

LAUREL CREATES HOME GUARD

Baguio Leads Way For Cities

Pines City Supplying Rice, Foodstuffs To People Regularly

BAGUIO, Oct. 29.—Overcoming all difficulties, Baguio affords its residents probably the best attention and assistance known today among Philippine cities not excluding Manila.

Foodstuffs, the greatest and most important need of city populations, are being brought to Baguio and sold to the public regularly and in any quantities. The city is peaceful, clean and bustling with activity and there is not the least indication that there is an emergency. The population has increased immensely during the last three months, yet the city administration does not show any signs of difficulties in providing all normal peace-time services.

This satisfactory situation has been brought about by an administration that has both energy and vision and by the active and disinterested cooperation of prominent residents. For example, the city invested all its surplus funds in rice and even borrowed a large sum later from the bank so as to be able to continue buying more rice. This investment has been a boon to the people who continue receiving rations until now. Besides, it has been a profitable business for both the city and the bank.

Still, even with all the funds at its command, the city could not have bought enough rice had it not been for the assistance of prominent citizens. The Lopez (Eugenio) and Moreno (Mrs. Lopez) families provided the rice, selling several thousand sacks of paddy to the city at not more than ten pesos per sack. The city took care of picking up the rice in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. Other residents responded in a similar way.

When Baguio residents were threatened with profiteering, the city went into the food supply business, organizing a procurement and a sales department which went into the market in direct competition with the profiteers. To make the procurement effective, the city has commandeered all trucks coming to Baguio. After

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War Dead Will Be Honored Nov. 2

Committee To Prepare Fitting Program Named By President

For the purpose of holding memorial services on November 2, for the war dead interred at the National Cemetery at O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac, President Jose P. Laurel last week created the National Memorial Service Committee headed by Arsenio Bonifacio, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs.

Under Administrative Order No. 29 which created the committee, the President charged this body to make all the necessary arrangements for the most appropriate way of commemorating the occasion by the observance of such ceremonies as in its judgment may be fitting and proper. In view of the circumstances presently prevailing, the committee may hold memorial services in Manila instead of in Capas, Tarlac.

In addition to Vice-Minister Bonifacio, those composing the Committee are Vice-Minister Ramon Macasat, Vice-Chairman, and Directors Engracio Babre, Simeon de Jesus, Francisca T. Benitez, and Segundo Infante, Mrs. Josefa Jara Martinez, Mrs. Geronima T. Torres, Miss Luz Reyes, Miss Lourdes Alunan and Miss Julieta Ledesma, Members.

120,000 Nuts Distributed

Grateful Manilans bought coconuts at fifteen distributing stations last week at P2 pesos each plus transportation and handling expenses which did not exceed P0.50 for each nut. The 120,000 coconuts distributed were procured by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

In connection with the distribution, the people of Manila were requested to cooperate with the Ministry of Economic Affairs by denouncing anomalies such as fail-

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151 Prisoners Pardoned

An additional list of 151 prisoners pardoned by President Jose P. Laurel on the occasion of the observance of the first anniversary of the Republic was released by Malacanan last week. It may be recalled that President Laurel granted executive clemency to hundreds of prisoners on the eve of the anniversary celebration.

The additional list includes the following:

Leopoldo Baello, Francisco Gatut, Pablo Macaroyo, Melencio Alejo, Francisco Lopez, Emiliano Balmaceda, Roberto Valdez, Julian Navarro, Romisio Lubag, Avelino Gomez, Generoso Austria, Gaudencio Rio de Que, Carlos Ventura, Federico Tabua, Sia Hiao Chin, Jorge Nalikat, Ignacio de la Cruz, Emilio Reyes, Jose C. Santiago, Domingo Espina, Felipe de los Santos, Chua Tong, Francisco David, Alfonso Lopez, Antonio Atalla, Kong Lan y Sam, Cesar Santos, Francisco Luce

ximo Quintos, Leodgerio Montero, Gaudencio Ormilla, Carlos Antolin, Jacobo Tuason, Matias Enaje, Lucio de los Santos, Silvino Cuyo y Quinsaat, Eduardo Guevarra, Bernardo Garcia y Imutan, Basilio Baquiran, Valentin Salanga y Torres, Mariano Celis y Devosa, Gregorio M. Ojima, Roberto Jacon, Marcos Galvez, Ricardo Dionisio, Emilio Nazario, Francisco Diaz, Alfredo Francisco, Manuel Gatallan.

