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# THE CITY OFFICES IN ACTION

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY ASSESSOR

**T**HE valuation of real estate for the purpose of taxation having been completed, the personnel, including an average of 45 relief workers a day, busied themselves in preparing the second half of the assessment work,—the tax rolls. A copy of the tax rolls which should be submitted to the City Treasurer on or before May 1st of every year serves as authority of this official to collect real estate taxes.

Unlike the valuation of real estate, the preparation of the tax rolls does not require the exercise of discretion. For this reason, and in view of the reduction of our personnel, we tried for the first time to entrust this work to employees on part time basis under, of course, the constant supervision of the regular employees. The work is voluminous and requires much attention to details. If the list is not prepared with the care and accuracy it demands, properties may be taxed twice or may escape taxation altogether. We are glad to be able to state that without exception the relief workers, knowing fully well the consequences of an error on their part and observing instruction to sacrifice speed for accuracy, have proceeded in a manner that leaves nothing to be desired.

The following data will give an idea of the volume of work performed during the month: 55,000 assessment cards were made and no less than 3,000 sheets of rolls each containing 60 lines were used.

JULIO FRANCIA  
*City Assessor*

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY FISCAL

**A** TOTAL of 2,622 criminal cases were investigated by the City Fiscal's Office from January 1 to February 28, at its main office, in Pasay, Tondo and Meisic. This makes an average of 57 cases daily. Of these, 507 were tried in the Courts of First Instance, and 1,100 criminal cases were tried in the Municipal Courts.

Other business transacted were:

- 3 civil cases filed.
- 2 civil cases represented by the City Fiscal.
- 6 contracts prepared.
- 9 opinions rendered in writing.

ALEJO MABANAG  
*City Fiscal*

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY HEALTH OFFICER

**T**HE highlight of the activities of the City Health Office for the month of February was the establishment of day nurseries and home nursing schools in the districts of Gagalangin, San Nicolas, Malate and Intramuros for the main purposes of taking care of children whose mothers are forced to work to make

out a living, of training actual and prospective mothers and amahs in the proper methods of caring for babies; and lastly, of improving the health of infants and babies through general physical care and hygiene such as rest, exercise and proper diet, and of giving adequate medical supervision for early discovery and correction of defects.

Each nursery has an initial capacity of 20 beds and is staffed by a physician, a nurse, a midwife, and two helpers. As an age requirement, only babies from 2 to 12 months old are admitted in these nurseries at present. Older children, however, will be admitted later. Although intended primarily to serve poor and indigent families, yet offsprings of middle-class mothers may also be admitted upon payment of a nominal sum of ₱0.50 a day to cover expenses for the subsistence of babies.

**T**HIS activity is not novel in the City of Manila. In the year 1920, Day Nurseries were first established in the districts of Singalong, Tondo, and Bilbao under the maintenance of the Insular Government for the benefit of poor working mothers who could not afford to work in factories, industrial establishments, etc. For two consecutive years, this activity went on smoothly until it failed, partly due to the insufficiency of personnel and partly, to the astounding discovery that mothers, conscious of the security of their infants in trained and reliable hands, became pampered and even gambled thus defeating the noble and humanitarian purposes for which the project was created by the government. In 1937, during the administration of the late Mayor Posadas, efforts were made to revive these nurseries but they were not realized due to lack of financial backing on the part of the City Government. With proper support from Mayor Guinto who is in full accord with this plan, the possibility of its success seems so certain that we expect to establish soon more of these nurseries not only in the City of Manila proper but in the incorporated suburbs as well.

As a corollary to this activity, kindergarten classes have also been opened in each of the 45 health centers of the City of Manila. This project would prove a blessing to many poor mothers who, instead of performing household duties or enjoying some wholesome recreation, have always to bear the nervous strain of looking after active children. But what is more important is its protection. The other benefit that may accrue from this activity is the promotion of the child's physical and mental health through regular health examinations and through early training for the proper development of the child's character and personality. The more favorable environment of the child in kindergarten schools also serves to mold him into a future asset rather than a liability to the community.

