

## Still more about Government Acquisition of Large Landed Estates

**EDITOR'S Note:**—In the February issue of this *Journal* we published, in the form of an article, a letter from Mr. Zoilo Castrillo, Administrative Officer of the Bureau of Lands, regarding the government purchase of the old Friar Lands during the administration of Governor-General William H. Taft and subsequent purchases of large landed estates by the Rural Progress Administration.

In the April issue we published additional information concerning the Rural Progress Administration purchases, embodied in a table. We found certain discrepancies between the figures in this table and those of the table previously published, but failing to receive a reply to a query as to this and considering the table most interesting, we printed it as it stood.

Besides calling attention to the discrepancies in the figures, the editor also asked for additional information about the Rural Progress Administration, saying:

"I am aware of the fact that the Rural Progress Administration was abolished by Executive Order No. 376, November 28, 1950, and its assets, functions, etc., transferred to the Bureau of Lands. Would you inform me when the Rural Progress Administration was originally set up? It would be interesting to know about what year the Administration made its first purchases of land, and when its last, to give some idea of the number of years covered by its purchasing activities."

We now have a letter from the Director of Lands, Jose P. Dans, stating that the Rural Progress Administration was formally organized only on March 2, 1939, though the first purchase of land by the Government was made several months earlier, in 1938, this land later being transferred to the Rural Progress Administration. The last purchase by the Administration was effected in 1950, so that the time covered by these purchases extends over a period of approximately ten years only, from which the three years of the Japanese occupation should, of course, be deducted. This makes the conclusions to be drawn from the rather limited achievements of the Rural Progress Administration not so unfavorable as they would be had the Administration been at work ever since the Friar Lands purchases away back in 1902.

We take pleasure in printing the letter from Director Dans herewith, together with the revised table mentioned in the letter.

"**Y**our letter dated March 13, 1951, has been referred to this Office by Mr. Francisco D. Marquez, Administrative Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In reply thereto, we beg to inform that the areas shown in the first list of estates purchased were taken from the last annual report of the Manager of the defunct Rural Progress Administration, while those shown in the second list were the result of a revision which was recently made in this Office in order to bring the figures up-to-date. Hence, the discrepancies found

in the areas of some of the estates. When the first list was prepared, the records of the Rural Progress Administration were still in the process of transfer to this Office and no check-up of the figures could be made at that time. After the transfer of the said records and the creation of the Landed Estates Division in this Bureau, the areas of the various estates and homesteads were revised after examining the various certificates of title and other pertinent records available. Enclosed herewith is a revised list of the estates acquired so far, showing their respective areas and locations.

"The Rural Progress Administration was formally organized on March 2, 1939. The first purchase of land was made by the Government on December 29, 1938, when the Marikina Homestead was bought from Angel Ma. Tuason et al. for ₱295,791.48, upon recommendation of the Landed Estates Survey Committee. This estate was later on transferred to the Rural Progress Administration after the organization of the said corporation. The last purchase of land was made on March 25, 1950, when the Rural Progress Administration bought a portion of Bongo Island in Cotabato, containing an area of 345 hectares, from Roales Hermanos y Primos for ₱35,000.00.

"Very respectfully yours,  
"JOSE P. DANS  
"Director of Lands"

### ESTATES ACQUIRED BY THE DEFUNCT RURAL PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION NOW THE LANDED ESTATES DIVISION, BUREAU OF LANDS

ESTATES	Area in sq. m.	Location	Subdivision
Santa Clara Homestead (Old) . . . . .	50,533.8	Sampaloc, Manila	Yes
Sa. Clara Additional Homestead (New) . . . . .	2,441.2	Sampaloc, Manila	Yes
Ana Sarmiento Homestead . . . . .	206,022.8	Maleta, Manila	Partially
Ntra. Sra. De Ouis Homestead . . . . .	348,470.9	Tondo, Manila	In progress
"Ang Bahay" Homestead . . . . .	124,173	Sa. Mesa, Manila	Yes
Baclares Homestead . . . . .	268,887	Parañaque, Rizal	Partially
La Faja Del Mar Homestead . . . . .	21,998	Parañaque, Rizal	Yes
Tamboong Homestead . . . . .	689,454	Malabon, Rizal	Partially
Longos . . . . .	210,819	Malabon, Rizal	No
Marikina Homestead . . . . .	1,087,152	Marikina, Rizal	Yes
Pateros Homestead . . . . .	13,028	Pateros, Rizal	Yes
Protacio Homestead . . . . .	26,116	Rizal City	No
Maysajo Homestead . . . . .	21,045,839	Calocan, Rizal	No
Bucnavate . . . . .	274,082,692	San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Bustos, San Baltazar, Bulacan	No
Penginy . . . . .	953,643	Bigaa, Bulacan	Yes
Polo Parish . . . . .	487,075.45	Polo, Bulacan	Yes
Teal Homestead . . . . .	114,321	Bocause, Bulacan	Yes
San Isidro Homestead . . . . .	74,969	Hagonoy, Bulacan	Yes
Dinalupihan Homestead . . . . .	956,261	Dinalupihan, Bataan	Yes
Dinalupihan Agricultural . . . . .	40,359,781	Dinalupihan, Bataan	In progress
Lian Homestead . . . . .	321,162	Lian, Batangas	Partially
Lian Agricultural . . . . .	37,010,699	Lian, Batangas	In progress
Tunasan Homestead . . . . .	2,167,999	San Pedro, Laguna	No
Calascan . . . . .	8,688,079	Alaminos and Calascan, Laguna	Yes
Bahay Part . . . . .	21,006,094	Calandaba, Pangasinan	No
Mabalacat Homestead . . . . .	561,590	Mabalacat, Pangasinan	Yes
Sa. Maria . . . . .	3,586,575	Sa. Ana, Pangasinan	No
Luisita . . . . .	33,098,182	Talisic, Tarlac	No
Barretto . . . . .	10,379,400	San Felipe, Zambales	Yes
Roales . . . . .	3,450,000	Bongo Island, Cotabato	In progress

"**T**HERE can be no genuine stability in any system which is based on the evil and weakness in man's nature,—which attempts to live by man's degradation, feeding like a vulture on his anxieties, his capacity for hatred, his susceptibility to error, and his vulnerability to psychological manipulation. Such a system can represent no more than the particular frustrations and bitterness of the generation of men who created it, and the cold terror of those who have been weak or unwise enough to become its agents."—GEORGE F. KENNAN in the April *Foreign Affairs*.