

ident expecting to sign the bill as soon as copies are received at Malacang. Among the roads included for the first year are the Cotabato-Davao road, the Misamis Oriental-Lanao road, the Bacolod north and south roads, the Tacloban-Aboyo-Baybay road, the Manila South Road, the Cagayan Valley Road, etc. Among the bridges to be given priority is the Del Pan Bridge in Manila, the Butuan Bridge in Agusan, and a bridge at Camp 3 in Benguet.

LASEDECO Manager Ben Gaston reports to the President on the progress of the resettlement projects in Palawan, Masbate, and Negros; some 12,000 hectares of land in Masbate are now ready for settlement, with some 50 families already settled there. He also informs the President that some 1,500 drums of lubricating oil, valued at ₱106 a drum, bought by the former management and found at Panacan, Palawan, will be picked up by the Philippine Navy for its use; numbers of tractors and other farm machinery there "were destroyed due to negligence of the former LASEDECO management."

May 28 — The President signs House Bill No. 324 appropriating ₱200,000 for the expansion of the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, at Los Baños.

The President receives Governor Juan Carbonell of La Union who proposes the building of an additional cement plant unit at Bacnotan which would increase the output of the plant from 8,000 to 16,000 bags a day.

The President receives Maj. Gen. John W. Sessums, Jr., commanding general of the 13th Airforce, who presents to him a check for ₱5,000 for the Liberty Walls Campaign raised at various parties of the Officers Club at Clark Airfield.

The President receives a group of citizens representing various musical organizations who submit a resolution to him, adopted at the First (3-day) National Music Conference, asking that the Government donate the site formerly occupied by the Aquarium, in Intramuros, for a national theater; the President states he will look into the legal aspects of the matter and otherwise promises to help in the development of Philippine music and the construction of a national theater.

May 29 — The President confers with Executive Secretary Castro concerning the case of J. Antonio Araneta, whose appointment as Collector of Internal Revenue was by-passed at the last session of Congress, it being reported that Mr. Araneta has ceased going to his office. The President will study further the charges brought against Mr. Araneta by Representative Ramon Durano of Cebu before deciding whether to extend an *ad interim* appointment to him. Meanwhile, Castro states, Deputy Collector Silverio Blaquera "could sign papers."

May 31 — Announced that the President will meet with Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. tomorrow to draw up the agenda for a special session of Congress. The President tells newsmen that he intends to include the bill repealing the exemption from the foreign exchange tax enjoyed by Philippine-American Airways which is depriving the Government of several hundred thousand pesos of revenue annually; the Northwest Airlines has been paying the tax.

The President orders the creation of a committee to study reforms in the Public Service Commission "and to find out ways to improve and reduce the cost of public services"; the plan is to broaden also the Commission's jurisdiction to embrace railroads, water systems, and shipping. "A downward revision of all public utility rates, with emphasis on telephone, electric, gas, and water services, will be effected."

The President issues a proclamation declaring the period from June 1, 1954, to May 31, 1955, as "Thrift Year", with a view to encouraging the people to deposit their savings in the banks for use in the country's economic development program; the thrift campaign will be undertaken under the sponsorship of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Banking and Finance

By M. D. ARNOLD

Sub-Manager

The National City Bank of New York

COMPARATIVE statement of condition of the Central Bank:

	As of Dec. 31, 1949	As of Feb. 26, 1954	As of Mar. 31, 1954	As of Apr. 30, 1954
	(In thousands of pesos)			
ASSETS				
International Reserve	₱460,689	₱465,963	₱454,926	₱445,611
Contribution to the International Monetary Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Account to Secure Coinage	113,306	106,940	106,940	106,940
Loans and Advances	77,047	18,524	19,724	8,524
Trust Account—Securities Stabilization Fund	—	—	—	—
Domestic Securities	92,197	241,094	239,887	262,640
Other Assets	20,390	46,383	53,363	57,456
	₱793,629	₱908,904	₱904,840	₱911,171

LIABILITIES

Currency—Notes	₱555,576	₱611,333	₱612,202	₱606,266
Coins	74,384	84,385	84,376	84,405
Demand Deposits—Pesos	117,682	163,507	156,290	166,621
Securities Stabilization Fund	2,000	14,620	14,615	14,616
Due to International Monetary Fund	22,498	496	496	496
Due to International Bank for Reconstruction & Development	2,389	2,377	2,376	2,377
Other Liabilities	2,636	6,459	7,483	8,448
Deferred Credits	—	1,759	2,364	2,937
Capital	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Undivided Profits	6,464	700	1,370	1,737
Surplus	—	13,268	13,268	13,268
	₱793,629	₱908,904	₱904,840	₱911,171

The International Reserves as of April 30, 1954, were as follows:

Central Bank International Reserves	\$222,805,302.53
Japan Open Account (due from)	15,153,255.19
Net FX Holdings Other Banks	70,636,053.43
	\$308,594,611.15

This is a decrease of approximately \$6,300,000 as compared to March 31, 1954.

