

## Iloilo Waterworks System At Last Underway

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Southern Port Will Have Service By 1928

Much as the Manila may appreciate the creation one after another of great public buildings, such for example as the library building on Bagumbayan that will house the legislature in its halls and the library in its cellars, still he may do well to bear in mind that there remain in the provinces

of the appalling situation of three provincial capitals and ports, Iloilo, Laoag and Bacolod, is at last on the public works program of the insular government. The building of the Iloilo waterworks system is underway, the pipe, costing about P1,250,000, has been purchased and bids on the



View from Upstream  
Iloilo Metropolitan Waterworks

the most important towns, capitals and seaports, without even the convenience of a modern water system. This is significant in the matter of public health, and relief

dam and reservoir will be called for in September.

The plans for these structures are now being drawn.

Iloilo is expected to have the use of the new system by 1928, perhaps the latter part of that year. Several million pesos will be expended on the system. The systems for Bacolod, capital of Occidental Negros, and Laoag, capital of Ilocos Norte, are to follow. Many Journal readers know the wretched state of sanitation in Iloilo; it is only necessary to say that conditions at Laoag, a city of almost equal population, are no better. They are probably worse. If one wishes even the semblance of household sanitation, he must resort to the force pump, the surface well and the septic vault in any of these towns; and each is a principal town, while Iloilo is an important distributing point and seaport.

Their common facilities in respect to water are the semi-nude *cargador* and the painted oil can, with sometimes the addition of a push cart.

Every shower is a boon, for the rain water that may be caught and stored for a day or two in nondescript kitchen utensils is preferable in every way to the limpid but polluted streams from which the ordinary supply comes in the manner just described. Prior to filling his cans, the faithful *cargador* will always bathe... usually upstream. Existence depends upon the faithful boiling of all drinking water. For the more susceptible, normal health is quite out of the question. Every phase of life is affected, from home contentment to labor turnover.

The Iloilo water system will serve other towns in Iloilo besides the city bearing the provincial name: Maasin with 10,000 population, Cabatuan with 16,500, Santa Barbara with 31,000, Jaro with 25,000, and (later, when the proposed extensions beyond Iloilo have been installed) Arevalo with 5,000 and Oton with 17,000. It will also serve the towns of Pavia, La Paz and

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Mandurriao, the population of which is not available in the 1918 census. The present population of Iloilo would appear to be approximately 55,000.

It is worthwhile from the practical viewpoint to encourage such projects: they materially extend trade in sanitary and plumbing supplies.

During the period from 1918 to 1925 inclusive the United States has sold the Philippines sanitary supplies to the value of P1,723,000, and iron pipes and fittings to the value of P9,777,245. Foreign countries had but seven per cent of the business under the first heading, and only 3½ per cent, approximately, of the business under the second heading.

In the eight years covered, the sanitary supplies from foreign countries were valued at P117,843 and the duty collected was P19,762. (Except for the free trade with the territory the American supplies would have paid a duty of P288,668). In the same period the pipes and fittings from foreign countries were valued at P382,684 and the duty collected was P36,373. (At this rate the duty on the American supplies would have been P238,838. On the two classes of goods, sanitary supplies and pipes and fittings, free trade gave the homeland an advantage of P1,217,506).

Although the Philippines were much more able to buy in 1918 than in 1925, they actually did not buy nearly so much, which indicates that the trade grows with the installation of waterworks in the provinces:

*Philippine Imports of Iron Pipes and Fittings*

Year	From U.S.	Foreign	Duty
1925	P1,194,892	P135,577	19,766
1924	1,209,638	79,980	9,411
1923	742,853	51,465	3,676
1922	605,097	51,300	2,223
1921	1,901,224	18,317	525
1920	1,576,119	26,265	582
1919	1,879,414	10,789	76
1918	668,008	8,993	114

Totals P9,777,245 P382,684 P36,373

For another comparison the weight in kilograms of pipes and fittings from the United States is given, from 1918 to 1925, in order: 2,241,312, 6,362,065, 4,345,667, 5,144,163, 2,274,777, 3,386,248, 4,979,272 and 5,548,412.

*Philippine Imports of Sanitary Supplies*

Year	From U.S.	Foreign	Duty
1925	P220,033	P 26,178	P2,909
1924	221,053	14,439	1,926
1923	212,308	2,158	348
1922	170,085	4,577	686
1921	320,618	3,098	451
1920	225,643	1,592	277
1919	173,129	10,753	2,067
1918	180,517	55,048	11,178

Totals P1,723,386 P117,843 P19,762

Iloilo and Bacolod are in the aristocratic sugar region of the Visayas, where men build palatial homes on their plantations and maintain residences in town for their children in school. Aside from considerations of health, sanitation and decency and comfort, installation of waterworks at Iloilo and Bacolod should bring import business in plumbing supplies from an average of P1,225,145 to well over P2,000,000. America's share is 95.7 per cent.

The dam for the Iloilo project will be built 3½ kilometers above the town of Mansin, and the reservoir between Cabatuan and Santa Barbara. The dam will be 27 kilometers from Iloilo and the water will be conveyed by pipe line from town to town and finally into the city. The reservoir will impound 11,500,000 gallons of water. The watershed embraces 6,150 hectares on the Tiguim river, above the mouth of the Salag.

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