In these classes, stress will be given to develop in children love of their country and heroes, belief in the greatness of their race; and the cultivation of such traits as affection, gratitude, respect for God and authorities, natural simplicity, obedience, sympathy, generosity, sociability, habits of strenuous efforts, orderliness, good speech, manners, initiative, resourcefulness and independent thinking.

**B**ARELY two weeks in existence, these schools for pre-school children have shown some results, prognosticating a bright future for this project. The unusually big enrolment as reported by the health centers of the city clearly demonstrates the interest of the public along this line. With the cooperation of the public, much may be expected of this project in the form of more healthy children, who have received a good start for a happier and more valuable life to the country and to themselves.

The Office of the City Health Officer, under the administration of the city, has also opened a children's hospital in the Balagtas Elementary School building. This project has answered the long-felt need of the public for more charity beds in the different hospitals of the city and is at the time calculated to help reduce our high death rate among young children.

Considering the rise in the number of jobless families and low-salaried employees during these days when foodstuffs and medicines are highly priced, one can easily visualize the manifold benefits that the needy public will derive from this humanitarian activity.

This hospital will function with an initial capacity of 100 beds, with a prospect of increasing them depending upon necessities and the financial capacity of the city government.

As this hospital is intended for the poor who can not employ private physicians, there is no pay ward. A physician with many years of excellent training here and abroad has been chosen to head this institution. Other well chosen physicians, nurses and midwives will make up the rest of the staff. This hospital, scheduled for official inauguration within the next few days, is one additional testimony of the efforts of the City Administration to help the masses to the limit of its resources, and to return to the people in the form of service every peso and centavo it collects from them in taxes.

**T**HE following are the points on which the winners in the monthly Clean-City drive are chosen:

	Value of items	Ratings
I. Sanitation of buildings and premises <sup>1</sup> .....	300	.....
A. Private .....	180	.....
(Inspect at least 25 representative samples one-half of which are from slum districts)		
B. Public (Inspect all) <sup>2</sup> .....	120	.....
1. Public buildings .....	20	.....

	Value of items	Ratings
2. Public grounds and streets (including private streets) .....	50	.....
3. Control of stray animals and other nuisances, odors, smoke, etc. ....	30	.....
4. Theaters .....	20	.....
II. Sanitation of food .....	200	.....
A. Provision with food-handlers' certificates .....	40	.....
B. Sanitation of food-handling establishments <sup>2</sup> .....	160	.....
1. Hotels .....	10	.....
2. Restaurants and catterias .....	40	.....
3. Refreshment parlors..	20	.....
4. Bakeries .....	20	.....
5. Markets .....	20	.....
6. Slaughterhouses .....	10	.....
7. Tiendas (sari-sari, tindang bahay, etc.)....	20	.....
8. Others (soft drinks, pop corn, etc.) .....	10	.....
9. Peddlers (ice cream, milk, etc.) .....	10	.....
III. Sewage disposal .....	300	.....
Provision of houses and public buildings with sewer connection, septic tank, Antipolo system or other satisfactory and approved system in at least 90 per cent of the houses and buildings.		
IV. Garbage disposal .....	200	.....
A. Provision with proper receptacle .....	100	.....
B. Effective individual disposal by burning or burying, or		
Disposal daily thru the collection system of the City .....	100	.....

Total number of points      1000

MARIANO C. ICASIANO  
City Health Officer

#### OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT

**T**HE Office of the City Engineer and Architect accomplished the following business for the month of February, 1943.

<sup>1</sup> When rating this item, take note of items III and IV (Sewage and garbage disposal).

<sup>2</sup> If any item does not exist in the area, allot 75 per cent of full value of the item as its ratings.

It issued six permits for the construction of buildings and eleven permits for the repair of buildings and further issued one hundred seven other permits incurring an approximate expense of ₱18,620. Sixty-three inspections of boilers and machinery were made while thirty-two certificates were given out also for boilers and machinery. A total of ₱1,099 was collected in fees.

ALEJO AQUINO  
City Engineer

**OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN  
CONSTABULARY**

**F**OR the month of February no violent crime was reported except the stabbing of a man on February 19th in front of the Naric Warehouse, Antonio Rivera Street, resulting to his death subsequently in the Philippine General Hospital several days later.

