

Gigantic Bukidnon Grant for Pineapples

The Law in the Case

Upon recommendation by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Governor-General may, by proclamation, designate any tract or tracts of land of the public domain for the establishment of agricultural colonies; and although the disposition of the land to the colonists shall be made under the provisions of this Act, yet while the Government shall have the supervision and management of said colonies, the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources may make the necessary rules and regulations for the organization and internal administration of the same.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources may also, under conditions to be established by the Legislature, turn over a colony so reserved to any person or corporation, in order that such person or corporation may clear, break, and prepare for cultivation the lands of said colony and establish the necessary irrigation system and suitable roads and fences; but final disposition shall be made of the land in accordance with the provisions of this Act, subject, however, to such conditions as the Legislature may establish for the reimbursement of the expense incurred in putting such lands in condition for cultivation: Provided, That the Legislature may direct that such land so prepared for cultivation may be disposed of only by sale or lease.—Act 2874 Section 188.

there wasn't much airing of the plans. Colonel Stimson found a great deal of public opinion here, he says, and he displayed a wholesome respect for it by doing many things in a quiet effective way which didn't attract its attention. This is one of them.

But the actual proclaiming of the reservation has been done by Governor Gilmore. The agriculture undersecretary, too, has been vicegerent for the secretary, who is in Washington. But the great names associated with the innovation are those of Stimson and Alunan, in the executive branch; and those of the advocates of the amended corporation law, in the legislative.

As history is being dated, it is well to record this fact.

Much skepticism prevails, but if the scheme succeeds it will establish a new and extensive farm community in Bukidnon and afford employment to thousands of families. *La Vanguardia*, not among the scoffers, applauds the scheme in its issue of April 25, sees in it relief of the peasantry from hunger, political emancipation for the islands, and the means of diverting the stream of emigrants from Hawaii and the western States to the uncultivated lands of the islands.

The plan is very simple. As ascertained thus far, it is this: Money will come from the packers association, that is, from California.

Filipino settlers, farm-school graduates preferred, will take up claims of 144 hectares each, such a tract being 360 acres or a half-section and a 40-acre pasture over. Paying for this land, the settlers will be granted titles from the government. Each settler, working with hundreds of tenants or hired men, will seed his land to pineapples: the packers association furnishing the seed, money, etc. When there is a harvest, the settlers will sell their pineapples to the only buyers, the packers association, which will erect a huge factory, can the pineapples, and ship them all over the world.

This, in the rough, is the scheme which will put into pineapple cultivation, very soon, such a large slice of Bukidnon lands lying along the Agusan river. Alas, that there should be doubters!

Nevertheless, there are men of experience who feel that the settlers will tend to fail of their ambitions, and that the land will tend to fall into the hands of the pineapple corporation. As to this and a number of other possibilities, only time can tell. In Hawaii the same interests have about 6,000 acres. The largest company, the Hawaiian Packers Association, owns an island and had last year an output of upward of three million cases of pineapples from 22,000 acres. That employs many hands. So it may be seen that when 25,000 acres are in pineapples in the Philippines, many hands will also be employed here. A brand new industry. Yes, sir. In the making.

The Philippines are to have a brand new farm industry, pineapples in Bukidnon. Yes, sir. Arrangements have been effected with the Philippine Packers Association, local subsidiary of the California Packers Association, and the Alunan plan is to be tried in northern Mindanao for all it is worth. No half-way measures go. The company already has a seed plot of 150 hectares or thereabout, on which pineapples are growing, and the government, on its part, has set aside a reservation of 14,054 hectares. This is 35,130 acres, 35 times the area the land law allows to go to a single farm corporation. It is in fact a very respectable area, as farms usually go: it is the equivalent, of 54 sections of land, more than a township by 28 full sections and a little to spare.

This is another of the wonderful ventures which took form during Colonel Stimson's governorship, which is being carried out now. It is one of those things in which the Stimson administration felt itself so right that perfect frankness with the public seemed unnecessary. If the press learned much, it said little enough—



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