

and take the product away regularly. The situation today is quite different from what it was when Pahl hiked barefoot to Davao to catch a smudgy steamer to Manila to raise a bare grubstake.

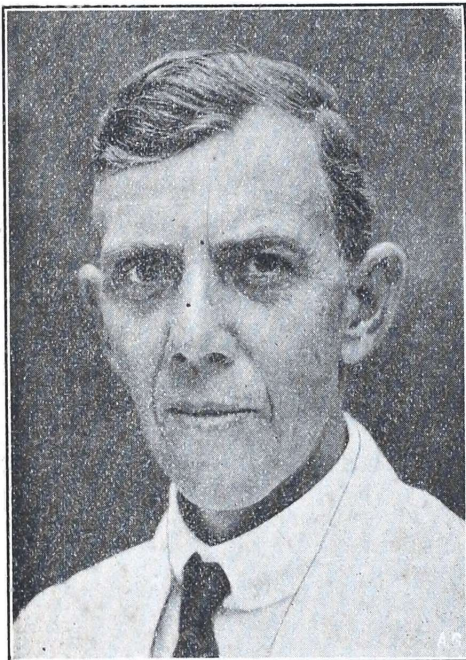
The little thatch shanty is gone. In its stead has risen the finest plantation house, perhaps, in all south Mindanao. Every bedroom has running water, lights and a private bath. The plantation paid for them; they are what Davao land has given one man who had the faith to play the game out to the end. Development of the plantation has brought prosperity to the whole community—which is, almost without exception, the experience of every Davao community where an American has taken up land. Far all among the *Bitanes* and *Manobos* who wish to work, Pahl provides something to do; even children are paid

ten cents, the wages of men in the adjacent tropics. Men earn regularly P45 to P60 a month. Besides, they have their perquisites from the orchard and gardens. No cold storage shipping space is to be had; the surplus of vegetables and fruits can only be given away or allowed to rot. Florida grapefruit, even when sent to Davao, bring 3-1/3 centavos each; three fine ones sell for ten centavos. It is the same with oranges, mandarins, mangosteens and lemons, the same with melons and figs.

Rather a paradise, isn't it?—a place ideally situated on an inland sea, so thoroughly developed and so well equipped? If there were 200,000 such places in the Philippines carved out of the United States public domain as this one was, the islands would begin to take on the aspect of partial development.

Independence on Davao Homestead—What May Be Done with Sixteen Hectares

It is believed interesting to include in the material for this special issue of the Journal on the port and province of Davao a narrative of what an American has done on a homestead there, a mere sixteen hectares, or forty acres; not in any sense of the



George R. L. Pond, of the Moro Improvement Co., Davao. Also a Successful Homesteader, making 40 Acres pay P5,000 a Year

word a plantation, and commonly thought too meager a tract for the American to bother to take up. When a homestead of 16 hectares has been put into cultivation, another tract half the size can be added to it by application to the bureau of lands. Twenty-four hectares or sixty acres is the maximum homestead tract, but on the basis of what it can be made to produce it is much larger than the tract of 160 acres granted in the United States under the homestead law.

This is the story of what George R. L. Pond, a Davao planter, has been able to do with sixteen hectares. He has it all under cultivation and will take up the eight hectares additional which the law allows him.

Pond's more important interests are in the Moro Improvement Company, of which

C. M. Simmons is manager, Pond being employed as assistant. The company has a tract of 1005 hectares, taken up in 1906. On it are 100,000 hills of hemp and 3000 coconuts. The land was first taken under lease, but application to purchase was made in 1918, seven years ago, when the purchase price was deposited with the government. Since then matters have waited upon the land administration, either tangled in red tape or equally confused by other absurd impedimenta making delays interminable.

Seven years since the purchase application was filed—and no title yet! If such matters were stressed in official reports to Washington and in testimony before congressional committees, possibly there would be a national awakening to a realization of what the situation really is. More Filipinos are affected than Americans: the former, however, being mere peasants have no voice in public affairs, and the latter have little influence because they don't vote in the home elections.