Andres Bagui, Maximo Carisao, Pedro Olas, Eustaquio Baguio, Benjamin Beley, Jose Caguerra, David Kahle, Elusipo Malate, Fulgencio Legaspi, Fortunato de la Cruz, Alberto Mical y Rotas, Meliton Reyes y Quizon, Florencio de los Santos, Ong Ka Yu Sun, Vicente Gatchalian, Graciano Dagadagan, Sui Chese, Atanacio Cullon, Crispulo Mardillijo, Nazario Senilla, Numeriano Gullon, Alfredo Idulsa, Froilan Carlos, Alfredo Encio, Carlos Canora, Marcelino Dumlaog, Ricardo Simpao, Ernesto Renon, Ernesto Tahod, Clemente Garcia, Herminogenes Trinidad, Manuel de Leon, Pablo Tatualla, Enrique Laxica, Teodoro Madrid, Joaquin Robles, Jose Camacho, Jose Rabacco, Hernando Villanueva, Pedro Telig, Jose Ortega, Domingo Sumalpong, Primitivo Lim, Buenaventura del Rosario, Nicanor Perez, Ponciano Alvarez, Ceferino Picadizo, Alfredo Umali, Antonio Mamad, Carlos Cabral.

Amado Monayoc, Felipe Bustamante, Ismael Bustamante, Daniel Hernandez, Rufino Urbano, Epitacio Ligaya, Rizal Vicente Salvador

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Pedrosa Back From Nippon

Vice-Minister of Finance Pio Pedrosa, director of the Budget and Accounts, returned to Manila Thursday afternoon after having successfully accomplished the mission entrusted to him by President Jose P. Laurel.

Vice-Minister Pedrosa was sent to Japan by the President a few weeks ago in connection with the loan of P200,000,000 granted to the Republic by the Imperial Government of Japan.

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President Vests Organization With Police Powers, Authority

Auxiliary Police Body To Help Constabulary, Other Agencies Keep Peace And Order In All Provinces And Chartered Cities

An auxiliary police force to help maintain peace and order throughout the country has been created in every province and chartered city by President Jose P. Laurel in Ordinance No. 41, promulgated last October 24. The organization will be under the direct supervision and control of the Military Governor or Deputy Governor and will assist the Philippine Constabulary and other law-enforcing agencies of the Republic in a more effective enforcement of law and order.

Officers and men of the Home Guard have the powers and authority of peace officers, are appointive, and their command, number, arms, emoluments, rights to awards for meritorious and extraordinary service and to relief and condoleance privileges will be determined by the Military Governor or Deputy Governor concerned, subject to the approval of the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Ordinance creating the auxiliary police body follows in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 41. CREATING AN AUXILIARY POLICE ORGANIZATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE HOME GUARD.

There being an urgent necessity

throughout the country during the present emergency, and by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution and existing laws of the Philippines, I, JOSE P. LAUREL, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby order:

Section 1. There is hereby created an auxiliary police organization in every province and chartered city to be known as the Home Guard, under the direction, supervision, and control of the Military Governor or Deputy Governor concerned, to assist the Philippine Constabulary and other law-enforcing agencies in the maintenance of peace and order. The officers and men of the Home Guard shall have the powers and authority of peace officers.

Sec. 2. The officers and men of the Home Guard shall be appointed

and their command, number, arms, emoluments, rights to awards for meritorious and extraordinary service and to relief and condoleance

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Sison Issues Warning

In his capacity as Chief Delegate of the President and Inspector General of Martial Law, Minister of Home Affairs Teofilo Sison issued last Friday a warning to the people against laws which acts inimical to the safety and security of the country, including the spreading of subversive propaganda and rumors about the war tending to cause misunderstanding and disturb peace and order.