The following are the important cases of robbery reported during February:

- 1 case of robbery in band involving the amount of ₱2,500 in cash and jewelry.
- 1 case of robbery involving the amount of ₱10,000 cash.
- 1 case of robbery involving the amount of ₱5,835 in cash, silverwares, furnitures, jewelry, etc.
- 3 cases of robbery involving amounts ranging from ₱1,300 to ₱3,500.
- 9 cases of robbery involving amounts ranging from ₱565 to ₱800.

199 cases of robbery involving small amounts.

A total of one thousand seven hundred seventy-three crimes were committed during the month of February in the City of Greater Manila which shows a decrease of two hundred eighty-eight as compared to one thousand four hundred eighty-five crimes committed in January.

All criminal cases are handled by the different investigation units of the Constabulary for investigation and appropriate action. It is the requirement that the investigation unit submit to the Headquarters fortnightly reports of their findings and the disposition of their cases. The reports for February show that out of 1,485 different crimes, offenses, violations of special laws and municipal ordinances, 448 have been solved in addition to the 109 cases reported in previous months, making a total of 557 crimes solved during the period covered by this report.

**MISSING PERSONS**

The total number of persons reported to the different units of the Metropolitan Constabulary as missing during the month of February, 1943, was 53, and out of said number 15 were found and restored to their respective homes.

**WANTED PERSONS**

There were 46 persons wanted during the month of February, and 2 of them were found and arrested.

**WARRANTS OF ARREST**

The Metropolitan Constabulary received 315 war-

rants of arrest, and 140 of them were served and accomplished during February, 1943.

**VALUE OF PROPERTY AND FINES**

Total value of property reported stolen during February, 1943 .....	₱211,061.94
Total value of the property recovered by and thru the Metropolitan Constabulary .....	56,260.99
Total amount of fines imposed by the local courts .....	1,300.00
Total amount of money seized by the members of the Metropolitan Constabulary from gambling houses and from individual gamblers .....	5,225.78

**PROFITEERING**

The campaign which has been waged against profiteering and hoarding was given special impetus during the month of February for the stabilization of prices of prime commodities, with the result that 164 persons were arrested, and 150 of them were convicted.

**DISTRICT AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

The following tabulation gives statistical data on the number of the district and neighborhood associations which were organized in the different districts of the City of Manila up to February 25th. It will be noticed that the organization work in the districts of Bagumbuhay, Diliman, Makati, Pasay and Parañaque has been completed.

*Tabulated report on completed district and neighborhood associations as of February 25, 1943*

District	Number of district association	Number of neighborhood association	Number of families	Number of persons	Remark
Bagumbayan.....	780	1,726	15,556	90,404	(a)
Bagungdiwa.....	101	1,075	8,482	60,328	(b)
Bagumbuhay.....	175	2,463	37,345	227,395	100%
Bagumpanahon.....	256	2,396	35,551	171,384	(c)
Balintawak.....	50	573	6,567	41,920	(d)
Diliman.....	14	124	1,567	8,082	100%
Caloocan.....	45	675	10,125	38,820	(d)
San Juan.....	29	284	3,172	23,503	-----
Mandaluyong.....	28	294	3,527	17,298	(e)
Makati.....	28	393	5,748	29,658	100%
Pasay.....	98	1,061	10,560	56,013	100%
Parañaque.....	22	285	3,837	19,507	100%
Totals.....	1,024	11,849	142,037	748,312	

(a) Not included here are special areas like the Philippine General Hospital and the Ateneo de Manila which will each be organized into a special district association.

(b) This does not include seven district associations already organized on which complete accurate data has not yet been furnished.

(c) Partial preliminary report. All organizations in this district will be completed within 10 days.

(d) Partial report. Other reports due this week.

(e) This does not include special areas like National Psychopathic Hospital, the Welfareville institutions and the Correctional Institution for Women which will be formed into special district associations to complete the 31 district associations in Mandaluyong.

ANTONIO C. TORRES  
Commander