

Likewise, the berthings at battered and antiquated Pier 5 have been cut down, as Pier 9 can handle four large ocean-going ships simultaneously.

Pier 7 is partly closed for temporary repairs but it is accepting cargo over the pier.

Cranes and overhead cargo working gear are yet to be installed at Pier 9. The machinery has been placed on the pier and by April 1, it is hoped the pier will be operating at full efficiency.

Pier 9 will provide suitable relief for the overtaxed facilities of the Port of Manila, and it should cut down considerably the handling cost of cargo through the Port. At present the rules of the Port provide that export cargo must be loaded directly from the truck to the ship. This is a laborious method of loading as it does not permit stockpiling of cargo prior to the actual on-ship loading. To facilitate the export trade, which is one of the objectives of many governmental moves, the next step will be to give the exporter from the Philippines a break by permitting him the privilege of placing his cargo on the dock, enabling the stevedores to then load expeditiously when the ship is ready for cargo.

Ocean Shipping and Exports

By F. M. GISPERT

Secretary, Associated Steamship Lines

EXPORTS for the month of January, 1950, showed a slight falling off compared with January of last year, which can probably be accounted for by the drop in scrap-metal shipments. Total exports for the month were 160,578 tons, as compared to 182,654 tons for the corresponding month last year.

The comparison, by commodities, runs as follows:

	1950	1949
Beer.....	61 tons	29 tons
Cocunut, desiccated.....	6,687 "	6,120 "
Cocunut, oil.....	2,766 "	1,633 "
Concentrates, copper.....	5,223 "	2,060 "
" gold.....	429 "	" "
Copra.....	38,010 "	23,466 "
Copra cake meal.....	4,198 "	3,770 "
Embroideries.....	135 "	110 "
Empty cylinders.....	580 "	480 "
Furniture rattan.....	513 "	776 "
Glycerine.....	110 "	353 "
Gum, copal.....	16 "	53 "
Hemp.....	58,416 bales	7,302 bales
Household goods.....	241 tons	214 tons
Junk, metal.....	1,111 "	16,229 "
Logs.....	11,788,661 bft.	2,185,910 bft.
Lumber.....	739,555 "	1,639,457 "
Molasses.....	4,774 tons	17,891 tons
Plywood.....	12 "	" "
Ores, chrome.....	9,437 "	31,178 "
" iron.....	20,077 "	20,212 "
" manganese.....	24 "	2,081 "
Pineapples, canned.....	4,126 "	2,620 "
Rattan, palasan.....	74 "	149 "
Rope.....	243 "	289 "
Rubber.....	80 "	78 "
Sugar.....	38,228 "	35,477 "
Tobacco.....	81 "	37 "
Transit cargo.....	431 "	191 "
General merchandise.....	7,453 "	4,100 "

Inter-Island Shipping

By D. M. CAMERON

General Traffic Manager

Everett Steamship Corporation

THERE has been no important change in the pattern of inter-island shipping in the last few months. Since the advent of more stringent import controls, outward cargoes from Manila to the provinces have shown a

decrease, which of course must be expected as outward cargoes are, for the most part, composed of imported commodities. When present stocks of imported commodities are depleted, an additional downward trend in volume is expected. However, return cargoes from Davao and ports in Mindanao and nearby continue in appreciable volume.

Apparently due to the decrease in south-bound cargoes, a number of operators of the smaller FS-type vessels have joined in a petition to the President of the Philippines asking the termination of the remaining charters of the U. S. Maritime Commission vessels in the inter-island trade. There are 6 of these vessels remaining from a total of 10 which were chartered in 1946, and this petition is based on the premise that these 6 vessels are no longer needed in the trade due to the alleged availability of an adequate number of privately-owned vessels.

The position taken by these operators is not supported by facts, as the movement of bulk commodities from the further ports to Manila by the smaller vessels, in the volume required to maintain even present production, is impossible. The present freight rates under which lumber, hemp, corn, and rice are carried, would not permit compensatory operation of the small vessels, and it would be immediately necessary to raise these rates in order that the small vessel, with its comparatively high operating cost in relation to its carrying capacity, could show a profit. This situation is apparent to those in the Philippine Government who are concerned with the industrial and agricultural progress of the Islands, and it is understood that representations have been made to the United States Government to continue these charters after June 30, 1950, when the Philippine Rehabilitation Law (under which they are chartered) terminates. Some of the operators of these chartered vessels have indicated their desire to purchase if the American law is adjusted to permit this; the U. S. Ships Sales Act proviso terminating sales to foreign countries was enacted without due consideration to the Philippine Rehabilitation Program.

In addition to the carriage of cargo, the transportation of passengers and the volume in which they move dictates the use of larger vessels than the FS-type which are more suitable for the shorter voyages to the less distant ports. It is understood that shippers of lumber, hemp, and the like have expressed themselves to the President as requiring the larger vessels for the continuation of their businesses.

Lumber

By LUIS J. REYES

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EXPORTS for the month of January totalled 5,192,302 board feet, comprising 2,537,723 board feet of sawn lumber and 2,654,579 board feet in round logs. This is slightly less than the export for the month of December. Japan led the United States in the quantity of imports, with 2,453,634 board feet, as compared with 2,286,004 feet to the United States, although the money-value of shipments to the latter is greater. Before the war, Japan led all others in log imports, which were used almost exclusively for plywood.

In the Manila market, the demand for lumber has somewhat slowed down because of the uncertainties of the Import Control. As a result, prices have gone down ₱5 to ₱10 per thousand. A similar drop in prices occurred last year, starting about the middle of February, although before the war, prices weakened only when the rainy period begins, about the middle of June.