This warning was sent to the Military Governor of Manila and to all the deputy military governors of the country for the guidance of all concerned.

The warning reads as follows: "Existing laws punish acts inimical to the safety and security of the country, including the spreading of subversive propaganda and rumors about the war tending to cause misunderstanding and disturb peace and order. Everybody, especially third party nationals, is hereby warned to refrain from committing such acts, otherwise he shall be dealt with severely in accordance with martial law."

Research On Nutrition Gains Headway, Dr. Sison Reports

The researches of scientists of the Board of Nutritional Research have gained considerable headway since the creation of the Board shortly after the establishment of the Republic, Chairman A. G. Sison of the Board stated in a recent report submitted to the President. The nutrition body, according to its chairman, has not only recommended measures for the prevention of deficiency diseases but has also undertaken researches and produced medicines for the proper treatment of those already suffering from vitamin deficiencies.

In cooperation with the Institute of Hygiene, vitamin-A oil was produced in large quantities and distributed to those afflicted with dietary ailments. Vitamin D was also produced. The first batch of vitamin A produced contained 4,000 International Units of vitamin A per gram. Subsequent products contained 12,000, 24,000, and 32,000 International Units per gram, respectively. The latest improved vitamin A product being manufactured and distributed has a potency of 64,000 International Units per gram.

Another important discovery of the Board of Nutritional Research is a crystalline grayish substance now used in the treatment of hookworm and tapeworm infestations in man. Technical men of the Board have also succeeded in extracting vitamins A and B from grass and medicinal alcohol from the fruits of acacia trees.

Scientists of the Board have undertaken research projects and investigations in cooperation with the Institute of Hygiene. Diets have been prepared that would meet the minimum nutritional requirements of the low-income groups of the population. The Board has collected basic nutritional data which will be released for the benefit of the public in due time. Jointly with the Institute of Hygiene, the Board of Nutritional Research is today manufacturing anti-amoebic dysentery drug.

The nutrition research board is young and has great possibilities, Chairman A. G. Sison stated in his report. Given time, he believes that the board would be able to do what the people expect of it.

Reconstruction Work Undertaken By Republic

By GABINO TABUNAR, Jr.

Exactly a year ago today, the Filipinos achieved the long-cherished dream of independence. After being bound by the shackles of western imperialism, after being oppressed by the Spaniards for a little more than three centuries, and after having been dominated by the Americans for 40 years, the Philippines was proclaimed an independent nation by the champion of East Asia, the Empire of Japan.

On October 14, 1943, Japan lived true to her war aims to free the Orientals from western domination and establish Asia for the Asians by granting to the Filipinos the long-aspired-for dream of their heroes and martyrs—national freedom. But the Filipinos then were still reeling from the ravages of war. The USAFFE had left in its wake burning towns, destroyed bridges, upheaved roads, sunken bottoms, thus rendering impractic-

able the smooth interflow of food-stuffs.

What have the Filipinos done about it? The progress has been remarkable—remarkable in the fact that despite the world-wide conflict that still rages unabated and notwithstanding the hardships that are usually attendant to a global war, the Filipinos, in the true spirit of the Co-Prosperity Sphere, shoulder-to-shoulder buckled down to real hard work.

Experts who studied the living conditions of the people, especially in Manila, all agreed that one of the determining factors for the success of the extensive food production campaign launched by the Government was transportation. Accordingly, the Government set to work, first, on roads. Roads considered as first-class and second-

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25 Pass Pharmacist Examinations

Josefina H. Abreu Tops List—Quiat Is Close Second

Twenty-five candidates passed the theoretical and practical examinations given last July by the Board of Pharmaceutical Examiners. The list of new pharmacists was topped by Josefina H. Abreu with an average of 91.79 for the theoretical examination and 93.88 for the practical examination. A close second was Luz Quiat whose averages were 91.52 and 93.1 for the theoretical and practical examinations, respectively.

