

Smoking Lantakas: Moros Mad in Lanao

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Economic Aspects of Tangled Problem

Current news from Lanao turns back the pages of twenty-five years' American administration in the Philippines and leave America in her relation with the Moro inhabitants of the Philippines, not where she was when Captain John J. Pershing marched north from Malabang and reduced Bacolod colta, thereafter making terms with the Moros of Lanao and inducing the surrender of their arms, but where she was before the work of Wallace and Davis and Bates and Pershing was begun at all. It seems pretty clear that most of what the Army accomplished in the Rio Grande valley has been somewhat thoroughly undone by subsequent events. Sultan sa Raya, when he issued his defiance to the government two years, had but a small following; and now he has a large one and a battery of cottas—all with means of defense and escape well planned.

The constabulary under Major Orville M. Johnson, provincial governor of Lanao, and Colonel L. E. Stevens of Zamboanga, have reduced certain of these cottas and slain some Moros—which seems like the sowing of dragons' teeth. For it seems that some of the cottas have already been reoccupied by sa Raya men, and that punitive expedition has proved not altogether successful—perhaps a failure, with the cost a goodly sum from the treasury and a score or so of soldiers—seven dead, and the others wounded. Even several officers were wounded. The country is jungle. The Malanaos know it well and the soldiers little. Getting sa Raya, sa Boisán, Datu (lio and Amat Kalangan) is a job. The constables have their work cut out for them.

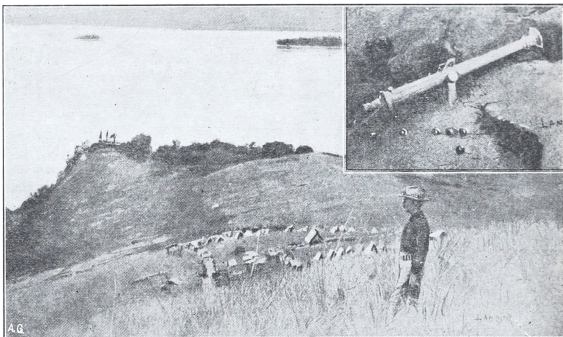
It is of course the economic features of a problem of this sort that concern the general public of the Philippines, and should concern the public of the United States. Sa Raya defies the government because he believes that two years ago—he has been out that long—customary law was violated by a decision rendered in the court of first instance. Such incidents will recur from time to time because the pledges made to the Moro have not been carried out, and in his own domain he is all but excluded from participation in governmental procedure. Deliberate steps have been taken to extend the Christian hegemony over him. The law creating the bureau of non-Christian tribes (over which, of course, a Christian presides) stipulates that the bureau must always have in view "the aim of rendering permanent the mutual intelligence between and complete fusion of all Christian and non-Christian elements populating the provinces of the archipelago."

This can only mean obliteration of Moros—as Moros. At least the Moro fears it does.

Then we have Section 3 of Act 2520: "Judges of the Court of First Instance and justices of the peace deciding civil cases in which the parties are Mohammedans or pagans, when such action is deemed wise, may modify the application of the law of the Philippine Islands, except laws of the United States applicable to the Philippine Islands, taking into account local laws and customs: Provided that such modification shall not be in conflict with the basic principles of the laws of the United States of America."

The italics are ours. It may be seen where government of Moros is tending, and

lic works have been established, that in these things themselves lie very largely the solution of the problem of government. Even the Malanao desires the aid of capital and of Americans, but a policy determined in Manila, not in Dansalan, deprives him of these aids to advancement. No college has



(Sketch by Henry Savaar Lander in *Gems of the East*)
American Troops Encamped in 1901 Before Bacolod Colta, Lanao. Captain John J. Pershing in Fore-ground; Moro Lutalaka (inset)

how helpless executive officials are to modify its tendency to any material extent.

It has been seen, however, in other Moro provinces where more development of natural resources has occurred and more pub-

ever been established for Moros; the teaching of Arabic was early abandoned; the native teachers of the Koran, employed in private schools, are not as qualified as they should be to discharge their duties well.

