
FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Senator Orville Platt, Connecticut

"I believe the hand of Providence brought about the conditions which we must either accept or be recreant [cowardly] to duty. I believe that those conditions were a part of the great development of the great force of Christian civilization on earth. I believe the same force was behind our army at Santiago and our ships in Manila Bay that was behind the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock.... The English-speaking people, the agents of civilization, the agency through which humanity is to be uplifted, through which despotism is to go down, through which the rights of man are to prevail, is charged with this great mission. We propose to proclaim liberty in the Philippine Islands, if they are ours."

Senator Knute Nelson, Minnesota

"Today, in substance, the English government is as much a republic as our government. Her colonial development has served to increase the liberties of Englishmen.... That English government in British India, in Egypt, and in all other English colonies, wherever we look at it, has been a great improvement and a great blessing.... Are we incompetent to colonize, to develop, and to govern territorial possessions like England? Is the Yankee inferior to the Englishman? It is our duty under the providence of God to protect the Philippine islanders against anarchy, chaos and confusion, and the despotism that results from it. We owe them a duty now, as in the case of the drowning child snatched from a watery grave.... They are as unfit for self-government as most people on the face of the earth.... We are there for two purposes: to give the people of those islands a just, good, fair, and free system of government in some form, and to keep them out of the hands of the great powers."

Rand-McNally Bankers' Monthly

"Railroad building may be expected to boom in all the islands which fall under the influence of the United States. Our sugar and tobacco growing would receive an impetus. The forests may also be made to yield handsome returns, and in fact every industry so long under the blighting rule of Spain, will be exploited and made to show the advantages accruing from better government and wider enterprise."

The Churchman

"Woe to any nation brought to pass where it is called to guide a weaker people's future which hesitates for fear its own interests will be entangled and its own future imperilled by the discharge of unmistakable duty."

Railway World

"One way of opening a market is to conquer it.... Already our enterprising merchants are beginning to take possession of the markets which our army and navy have opened to them."

Senator Albert Beveridge, Indiana

"The Philippines are ours forever, 'territory belonging to the United States' as the Constitution calls them. And just beyond the Philippines are China's illimitable markets. We will not renounce our part in the mission of our race, trustee, under God, of the civilization of the world. God has marked us as His chosen people, henceforth to lead in the regeneration of the world.... We are not dealing with Americans or Europeans. We are dealing with Orientals. They are not capable of self-government.... Savage blood, Oriental blood, Malay blood, Spanish example—are these the elements of self-government?... The Declaration of Independence applies only to people capable of self-government.

"The power that rules the Pacific, therefore, is the power that rules the world. And with the Philippines, that power is and will forever be the American Republic.... The ocean unites; steam [powered vessels] unites us; electricity unites us; all the elements of nature unite us to this region where duty and interest call us.... Our fathers wrote into the Constitution words of growth, of expansion, of empire, if you will,

unlimited by geography or climate or by anything but the vitality and possibilities of the American people.

“Do you tell me that it will cost us money? When did Americans ever measure duty by financial standards? Do you tell me of the tremendous toil required to overcome the vast difficulties of our task? What mighty work for the world, for humanity, even for ourselves has ever been done with ease?...Pray God that the time may never come when Mammon [material wealth] and the love of ease shall so debase our blood that we will fear to shed it for the flag and its imperial destiny. The American people must move forward to the future of their hope and the doing of God’s work.”