The list of successful candidates as released by the Malacanan Board of Information is as follows:

1. Josefina H. Abreu
2. Luz Quiat
3. Eurosina B. Ramoso
4. Amparo C. de Luna
5. Felisa L. Caro
6. Jovita B. Sumulong
7. Caridad Martinez
8. Mercedes H. Fernandez
9. Iliaw S. Eusebio
10. Tabita I. Ramos
11. Victoria D. Ante
12. Piedad Ma. Cruz
13. Maria B. Cancellor
14. Aurelia M. Ayo
15. Mercedes Manalo
16. Angela S. Bangoy
17. Beatriz Apostol-Picard
18. Rosita G. Flores
19. Perfecta N. Tanalega-Raymundo
20. Remedios Ubaldo-Campana
21. Esperanza R. Yusi
22. Puresa L. Zapanta
23. Gracia Bulid
24. Benito S. Manansala
25. Gerarda M. Chupoco

Appointments Are Announced

Presidential appointments announced last week by Malacanan are as follows:

Pedro G. Albano, acting deputy military governor of Ilocos Norte, to succeed ex-Governor Modesto M. Farolan who resigned to become the manager and editor of "The Republic";

Vicente A. Arguelles, Solicitor, Bureau of Public Prosecution;

Bartolome de Vera, acting municipal mayor of San Mateo, Rizal;

Luis Floresca, Justice of the peace for Pidigg and Solsona, Ilocos Norte; and

Herminio J. Villanueva, Justice of the peace for San Marcelino, Castillejos and Subic, Zambales.

Baguio ...

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several trips, according to agreement with the owners, the trucks are returned.

The Imperial Japanese Forces have done everything to help keep Baguio the model city that it has always been and has lent the city administration its full cooperation. The Military Governor of District No. 2, Justice Dionisio de Leon, is also backing the city administration to the full.

151 Prisoners...

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Blanquera, Benjamin Santo Domingo, Francisco Ignacio, Flaviano de la Torre, Ramon Abad, Angel Bonifacio, King Hiam Yao, Ang Kiam, Ho Kiam, Ang Lee, Chua Chia, Go Hoo, Chua Pac, Andres Robles, Lorenza Jimena, Feliciano de Guzman, Angela Gomez, Margarita Manangan, Marcelina Garcia, Maria Luz, Marciana Torres, Renigia de la Vera, Virginia Mercado, Caridad de la Cruz, Trinidad Arizabal, Lucia Dibantes, Maria de la Rosa, Elisa Dizon, Raymundo Santiago, Avelino Iglesias, Paterno Galano, Angel Perez, Jose Lopez, Rodrigo Santos, Dee Ching Ting, Cipriano Eblonga, Simeon Partoza, Herman Geronio, Sy Tiong, Alberto Castro, Felipe Alazar, Mateo Bernardino, Jose Aveleta, and Mariano Arriola.

Pres. Vests...

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privileges determined by the Military Governor or Deputy Governor concerned, subject to the approval of the Minister of Home Affairs as Chief Delegate of the President and Inspector-General under the Martial Law. The designs of the necessary insignias shall be uniform throughout the Philippines and shall be determined by the Commanding General of the Philippine Constabulary, subject to the same approval. In the City of Manila, the necessary insignias shall be determined by the Military Governor, subject, likewise, to the same approval.

Sec. 3. The Minister of Home Affairs, as Chief Delegate of the President and Inspector-General under the Martial Law, in hereby authorized to issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary with a view to the immediate organization herein created.

Sec. 4. All laws, orders, ordinances, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its promulgation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 24th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and forty-four, and of the Republic of the Philippines, the second.

JOSE P. LAUREL
President of the Republic
of the Philippines

120,000 Nuts...

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ure on the part of MCCA managers to distribute the whole allotment or the charging of excessive prices. The complaints, it was announced, could be sent either directly to the Public Relations Office of the President in Malacanan or through the suggestion boxes located at strategic places in Manila.