The problem is not in the home district; ergo, there is no problem!

Pond has infinite patience, together with 23 years' experience. He took up his homestead of 16 hectares some years ago. It adjoins the plantation of the Moro Improvement Company. Practically speaking it can all be cultivated, and is cultivated. After Pond got possession of it he was looking about for workmen to put it into cultivation. In Davao, Japanese do this sort of thing. When they have finished one job they move on to the next. One day a group of them came to Pond's and Simmons' place. Did they want any planting done? No, not on the plantation; on Pond's homestead, yes. The usual bargain was struck, after due parley, and the Japanese moved onto the plantation and began operations, first building their thatch houses from materials everywhere at hand.

They cleared off the jungle and planted the place to coconuts. For every palm planted, Pond gave them fifty centavos. For every palm living at the end of one year, he gave them another half peso; for every one living at the end of two years, a peso; and for every one living at the end of three years, another peso, making three pesos per palm brought to the age of three years, at which time plantings are out of danger and begin to thrive with very little further cultivation. In this way the whole place planted up. Some 2000 coconuts are growing on it.

Of 100 of the first palms planted, Pond kept a careful record, numbering each

Pahl, of course, is a veteran. He is from Parkersburg, West Virginia, and came to the Philippines in 1900 with the 11st U. S. Volunteers on the Army Transport Logan via the Suez Canal, the Logan sailing from New York late in 1899 and arriving in Manila in January, 1900. From soldiering in Mindanao, Pahl learned of the great fertility of Davao lands and their untouched resources. He has made a first rate planter of himself; he reads the literature of agriculture and supplements the knowledge thus gained with his own experience. Leaving Manila a few days ago, he took with him a shipment of young plants of Liberian coffee, intending to develop coffee as a third important product of his plantation.

in order to do so. When at the bearing age, these palms averaged 60 nuts each per year, and 185 of the nuts made a full picul of copra. This is remarkable, nothing less; for in the great Laguna-Tayabas coconut country, the largest single coconut-area in the world, 290 nuts to the picul are figured as the average. Pond's record, on the other hand, cannot be questioned; it merely proves the fertility of Davao farm lands. It may be safely estimated that on his homestead four palms will produce a picul of copra per year. Roughly calculating, the entire homestead will produce 500 piculs of copra per year, which cannot be figured at an average less than ten pesos the picul, net, making an income of P5000 from the sixteen hectares. On the same basis the maximum homestead tract in Davao will yield an annual income of P7,500. Excepting in special branches such as orcharding, the best farm in the United States does not compare with this, no matter what hard work may be expended upon

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it. While in Davao, work is confined almost wholly to supervision. Hired workmen gather the nuts and prepare the copra for market; launches of the export houses in Davao, or barges of the stevedoring company operating at the port of Davao, call regularly at the plantation dock and haul the crop away—only too glad to get it, to fill out a steamship cargo and make up the monthly shipments to oil mills in America.

The public may disabuse its mind of the impression that the only paying projects in Mindanao farming are the big ones undertaken by companies. Some of these have

not paid yet, but there is no doubt of the homestead's paying—if an honest, patient man is employed on it. The holder of the homestead is not compelled to live on it; he can go ahead working elsewhere while the fields are being planted and fiber or palms or rubber brought to the production age. But selection of a manager for the place is the essential element in success. Hundreds of Americans originally went into Davao. Less than a hundred remain there. For the most part these men have been successful, Pond among them, but they are a winnowed community: the fail-

ures have sifted through the meshes of time.

Pond went to Davao as a hospital corps man in 1902, landing there in October. He came from Hollister, San Benito County, California. He took his discharge from the army in Davao, the year he went there, and has been there ever since. The big plantation he is interested in is a fine one, with a lot of land still to develop. But the yield from 100,000 hills of hemp and 3000 coconuts is not small. Pond tackled the Philippine jungle and made good.



