

President

# QUEZON *Glorifies*

IN November, 1945, falls the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Philippine Commonwealth so auspiciously inaugurated in November, 1935. November 1945 also marks the tenth year of preparation for the granting of Independence as provided in the Tydings McDuffie Act. Only a year ago, this month, American liberation forces in Leyte began the most intensive campaign for the retaking of the Philippines from the Japanese control which terminated successfully after the fall of Manila on February 5, 1945 and freed the Philippines from further Japanese atrocities. November also

*At Buena-  
vista on the  
First Rice  
Planting Day.*



*Pronounc-  
ing his Social  
Justice pro-  
gram for small  
farmers.*

ushers the nation to the year 1946 when an independent Philippines will be established, marking the culmination of centuries of struggle of the Filipinos for political emancipation. It is only logical and in keeping with our traditions of gratitude and loyalty to our national heroes, that we turn our thoughts this month to one whose life's incessant labor was dedicated to the political emancipation of his people, to the man who brought home the Jones Act, the Tydings McDuffie Act, and whose work united the Filipinos and prepared them

## PROSPECTS

THE most critical food situation ever experienced in the Philippines was during the period from June to December, 1944. The factors that contributed to aggravate the situation had been many and unavoidable. The production of 1943 was far below normal of prewar production due to typhoons, floods and war ravages. The ordinary carry over stock of trade had been depleted during 1942. No importation of any form of food was possible during the years 1942 and 1943. There was no facility to move crops from areas of production to consumption centers. On top of these difficulties the country was over-run by an invading army that depended upon the locality to feed its soldiers. The invasion army were rice eaters. Had it not been for corn, camo-

te and cassava, planted in response to the food production campaign in 1943 and early 1944, Manila and the surrounding rice deficient provinces would have suffered from famine in 1944.

In considering production and food supply distribution, the Philippines may be divided into ten districts or geographical regions as follows. (1) The Ilocos provinces consisting of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Mt. Province and La Union. (2) Cagayan valley: Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Viscaya. (3) Central Luzon: Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan and Zambales. (4) Manila. (5) Southern Luzon: Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Tayabas, Mindoro and Marinduque. (6) Bicol region, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon. (7) East

Visayas, Samar, Leyte, Masbate, Cebu, Bohol and Oriental Negros. (8) West Visayas, Capiz, Romblon, Antique, Iloilo, Occidental Negros and Palawan. (9) North Mindanao: Oriental and Occidental Misamis, Lanao, Agusan, Surigao and Bukidnon, and (10) South Mindanao: Cotabato, Davao, Zamboanga and Sulu. Each district has its geographical advantages which facilitate movement of crops from areas of production to centers of consumption. Manila is entirely a consuming center. The Southern Luzon district is rice deficient and gets its supply from Central Luzon. The Bicol provinces after big typhoons get short of food supply but in normal times capable of self-sufficiency. The Ilocos district is also bordering the deficiency line, but can get supply from

# the Filipino Farmer

for the establishment of an independent Philippines in July, 1946.

President Quezon is the Benefactor of the Farmer, because his shining obsession was his crusade for the cause of Social Justice to attain the peace and well-being of the people of the rural districts. The memory of President Quezon gives us eternal inspiration in the cause we have adopted as objectives for which *Farming and Cooperatives* serves, Namely:—

*Stabilization of Agricultural Production;*



*Speaking before Filipino industrialists.*



*At Baler, his hometown*

*Rural Improvement and Attainment for the small farmers of social and economic security;*

*Efficiency in Farm Management, and Diversification of Crops;*

*Conservation of Soil Fertility for an enduring Agricultural Prosperity;*

*Better nutrition, so as to have bigger farmers, vigorous farmers, longer living farmers—*

For truly President Quezon labored that the Philippine Commonwealth Government may help attain these objectives.

# for FOOD

the Cagayan valley. Cebu province is deficient in food supply but the neighboring producing areas of Leyte, Oriental Negros and northern Mindanao provinces supply all the needs of Cebu. All other districts have in the past maintained self-sufficiency with interprovincial movement of food supplies. Central Luzon, Cagayan valley, all Visayas, north and south Mindanao districts are self-sufficient and produce surplus for other districts.

The Nation's concern over food prospects ordinarily centers around Manila and neighboring rice-deficient provinces of Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Tayabas. These consuming centers depend upon supply of rice from Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Bulacan. Pampanga while capable of surplus production of rice has in recent

years been in the verge of deficiency for many obvious reasons. Bataan which was self sufficient before the war had been totally reduced in productive capacity that it will take some years to make it a surplus province. We must look forward to Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Bulacan and Pampanga for prospects of food for Manila and southern Luzon districts.