Currency and coins issued totalled ₱690,671,114.00.

Money in banks appears a little easier, but this is not true in the local market and up-country where money is still very tight. In many lines, overdue receivables seem to be mounting and pressure is required to keep these receivables anywhere near a reasonable ratio to sales.

Manila Stock Market

By J. J. ORTIGAS

Picornell, Ortigas & Co.

April 26 to May 21

IN the mining-share market, the principal feature was the strength of Philippine Oil Development Co. which has shown considerable strength, but the forward movement has been halted under some profit-taking. The rest of the mining issues have been irregular, but on the whole presents a steadier appearance.

The price of gold in the free market was approximately at ₱106.25 per fine ounce.

In the commercial and industrial section, San Miguel Brewery continued to attract quality buying with the net result that further advance has been registered. Fixed-interest securities continued in demand.

MINING SHARES

1953-54	Range	High	Low	Close	Change	Total Sales
High	Low					
107.42	82.78	M.S.E. Mining Share Average	93.37	90.02	93.06	Up 1.01 12,683,113
0.255	0.13	Atco Mining Co.	.165	.13	.145	Off .025 366,750
0.0875	0.037	Alta Cons. Mining & Development	.08	.06	0.0775	Up 0.175 1,001,234
2.75	0.80	Atok Big Wedge Mining Co.	.90	.90	.90	— 1,000
0.9975	0.06	Baguio Gold Mining Co.	.09	.09	.09	Off .005 76,000
2.10	1.00	Balete Mining Co.	—	—	1.00a	—
0.0206	0.0011	Betong Buhay Gold Mines	.002	.0011	.002	Up 0.007 1,550,000
4.60	2.60	Benguet Cons. Mining Co.	3.00	2.85	3.00	Up .15 1,380
0.031	0.015	Coco Grove, Inc.	—	—	.03a	—
0.046	0.034	Consolidated Mines, Inc.	.043	.04	.041	Off .001 1,969,650
0.305	0.115	General Base Metals, Inc.	—	—	.20a	—
0.22	0.14	Hibao Gold Mining Co.	.14	.14	.14	Off .05 50,000
0.105	0.042	Irigoin Mining Co.	.05	.05	.05	Off .008 50,000
0.45	0.35	Lepanto Cons. Mining Co.	.45	.415	.45	Up .03 505,000
0.1475	0.05	Midongan Mother Lode Mines	.07	.07	.07	— 160,500
0.14	0.06	Paracale Group Cons. Philippine Iron Mines, Inc.	.14	.14	.14	Up .03 28,000
2.39	1.42	Paracale Group Cons. Philippine Iron Mines, Inc.	1.72	1.60	1.72	Off .02 16,600
0.31	0.15	Sac. Maurizio Cons. Co.	.16	.155	.155	Off .005 36,000
0.27	0.17	Surigao Cons. Mining Co.	.21	.175	.19	Up .015 845,600

COMMERCIAL SHARES

1953-54 Range	High	Low	Close	Change	Total Sales
185.00 135.00	Bank of the Philippine Islands	—	—	182.00b	—
72.50 60.00	Central Azucarera de Manila	—	—	60.00b	—
117.00 100.00	Central Azucarera de la Carlota	—	—	110.00b	—
105.00 100.00	Central Azucarera del Pilar	—	—	100.00a	—
45.00 26.00	Central Azucarera de Tulaic	—	—	—	—
370.00 360.00	China Banking Corp.	45.00	44.00	45.00	Up 3.00
12.00 10.00	Cia. de Calulosa de Filipinas	—	—	365.00b	—
24.00 22.00	Filipinas Cia. de Seguros	11.00	11.00	11.00	Up .25
10.00 4.00	Industrial Textiles & Mfg. Co., P.I.	—	—	22.50b	—
7.50 7.00	Inaular Life Assurance Co.	4.50	4.20	4.25a	Up .05
0.40 0.27	Manila Broadcasting Co.	—	—	.44a	—
3.35 2.80	Manila Wine Merchants	—	—	3.00b	—
—	Mayon Metal, class "B"	—	—	.05b	—
104.00 101.00	Meralco, 6-1/2%	104.00	104.00	104.00	— T
—	Metropolitan Insurance Co.	—	—	140.00b	—
34.00 20.50	Pausado	28.00	28.00	28.00	Off 6.00
7.50 5.00	Philippine Air Lines	7.50	7.50	7.50	Up 1.50
14.50 11.50	PLDT Co., com.	14.50	13.75	14.00	—
0.0325 0.014	Philippine Oil Development Co., Inc.	.046	.025	.036	Up .011
100.00 99.50	R & D 4% bonds, 1959.	—	—	99.50b	—
34.50 29.00	San Miguel Brewery, com.	34.50	33.00	34.50	Up 1.50
100.00 94.00	San Miguel Brewery, 7% pfd.	99.00	98.00	98.50	Off 1.50
107.50 102.00	San Miguel Brewery, 8% pfd.	105.00	105.00	105.00	—
13.00 13.00	Talaxy Siley Milling, Univ. Insurance & Indemnity	14.00	14.00	14.00	Up .50
14.00 13.50	T-Bond sales reported in units of P100.	—	—	—	300

