience to resort to mob in case the Filipinos cannot be taken out from their midst by peaceful means. When a speaker says, "Ladies and gentlemen: I don't want to tell you that Mr. X is a fool," he plainly calls by insinuation, Mr. X a fool. That is sense.

I raise the RED LANTERN to warn the Filipinos that whenever

they have to appear in a court where Judge D. W. Rohrbach is presiding, they should ask another man to hold the balance of Justice. The Constitution gives us that privilege. A man who is suffering from Filipinophobia like Judge Rohrbach and who openly stated it, will never be just to a Filipino.

Who will doubt that the Judge has turned poet after reading the following paragraph from his "fruitful" mind?

"Other chambers of commerce have probably passed resolutions endorsing the use of Filipino labor as being indispensable. If that is true, better that the fields of the Salinas Valley should grow into weed patches and our wonderful forests be blackened."

MENINGITIS is not a tropical disease. The Encyclopedia registers the first cases in the United States and Europe. Last year this epidemic broke out in China and Japan, but not in the Philippines, except two cases nothing was recorded in the Islands, one American who arrived from China, and one Filipino newly arrived from Honolulu. Long before Filipinos ever came to this country some States already had this malady.

NOW LET ME FOCUS MY GUN TOWARD THE SALINAS INDEX-JOURNAL.

Of late this Daily who has as its motto "THE PUBLIC BE TOLD," has been publishing everything bad about the Filipinos.

But the worst part of it, like a man who runs "amuck," the Salinas Daily Index, in its attack of Filipinophobia publishes blindly without censoring an article that will do a great harm to the entire Salinas Valley. Those people far from Salinas and ignorant of the true facts might stop eating products from this part of the country, fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as canned goods, and therefore create a financial crisis detrimental to all, especially to the farmers and of course to the business-men in general.

The article follows and is respectfully brought to the attention of the Salinas Chamber of Commerce.

"The Filipino, according to a statement credited to Rohrbach, through his unsanitary living habits is a disease carrier. He charged (Rohrbach) the oriental as "a spreader of meningitis germs among the products he handles, causing innocent persons to suffer through their consumption. Whole armies of white people come to canneries and driers, hoping to get employment, but the Filipino is there before them, ready and willing to do the work for a small wage, it is alleged. The lettuce fields and orchards are dotted with Filipinos, while white labor, both men,

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Rohrback Says:

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ually lead to the exclusion of the Filipino or the deterioration of the white race in the state of California."

Rohrback is alleged to have said that he has been informed by the collector of internal revenue that where boats used to land on the coast with a hundred or so Filipinos, whole boatloads now are landed with thousands of them, "but 10 years removed from a bolo and a breechclout."

Every time a boatload of Filipinos arrives, that many white men and women are thrown out of work, because they cannot work for the wages that the Filipinos get, according to the judge. He is reported to have said that "for a wage that a white man cannot exist on, the Filipinos will take the job and, through the clannish, low standard mode of housing and feeding, practiced among them, will soon be well clothed, and strutting about like a peacock and endeavoring to attract the eyes of the young American and Mexican girls.

"Fifteen Filipinos will live in a room or two, sleeping on the floor and contenting themselves with squatting on the floors and eating fish and rice. The same group will form a club and buy a partnership in a classy automobile and attired like Solomon in all his glory, will roll along the highways."

Judge Rohrback is alleged to have predicted that marriages among whites and Filipinos soon will be common, and if the present state of affairs continues that there will be 40,000 halfbreeds in the state of California before 10 years have passed.

The Filipino, according to a statement credited to Rohrback, through his unsanitary living habits is a disease carrier. He charged the oriental as "a spreader of meningitis germs among the products he handles, causing innocent persons to suffer through their consumption. Whole armies of white people come to canneries and driers, hoping to get employment, but the Filipino is there before them, ready and willing to do the work for a small wage, it is alleged. The lettuce fields and orchards are dotted with Filipinos, while white labor, both men, women and children, suffer."

"We do not advocate violence," says the judge, "but we do feel that the United States should give the Filipinos their liberty and then send those unwelcome inhabitants from our shores that the white people who have inherited this country for themselves and their offspring, might live.

"There were 75,000 Filipinos who attended a convention in Los Angeles the other day. That was but a representation of what may eventually be-

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women and children, suffer."

I am not trying to give lessons in journalism to nobody but fair play should be the "banner" of all journalists.

As the Press is the moulder of public opinion and as the Salinas Index-Journal is the leading paper in the Valley, it is indeed to be lamented that a blind passion against Filipinos is being sheltered in its Offices.

The result of poisoning the minds of its readers may bring serious results later.

Before putting the FINIS in this article, I would like to make this statement: I never started a discussion touching similar topics and I will never start any in the future. Sincerely I hate to be devoting my time to things that not only is not beneficial to nobody but destructive to the friendly relations between Americans and Filipinos, but I made this oath—for the Filipino blood that runs in the veins of my adored mother, I will always keep my pen ready to be used in the defense of Filipino rights to fairplay, respect and justice.



NOTE: Printing expenses paid by popular subscription among Filipinos in the Salinas Valley.

come a brown horde that will finally eliminate the white laborer in the state of California.

"Other chambers of commerce have probably passed resolutions endorsing the use of Filipino labor as being indispensable. If that is true, better that the fields of the Salinas valley should grow into weed patches and our wonderful forests be blackened.

"I say, treat the American laborer right and he will treat you right. Experience has taught us that. I hope that we overcome this menace to our general welfare and have the government decently and peaceably remove the Filipino from our midst."