

own rail line, bridges, security system, stations and so many other essentials in the operation of the railroad.

Asked why the P.N.R. is almost always in the red, Col. Jimenez said that the above-mentioned reasons plus many others and the over two million pesos monthly payroll for the over 7,000 employees almost amount to what the P.N.R. is today. As to the cry of inefficiency of the rail line, the Manager asked for more understanding from the public on behalf of the over 7,000 employees and their families. God willing, with the present trend of improvement now being instituted, efficiency will come, despite the shortage of motor cars, freight cars of all kinds and coaches for passengers which are much less than before the war, the P.N.R. is doing all it can, short of miracle. Taking into consideration the increase of volume of traffic and using less equipment and the same rails that it had been using for the last sixty five years, the P.N.R. should be given kudos and encouragement. Freight cars before the war were 1,844 today we only have 1,097. Passenger cars in service are only 53 and 27 are alternately under repair.

Again on the public understanding and cooperation, the General Manager asked the traveling public to be more conscious too of their duty to safeguard the interest of the properties of the P.N.R. especially its equipment and the passenger coaches which are always subjected to vandalism and osavalism. Every now and then newly installed equipment and furnishings disappear.

The manager said further that it is very easy for the rail line to make money if profit is the main consideration in the operation, but the public must know that the P.N.R. has a duty to perform and that is the National Economy. The rail line has to serve the people that helps develop the economy of the Country by providing means of transportation to the people from small and out of place stations and towns. Without the railway line the economic development of out of way places would be rustic and stagnant. Asked further to elaborate on this point the Manager said that to stop a train alone in a small station means hundreds of pesos loss in terms of wear and tear of spare parts. Yet small stations have to be maintained and serviced and employees have to be taken in regardless of the insignificant financial return that the Company realizes from these points. The Company has to lose if it expects to help develop our national economy and help also the public and its over 7,000 employees, said Col. Jimenez.

Comparing our own railway to that of the British railway, the Manager said that the British has to lose 134 million pounds a year in order to support its own railway. Comparing that loss to our railway, ours is just a drop in the bucket, yet we are operating on almost antiquated and obsolete equipment and rails, which other foreign railway lines should have long ago discarded.

The P.N.R. is one of the worst in the world because of the lack of government financial support yet accidentwise we are one of the

The conservatory of Music of Colegio de Sta. Isabel, in Naga City will present Miss Malacia G. Sto. Tomas in a graduation piano recital, Associate in Music, tomorrow, Sunday, September 24, from 5:45 p.m. at CSI auditorium Miss Sto. Tomas is a 2nd year AB-BSE in the same institution. She is a native of Naga City, being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antero Sto. Tomas. Mr. Sto. Tomas is the division supervisor of public schools in this division.

Miss Sto. Tomas will play the compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Tchaikowsky, Weber, Grainger, Mendosa and Chopin. The orchestral accompaniment of the Weber Concertstück will be rendered on a second piano by Miss Flor Matalote. An intermission number will be given by faculty members, Pedro C. Pineda, violinist, and Miss Flor Matalote, pianist.

smallest, according to records and statistics gathered by the manager recently, in his studies on railways abroad.

As to the Cagayan and the Sorsogon lines, Manager Jimenez said that although the project is a losing proposition it has to go thru because it is the duty of the government to help the people in the two regions develop their economy as well as their well-being. Even after fifty years of operation the Manager said, the capital to be invested in the projects can not be taken back. The Cagayan project will soon get on its way again because its financing is coming. But the Sorsogon line has to wait pending the final study by the Japanese financiers. It will take about six months to survey and it is estimated that it will also take five years to complete the project which will cost 160 million pesos. Already 60% of the right of way have been purchased according to the Manager.

As to the clamor of some sectors to sell the railway company to private enterprises the Manager said that no private sector will ever consider buying the Company if it has to consider giving back to the stockholders their money that they invested at the same time giving the same service to the public that the P.N.R. now is giving.

So, the Manager said that it is almost criminal to sell if we expect to have the same, the return of investment and the service that the P.N.R. is now giving to the public. Maybe it is better for a private sector to put up another line of their own if they desire to help develop our economy.

For the present the bulk of freight carried by the railway line to points of destination comes in the following order as per volume: Flour, Lumber, Cement, Sugar, Agricultural Products and Manufactured goods. Passengers who bought tickets at station center exceed the 11 million mark as of 1966 records of operation. While the P.N.R. realized revenue from these commodities the help it makes in the movement of those goods amount to generating economic opportunities and generate job opportunities as well.

Giving us his program of improvement as per plans now going on, Col. Jimenez said that emphasis in giving

# Questions and Answers on the New Voter Registration

By ATTY. SEVERO DACANAY, JR.

Ques: Since Sept. 15 has passed, can voters still register under the new list? Nuntor Magdaang, Lössu, Albay.

