

RICOA Starts Buying Rice, Corn

Board, Administrative Staff Now Constituted With Sabido As Head

With the completion of its organization, the RICOA has now entered upon its functions intensively, having begun buying rice and corn in accordance with plans recently drawn up. Thru its offices and branches in the rice-producing areas, rice is being purchased as fast as harvest conditions permit.

President Jose P. Laurel today appointed the following officers of the RICOA: Board Chairman, Minister Pedro Sabido; Members, Messrs. Teofilo Sison, Leon G. Guinto, Hilarión S. Silayan, Ricardo Gonzales, Vicente Singson Encarnación, and Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. Arturo Tango is the Managing Director, with Army Administrator G. T. Uzaki as alternate. H. Miyake is adviser.

The recent fall in the local price of rice may be attributed to the new activity of the RICOA.

Government authorities are confident that the slump in the price of the cereal will pull down the prices of other goods and commodities considerably and will greatly lower the present high cost of living in Manila as well as in the provinces.

Malolos New B-S Center

MALolos, Nov. 26.—This capital of one of the richest provinces of Central Luzon is fast assuming the air of a minor metropolis, due to the heavy influx of evacuees from Manila. The situation here can be duplicated in the nearby towns of Bulacan, Hagonoy, Sta. Maria, Baliwag, and San Rafael, whose populations have practically doubled since June.

About forty kilometers from Manila, surrounded by ricefields and fishponds, Malolos has always been self-sufficient, and the townspeople, sensing the boom that came with the coming of evacuees, have increased their vegetable acreage by at least twice, while substantially enlarging also their areas to rice, camote, corn, and other food crops. The result of this foresight has been almost miraculous, for there is no food problem here, and the prices of foodstuffs have not soared as high as elsewhere.

Take rice, for instance. Rice is easily procurable at less than ₱200 per ganta, and the tendency, during the last few days, has been downward. Rice may now be bought at from ₱150 to ₱170 a ganta, new crop.

Camotes and corn sell at less than ₱80 a kilo for the former, and less than ₱100 per ganta for the latter.

Bangus sells on the average for (Continued on page 3)

Here To Assist New-Born Republic--Gen. Yamasita

At a state dinner tendered in honor of General Tomoyuki Yamasita, Highest Commander of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines, by President Jose P. Laurel at Malacañan the other Sunday, the Hero of Singapore declared that his mission of helping the independent Philippines grow unmolested by any force and from any source will be fulfilled even at the sacrifice of his own life.

"As it is a natural law," General Yamasita said, "that man should be free, that man should be

Speaker Calls On Nation To Carry On Work Of National Heroes In November Thirtieth Message

NATIONAL HEROES' DAY PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN BY RADIO

National Heroes Day will be observed this year without the usual fanfare of previous years, the observance being limited to a national broadcast in which President Laurel will be the sole speaker and to a literary program at the Metropolitan Theater under the auspices of the New Philippines' Leaders Society, of which Assemblyman Pio Duran is president.

The celebration this year has been entrusted to the Kalibapi, of which Speaker Benigno S. Aquino, is Director-General. The hour set for the national broadcast is from 8:00 to 8:30 p. m., with the President speaking from Malacañan by remote control. Choice musical numbers consisting of the best Philippine melodies performed by the foremost local artists will precede the President's speech.

The Metropolitan Theater program will be given in the afternoon at 4 o'clock and will include both literary and musical selections.

It is believed that the quiet observance of the day is in keeping with the spirit of the times. It is hoped that a celebration that is simple yet solemn will go far in reminding the people of the significance of the day, especially in the present period of emergency.

TIRONA GRATEFUL FOR NEW DONATIONS

In a statement released late last week in behalf of the Special Relief Committee of which he is Chairman, Minister Emiliano Tirona of Health, Labor and Public Welfare, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the interest and cooperation of social workers, donors and others responsible for giving the Christmas relief fund drive an auspicious start.