The critical period of food supply in Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Tayabas falls in the months of June, July, August. By September, camote, gabi, and upland rice and corn become available from new crops. We have passed this critical period without experiencing any undue difficulties similar to the food difficulties of 1944. From now on, camote, camoteng kahoy and rice will be more generally abundant.

The critical period for food supply in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija is during September, October and November. Like the proverbial story of the blacksmith without the bolo, rice growers are usually short of rice supply during those months. Early crop of

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Consumers' cooperatives were also organized in Manila and other places before the war. It was not, however, until after inflation had reached a critical stage during the war that consumers' cooperatives were organized on a larger scale, especially in Manila, in order to provide their members with rice and other necessities at reasonable prices in the face of the sky-rocketing of prices during the latter part of the Japanese occupation. An increasing number of consumers cooperative stores are distributing ECA goods in Manila at present.

The corporation here proposed to be set up would consolidate all the activities of the government pertaining to cooperative enterprise and vests the supervision and control of all kinds of cooperatives in one organization. It has been the experience in the past that a mere division in a bureau, burdened as it is with other functions, could not cope with the work of organizing and supervising cooperatives. It could not get the necessary technical personnel and it does not possess the necessary prestige to push vigorously and effectively the cooperative movement. Such centralization of authority would promote efficiency and unified control by the government of the activities of cooperatives in order to correct defects in their management which had contributed to a large extent to the failure of many of them. The Board of Governors, through its technical staff, would provide for uniform reports, accounting systems, and issue such rules and regulations to forestall any irregularity and to remedy faulty methods in the running of the business affairs of the cooperatives. The appropriation herein provided would be partly employed in contributing to the meager capital of some of the cooperatives whose members could not push up sufficient funds to permit efficient operation, and partly in conducting a nation-wide campaign of educating the people about the objectives and benefits of cooperation both in productive enterprises and in consumption.

The cooperative enterprise provides the most effective means of aiding and rehabilitating the common man, either as a producer or a consumer, in his efforts to survive ruthless competition and the monopolistic tendencies of our present economic society, which make possible profiteering and exploitation of the weak by the strong. The cooperative has been a powerful factor for social and economic amelioration in other countries, and it could be made to secure a greater measure of social welfare among the masses of our population. In view of the importance of this measure its approval is earnestly urged.

(Sgd.) NARCISO RAMOS  
Congressman, 5th District, Pangasinan

(Sgd.) JOSE ROMERO  
Congressman, 2nd District, Oriental  
Negros

(Sgd.) MANUEL V. GALLEGO  
Congressman, 1st District, Nueva Ecija

(Sgd.) JUSTINIANO S. MONTANO  
Congressman for Cavite

(Sgd.) CEFERINO DE LOS SANTOS  
Congressman, 4th District, Iloilo  
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**FARMING AND COOPERATIVES.**

## Prospects for Food . . .

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lowland rice does not come until November. Again the increased planting of corn camote and camoteng kahoy in these provinces will prevent unnecessary difficulties, specially when supplemented with imported rice flour and corn.

At the present moment, no serious shortage is felt in rice in Manila. Imported rice, corn, and flour keep population rationed for their needs. Locally raised rice is available though at still high prices due to high transportation and handling costs. There seems to be no fear that there will be difficulty with food supplies until the next harvest, particularly after the official announcement made that more rice and flour are forthcoming from abroad.

The present rice crop which will be harvested beginning November will be in general distribution beginning January 1946. From all indications this crop will not come up to normal prewar production for several reasons principally, late and insufficient rains during planting season, unsatisfactory labor conditions during the early part of the cropping season, inadequacy of work animals and farm implements, a dearth of farm workers and destruction in farms and facilities. It is estimated that the crop in Central Luzon rice growing provinces will be hardly seventy per cent of normal production. We are still facing the typhoon season which sometime accounts for losses reaching from thirty to forty per cent. The Central rice growing provinces produce normally about seventeen million cavanes of

palay available for consumption. Of these close to twelve million cavanes go to local consumers, leaving five millions for Manila and surrounding provinces. If present estimate of crop is taken as an indication of prospects for food then something like eleven million cavanes will only be available for consumption. But there need not be any panic for this situation—what actually would happen is that the rice growers will reduce their consumption of rice to export as much rice as possible to obtain cash to buy commodities that they have missed during the last three years. They will eat more corn, camote and cassava. Besides wheat flour may take the place of actually one third of Manila needs for rice if it is made available, and bread can be supplied to all families.

