

The old San Juan reservoir which figures in the story concluded below has become antiquated, with the development of Manila's modern water system, but remains of peculiar historical interest.—The grilles cap the ventilators.—The large building was, in earlier years, the offices of the water administration.

ing beneath the tree. Many of us watched him from a distance, but none venture near, for they were afraid that perhaps he, too, was in league with evil spirits. Finally, at a very late hour, we all fell asleep. In the morning the laborers all gathered about the plaza of the temporary village, and anxiously awaited the rain and the lightning bolt which our master had promised as a sign. And as truly as I sit before you, Señor, at midday clouds began to appear. At about the fourth hour in the afternoon, the rain began to fall, and there was thunder and lightning. Then, suddenly, a great sheet of flame shot up from the sampalok tree, and there was a deafening explosion. The great tree was thrown high in the air, and torn into fragments. And though most of us were much frightened, we did not run away, but fell to our knees and prayed. Then the great Don Sebastian came out and, kneeling in the rain before the great house, gave thanks to God for the sign which had restored the faith of the people.

Thus was the confidence of the people in Don Sebastian reestablished and made absolute. Those who had left, returned to their work; still constantly harassed by the tigbalang and the matanda sa punso, they continued steadily, until at last, in the year 1883, their task was finished.

The great tube was laid from the foot of the chamber down to the fountain of Carriedo, in Manila. Then pure water from the mountains was let in until it filled the twenty-four galleries of the great chamber, and the work of the great Don Sebastian was done.

There was a great fiesta in Manila, a fiesta which none of us who were employed by Don Sebastian will ever forget. There was a very magnificent parade, Señor, headed by the *Arzobispo* and the *Gobernador General*. The *Arzobispo* himself turned the spigot of the fountain, and blessed the pure water as it sprang forth, the water which was ever to supply the people of Manila in the seasons of dryness.

Ah yes, it was a proud day, Señor. The great Don Sebastian sat in the carriage with the *Director de Aguas*,—there were no automobiles then, Señor, and our master made a speech, and praised all of us who had helped him build the chamber. There was plenty for all to eat and to drink; we all gave thanks to God. Much honor was conferred upon the *Director de Aguas* and upon Don Sebastian.

Thus, Señor, was built the great water system which should really have been called the *Aguas Don Sebastian*, but which was named the *Aguas Carriedos*, in honor of a great man who died long ago, and who left money to pay the expenses of the work. The people of Manila should thank Don Sebastian, rather than this other man, for only he could have succeeded in completing so great a task. But many strange and frightful things have happened in the bondok since the completion of the *Aguas Carriedos*, Señor. The evil spirits are still angry, and they still strive to avenge themselves upon the descendants of the builders of the chamber of waters, who destroyed their home. And of these things also will I tell you, Señor, some day when you have an hour to waste in listening to an old man's tale. They shall be all true tales, Señor, for I do not believe in the superstitions of the ignorant folk; and I tell only of the things which I have seen with my own two eyes. Adios, Señor. May you walk with God.

## Missions in Old "Distrito del Príncipe"

Of Baler, in the old political division of north, eastern Luzon called the *Distrito del Príncipe*—we talked last month, telling of the vain siege the Spanish garrison sustained there long after the change of sovereignty over the islands had occurred. The journey with the Franciscan mission priests may now be continued through the other towns of the district.

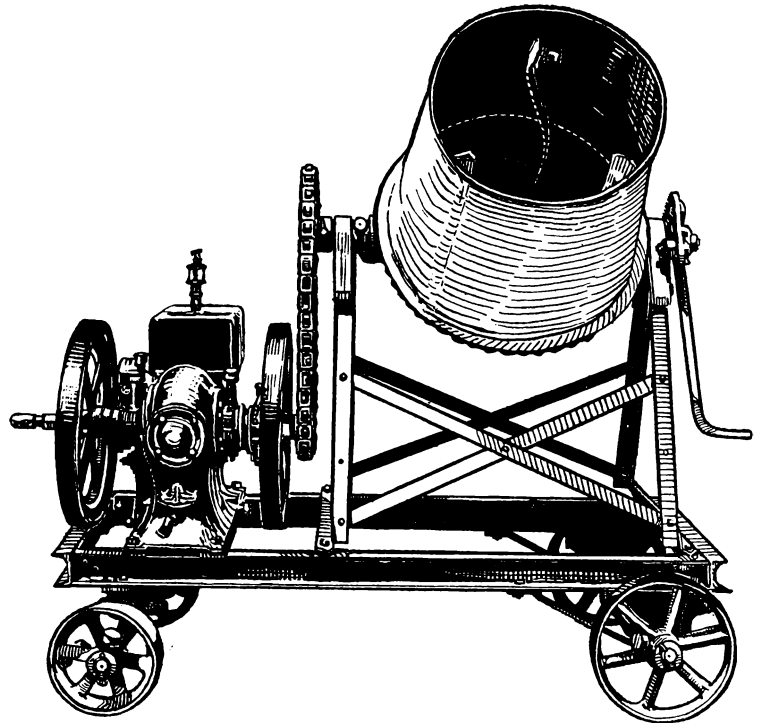
*Casiguran*.—Founded by Fr. Blas Palomino and his companion missionaries in 1609. First parish priest, Fr. Pascual Serrano, 1616. Administration ceded to the Recollects, 1658, "because of the great scarcity of religious in our province of St. George the Great," Father Huerta says, our readers all understanding, of course, that to the Franciscans the Philippines are the province of St. George. Returned to the Franciscans by the Recollects, 1703. Situated on the east coast of Luzon at Cape San Ildefonso, mountain border of Isabela on the north, Dipaculao on the south, Casignan south-