Ans.: Yes. With the signing by President Marcos of the Rodrigo - Diokno Poll Registration Bill, the registration of voters under the new list is now extended until October 15, 1967. The author has not yet gotten hold of a copy of the full text of the law. Once he does, he will cause the publication in this paper of the pertinent provisions of the law. The author urges and appeals to all qualified voters to now RUSH UP to register AT THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY AND WITHOUT DELAY in their respective city and municipal election registrars' offices on any day, Monday through Sunday. All Comelec offices are now open during office hours daily, Monday to Sunday. Those whose applications are still lacking, especially those without successfully developed photographs, to complete and have their applications validated or approved by their Election Registration Boards; those who have already received their IDs or who had registered but are not very sure if they could vote, to check in the list of validated and approved applications in their election registrars' offices if they are included among those voters sure to vote; those who have complaints with respect to mistakes or discrepancies in their application forms, IDs, precinct

number, address, etc., to complain and have them corrected immediately while the precinct books of voters are not yet sealed; and all those who are already certain to vote, to use and exert all their influence to have all the other people qualified but are not yet registered under the new list, to register NOW, AT ONCE, IMMEDIATELY AND AT THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY—to assure almost all, qualified voters of their previous right of suffrage some November 14, 1967.

Ques: Is it true that if you do not register now under the new list, you might not be able to vote in the 1969 election? Elpidio Ruis, Caramoan, Camarines Sur.

Ans.: The law provides: "Any person who fails to register within sixty days after having acquired the qualifications of a voter or is registered after said period shall not be qualified to vote in the election immediately following his registration. For purposes of the nineteen hundred sixty-seven election, however, any person who is a qualified voter may register any time before the sixty-day period preceding the date of said election." (2nd sentence of paragraph 2, Section 8, R.A. 3588, as amended). With the approval of the Rodrigo Diokno Poll Registration Bill, the sixty-day period preceding the date of said election is deemed amended as before the thirty-day period.

# PFM confers Sikatuna award to Rockefeller

John D. Rockefeller, for his "sincere and abiding interest in advancing the welfare of Asians, particularly the Filipino people" was conferred by President Marcos the Order of Sikatuna, with rank of Datu.

The Presidential award was given to Rockefeller during a formal dinner hosted by the First Couple in honor of the recipients of the RM Memorial awards for 1967 in Malabonang palace.

Rockefeller is in Manila in representation of the Rockefeller family, sponsor of the award.

The rank of Datu conferred on Rockefeller, is the second highest in the Sikatuna series. The highest, with the rank of rajah, is conferred only on chiefs of state. During the award ceremonies, Rockefeller was also cited for:

- 1. His invaluable contribution to Philippine education through regional and material support in the form of scholarships and grants in many fields of study provided by the Rockefeller Foundation and other organizations with which he is connected.
- 2. His assistance in the development of a high yield-

more to the improvement of the maintenance of regular trips and that requires the improvement concentrated on the shop to ensure the all time serviceability of trains that run every day, the working conditions of the employees, the schedule of runs and then the improvement of stations with priority of big stations where traffic, volume is usually heavy.

ing variety of rice in the Philippines through financial support to the International Rice Research Institute.

3. His sustained support to the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation and the Magsaysay Memorial Center, thus further enriching the memory of the late President and further ennobling the national heritage.

4. Other service in the promotion of arts, humanities, social sciences and natural science, all of which have increased Philippine prestige in Asia and the world.

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# FM Informed On Filipinized Dole Philippines

The Filipinization of Dole Philippines, a subsidiary of the world's largest pineapple processing company, was effected with the taking over of most of the administrative and financial function of the company by Filipinos, President Marcos was informed recently.

The President was apprised of this revolutionary management move by Howard Hubbard, president of Dole Philippines, who said that eventually there will be total Filipino management of the company "starting from the top."

Hubbard called recently on the President to submit a progress report on Dole's operations in Mindanao.

Hubbard also informed the President that in connance with the offer made by Castle and Cooke, Inc., mother company of Dole, investments in the corporation has already exceeded \$35 million and an additional \$7 million is projected within the next two years under the Filipino management.

Dole Philippines has set up a pineapple cannery in Polomolok, Cotabato about 30 kilometers from the southern seaport of General Santos. Under the new expansion scheme of the country, it will develop Filipino-owned lands into pineapple plantations rather than lease large tracts from the government as in the past.

The president of the company is slated to be turned over to Geronimo Z. Velasco, vice president, to replace Hubbard who is returning to the United States soon.

According to Hubbard's report which covers a five-year projection, pineapples will be the largest export of the Philippines after two years. It is now ranked No. 10 among the nation's exports. Dole Philippines is expected to produce 200,000 metric tons of pineapple annually after two years.

At this production rate, the Philippines could expect to earn some \$57 million in foreign exchange from 1967 to 1972.


Taxes to be realized, mostly from the 30 per cent withholding tax applicable to the foreign exchange borrowings of the project, is expected to amount to P28 million.

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