

## THE RICE INDUSTRY By PERCY A. HILL of Multar, Nacua Ecija Director, Rice Product's Association



Rice prices since our last report are lower by 5 centavos n sack. Luxury grades are bringing P645 to P665 a sack. The price price price P630 a sack. The market is steady. Macan pulay ranges from P285 to P2-95 a envan, 44 kilos, to Beentavos highenvanta et al sach are responsed to the price price response during the month were fain, building up of steeks at the sit ming centers.

Saigon reported heavy arrivals but the market tending upward, February 20. Saigon No. 1, 25', Iroken, P6.49; No. 2, 40', broken, P6.37. (Sacks of 56-1 2 kilos, ci.f., Manila or Cebu deixery). The new sack-weight has excited comment. The old weight was 2 cavans of palay, 88 kilos, making 57-1 2 kilos of clean rice with normal mill recovery, and the 12 kilos was supposed to be the weight of the sack. The new ruling 5.5-1 2 kilos a sack, for some new ruling 5.5-1 2 kilos a sack for some supposed to be the weight of the sack. The sack for the sack of cavan at 75 liters, dry a 3 liters, with the sack or cavan at 75 liters, dry measure; but there is no way for a sack to hold 25 gantas, dry measure, as recovery and quality varv. The 1936 crop estimates vary from high to low. Pangasiman lad estimated clean rice 3,500,000 sacks, but reports a loss of 2,000,000 sacks. Capit has lowered her carly estimate by 1, 3: the Hokos region, 40%. The Tayabas crop is short, also Bulkan's, and Tarlak, Panpanga and Nueva Beija report their crops 1 8 bolow estimates—ortheir fails to tall of with threshing 19,300,800 sacks, against, requirements for 22,309,000 sacks, a gainst, requirements for An assemblyman estimated a shortage of 5,000, 000 sacks.

The next crop will be a short one, due to the plant disease everyone so merrily ignores, and the weather will take the blame.

The fine word solution is again to the forelike discrafication and normalize. The board the chief executive appointed suggested a revolving fund of P2,000,000 for purchase and distribution of rice-presumably imported under some arrangementabout the tariff. This seems feasible, but only for the large consuming centers; but the real difficulty lies not there, but in the produeing regions.

Due to pressing necessity of producers, the crop, short as it is, has been sold without taking subsistence needs into account. Subsistence will provoke demand in the distant consuming centers and thus reduce stocks perilously in the rice provinces themselves. Mechanisms of distribution function well in the export-crop regions, but are creaky in the rice regions; and hence, since the main supply will be shipped away on trade commitments, unrest in the rice provinces may be expected.

