

leaf retainers especially made for that purpose and is ready for shipment.

The production capacity of the plant requires from 100 to 150 tons of green bark daily, or a minimum of 35,000 tons annually.

To harvest this quantity of *Lucrative* bark daily and transport it to *Employment* the factory will require the labor of at least 1,000 men continually in the mangrove swamps. In addition nearly 200 more or less skilled employees will be used around the factory and in transporting the bark.

Mr. Kerr is now having constructed in a local shipyard twelve specially designed barges, and these, with two powerful tugs, will transport the bark from the distant stations to the factory.

The company has entered into a contract with Jos. S. Johnston to handle the raw material department. Within six weeks Mr. Johnston expects to have 500 men in the mangle swamps stripping bark and will build up the organization to 1,000 or more as rapidly as possible.

This new industry will give lucrative employment to a class of the population that has heretofore eked out a meager existence from the sea. The money distributed in the immediate vicinity of Zamboanga will amount to more than P2,000 a day, practically all of which will eventually reach the tills of the local merchants.

The factory will utilize the bark of the various species of the *bacauan*, *pototan* and probably the *langaray* trees. There has been no market for these species heretofore and great quantities have been destroyed and wasted by the Moros in getting out firewood, inflicting great loss upon the community and the government.

Another phase of this industry, of almost equal importance to the bark, is that of the wood products. The company is required by the government to clear out all the *Firewood* in wood after the bark has been *Abundance* stripped therefrom, in order that it may replant the mangrove area. This will produce an enormous quantity of wood for fuel and other purposes, assuring an ample supply for the community at large and such manufacturers as may need it.

This department will eventually employ as many men as the bark department, and will practically double the payroll of P2,000 a day already mentioned.

There is no doubt that through the scientific management and control of harvesting and replanting which the company will carry out, this hitherto unused and valueless natural resource will be preserved as a source of wealth to the community in perpetuity.

Hereafter when the fair ladies of Zamboanga go shopping for the latest styles in high-heeled slippers, chinelas and traveling bags, and their men folks barter with the merchants for shoes, saddles, harness and such like articles, they should feel much satisfaction in the knowledge that their community contributes no insignificant part to that wonderful process of making "purses out of sows' ears."

No substitute has yet been discovered for tannin, the essential chemical used in making fine leather from the skins of animals, and tannin (cutch) is manufactured from the bark of the mangrove trees that grow in such abundance in the vast tidewater swamps in the close vicinity of Zamboanga.

For ages this potential wealth has gone to waste, except for the firewood the Moros have cut for their own use and for sale in the neighboring towns. Now it is to be turned into a valuable commodity to supply the world's demands, and all the people of this region will profit thereby.

The cutch factory, which will soon be in operation in Zamboanga, is the first industry of its kind to be established in this locality and the people do not yet understand and appreciate its magnitude and the benefits that will come to them because of it.

In the production of cutch more than eighty per cent. of the total cost is for labor. When the factory is running to capacity about 1,500 men will be employed, and the great majority of them will be Moros gathering bark in the swamps. With ordinary industry a Moro will earn P2 a day. More than he ever earned before in his life. Not less than P3,000 will be paid to these

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men every day; more than P1,000,000 every year. It is not hard to visualize what this will mean in better food and clothing for thousands of poor people and to the merchants of Zamboanga.

Due to a misunderstanding a rumor has become current locally that a hardhearted government has given a great corporate octopus a monopoly of all the mangle swamps and that the people's firewood supply is to be fed as fodder into its capacious maw. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Local dealers have taken advantage of this rumor to boost the prices of firewood temporarily, but prices will soon return to a lower scale than they were three months ago.

It must be remembered that the cutch company is interested principally in the bark of

the mangrove trees. The concession from the government provides, however, that in taking the bark they must also clear out the wood and replant the areas for future generations. In order to protect the consumers of firewood the company has just signed contracts with local dealers, turning over to them all the wood they can possibly sell, with the specific provision that it shall not be sold at higher prices than prevailed before the concession was granted.

For every ton of bark gathered in the swamps there are left three tons of firewood. When the cutch factory is in full production it will consume 150 tons of bark a day. This means that there will be 450 tons of firewood available every day—enough to supply the demands of all of Mindanao and Sulu, with Manila thrown in for good measure.

Heretofore firewood has been gathered by the people in a most wasteful manner. Regulations of the Forestry Bureau provided that an individual or a company must secure a license to cut from a specified area. This provision has never been adhered to as the bureau was never able to enforce its rules. A Chinaman in Zamboanga would apply for a license to cut firewood from a small area, near Manicahan say, that he had never seen and never expected to see. He would then hire a dozen Moros to go out and cut anywhere their fancy or the abundance of good wood took them. The result has been that the whole coast line for miles is now stripped of the best trees, the tops and branches of which have been left to rot and interfere with new growth, causing a mass of twisted and stunted jungle that has little or no commercial value.

