

**THE RICE INDUSTRY**

By **PERCY A. HILL**  
*of Manila, Nueva Ecija*  
 Director, Rice Producers' Association



Rice and palay prices both have fallen since last month's report because of timely arrivals of new-crop supplies. During January's first week luxury rice brought P6.10 to P6.30 per sack of 57 kilos and macans P5.75 to P5.95, prices tending firmer. Palay at buying points brought P2.45 to P2.60 per cavan

stabilize prices has been approved, but we believe the sum is inadequate to hold prices down when scarcity arises—save perhaps in urban centers where the needy are more vocal. About 24 million cavans of palay pass through the hands of millers, buyers and interprovincial traders. Such a quantity is currently worth about P60,000,000, and it is easy to see that 1/30 of this value would have little influence on the total.

There is of course no carry-over whatever

this year. Preliminary threshing reports are 18% in some districts, as high as 52% in others, below last year's—a year of partial crop-failure also. Exports have ceased because of the 1-cent processing tax in the United States. This attempt to export rice to the United States was pointed out in this column as unwise as long as a year ago, our rice being needed at home. As urged heretofore, recurring decrease of our rice crop is a matter demanding immediate action dealing with the plant disease that has attacked the crop over wide areas.

Main causes of rice-crop decline, by regions: Northern Luzon—disease, drought, typhoons; West Central Luzon—floods, disease, typhoons; East Central Luzon—disease, typhoons, drought; Southern Luzon—disease, locusts, drought; and the Bisayas—typhoons, disease, locusts.

of 44 kilos according to grade.

Importations have practically ceased. President Quezon ordered excessive importations investigated, to place responsibility for them, and fines and the full duty were assessed against them. This is commendable, prompt action to clear up the question. However, too strict an interpretation of the imports required during the emergency might discourage importers and men who finance them and throw the entire operation on the government. The setting aside of P2,000,000 for the purchase of palay to

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It seems certain that plant disease unwittingly introduced here will keep the crop permanently low and that yearly imports will be of some magnitude—money going abroad that is badly needed at home. Whether public agencies with men and funds at their disposal can do anything about this is a question for the President; but the perennial food scarcity will be added to the other problems awaiting solution. Expansion of rice areas to submarginal lands will not answer; neither will appeals to patriotism, the growers' chief preoccupation being to exist. Nor have the farm colonies produced anything to date to add to national subsistence, being too paternalistic to succeed. Experts from Indonesia where like conditions are faced might be called upon as a last resort, to try to eradicate the disease, that has not only affected wide areas but is still spreading. National food supply comes before national security, scarcity of food supply nullifies nationalism.

**Roy H. Howard**

(Continued from page 15)

your honor. But above honor is justice. You cannot, being just, compel us to accept an independence that will be one in name only, or that being real for a day, vanishes like smoke on the morrow. You have included in our idealism, and for that we are grateful. The ideal of independence has held us together as a nation all these years. Without that ideal we could not have achieved union and nationalism. But we have learned our lesson, and we came to you, sincere and proud as before, but much wiser. Let us pick up the loose ends of our motives and interests and see whether we cannot piece them together straight and whole."

And they will find a way out—if the time should come when the one will be as honest as the other is just.

**Machines and Men**

Believing he was hitting upon some fundamentals "that have thrown us into this new era, this new day, this new age," in extension-of-remains in the *Congressional Record* of August 29 Congressman Walter M. Pierce included 3 striking illustrations of how machines are liberating men from labor, incidentally, though possibly temporarily, provoking unemployment problems in the United States. He mentioned a new machine at Ford's which bores an 8-cylinder shaft, polishes and finishes it in 5 minutes; it formerly employed 1 man 1 day to turn out 1 cylinder, so the new machine relieves scores of men from his work. He mentioned a new plant of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company that employing 90 men turns out the quota of sheet steel that formerly employed 800 men, thus relieving 710 men from this type of work. Then he mentioned his own ranch, where his son with 12 men harvests as much grain as he himself formerly did with the work of 40 men; on that ranch alone, during the harvest season, 28 men formerly employed are relieved of that type of work by some improved harvesting machine.

His notations are interesting for the scope they embrace. He of course argued not against machines, but in contrastation of a good deal of opinion that holds America is merely temporarily bogged in hard times out of which the usual course of events will lead her to renewed prosperity and universal employment of labor.

Congressman Pierce believes that technological unemployment is not a mere symptom of the times; he thinks it is a permanent factor in modern life in industrial countries.

**REAL ESTATE**

By P. D. CARMAN  
Addison Hills



1935 Real Estate sales in the City of Manila exceeded those of 1934 by approximately three million pesos! The following yearly totals for the past ten years indicate that the local real estate market did not greatly feel the effects of the Depression until 1932. It will also be noted that since that year there has been steady improvement and that 1935 sales exceed those of 1926 and 1927 and are not far behind

those of 1928, all pre-depression years. This situation indicates material growth of the City during the past decade and the probability of an active future market not only in respect to volume of business but to values which are

undoubtedly rising steadily with the general improvement in economic conditions:

1926...	₱12,710,660	1931..	₱18,523,382
1927...	11,995,124	1932..	9,857,937
1928...	16,884,814	1933..	11,755,282
1929...	18,110,918	1934..	12,466,897
1930...	16,922,288	1935..	15,403,079

Sales City of Manila

	November 1935	December 1935	Total for 1935
Sta. Cruz.....	₱257,548	₱ 92,011	₱ 3,069,158
Sampaloc.....	359,090	156,199	1,640,718
Tondo.....	31,905	445,739	1,535,826
Binondo.....	10,500	15,500	921,083
San Nicolas...	19,755	—	1,966,612
Ermita.....	21,700	18,321	611,800
Malate.....	45,820	169,653	1,460,963
Paco.....	18,909	15,895	444,281
Sta. Ana.....	7,826	26,789	321,430
Quiapo.....	15,721	16,560	2,813,733
San Miguel...	3,600	4,623	123,089
Intramuros...	22,330	—	400,008
Pandacan.....	3,400	—	39,721
Sta. Mesa.....	30,000	—	54,157
San Felipe Neri	—	—	500

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