

# EDITORIAL

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## A NECESSARY TREND

Page

The trend toward industrialization which is becoming more and more evident in the Philippines is definitely encouraging for the future of the Commonwealth. The Philippines has always been basically an agricultural country; in recent years mining has come to the fore, but still the whole economy of the Archipelago has been based on the sale abroad of raw materials, from tilling the soil or from digging beneath it. As long as a steady and profitable market for such raw products existed, this policy was justified, particularly since the market for manufactured products has been so diversified as to discourage industrialization.

The changing picture, however, makes it imperative for the Philippines to take full advantage of the resources with which it is so richly endowed. The curtailment of the sale of raw products abroad will become more and more severe as independence approaches. The sugar industry (long the bread-and-butter for millions) in particular faces difficulties which seem bound to cut deeply into its revenue in the near future.

Steps are being taken by one of the largest organizations in the Islands to develop, with the help of the government, a cellulose industry, using sugar bagasse as a raw product. Other industrial projects are under study, and

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it is encouraging to note that the government is cooperating in every way in this development. There is no doubt but that there is a tremendous variety of openings for industrialization in the Philippines; further, there is a possibility of production of other raw materials, (of which rubber is an outstanding example), never before grown here, and for which a good market abroad seems likely.

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**RALPH KEELER, Editor and Business Manager**