Review of Business Conditions for August



REVIEW OF THE HEMP MARKET

By L. L. SPELLMAN
Macleod & Company



Our last report was dated December 1 with statistics up to November 30 and this report covers the month of December with statistics up to the year ending December 31, 1925.

U. S. GRADES.
On the first of the month the New York

market was firm with very little business doing; buyers were more or less indifferent. The nominal quotations were on the basis of J1 13-3/8¢, I 17-3/8¢ and F 18-3/8¢. The market was more or less quiet and by the 10th of the month shippers were offering to sell at J1 13-1/4¢, I 17¢ and F 18-3/8¢. The buyers continued to remain indifferent and outside of housemarks and special grades, very little business was transacted. During the holidays there was enquiry from the manufacturers and a fair amount of business developed. Naturally the market firmed up and there was some advance in prices, principally in the lower grades. The market closed for the month of the basis of J1 13-3/4¢, I 17-1/4¢ and F 18-3/4¢ with sellers rather than buyers.

At the beginning of the month exporters in Manila were buying on the basis of E P47.—, F P44.—, G 27.—, H 22.—, I 40.—, J1 30.—, S1 43.4, S2 40.— and S3 30.4. These prices ruled throughout the month with an occasional variation of from 2 to 4 reals on the different grades. All hemp arriving found a ready market and it is believed that the majority of the hemp to arrive between now and the middle of January has already been sold at these prices.

U. K. GRADES. The first of the month the U. K. market was firm and sales were being made on the basis of J2 £45.—, K £39.— and L £39.10 with housemarks bringing a slight premium. By the 10th of the month the U. K. market was quiet and prices had declined about £1/—/— per ton. There was a sharp decline during the next week and hemp was offered on the basis of J2 £42.10, K £36.10 and L £37.—. Then allowed a better market and by the 18th of the month sales were made on the basis of J2 £44.—, K £38.— and L £38.10. The market remained from steady to firm during the remainder of the month and closed on the basis of J2 £46.10, K £40.—, L £41.— and M £34.10. However, business was rather limited.

The beginning of the month the market in Manila for the U. K. grades was steady for good parcels while hemp showing traces of weakness was avoided. The prices paid by the exporters during the first week were on the basis of J2 P22.50, K 18.25 and L 18.75. These prices varied slightly according to the parcel. By the middle of the month prices had declined and sales were

made on the basis of J2 P21.—, K 17.75 and L 18.—. For the following week there was very little demand for the low grades and a number of sales were made at lower prices. Toward the end of the month the market was firmer and closed with buyers of good parcels on the basis of J2 P22.4, K 18.4, L 19.— and M 15.4 with the usual variations according to the district and quality.

FREIGHT RATES. The rates on Manila hemp to all consuming markets remain unchanged.

FIBRE GRADING LAW. The new Fibre Grading Law passed by the last Legislature has been signed by the Governor General and comes into effect July 1, 1926. The administration of this Law will be in the hands of a Fibre Board to be appointed by the Governor General and approved by the Legislature.

STATISTICS. Below we give the figures for the calendar year. It will be noted the production for 1925 was 232,654 bales less than in 1924 while the stocks remaining on hand in the islands show an increase of 34,294 bales. Shipments to the consuming markets show a decrease.

The production of Maguey during 1925 was 41,480 bales less than in 1924. Shipments to the U. S., U. K. and Japan show a corresponding decrease while to the Continent of Europe they show a slight increase.

	1925	1924
Stocks on January 1st ..	Bales 131,228	Bales 117,430
Receipts to December 31st ..	1,253,793	1,186,447
Stocks on December 31st ..	165,522	131,228

SHIPMENTS

	To Dec. 31 1925	To Dec. 31 1924
	Bales	Bales
To the United Kingdom ..	346,745	383,758
Continent of Europe ..	147,707	165,161
Atlantic U. S. ..	324,291	397,129
U. S. via Pacific ..	155,261	245,598
Japan ..	170,731	202,899
Elsewhere and Local ..	74,764	77,810
Total	1,219,499	1,472,654

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