Minister Tirona's statement in full follows:

"In the midst of the present plight of our people, when many homes are visited by the spectre of hunger, it is a great consolation to note and witness that the traditional Christian virtue of charity of our countrymen and foreigners as well has not changed. So many tears will be dried, so many mouths of children, old and destitute crying for food, will be satisfied, at least temporarily, and the naked will have clothing. Interpreting the sentiments of His Excellency, the President, whose interest for the welfare of the poor and destitute is unparalleled, I say that he is very deeply impressed by the generous and spontaneous response being given by many of our countrymen and foreigners to our call for relief of the suffering people, as well as by the great and disinterested activity shown by the distinguished ladies constituting

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Aquino Suggests, Thru "The Republic," Quiet Tribute And Simple Prayer For Dead Leaders Of P. I. Struggles For Freedom

By BENIGNO S. AQUINO
Speaker, National Assembly
Vice-President and Director-General, KALIBAPI

National Heroes' Day comes once a year as a timely reminder of the historic struggles of our people to attain national independence and racial dignity. It comes at this time to evoke in us memories of a past rich in the sacrifice and achievement of men of our own race, of our own blood, who have given of themselves unsparingly so that the ideal of centuries may be realized and so that their posterity may enjoy the blessings of a life of freedom, honor and security.

Amidst the sufferings that today torture both body and soul, amidst the tragedy that envelops our entire country, and amidst the apparent uncertainties that seem to lie ahead, all because we are caught in the vortex of a total war, November 30 stands out clear and undimmed to guide us along the straight and only course that should lead us to national salvation.

This day dedicated to the memory of our heroes must serve as a beacon in the passing storm to lead us to the ultimate consummation of our Destiny. Our heroes have long and painfully chartered the route that our career in independent nationhood should follow and I say today, "We follow that route, the only route that will assure us a life of self-respect and dignity and happiness. Let's follow wherever our independence leads us to, cost what it may; let's conserve the advances it has given us; and safeguard our Republic, the sacred embodiment of all that has been sacrificed by our heroes in the past and by those of our generation and the motive-power of all progress and achievement in the future."

On this sacred day, let us remember those who have made our present progress and liberty possible, not with the pageantry and the gaudy fanfare of past celebrations, but with a silent tribute and a solemn prayer within the inner temples of our own souls that we whom they have left behind may be deserving of the legacy that has been passed on to us and that we to whom they have handed the torch may have the courage and the strength to hold it high unextinguished even amidst the vicissitudes and trials that today weaken men's determination and valor.

I can pay no higher tribute to him in whose honor November 30 is primarily commemorated, Andres Bonifacio, "Father of the Katipunan," than by recalling some of his chosen words:

"Worship the Creator with all (Continued on page 2)

DOCUMENTARY STAMPS DEMAND GROWS HEAVY

An extraordinarily heavy demand for documentary stamps has been noted recently, confidential sources have informed the Republic. This indicates heavy transactions in the sale of real estate and other properties.

However, it was gathered from the cashier's office of the bureau of customs and internal revenue, that among heavy buyers are government officials. One particular buyer is reported to have purchased no less than ₱500,000 worth of documentary stamps, and still another, ₱300,000.

While there have been heavy demands for special stamp issues of the Republic since one year ago, specially those cancelled at the Manila post-office, this is the first time that the bureau of customs and internal revenue has experienced something akin to a boom in documentary stamp sale.

Priority Given To Homeless City Residents

Preference Is Granted To Persons Who Lose Houses In Emergency

In order to provide homes for city residents who have been dispossessed of their dwellings by reason of the needs of the Imperial Japanese Forces for housing facilities and for those whose dwellings were burned or destroyed as a result of air-raids, President Jose P. Laurel has issued Executive Order No. 106 authorizing the occupancy of residential buildings owned or leased by residents of the city who have evacuated to the provinces.