The coconuts for distribution were allotted to 15 distributing stations, as follows:

District Station No. 1. 1435 Vermont, Paco—MCCA No. 2. MCCA's under this station are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. (Manager in charge—Mrs. Consolacion Sygud).

District Station No. 2. 1351 Gen. Luna, Ermita—MCCA No. 17. MCCA's under this station are: 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. (Manager in charge—Mr. Juan P. Juan).

District Station No. 3. 61 Porvenir, Pasay—MCCA No. 164. MCCA's under this station are: 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, and 164. (Manager in charge—Mr. Jesus Aguirrochoa).

District Station No. 4. 139 P. Villanueva, Pasay—MCCA No. 151. MCCA's under this station are: 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 165, 166, and 167. (Manager in charge—Mr. Pacifico Niguidula).

District Station No. 5. 197 Calderon, Sta. Ana—MCCA No. 26. MCCA's under this station are: 27, 28, 29, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147. (Manager in charge—Mrs. Ana L. Sygud).

District Station No. 6. 641 Paz, Paco—MCCA No. 34. MCCA's under this station are: 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39. (Manager in charge—Mr. Miguel Santos).

District Station No. 7. 12 Sto. Toribio, San Juan—MCCA No. 137. MCCA's under this station are: 120, 121, 122, 134, 135, 136, 138, and 139. (Manager in charge—Fortunato Cascante).

District Station No. 8. 601 M. de Santos, San Nicolas—MCCA No. 64. MCCA's under this station are: 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, and 66. (Manager in charge—Mr. Macario V. Linso).

District Station No. 9. 1301 Sande, Tondo—MCCA No. 69. MCCA's under this station are: 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72. (Manager in charge—Mr. Simplejo Santos).

District Station No. 10. 321 Tayanun, Sta. Cruz—MCCA No. 52. MCCA's under this station are: 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54 and 81. (Manager in charge Mr. Lorenzo Cruz).

District Station No. 11. 423 A. Mabini, Calocan—MCCA No. 123. MCCA's under this station are: 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132 and 133. (Manager in charge—Mr. Juan Cunanan).

District Station No. 12. 340 R. Hidalgo, Quiapo—MCCA No. 75. MCCA's under this station are: 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 86, 87, 88, 92 and 93. (Manager in charge—Mr. Arsenio Tiangco).

District Station No. 13. Corner Requens and Misericordia, Sta. Cruz—MCCA No. 91. MCCA's under this station are: 55, 80, 82,

20,000 Kilos of Dried Fish Sold Thru Eighty MCCA's

The Ministry of Economic Affairs sold 20,000 kilos of dried fish to the people of Manila last week, thru the MCCA's at P35.00 a kilo. The sale was limited to 1 kilo for each head of family.

In accordance with the arrangements effected by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the 20,000 kilos were sold thru 80 MCCA's, to 80,449 heads of families. The name of each buyer was recorded and ready for inspection at any time by the Bureau of Investigation agents and food inspectors.

In this connection the Ministry issued the following statement: "Untold efforts have been exerted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, with the cooperation of the Military authorities, and the NADISCO, to provide the population

of Manila with the above quantity of dried fish at reasonable prices. All this has been done by the government for the benefit of the public and not of any individual or group of individuals. The public is urged to denounce any anomalies that may come to their knowledge for the punishment of the guilty party."

The Ministry also stated that cassava flour, camote and coconuts would be available last week at reasonable prices. Vigilance and cooperation in connection with the distribution thereof was requested. The government may be greatly handicapped in its desire to serve the greatest number of people unless whole-hearted cooperation is accorded by the beneficiaries themselves.

Reconstruction...

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class were maintained and made available throughout the period. Improvements were undertaken on a few important sections of the Manila-North, Manila-South, and Cagayan Valley roads. The Mangkayan-Cervantes road in Ilocos Sur was completed.

