

SON OF BLUEGRASS REGION
(Continued from page 11)

stripping and baling the fiber being done by Japanese. All the hemp leaves the plantation through Captain Burchfield's warehouse; the volume averages 600 piculs a month; Captain Burchfield's income is quite satisfactory, very satisfactory if it comes to that.

That courting on horseback back yonder in Kentucky won for the gallant trooper of those days the girl who could and did make him happy. The border man could go no distance she was not willing to go also; so early as 1900 she came out to Davao and made a home for her husband. But years have passed, five years more than a score, in fact, and a cottage in Palo Alto suits her better now. It is not far, only 20 days or so across the Pacific, and Captain Jim can travel when he will. Their son, David, returned from education in a business course in the United States, lives in Davao and is beginning his career by running a general store. There is another store on the plantation: there is plenty for father and son to do both in town and on the farm. But not too much, nor with any particular hurry: life is not dreadfully exacting in the Philippines.

Captain Jim advises young Americans of today to do as he did twenty-five years ago, go to Davao and work out their fortune. Each can get a homestead of 24 hectares. Each can purchase 100 hectares. In short, each can acquire either by purchase or lease all the land he requires for a sizable plantation, the cost by purchase being about two dollars an acre. With determination and a little money, any healthy young American may do for himself in Davao what Captain James L. Burchfield has done. "It is," says Captain Jim, "only the application

of common sense to a perfectly obvious problem. For example, cattle. I was the first breeder to import Indian bulls and cross them with native cows. My neighbors lifted their eyebrows, for the bulls cost me \$300 apiece. Two years later the neighbors were swaping me three heifers for one two-year-old grade bull. The fellow going into a proposition like Davao must use his own judgment. He can listen to the talk, but his final decisions must be his own."

Captain Jim is now 69 years old. He says he would have no success dodging automobiles in American cities, where he gets homesick, while out in the towns and the country districts, as well as in the cities, no one sees far enough to find subjects for conversation interesting to him. Davao suits him, so back he goes to Davao with the expectation of rounding out a century.

Pittsburgher Finds Davao Bonanza Country—Volunteer Soldiering Means to Competence

David Jacobson of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, made no mistake in responding to the call of his country and enlisting in the 44th United States Volunteers to come to the Philippines in 1901, when the question of the insurrection against America was to be settled. When he came to the islands he was a high private in the rear ranks, as the boys say; and now he is one of the more substantial planters of Davao, the owner of a plantation of 300 hectares, 750 acres, and the master of his destiny. As a soldier he was a member of Company L, 44th Infantry, U. S. V., commanded by Captain (now Judge) A. S. Crossfield, who himself has plantation interests in Davao—an avocational activity aside from his career as a judge after leaving the Army and his subsequent position as a member of the Manila bar.

Jacobson owns Tagdangua Plantation Company, Inc., capital, P35,000. Eighty hectares of the plantation are in hemp; there are 3000 coconuts palms, 1000 of which are in bearing and producing 200

piculs of copra annually. Coconuts are planted about 120 to the hectare; on Tagdangua 25 hectares are in coconuts. It is seen that nearly two-thirds of the place is still to be planted up, which can easily be financed from present earnings. In other words, the turning point has been passed. Jacobson has a competence now, while his place is the equivalent of a fortune.

The monthly yield of Tagdangua averages 120 piculs of high-grade hemp and 15 piculs of first class copra. It is not all profit; the labor payroll is around P3000 a month, a tidy sum distributed regularly to a small community, with wages per man from P1.20 to P2.50 per day. Managing a plantation is strictly business, the question is to make, one year with another, a reasonable percentage above cost of operation. Jacobson does this, although put to the expense of bringing in workmen from Cebu and other provinces, which costs about P35 per man. Jacobson has less advantage from the services of indigenous labor than do some of the other planters, though




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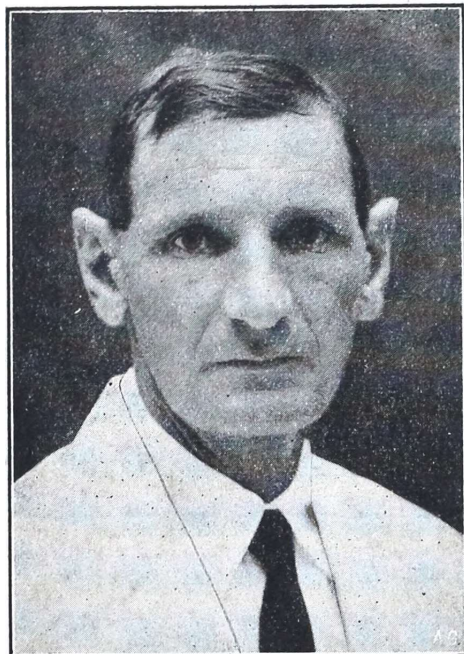
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David Jacobson, Rugged and Well-to-Do Planter of Davao.

many, like him, are more or less dependent upon labor brought from other provinces.

This is simply another factor in the difficult problem of making a plantation pay. Not every man succeeds; unless a man has the quality in his character that makes him the master of other men, he fails because he cannot deal successfully with his workmen. If corporations organized in the United States decide to undertake agricultural projects in the Philippines and to plant rubber, coffee or other crops, they can find among the skilled experienced planters of Davao the man most likely to make their projects profitable in the fewest years, if placed in charge of the labor. They know all the tribes and the peculiarities of each.

Reverses do not overwhelm them. Jacobson's experience is an example. He began at Tagdangua in 1914, planting, as soon as he could, 50,000 hills of hemp. Drouth killed it, so he planted again. Drouth killed the second lot of plants, so a third lot was planted. Planting fifty hectares, 125 acres, of land three times in order to get a crop started shows the stuff that is in a man. Three times one's every resource has been sapped; twice his crops have withered on the stalk; and when the fields are still crusted with drouth the plow is set to the furrow and they are broken for another planting.

Copybooks call it perseverance; whatever it be, it is what the pioneer must have. Jacobson has it in plenty.

Jacobson also appreciates the fact that the direct shipment of products from Davao in ocean vessels was the real beginning of prosperity for the planters. Before that they worked mainly for the interisland steamships, a day to which Governor General Wood put an end, though the great hero of that little dream was O. V. Wood of Malita, Davao, now deceased. Now the products, hemp and copra, leave Davao directly for New York and San Francisco, or for Europe, and the planters get the benefit of low ocean rates and top local prices. The next step is inward cargoes by ocean steamers, the complete opening of the port which this issue of the Journal celebrates. The planters will get their supplies cheaper. Woven wire fencing is an

important supply, because lands must be planted. On 12 rolls of fencing sent him from Manila recently, Jacobson paid ₱12 freight. It is the prospect of ridding them-

selves of such exorbitant charges that makes the planters of Davao ready to banquet the first captain reaching their port with freights loaded in the United States.

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