OVER-THE-COUNTER

	High	Low	Close	Total Sales
A. L. Ammen Transportation	P 50.00	P 50.00	P 50.00	112
Demonstration Gold Mines	.022	.022	.022	9,043
Far Eastern University	135.00	135.00	135.00	20
Mazindique Iron Mines	.20	.20	.20	5,000
Motor Service Co.	2.50	2.50	2.50	2,000
Philippine American Drug Co.	72.00	72.00	72.00	194
Victoria Milling Co., Inc.	96.00	95.00	95.00	1,357

Credit

By P. LUTHI

Treasurer, Menzi & Co., Inc.

MOST of the larger local business houses, with only a few exceptions, have noted a continuing slowness in collections.

It is noteworthy in the comments of reporting firms that accounts which have normally kept payments within 30 days are now running from 45 days up to 90 days. The general attitude among credit executives is to allow extensions requested by regular and deserving customers, as the predominant feeling is that business conditions have not improved. However, they are adopting a policy of strictly choosing their customers as a precautionary measure. Some have stated that they expect continued slowness in collections. One credit executive reported that his company is now following the practice of requiring further securities on accounts which heretofore have been fairly prompt but which have become slower. In other doubtful cases a policy has been laid down to revert credit accounts to cash accounts. Among provincial accounts, it has been noted that various excuses are being given for delayed payments,—that they are waiting for the company salesman, that they were not able to collect their own outstanding accounts, that shipments were delayed, etc. One business house reported that in order to accommodate customers it is experimenting with a policy of relaxing the credit terms.

Considerable delays in the distribution of mail have been noted lately by many business concerns, resulting in some uneasiness regarding this situation which affects not

only promptness of settlement of accounts, but also hampers general business operations. It is hoped that the Bureau of Posts will take remedial measures and will employ sufficient personnel to improve a service which has given cause for so many complaints during the past few weeks.

On the other hand, bank credit executives have noted efforts of bank clients to settle as early as possible the accounts arising from import and other bills, apparently to avoid additional business expenses arising from the imposition of the foreign-exchange tax on certain imported items which so far were exempt.

THE Association of Credit Men, Inc. (P.I.) has organized a new membership committee in line with its program to invite greater participation in the Association. The Association has also taken steps, through its Board, to make inquiries regarding municipal ordinances in effect in the City of Manila regarding the use of commercial business signs and the numbering of houses. The enforcement of these ordinances will obviously be to the advantage of business firms in their normal business operations. In recent months the Association has also undertaken certain projects to simplify collection systems and enthusiastic response has been elicited. Some companies have already reported quite favorable results, having noted an increase of payments by check through the mails, this eliminating the need of sending of collectors.

Electric Power Production

(Manila Electric Company System)

By J. F. CORTON

Treasurer, Manila Electric Company

1941 Average—16,316,000 KWH

	Kilowatt Hours	
	1954	1953
January	57,301,000	50,107,000
February	52,447,000	45,501,000
March	57,779,000	50,789,000
April	54,408,000*	49,159,000
May	57,775,000**	52,042,000
June	—	51,304,000
July	—	53,877,000
August	—	54,275,000
September	—	53,636,000
October	—	55,943,000
November	—	53,756,000
December	—	57,968,000
Total	—	628,357,000

*Revised
**Partially estimated

MAY output was 5,733,000 kwh's, or 11%, above May, 1953. During the past two months the rate of increase over the preceding year has declined slightly. This is, however, accounted for by the temporary shutdown of a large industrial concern.

New lower power rates were made effective May 1. Savings for customers are estimated at over P700,000 annually. During the preceding year, residential and commercial rates were also decreased. Total annual customer savings for the three rate reductions are estimated to exceed P2,900,000.

Total expenditures for new construction since Liberation totalling over P75,000,000 have provided more efficient generating equipment. This coupled with the efforts of well trained, loyal employees and the steadily increasing use of electricity, has made possible the lower rates.

FOR the past two years this column has made a brief report on electric power production for all other areas in the Philippines outside the integrated system served by Meralco.