

Commissioner Hester Made Murphy's Staff Finance Man

Worthily earned position, at a time when well founded conservatism should be in high demand in solving problems due to acute but passing circumstances

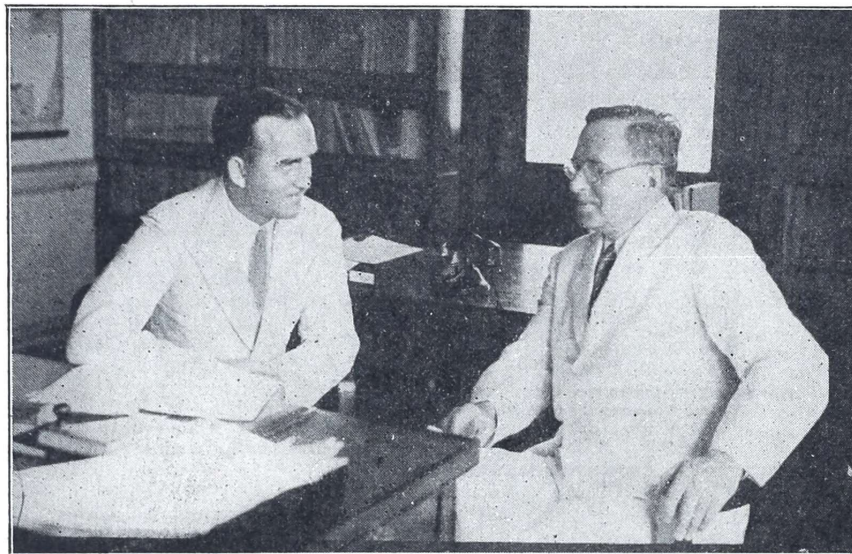
On furlough of 1 year from service with the Federal government, American Trade Commissioner Evett D. Hester went to Malacañan May 1 on full time for a year as finance and economic adviser to Governor General Frank Murphy. Carl H. Boehringer, American trade commissioner recently on station in British Malaya, temporarily fills, as acting trade commissioner, Hester's place with the Federal government in the Philippines. Only since he came to Manila as trade commissioner has Hester worked for the Federal government in the islands, the greater number of his years here have been given to the Philippine government; and even as trade commissioner, his duties as *ex officio* adviser to the governor general on matters of economics were discharged in behalf of the Philippines.

Now that the islands, at a time of political change, are to have all of Hester's time for a year, it is predicted that it will soon be evident to them how valuable he makes his services to his employer. His fund of knowledge put to his duties is deep, yet added to every day; his mental honesty is such, and his detachment as a student, as enables him to give rounded and dependable counsel on the side of a question that his personal opinion does not favor.

"If you are resolved to do this thing your way," he can say, with all pleasantness, "then here are the means of doing it."

In council he puts his views clearly and defends them ably. At his desk he carries out whatever has been decided upon. Deception and intrigue are foreign to his nature: what he is to your face he is to your back. Being an economist, data are his eloquence: facts, graphs, digital comparisons. Studying a question, he draws it in statistics; and he is glad of the smallest detail for additional perspective; and his least statement, saying nothing of his definite conclusion, is only ready when all this is thoroughly in his mind and he can back his words with the book. This implies that he has the habit of tense application. He has. It is physically wearing, but for recreation he finds in the Philippines pastimes to his liking: days in the provinces on archeological research (with his friend Dr. H. Otley Beyer), and the collection of old porcelains either of rare or scientific value.

Evenings, he enjoys the movies and the informal fellowship of questing, unassured conversation. Cultured, he knows the art of conversation. At his bachelor's table in the old *Mayor Brown* residence on calle San Luis, his home, he makes a capital host. Everything said is quite off the record. During these hours you are as likely to behold Hester the Liberal as you are Hester the Conservative: it is a piquant



Acting Trade Commissioner Carl H. Boehringer, left, and right, the subject of this sketch, Evett D. Hester.

T-V-T Photo

mixture of play and seriousness.

Hester is now 41 years old, at his maturity. He was born in Capron, Illinois, in 1893. His father was a Methodist minister, the family is pretty much made up of ministers and teachers. He got his university training at Northwestern, his economics therefore from one of the best sources. Graduated in 1914, he came to the Philippines as a teacher in 1916 and spent 4 years as a high-school instructor, principal and superintendent of schools at various stations in the provinces

before, in 1920, he went to the agriculture college at Los Baños to found the chair of rural economics. He was also in charge of publications and a great reliance of Dean Baker's in matters great and small pertaining to the college.

He left the islands in 1925 to return to the United States via Europe, and soon after going to Washington he qualified for a place in the foreign and domestic commerce bureau, Herbert Hoover's special pride in the commerce department. In 1926 he went to Spain as a trade commissioner, and during 4 years studied and traveled much in that country and acquired its language. This fitted for the post at Manila, which he got in 1930. It is widely conceded that he has filled it unexceptionably.

Carl H. Boehringer, taking over from Hester at the trade commissioner's office temporarily, was graduated from Michigan State in 1925 and got into trade-commissioner work after some years in newspaper life—a natural gradation from the editorship of the college paper during his undergraduate years. In 1928 and 1929 he worked on the *Detroit News*, of the Scripps-Booth string. All his experience in the foreign and domestic commerce bureau has been in the Far East. His first assignment here was to Singapore, during 1930; his second, to Batavia, until July 1933, when he returned to Singapore and where he was on duty as acting trade commissioner, and about to go on leave, when called to Manila on account of his colleague's transfer to Malacañan.

Let no man fail to note he is reading vital history—of tomorrow, of course. A new régime is establishing in the Philippines. Men sitting in council at Malacañan are in key positions relative to this régime, which will tend to seek their counsel, finding it single-purposed; and it will find none among them abler, or more single of purpose, than Evett D. Hester. Business especially is most fortunate that he is to be there, meaning the whole business community of the islands.