All this will now be changed. The cutch corporation will see that the bark and wood are gathered systematically and that all cut-over areas are reforested. It will do this not only because the government requires it, but to assure a perpetual supply of raw material for its factory.

—Mindanao Herald.

### Public Works Release of 1928 Waterworks Funds

The release of P550,000, representing the waterworks funds in the 1928 public works budget, has been requested as follows:

"For completing construction work on the following waterworks projects:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Tabaco, Albay                             | P 1,500.00 |
| 2. Guindulman, Bohol                         | 11,000.00  |
| 3. Pasacao, Camarines Sur                    | 3,100.00   |
| 4. Carcar, Cebu                              | 15,000.00  |
| 5. Minglanilla, Cebu                         | 4,000.00   |
| 6. Santiago, Ilocos Sur                      | 12,000.00  |
| 7. San Vicente, Ilocos Sur                   | 11,000.00  |
| 8. Santa Catalina, Ilocos Sur                | 2,000.00   |
| 9. Lumban, Laguna                            | 15,000.00  |
| 10. Bo, Toboso, Escalante, Occidental Negros | 10,700.00  |
| 11. Calatrava, Occidental Negros             | 23,500.00  |
| 12. Bacong, Oriental Negros                  | 1,500.00   |
| 13. Libertad, Oriental Negros                | 2,200.00   |
| 14. Badajoz, Romblon                         | 4,000.00   |
| 15. Cajidiocan, Romblon                      | 4,000.00   |

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 5. Meycauayan, Bulacan  | 25,000.00   |
| 6. Capiz, Capiz (Capiz-Ivisan Waterworks)                         | 25,000.00   |
| 7. Ivisan, Capiz (Capiz-Ivisan Waterworks)                        | 18,000.00   |
| 8. Naga, Camarines Sur (Camarines Sur Metropolitan Waterworks)    | 15,000.00   |
| 9. Megarao, Camarines Sur (Camarines Sur Metropolitan Waterworks) | 15,000.00   |
| 10. Tanjay, Oriental Negros                                       | 12,000.00   |
| 11. San Fernando, Pampanga  | 25,000.00   |
| 12. Atimonan, Tayabas   | 14,500.00   |
| Total   | P550,000.00 |

### ISLANDS' ASSESSED PROPERTIES

The total assessment value of real property in the Philippines in 1927 was P1,668,242,205, compared with P1,612,984,270, in 1926, an increase of P44,291,162.

In the 39 regular provinces alone, the total value of taxable property last year amounted to P1,330,362,853 compared with P1,286,071,691 in 1926.

The value of property in special provinces last year amounted to P78,217,470 compared with P74,612,966 in 1926, or an increase of P3,604,504. In Manila, the assessment value of real property last year amounted to P256,624,907, compared with P249,510,93 in 1926, or an increase of P7,114,014. The assessment of real property in Baguio last year amounted to P3,036,975, compared with P2,788,120 in 1926, or an increase of P248,255.

### CIRCULATION

The total of money in circulation in the Philippines on February 4, according to the insular auditor's report, was P139,212,042.70: Philippine coins, P21,300,144.50; Treasury certificates, P89,376,388; banknotes, P28,335,510.20.



(Continued from page 16)

eggs, chickens and vegetables—all of which were lacking before. Here again the administration must watch its step, under the mortifying eye of the politician. A leper family may grow a great deal of produce and poultry, but may not have these for its own consumption and enjoyment; all is bought by the administration and the colonists, by this means, kept on the even keel of the regular and official ration, furnished free.

Thus no politician can truthfully say that some are rationed free and others left to rustle for themselves. Though many might do much better for themselves, and would benefit from

the effort, which they should likewise enjoy, the mendicancy of stark invalidism is enforced upon them by the circumstances, whether they really are invalids or not. The better diet the new supplies of poultry, eggs and vegetables have made possible give tone to the patients' general health; these and the exercise found in the daily work connected with growing them tend to reduce the inroads of tuberculosis, the malady from which most lepers really die. No doubt this is significant in the progress of the patients under the medical treatment; it has helped the 200 patients which Governor Gilmore reported as additional negative cases after his holiday visit to the colony.

## Davao Lades 82 Ocean Ships: Plantations Thrive

By F. M. WOODSIDE

With eighty-two foreign vessels and ninety-two coastwise vessels calling at the port of Davao during the year 1927, besides the continual operation of a fleet of sixty launches, ranging from powered bancas to larger modern launches of one hundred tons and more, including the latest types and of Diesel power plants, development is fast increasing in the Davao region.