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All this seems self-evident. It affects profoundly the Moros of Lanao, who have always adhered to their own civilization. Essentially they are peasant farmers. They have high traditions. If these were modified by economic processes, the change would not be violent and would be everywhere acceptable. The political process is violent; that is to say, it does violence to Moro institutions. America has the question to decide, is this violent process necessary?

Roughly calculated, the area of Lanao is 2500 square miles and the population 100,451, or about four to the square mile. Among these 100,451 people, 96,224 are non-Christian, chiefly Moros, and 14,227 are Christians.

Figuring the area in hectares, it is 631,701, of which 31,170 hectares are cultivated. The land has been classified as follows: commercial forest, 412,890 hectares; non-commercial forest, 25,970 hectares; unexplored, 121,000 hectares, leaving 37,671 hectares variously classified, the total, with the 31,170 hectares under cultivation, rounding out the full area of 631,701 hectares.

Iligan is the port on the north boundary, Malabang the port on the south boundary, near the Cottabato line. Dansalan, at Camp Keithley, on the lake (the word *Lanao* signifying lake), is the provincial capital. There is but one road in the entire province, that from Iligan to Dansalan, 30.5 kilometers. There is no wharf at Iligan, none at Malabang. The country is a paradise for the tribesman, and while left in that condition he can hardly become more than a tribesman.

The bureau of agriculture crop reports originate with municipal officials and are not fully reliable, but such as they are, they

are here, for the year ending December 31.

1925:

Crop	Hectarage
Palay (rough rice)	20,990
Corn	4,930
Abaca	1,460
Sugar Cane	500
Tobacco	340
Coconuts	2,950
Total	31,170

Yield	Value
616,600 cavans	P1,861,110
106,440 cavans	412,420
17,680 piculs	307,280
18,330 piculs	187,720
2,630 quintals	45,070
6,807,900 nuts	356,430
Total	P3,170,030

According to these figures the cultivated lands of Lanao yielded last year crops valued at P1,000 or \$500 per hectare, or P100 or \$200 per acre; and it is very probable that the valuations are too high, although the land is fertile. On the basis of population the production was P31.70 per capita, and a family of five had about P155 on which to subsist and pay taxes. This is even accepting the stated valuations.

Wealth is not rapidly accumulating in Lanao.

The principal towns are Iligan and Dansalan. The settlements are rural and isolated, comprised in municipal districts.

The province had a revenue of P302,162.34 last year, from sources as follows:

Taxes and penalties	P71,776.85
Loans & Advances, repaid	12,265.68
Other receipts	6,265.99
Operations	63,991.66
Aid from mun. govts	4,163.48
Insular Aid	143,696.77

The municipalities and municipal districts had revenue as follows:

Taxes and penalties	P35,369.33
Operations	1,366.11
Voluntary Contributions	90,566.40
Insular Aid	12,639.56
Total	P139,941.40

In addition, the insular government collected some P67,000 in internal revenue and cedula taxes, which deducts from the aid, P146,336.33, leaving P79,336.53 as the approximate net aid from the insular treasury to the province and towns. All taxes combined, including voluntary contributions, seem to have been about two pesos per capita. (On the people who worked the 31,170 hectares of land that were cultivated, taxes were far above this average rate).

The enrollment in the schools in December last year was 4,716 pupils, of whom it may be assumed some 2,000 or more are Christians. The sum spent on the schools during the year was P137,045.72.

This is a heavy school budget for an undeveloped province. In contrast, practically nothing was spent upon public improvements aside from maintenance of the road from Iligan to Dansalan. The year however was not different from previous ones, subsequent to the military administration of Mindanao, which left a good wagon road from Iligan to Malabang, and thence to Parang-Parang, and other first rate means of communication to other points, all of which has been permitted to lapse. The bureau of public works wishes to do more. It has assigned to Lanao a district engineer, Alejandro Rivera, and will make certain recommendations to the Legislature for appropriations for the province. It will ask P50,000 for a wharf at Iligan, P10,000 for the one at Butuan, to serve Agusan. It will also ask for funds to open a cart road to Malabang, over the old military highway.