west and the Caraballo range west. The church, dedicated to San Antonio de Padua, the great healer, is of mixed materials. Good timber abounds.

"It is not easy to estimate the area of land pertaining to this pueblo, surrounded as it is (Huerta wrote in 1865) with infidel inhabitant which is the reason why few explorers have visited it. But all the religious, whether few or many, have penetrated the jungle in an effort to reduce to the Christian faith the infidel tribe and all affirm in one accord that these mountains so generously irrigated by numerous streams, produce all that may be produced from the most fertile lands in the world. The coast is a secure harbor even for vessels of the deepest draft, and the entrance to the harbor is in no wise dangerous of navigation."

The rich region which Huerta thus describes still remains but little developed, but unquestionably it cannot be long before its variation

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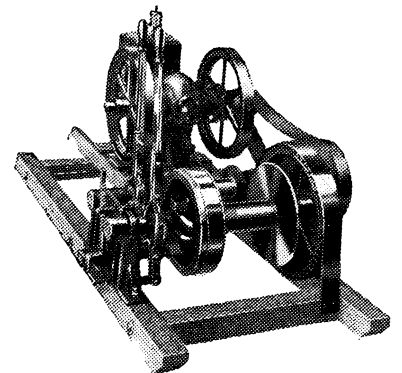
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of soil, probable mineral resources will, in conjunction with its salubrious climate, attract the attention of enterprising farmers and planters. Presently, luring the adventurous traveler, the whole region is little advanced from the primal conditions which the Franciscans found here in 1609, only a few years after the founding of James-

*Dipaculao.*—Founded in 1719 by Fr. Sebastian de la Madre de Dios, who was then the parish priest at

Baler. Patron, San José. "Enjoys a cool and healthful climate and lands suitable for crops of all kinds. It is supplied with water from numerous perennial springs, pure and crystalline. Several times, the missionary fathers have contrived to build churches of bamboo and palm, which only lasted while the fathers remained in the pueblo; as soon as they absented themselves even for a day, the people themselves tore the churches down." Fr. José de Esparragosa gathered 300 people at the mission in 1851, but they did not remain there after he was called away for other work, and the mission was again placed under the jurisdiction of the parish of Baler.

Why should the people of such a rich region so sparsely inhabited, have cared to settle down in little pueblos? They cared rather to fish and hunt, as men anywhere would have under similar circumstances.

Huerta speaks repeatedly of the abundance of game in the mountains and the excellence and abundance of fish along the entire coast.

*Casignan.*—Founded in 1753 by Fr. Manuel de Olivencia; erected into parish in 1761, with Fr. Francisco Ferreras as priest. "It is situated in a small valley eastward of the Caraballo de Baler, on the banks of the large river which gives it its name." Patron, San Vicente.

So closes the account of the missions in the *Distrito del Príncipe*, Baler, Casignan, Dipaculao, Casignan, with total inhabitants of but 2,957 in 1865, and only 690 tribute payers.

Between this district and Laguna bay, was created the *Distrito de la Infanta*, in 1856, from territory theretofore pertaining to Laguna. It included the island of Polillo. The sea was its eastern boundary, Tayabas to the south, Laguna on the west. The Franciscan missions were Polillo and Binangonan.

Fr. Esteban Ortiz raised the cross aloft at Binangonan de Lampon, but Fr. Blas Palomino was the founder of the pueblo, in 1609, and the first parish priest. From 1658 to 1703 Binangonan was under the Recollects, then it was returned to the Franciscans. Baler is on the north, the island and town of Polillo on the east, Mauban on the south, and Siniloan 20 miles across the mountains to the southwest. The pueblo is built on the banks of the Agos near its confluence with the Pacific opposite Polillo.