Foreign tonnage for the year moved a total of 168,985 bales of the finest hemp produced in the Philippine Islands 4,057,174 kilos of copra, and 334,992 board feet of lumber.

Custom house valuations show a total value of exports of P10,759,866, with custom house receipts totalling P175,380.

Imports for the same period amounted to 1,245,856 kilos only, as this is a new port of entry and local merchants have not completed arrangements with foreign firms for direct imports.

Direct hemp exports increased 6,582 bales, with the increase of copra amounting to 11,000 piculs over 1926 shipments.

New hemp plantings are in evidence everywhere and the next year should show a much larger increase. Hemp prices have been good and for the most part steady, which has made possible many improvements to plantations and accounts for much of the new planting.

Copra has maintained a steady price, but slightly lower than expected. The next year will show a much greater increase as many thousand new trees will come into bearing during the year. Planting of coconuts has far exceeded any equal period of the past, altho no very large single plantings have been made, but the great number of home-steaders and small plantings will no doubt exceed even the most liberal estimates.

Purchase of machinery and implements for plantation use has shown up well. At the present time three large central stripping plants are in operation, as well as several mechanical driers for copra. Much is expected from a new type natural draft drier now being installed on one of the large coconut plantations. The quality of copra has greatly increased with the use of the driers, which no doubt will have its effect on the market and encourage other plantations to install driers.

During the last few months two shipments of logs and considerable sawn lumber have been exported by direct steamers to Japan. This industry is the newest of exports and a big field is offered in this commodity as large stands of timber meet the water edge at several places in the northern end of the Davao gulf.

For several years silk worms and mulberry trees have been raised on a small but scientific scale with much better production than is possible in other places. Therefore it is expected that silk will take its place with other exports within the next few years.

At the extreme southern end of the gulf pineapples have been producing fruit for the experienced eye and taste of an expert from Hawaii for several seasons and, according to reports, it is expected that canning and direct exports of pineapples will soon rival that of the Hawaiian Islands.

Land for agricultural purposes, for the growing of hemp, coconuts, rubber, pineapples, coffee

and all tropical crops, is plentiful and easily obtained for occupancy, but often require several years to get title. During the year 159 ap-



Manila Hemp in Davao

plications, covering more than 11,500 hectares of land for purchase, were made, but only 17 were awarded, totalling 2,000 odd hectares. There

## Tiruray Legend of the Fall and Redemption of Man

Philippine Parallel of the Story in the Bible

Stories of pagan origin of the creation and of the redemption abound in the Philippines, where they still are far more than traditions among the many isolated tribes of pagan peoples.

In the simple folklore of the native peoples happy in their primitive hamlets one sees striking parallels to the sagas sung by the ancient shepherd race on the hillsides of Canaan; for these peoples in the Philippines also live near the stars and draw inspiration from the phenomena of nature round about them. One senses a brotherhood of all mankind in its universal awe in the presence of the unknown and the mysterious.

The Tirurays of Cotabato are a very small tribe contented with the most primeval existence, yet Tiruray mothers tell their children the proud story of the race. Its first home, it

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were 80 odd applications for leases made covering 45,900 hectares and only one award made for 425 hectares.

Public works development for the year have included the extension of the Santa Ana pier with concrete to a depth of 30 feet of water. Work on this pier should be finished within the next few months and will allow two of the biggest coastwise vessels to load or unload at the same time. When finally completed all large deepsea vessels will be able to dock and load direct over the pier.

Considerable new roads have been built and several kilometers are now under construction, as well as several bridges and sizeable cuts shortening the road to the south which will open up thousands of hectares of virgin lands.

A new concrete municipal building was completed early in the year, as well as a sizeable park around the provincial building.

Eleven large lighters, including a water barge, a ten-ton lift and two big tugs, afford quick dispatch to foreign vessels calling at the port and assure the producer the full value for his produce, as the gross of the production is loaded direct from plantation piers into lighters, thence direct into the ship that is to take it to its foreign market. This assures but one handling which greatly reduces stowage and handling charges to the producer. Loading at the port is often done in record time for out-port loading, five thousand bales loaded in one ship in a day is not unusual.

In all, the development of the province for the past year has been along good sound lines and shows a normal healthy increase which has made for general prosperity thruout the entire province.

—Mindanao Herald.

seems, was in heaven—or possibly a kind of Garden of Eden—but one day when all the tribe was out fishing a sudden wind blew all the boats away to this strange land—the Philippines—and the people have never been able to find their way back since.

But to get back to heaven is a hope that never wanes in the Tiruray heart, so tradition has invented a means of doing so. Indeed, there once was a leader, Lagi-Linguas, Expect a who succeeded in leading back to Redeemer heaven a portion of his people, but they were only a few, and they await the arrival of the rest.

Priests are baliangs among the Tirurays. At harvest time each year, when the people have something to pay for the holy service, there