

# Ocean Shipping

By F. M. GISPERT

Secretary, Associated Steamship Lines

**I**N spite of the Pacific Coast shipping strike, no decline in total exports was noted during the month of October.

Vessels to the number of 84 lifted 143,352 tons, as against 81 vessels with 107,936 tons for the previous month. Last year during October, however, 68 vessels lifted 164,507 tons.

Copra shipments continued to decline but most other commodities showed a steady increase.

Principal commodities exported during October, 1948, as compared with October, 1947, were:

	1948	1947
Cigars . . . . .	1 ton	4 tons
Desiccated coconut . . . . .	0,825 "	5,490 "
Coconut oil . . . . .	8,639 "	4,006 "
Copra . . . . .	37,837 "	98,427 "
Copra cake . . . . .	2,119 "	5,843 "
Hemp . . . . .	32,775 bales	63,550 bales
Logs and lumber . . . . .	2,796,526 board feet	24,696 board feet
Ores . . . . .	25,274 tons	16,018 tons
Rope . . . . .	295 "	245 "
Sugar . . . . .	5,016 "	—
Tobacco . . . . .	184 "	887 "

## Port Of Manila

By E. W. SCHEDLER

General Manager, Luzon Brokerage Company

**P**UBLISHED with these notes is the incoming cargo tonnage over the Manila piers, to and including November, 1948, which month is on an estimated basis. As can be readily seen, tonnage for 1948 totalled 1,781,370 tons for eleven months, against 1,676,340 tons equivalent for 1948, or an increase of 105,022 tons.

Philippine businessmen are not so much interested in this tonnage as they are in the prospects for cargo in 1949. As this is being written, it appears that the settlement of the Pacific Coast strike is in the final stages and that any hour a news report will state all hands will return to work. Pacific Coast ships can then be expected in Manila, beginning early January, 1949. It appears there are some 250 ships tied up on the Pacific Coast, some of which are already loaded for outward voyages.

If too many of these ships arrive simultaneously in Manila, it is likely that a minor case of pier congestion will repeat itself, such as we experienced in 1946 and early 1947.

Before the war, there were eight berths available for handling cargo, that is eight ships could come alongside the docks, and inward cargo amounted to from 95,000 to 105,000 tons monthly.

Today we have seven berths to work cargo, and our monthly tonnage has run from 146,000 to 190,000 tons. To further complicate the situation, none of the berths now being worked at Pier 13, Pier 11, or Pier 7, has adequate cargo-handling machinery. Small tractors and dollies are available, as well as portable cranes, but regular overhead cargo-working gear is non-existent.

In case ships have to lie off the piers awaiting berth, inside the breakwater, there are the following anchorages: 3 with 29½ feet of water; 2 with 24 feet; and 4 with 25 feet.

The harbor alongside the piers and anchorages needs dredging badly. It is reported that the Bureau of Public Works proposes to begin on this project at an early date.

To remove and distribute cargo from the piers, there is an ample number of trucks available mostly belonging to the licensed customs brokers who operate fleets for this purpose.

Where lighters can be used, some 9,000 tons of flat lighters are available in the Manila area. House lighters of the dry-cargo type total 14,000 tons. Bulk lighters of the liquid-cargo type approximate 10,000 tons.

Firms working on the waterfront report a general reduction in pilferage and loss over what was sustained last year, and the general impression is that there has been an improvement in cargo-handling at the Port of Manila.

### TOTAL TONNAGE HANDLED FOR YEAR 1948

MONTH	NO. OF VESSELS	TOTAL TONS
January	58	135,209.581
February	62	158,666.244
March	76	189,542.323
April	80	183,844.966
May	78	215,159.844
June	79	176,460.616
July	78	151,627.124
August	82	189,787.163
September	73	146,475.877
October	63	124,596.735
November	60 *	110,000.000 *

Total . . . . . 1,781,370.473

\* Estimated

### TOTAL TONNAGE HANDLED FOR YEAR 1947

MONTH	NO. OF VESSELS	TOTAL TONS
January	48	227,354.051
February	45	192,740.392
March	51	194,459.002
April	54	165,561.190
May	56	135,738.255
June	55	115,441.630
July	60	118,156.982
August	61	105,742.836
September	65	143,792.560
October	58	131,446.678
November	63	145,916.236

Total . . . . . 1,676,348.812

Total Tonnage (11 months) 1948: 1,781,370.473

Total Tonnage (11 months) 1947: 1,676,348.812

Increase . . . . . 105,021.661

## Inter-Island Shipping

By G. F. VANDER HOOGT

Manager, Everett Steamship Corporation

**I**N last month's article, we mentioned that the West Coast maritime strike in the United States had not yet affected inter-island shipping to any noticeable extent. This situation has changed lately. Ordinarily, considerable movement of goods is done by inter-island vessels at this time of the year, but this is now much lower than usual. There are many items of export from United States West Coast ports which are very much in demand in the Philippines during the Christmas season, but these are presently available only in limited quantities, which naturally af-