

CHARACTER EDUCATION SECTION

Himself His Capital

By Resituto Carpio

MY parents were so poor that they could afford to give me only an elementary school education. I did not know what to do when I graduated from the seventh grade. Oh! If I were only rich, I would be with my classmates in the high school, perhaps to pursue this or that course in a college or university after graduation. At the time I heard of a school in Central Luzon where boys could work and study at the same time. I applied for admission in this school."

"The work at the Central Luzon Agricultural School was a man's job. I was a student farmer, and I built my house, cleared the land, and planted it in rice. While here I learned that if a student were but industrious, he had a chance to rise in the world. A good piece of irrigated land in Muñoz yields 300 cavans of palay a hectare. In 1920 a cavan of palay cost ₱10. At this rate one can decently live on a hectare of land."

"At the end of the first year, I decided to go to Mindanao. With the little share from my earnings realized out of my rice crop, I started for the south. However, upon reaching Misamis, I had barely enough money to keep me alive. So I went to work as laborer for a lumber company at Kolumbugan. In order to save money, I practised rigid economy in food and clothing. The next year I started for Agusan where I cleared a forest for *kaingin*. I had two hectares planted to corn. When I harvested my crop, I found out that I had 300 sacks of shelled corn. I sold my corn in Bukidnon for ₱15.00 a sack, and I was so happy to receive ever so much money in my life. I got a homestead, I sent for my parents up north, and here in Mindanao we are going to stay for good."

That is the story of Juan Santo Tomas whom I met on a boat when the writer was on his way to Mindanao in July, 1921. I have not heard from him since. But it is safe to conclude that any person who has ambition, industry, perseverance, and thrift is bound to succeed like him. For it is good ambition to improve the condition of your living and to do well whatever you do.

The World's Finest Gem

ONE of the most precious things which money can buy is the diamond. In our country persons who have money usually buy a diamond ring, or a diamond earring, or a diamond pin, or a diamond necklace. Some of them think that buying a diamond is one good way of saving money. For instance, when a person has a diamond ring he can use it for ornament; and when he needs money, he can always pawn it.

A diamond as big as a mongo seed costs as much as ₱200. A diamond as big as a grain of corn sells as much as ₱2,000.

One of the finest diamonds in the world is called *Kohinoor*. This word means "mountain of light." The *Kohinoor* was given as a gift to Queen Victoria of England in 1849.

In the year 1905 there was discovered in South Africa a big diamond. It was the largest diamond in history. It became the property of Sir Thomas Cullinan. It is now known as the *Cullinan* diamond. It weighed 1.37 pounds. Its size was 4 inches long, 2.5 inches wide, and 1.25 inches high. It was presented to King Edward VII of England in 1907.

Last year a poor farmer, 62 years old, by the name of Jacobus Jonker, became the owner of a diamond almost as large as the Cullinan. Jonker had been looking for a large diamond ever since he was yet a young man. But he was not lucky. He worked hard in mines. He spent years searching for one, but failed. So last year, 1934, he decided to leave mining and to become a farmer. Without much money saved, he settled down in a small farm, a poor man. One day there was a strong rain and wind. Jonker sent his servant, a negro boy, to work in his small field. The boy picked up a stone of the size of a hen's egg. The stone looked different from the others. He scratched his head with it. Right then it began to shine. He immediately took it to his master. Jonker discovered it to be the large diamond he had been looking for. Its weight was 5 ounces. It was 2 3/4 inches long, 1 1/2 inches high, and about 1 inch wide. Jonker took it to a big diamond company in South Africa which paid him about ₱630,000. A diamond just taken from the earth is rough. It needs polishing. The company sent the Jonker diamond to New York to be cut and polished. Now that it is polished, it will cost over ₱1,000,000.