

by MARCELINO BAUTISTA

A. *Annual Report in the Making*
(Continued from last month)

11. Last month the Director and the Assistant Director of Education permitted me to accompany them in their inspection trips to the Visayas. The Director visited Iloilo and Negros Occidental on March 3—March 10. The Assistant Director visited Leyte, Cebu, and Bohol on March 18—March 27. I was assigned to look into the work of the secondary schools, especially those that have just been opened.

In these trips I had the opportunity to see the fine work that has been done in getting the secondary schools started on very inadequate facilities. The splendid cooperation of parent-teacher associations was noted everywhere. They had put up buildings, had secured sites, had secured classroom equipment, and had even helped pay teachers' bonuses. The morale of the teachers, as a whole, has been noted to be high. As is to be expected, there are

a few raw exceptions — that is, when tuition fees are not high enough to make possible the continued payment of much-needed relief bonuses. In some schools the salary rates approved are even lower than those paid to national employees.

But the teachers, as a whole, are taking it chin up. They were advised to hold on until the end of the school year. Like other reasonable and patient men, they are still listening. They are not yet going to strike. But they may not

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long continue to be with us that is, some of them may... may...be tempted. A large majority, however, are still hoping that the provincial and City governments would do right by them and the people's children. In the meantime, these will stay on, soothed temporarily, very temporarily by eloquently-phrased "other compensations of teaching."

12. The two Directors were visiting their respective home provinces for the first time since their elevation to their present positions. They were accorded real homecoming ovations. Director Abada is from Kabankalan, Negros Occidental; Assistant Director Putong is from Tagbilaran, Bohol. Two "local boys make good"! The usual brass bands; the usual parades and guards of honor; the usual speeches; garlands for the "fatted calf." But the returning prophets were not without honor in their own hometowns; they are actual-

ly loved. They are still called by their first names. Everyone seemed to know them, and they seemed to know everyone who was important. (Your President and the other "aides" basked in all this reflected glory. We are not so old that we can't enjoy a joke even on ourself. And this is only one of many compensations due those who accompany the Big Ones in inspection trips.)

13. While we were inspecting school work, the Directors permitted me to speak on behalf of the PPSTA. In several speeches I stressed the need of getting together and pooling our resources however meager, of gathering our separate little voices together and making one resonant voice that will be heard. And I heard the Directors speak on the same occasions, boosting our cause and giving us their support. They are sincerely behind "this cause of ours."

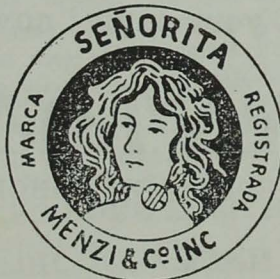
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The reception of the PPSTA idea in all the provinces visited was highly encouraging. Everywhere the teachers pledged to join the national organization. We are convinced we are getting somewhere. The membership dues are pouring in. The organization is beginning to uncoil. It is rearing its head. There will soon be much fun among those who can (or who can't) see eye to eye with "us."

14. It will be noted in the report on "Bills on Congress" in the March and April issues of the *Educator* that many bills have already been introduced in the present Congress. But don't be such an optimist. I am telling you that, as in baseball, a bill must go through all the "bases" before it becomes a law. Many of these bills are not even at bat. Have you sent a telegram or a letter to your Congressmen asking them to work for the passage

of the bills which you think will help the teachers and the schools? You spend a few centavos—you and you and you of the towns and the barrios and the cities—and get something. Remember that your name is legion and that your cause is the cause of justice itself—justice for the less privileged half of all government employees. Only, you have to raise a finger or two—right now! Let's all do our part for the sake of everybody.

15. We have continued contacting Congressmen and have asked them to tell us what they are doing for us. Some of the replies are published elsewhere in this issue. These preliminary contacts with members of Congress seem to indicate that there is a general desire to help the teachers and improve their lot. But our association can not move freely. We are reminded of the fact that millions of pesos

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