The common means of communication with neighboring towns, all distant, is by sea; in calm weather, Polillo is reached from Binangonan in eight hours; land ways, in 1865, were confined to the single precipitous trail over the mountains to Siniloan, 24 miles away. "To reach Mauban it is necessary to go by sea (the distance is 60 miles) and the voyage is very dangerous or quite impossible during the period from October to March that of the northeast monsoon, constantly lashing the Pacific coast; to reach Baler (the distance here is 81 miles) to the risks of the coastal voyage are added the necessity to make no intermediate stops, because of the infidels inhabiting the region." So it is an error to suppose the friars neglected to venture into the remote and isolated parts of the islands. Rather it should be said that they went everywhere it was possible to go, and they established and maintained missions in places where the task was all but hopeless.

Huerta records Binangonan as primarily a grazing and forest region; there are many varieties of palms, rattans and edible roots, and game bounds.

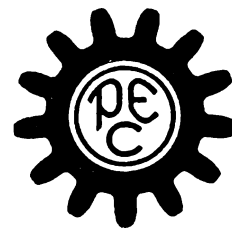
*Polillo.*—On the island of that name, opposite Binangonan de Lampon, made a parish in 1635; in the hands of the Recollects from 1658 to 1703; patron, San José; church and parish house of stone. "The jurisdiction of the pueblo is extensive with the island, which is quite mountainous, with the Malolo valley cutting through the center." Products are of many varieties, the mountains are heavily forested and yield hardwoods, rattans and bamboos. In Huerta's time the cultivated lands were producing rice, corn, sugar cane, cotton, cacao, coffee, fruits and legumes. Industries were rice, farming, fishing and hunting. The market towns were Mambulao and Paracale, Camarines Norte, where truck, timbers and rattans from Polillo were exchanged for gold dust.

Next comes the *Distrito de Burias*, comprising Burias island, where Colonel Stimson went on the *Apo* to enjoy the last politico-piscatorial trip he made in the islands. (He said he wished to persuade Speaker Roxas to give up trolling, for the rod and reel is on the north and east, Masbate south; the straits are 10 miles wide. The surface of the island is quite broken. Much of the center. Up to 845 Burias was reckoned uninhabited. The missions utilized the island as a place of rendezvous; it was the

### The Manila Archdiocese

The Archdiocese was established as a Diocese in 1581 and as an Archdiocese in 1585, and has been in continuous existence since that time. It includes the city of Manila, seven provinces and a part of two other provinces comprising a total of 9,276 square miles. It has a Catholic population of 1,450,000 a larger Catholic population than that of the Archdiocese of either New York City or Chicago. Within the Archdiocese there are 188 churches and 62 colleges, academies and schools with 15,300 students. Among the educational and charitable institutions are the University of Santo Tomas, established in 1611, Santa Catalina College for Girls, founded in 1698, and a hospital, San Juan de Dios, founded in 1596.

Precision

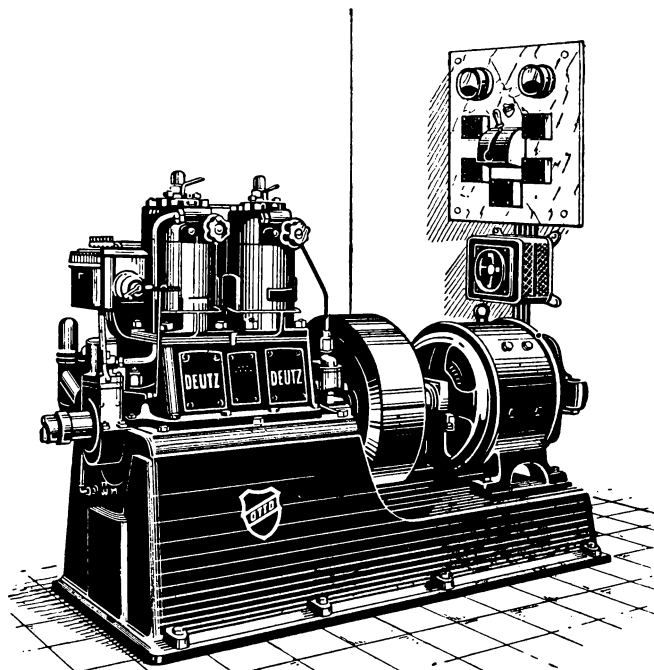


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