

For the Abad Santos family, a 3-story office building on Pennsylvania street, estimated to cost ₱60,000.

As is usually the case at this time of the year, most of the building permits issued are for residential buildings, and this fact accounts for the small volume of construction work during the period under review.

The price of essential materials remained firm. Steel bars are quoted at ₱360 per ton. Galvanized-iron sheets, both corrugated and plain, are selling at ₱6.00 to ₱6.20 per sheet for gauge 26, 8 feet long. Ordinary apitong and tanguile, are quoted at ₱120 to ₱240 per 1,000 bd. ft. Portland cement continued to be very scarce and many construction jobs had to be stopped due to lack of supply. A bag of 94 pounds, sold by the factory at ₱3.40 to ₱3.60, sells at from ₱8 to ₱10 per bag. To remedy the situation, the Central Bank has allocated enough dollars for the importation of 500,000 bags, but reports from Japanese suppliers state that the earliest shipment can be made only in September.

Port of Manila

By W. S. HURST

Executive Officer, Luzon Brokerage Company

THE tonnage of cargo delivered from the South Harbor piers for the month of May totalled 86,000 tons. It is anticipated, at the rate ships are arriving and with the amount of cargo each is bringing, that this tonnage will be greatly increased during the month of June.

The piers are once again in a sadly congested condition and it can be seen that the South Harbor piers are not large enough to handle the volume of imports that has been coming in. As a result of this congestion cargo can often not be located on the pier and deliveries in most cases cannot be made complete at one time. In many cases the cargoes of different ships are mixed together, and this, with the fact that it still takes around five days to have papers processed through the Custom House, adds to the congestion.

From reports in the newspapers it appears that the Customs Bureau is now suffering from lack of funds. In view of the amount of money that the Customs Bureau makes for the Government, the Bureau itself should not have its efficiency jeopardized by lack of funds to pay salaries and other overhead expenses.

As of June, Mr. Edilberto David took over as new Acting Customs Commissioner, taking his oath of office before Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. Col. Jaime Velasquez still remains as technical adviser to the President on customs affairs. As stated in a previous write-up, Mr. David is an old-timer in the Bureau of Customs. With his large knowledge of customs matters, we feel he should make a good Commissioner. This will be decided when it is seen how much cooperation is given to him by his department heads.

Ocean Shipping and Exports

By B. B. TUNOLD

Secretary-Manager

Associated Steamship Lines

TOTAL exports during the month of April this year showed a decrease of 55,814 tons as compared with exports during April of last year; 133 vessels lifted 378,964 tons of exports during the month, as against 434,325 tons lifted by 137 vessels during the same month last year.

The decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction in hemp and iron ore exports.

Exports for April, 1954, as compared with exports during April, 1953, were as follows:

Commodity	1954	1953
Beer.....	40 tons	169 tons
Cigars and cigarettes.....	15 "	17 "
Coconut, desiccated.....	3,041 "	4,125 "
Coconut oil.....	3,860 "	4,234 "
Concentrates containing copper, gold, silver, lead, and zinc.....	383 "	—
Concentrates, copper.....	7,726 "	1,098 "
Copra.....	48,943 "	41,236 "
Copra cake and meal.....	5,460 "	4,079 "
Embroideries.....	260 "	227 "
Empty cylinders.....	114 "	327 "
Fruits, fresh, mangoes.....	531 "	468 "
Furniture, rattan.....	615 "	1,234 "
Glycerine.....	84 "	—
Gums, copal.....	63 "	100 "
Hemp.....	52,751 bales	95,032 bales
Hemp rugs.....	171 tons	—
Household goods and personal effects.....	220 "	188 tons
Junk metal.....	23 "	265 "
Logs.....	32,569,203 bd.ft.	29,822,776 b.ft.
Lumber, sawn.....	5,037,606 "	5,091,293 "

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