Realizing the importance of improving the Manila-South road, the Government initiated a plan to start construction work on the Sipocot-Pamploña road in Camarines Sur. The completion of this project will avoid the necessity of crossing the Bicol river and thus shorten the route. The road traversing the heart of Mindanao from Cagayan, in Oriental Misamis, to the City of Davao, passing through Bukidnon, has been opened to traffic.

Merchants who passed from one province to another two years ago had to detour whenever they reached a bridge, for most of the bridges at that time had either been blown up or partly damaged, rendering them useless to traffic. Today those same bridges have been either reconstructed or are

As a proof of this commendable accomplishment on the part of the Government, seven permanent bridges, situated in Batangas, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Laguna and Tayabas, with an aggregate span of 1,120 lineal feet were reconstructed. At present, the officials concerned are laying out plans for the construction of 14 permanent and six semi-permanent bridges.

Several port works have also been perfected by the Government. The Helwa seawall in Manila was repaired. The ports of Jolo (Sulu), Legaspi (Albay), Gaang (Ilocos Norte), Mauban (Tayabas), Sorsogon (Sorsogon), and Iligan (Lanao) were also repaired. A concrete pier in Batangas was constructed while the timber pier in San Fernando, La Union, was reconstructed. Plans are being taken for the extension of the Manila North Harbor and for the proposed marginal wharf at Davao city. In this way, the perfection of the Island's port facilities will immeasurably contribute to the realization of the Republic's plan of an efficient inter-island shipping.

Our merchant marine, before the outbreak of the current war, was not truly emphasized and encouraged by the former regime, although it knew and realized the importance of inter-island shipping for the well-being of the Filipinos. A country like the Philippines needs inter-island ships that will contribute to the healthy economic development of the Republic. This fact the Philippine Government realized, and sure enough, on June 3, 1943, the first inter-island vessel to be constructed in the Philippines was launched, followed by many others. Private enterprises organized themselves to avoid ruinous competition and put

83, 84, 85, 89, 90, 108, 109 and 112. (Manager in charge—Mr. Maximo de Guzman).

District Station No. 14. 69 Alejandro VI, Sampaloc—MCCA No. 101. MCCA's under this station are: 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104 and 105. (Manager in charge—Mr. Tomas Gomez).

District Station No. 15. 7 Kanlaon, Balintawak—MCCA No. 116. MCCA's under this station are: 106, 107, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 117, 118 and 119. (Manager in charge—Mr. Mariano Lichauco).

Dental Test Results Out

Ten candidates successfully passed the dentist examination given last June by the Board of Dental Examiners. The list of successful examinees, which was released by Malacanan, Saturday, was topped by Esmeralda de los Santos with an average of 83.25 per cent and 79.68 per cent for the theoretical and practical examinations, respectively. Second in the list is Luisa de los Santos. Guillermo F. Juliano placed third.

The list of new dentists follows:

1. Esmeralda de los Santos
2. Luisa de los Santos
3. Guillermo F. Juliano
4. Generoso N. Montellano
5. Florentina M. Clemente-Romero
6. Lydia O. Llamas-Reyes
7. Alfo Garcia
8. Buenaventura S. Savella
9. Lutgardo del Rosario
10. Juanito V. Santiago

even to mountains, were common scenes in the Philippines. For when the smoke of battle had cleared, countless towns and cities lay devastated, devoured by fire.

The task of reconstruction was indeed an arduous one. Losing no time, the Government immediately prepared and placed development plans in the hands of qualified provincial engineers.

Probably one of the most outstanding accomplishments of the Government in the redevelopment of destroyed towns and cities is the "rejuvenation" of the metropolis of Cebu. This commercial city of the Visayas was converted into smoking ruins with half of the city swept by fire. Undaunted by this disaster, the Government, the Imperial Japanese Army and the people of Cebu worked hand in hand to resurrect the city from its battle-scarred ruins to a thriving normalcy. Business houses, schools and colleges have reopened. The people are actively engaged in food production. Although few motor vehicles are seen in the streets of the city, the inflow and outflow of essential foodstuffs go on smoothly by means of bull-carts and horse-drawn vehicles which are slightly suggestive of Filipino initiative and of the practical Oriental mind.