Manila needs about two thousand cavans of rice daily. This is equivalent to about one million and one half cavans of palay a year. The neighboring provinces with the increased production of corn, camote and cassava locally, may need about three million cavans of palay. With four and one half million cavans of palay under control for distribution, the food situation in Manila and surrounding provinces will be brought to fairly normal condition. As the harvest is fast approaching the problem of food distribution will not be urgent until August of 1946. Speedy economical transportation would make available to all needy centers the crops from Central Luzon rice growing provinces. The pressing problems at present are those connected with harvesting and threshing facilities, containers, and

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# PROGRESSIVE FARMING

Prospects for Food . . .  
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## Rural Mailbox

**T**HE Philippines as everybody knows is basically an agricultural country. As the saying goes, "farming is the backbone of the country." If so, how strong is our backbone? We have to admit that our farming methods are not up-to-date as may be desired. The same practices and crude tools used in the past are still found in many of our farms. We are behind in adopting useful, up-to-date information. New ideas are looked upon by most farmers with suspicion and they are reluctant to change.

If we are to develop our farms in a progressive way, we must think hard, plan out our work and put these plans into practice. The plans for our farm work must be based on modern farm practices. Modern farm practices is scientific farming. "Scientific" does not mean something supernatural or mysterious. It is not necessary for a small farmer to go to college to understand the meaning of scientific farming. It merely means in a nutshell, the organization of farm work into a detailed plan using available latest findings on the particular subject at hand. It means making every inch of land yield the maximum at the most economical way under given conditions. To sum it up, we must know at the outset, *what* we want, *why* we want it for, *when* we want it, and *how* we intend to produce it. If we can answer these things in detail, we have a fairly good idea of a scientific method.

It is not the object of this column to encourage farming in a grand style but rather to put some light on common farm problems to help the development of the small farms into profitable enterprises. If we could help the farmer do small things in a profitable way we are more than recompensed in helping him.

While we shall take the initiative in discussing in this department, problems about the daily work of the farmer, we request the farmers all over the country to cooperate by sending us their knotty problems, or suggestion they have discovered that can be useful to other farmers.

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labor conditions in the farm districts. Tractors and threshing machineries, trucks and warehouses were destroyed during the Japanese time. Containers like jute sacks, even used ones, have practically disappeared from use. Not less than ten million sacks should be made available to move the crop and store it. Warehouse facilities to accommodate six million cavans are needed to safely handle the next crop before the rainy season. Some two hundred outfits of tractors and threshing machines would be needed to speedily harvest the crops. Not less than 2000 two and ½ ton trucks are required for hauling rice from the fields to warehouses. The corresponding oil and fuel to mobilize all the mechanized units must be made available. All these essential needs require financing and the farmers do not have the means now. Farmers' only money made from sales of crops during the last three years has no value.

The food situation, however, will not be any more serious in 1946 as in 1945, the period just about to terminate, because both transportation greatly improved and importation possible from different sources as Burma, Siam, French Indo-China and the United States food can be made available.

The most sound course to follow would be for a more general use of locally grown corn, camote and cassava, as between utilizing our own crops, saving our money and importing rice and flour to sending away money, the latter is the more sound economy. This calls for a more comprehensive government leadership and direction. The farmers have already started the planting of corn, camote and cassava and they should be encouraged by having their crops profitably marketed. Already the Batangas farmers have announced surplus cassava harvest without market. Laguna, Cavite, Tayabas, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan and Pangasinan are also producing corn, camote and cassava. Unless an organized attempt is made to market their crops, there will be great losses and the farmers may be discouraged from further cultivation of rice to the prejudice of self-sufficiency essential to a stable Philippine economy.—  
*Silagram*

Inquiries received from farmers shall be given prompt attention unless the answer is not readily available—in which case, it will be referred to an authority on the subject. The information will immediately be published. The following questions were placed in our hands just as we were going to press. Answers will be published in the next issue along with answers of questions that will be received next month.

1. Where can I buy white leghorn chicks for my foundation stock? Is fish meal available now for feeding layers? Is the much publicized Sta. Maria Poultry Raisers Association still alive?

2. Where can I secure onion seeds, and what is the best variety to grow?

3. Can we grow pop corn in the Philippines?

4. Before the war, the Bureau of Animal Industry helped poultry raisers to avoid losses from chicken plague by vaccinating hen and roosters. Is there any private party that will give the same service and what is the cost? Can I buy the vaccine from the government and do my own vaccinating?

5. How can I secure nitrogen bacteria to inoculate the seeds of soybeans before planting?

6. Can I plant camote after harvesting palay in December? (See Suggestions to Rice Growers)

7. Can I produce onion seeds and how?

8. How can we farmers of the locality form a Farmers Cooperative Association?

9. Where can I secure ramie seedlings?

10. What is the UNRRA, the ECA and the FEA and what are they doing for the farmers of the Philippines?

11. Harvesting and threshing rice in all Central Luzon will be in full swing by December. As the Japanese soldiers commandeered all tractors and threshers, where can the farmers secure these facilities now? Are the Companies dealing in farmers' machineries now open for business?

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