In Lanao it seems to be the familiar case

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of the cart-before-the-horse. As they are run, the Moros don't like the schools. They think the schools tend to wear their children both from their ancient customs and faith and from the fields. They would appreciate public works and the privilege of not being forced to accept a civilization that has borrowed greatly from their own and given it nothing in return—having nothing to give that they would take, except under compulsion.

MAY SUGAR REVIEW

By GEORGE H. FAIRCHILD



NEW YORK MARKET: The sugar market for the month was unsettled and irregular. At the beginning of the month the market was dull and at a standstill owing to strikes in the United Kingdom. Towards the end of the first week, however, the market became more

active and firmer with an advancing tendency. Spot sales of Cubas were made on the basis of 2-7/16¢ and 2-1/2¢. Prices declined to 2-3/8¢ the latter part of the second week, depressing the market. This depression continued throughout the third week, at the close of which the market steadied for a few days and then declined again towards the end of the month.

The weakness of the market throughout the month of May was due to the uncertainty as to the production of Cuba, and the apparently heavy stocks on hand. While some authorities placed the Cuban crop at 4,500,000 tons, others estimated it at figures ranging from 5,000,000 to 5,375,000 tons. Stocks in the U.S., U.K., Cuba and the five principal continental countries at the end of the month were 4,275,000 tons as compared with 3,340,000 tons at the same period in 1925, and 2,275,000 tons in 1924. However, the increasing consumption of sugar in the U.S. and the U.K. is encouraging, and, should this continue, higher prices are expected in the near future.

The market for futures followed the trend of the spot market. Quotations follow:

	High	Low	Latest
July	2.59	2.46	2.46
September	2.70	2.59	2.59
December	2.81	2.71	2.71

Sales of Philippine centrifugals afloat and for future shipments were made at prices ranging from 4.08¢ to 4.40¢ landed terms.

Despite the unseasonably cold weather experienced during the month, there has been further improvement in the market for refined, quotations ranging from 5.49¢ to 5.60¢.

LOCAL MARKET: The local market for centrifugals ruled quiet for the month. Small transactions were made at prices ranging from P10.375 to P10.625.

Only two centrals, namely the Victorias and Manapla mills, both in Occidental Negros, are still grinding. Latest production reports confirm the latest estimate of approximately 375,000 metric tons for the 1925-26 crop published in our last month's review, as compared with 493,291 metric tons for the 1924-25 crop, 316,181 metric tons for 1923-24, and 226,238 metric tons for 1922-23.

The first rains that fell during the last week of May have given much relief to the young cane which already showed the effects of the long drouth. This is especially true in the Luzon districts where the drouth

had been more severe than in Negros and Panay.

Local capitalists have been active in pushing through their sugar projects, and two new sugar companies have recently been organized: The Central Luzon Milling Co., which will erect a central at Bamban, Tarlac, and the Nueva Ecija Sugar Mill, which will establish a mill at Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. The Bamban Central will have a daily capacity of 250 tons cane and will commence grinding by next January; the Cabiao Central in Nueva Ecija will have a daily capacity of 120 tons cane and expects to be milling came by December 1 this year.

Shipments of Philippine sugars to various countries from January 1, 1926, to May 25, 1926, are as follows:

Kinds of Sugar	U.S. Pacific	U.S. Atlantic	China & Japan	Total
Centrifugals	45,554	193,416	—	238,970
Muscovados	—	—	41,982	41,982
Refined	823	—	—	823
Totals	46,377	193,416	41,982	281,775

MISCELLANEOUS: According to latest estimates given out by prominent New York firms, the world's increase in production for the 1925-26 crop over the previous year was placed at from 690,000 tons to 710,000 tons as against the previous estimate of over a million tons. It was reported that the plantings of the European beet crop will be less than original estimates.

The Java market was firm and steady. Latest quotations for superiors, f.o.b., per picul were as follows: Spot, Gs. 14 (P12.02); June Gs. 10-7/8 (P9.38); July/August Gs. 10-1/4 (P8.86); Sept/Oct. Gs. 10-3/8 (P8.93). Advice from Java stated that excessive rainfall had occurred there, which may further retard the already late grinding season and adversely affect the crop.

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