In the city of Manila, the nerve center of the Philippines, is probably where the exigencies of the war are most felt. Burdened by the multiple population that it did not previously have, the city naturally had to tackle various problems that usually confront a metropolis when it is peopled by an exceedingly large number.

The main task which the Government was confronted with was the problem of feeding the people. Foodstuffs from the provinces could be readily had, but the means of conveyance was inadequate, making the skyrocketing cost of commodity prices inevitable. Experts who made a careful study of the situation readily concluded that the abnormal rise of the prices was not due to the scarcity of foodstuffs, but to the difficulty of transportation from places where commodities were abundant to areas where they were much needed. As a result, countless measures have been introduced to ameliorate the living conditions of the people. One of these is the organization of the Land and Maritime Transportation Company (LAMATRA), the sole purpose of which is to transport foodstuffs from the provinces to Manila.

The reconstruction work in the Philippines during the past year since the acquirement of independence has been remarkable, indeed, forming an epic chapter in the history of the war. It is the story of a heroic people, who, inspired by freedom which had been denied them so long, boldly and bravely laid the foundation for the rebirth of a glorious new nation. But today, with the war having grown in intensity, the spectacular accomplishments of Filipinos, 18,000,000 strong, are being threatened.

With its very foundation as a sovereign state threatened, the Philippines, on September 23, declared war on the United States of America and Great Britain. The terror and devastation of modern warfare once again faces the Philippines; but the people of the young but courageous Republic are determined to face the war with the same faith and energy they displayed in the gigantic task of reconstructing their nation.—Domec News Agency.

Corpus Greeted On Birthday

Judge Rafael Corpus, member of the council of state, was the recipient of many congratulations upon the anniversary of his birthday last October 24. Leading the well-wishers of the elder statesman was President Laurel who sent to Judge Corpus the following letter:

"MY DEAR MR. CORPUS,

"I wish to join the members of your family and your many friends in wishing you much happiness and in celebrating this day so memorable to you and to all of us. I do so, not only because of the friendship that binds us, but also for a still higher motive: for the privilege of having you on my side, together with other worthy compatriots, amidst the vicissitudes and sacrifices that necessarily face all those complying with their duties as Filipinos and towards our people during these moments of supreme trial. Your example is like a mirror upon which all of our countrymen should look at themselves.

"Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) JOSE P. LAUREL
President
Republic of the Philippines"

into service a fleet of ships made wholly of Philippine woods and manned by Japanese-trained Filipino mariners. These ships at present ply between Manila and the southern ports, thus insuring the supply of commodities which are much-needed in the south and vice versa. Sailboats or bancas (native boats) also carry foodstuffs from one coastal town to another.

Before the current war, the Philippines had been importing large quantities of rice from Saigon and other parts of East Asia. It cost the Philippines exactly P2,452,541 annually to import the cereal. During the last two years, the Philippines has been almost solely dependent upon its local rice output as well as other foodstuffs. In this connection the Government has planned the construction of 22 new irrigation projects to serve 10,000 hectares of land in the provinces of Luzon and thus augment the national food production increase campaign. In the early part of this year, 18 irrigation projects, to serve 8,600 hectares, were started and at present four are serving 2,000 hectares in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Zambales, Nueva Ecija and Tayabas. The operation of 12 Government-owned irrigation systems serving 84,000 hectares was geared in line with the Government's program of increased food production.

Simultaneously, the planting of rice substitutes such as camote, cassava, mungo, and corn was encouraged to a greater extent in the areas within the scope of these systems. Highly encouraged by the Government, farmers have built communal irrigation systems with a view to serving more land and to enable themselves to harvest more crops. Under the guidance of Government experts, these farmers have taken advantage of the technical assistance extended them as well as of the loan of construction tools and materials.

Two years ago, endless screams of homeless people with bag and baggage trekking and migrating to barrios, towns or provinces, and