

"Negroes to the Philippines" Newspaper Article, February 1903

NEGROES TO THE PHILIPPINES.

Senator Morgan's Scheme of Civilization.

HIS PLAN WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND HIS CABINET.

Washington, Dec. 15 - Senator John T Morgan, of Alabama, has succeeded, after two years of endeavor in interesting the war department and incidentally President Roosevelt in a plan to use the Philippine Islands in colonizing the Negroes of the United States.

The war department has made arrangements to test the practical possibilities of a plan and the president sent a special envoy, T. Thomas Fortune, a Negro leader to the Philippine Islands to make investigations and report on the conditions there.

In his efforts to have the plan put in execution, Senator Morgan has held frequent consultations with Secretary of War, Root; has consulted Governor General, Taft, and in other ways urged his scheme on the officials.

It is the Alabama Senator's purpose in the future to start legislation in congress for the movement to colonize the Negroes in the Philippines. He has not pushed this part of his work because he believes that the time is not ripe yet for the legislation; the farmers of the south, he says, think they need the Negro now, and until conditions are more favorable, he will with bold and proposed legislation. He believes, however, that the move now under way will result eventually in millions of the Negroes emigrating to the Philippine Islands and working out their own salvation.

This, he says is the solution of the grave Negro question with confronts the American people.

Senator Morgan's plan is to incorporate for the Negroes, steamship transportation companies; to give to them homestead of about twenty acres each in the island and to give them the best possible commercial advantage. The plan would not deprive them of their protection under the flag of the United States; it would not deprive them of citizenship, of which they are proud, and it would enable them to become a self-sustaining and prosperous race of people, because the land in the Philippine Island is extremely rich and fertile. The climate is exactly suited to the Negroes physical and industrial character. - Ex.