The executive order which was promulgated on November 22 reads as follows:

"SECTION 1. All residential buildings in the City of Manila, or parts thereof, which are owned or leased by residents of said city who have evacuated to the provinces or cities are hereby made available to the public for occupancy. Said buildings or parts thereof shall be leased, preference being given to city residents who have been dispossessed of their dwellings by reason of the needs and demands of the Imperial Japanese Forces for housing facilities, and then to those whose dwellings have been burned, destroyed, or otherwise lost, or who have been compelled to vacate the same for military or (Continued on page 2)

Aid Of Church Heads Sought

In a circular letter to all church dignitaries and heads of religious organizations, Minister of Home Affairs Teofilo Sison, in his capacity as Chief Delegate of the President and Inspector-General of Martial Law, urged that religious institutions help in the maintenance of peace and order throughout the country.

"As the church," Minister Sison stated, "has always been one of the most effective institutions through which the people can be informed of the wisdom and necessity of strict compliance with the mandates of the law, it is most earnestly requested that you kindly ask your priests, ministers, and pastors to transmit to the people this information and the appeal of the government for their cooperation."

Minister Sison's letter follows: "During these crucial times, when our soil has again been converted into a battlefield, we beg to remind you and, through you, all the followers of your church, of the terms and conditions embodied in (Continued on page 2)

Kalibapi, Mother's Day To Be Observed Next Monday, Dec. 4

Next Monday, December 4, will be both Kalibapi and Mother's Day. As Kalibapi Day, it is an official holiday dedicated to the National Service Association known as *Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas*.

Assistant Director-General Dominador Tan and Women's Director Francisca T. Benitez will speak over the radio at the program celebrating the day at 8:00 p. m. It is presumed that Mr. Tan will speak on the Kalibapi and Mrs. Benitez on Mother's Day as well as the part that the women have in the Kalibapi.

By executive order of the President, Kalibapi Day is observed throughout the country. Mother's Day, for the first time, will be publicly observed under the Republic on the first Monday of December, dedicated to all mothers and to womanhood in general.

CUCUMBERS, NOT BOOKS, BRING FELIZA WEALTH

Feliza Acuna was a barrio teacher in Polo, Bulacan, at the time the war engulfed the Philippines. Then the school system was disrupted and she lost her permanent employment. So with her husband, who was a driver,

That is history. Today, they are among the biggest shippers of cucumbers to Manila. They turned their backyards into cucumber plots, and persuaded the neighbors in Pasolo, Polo, to do likewise. Today, with a weekly yield of 5,000 cucumbers weighing about a kilo (Continued on page 2)

Shoe Prices Unheard-Of; Can't Anything Be Done?

Inspired by the positive action taken by the Negros special court of criminal jurisdiction against criminal profiteering, placing shoes in the same bracket as prime necessities, a representative of the Republic made the rounds of shoe stores still open, on Rizal Avenue, Azcarraga, and the Escolta, to see how shoe prices have advanced criminally.

In the two biggest shoe stores on Azcarraga near Juan Luna, rubber-soled and heeled shoes that sold for ₱450 a pair in the first week of November, were found tagged at from ₱650 to ₱1,000. Children's shoes that were priced ₱150 a pair two weeks ago are now bearing price tags of ₱350.

In the Escolta and Rizal Avenue, profiteering in shoes seems to be awaiting the drastic hand of the economic police, if profiteering is to be given a deathblow. Old stock shoes of prewar vintage, on the alleged ground that they are "genuine," are priced all the way from ₱1,000 to ₱2,600 a pair. These are the same shoes that sold for ₱4.50, ₱5.00, and ₱5.50, at most ₱10.00, just prior to the war in the Philippines. In one place, the Republic representative was able to count no less than 15 dozen pairs of shoes above the ₱1,000 price range.

Prospective buyers who do not have bagfuls of money to shell out were heard to mutter under their breath: "Magnanakaw, mga swa-pang, itong magkasapatos!"

Indeed, when people have to walk wherever they want to go, they have to have shoes. The dealers, it seems, are to make a pile, to mulct the public, is a mild way of saying it.