

RAIL COMMODITY MOVEMENTS

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The volume of commodities received in Manila during the month of October 1938, via the Manila Railroad Company are as follows:

Rice, cavanes	160,600
Sugar, piculs	60,704
Copra, piculs	197,696
Desiccated Coconuts, cases	39,552
Tobacco, bales	552
Lumber, board feet	998,287
Timber, kilos	1,600,000

The freight revenue car loading statistics for four weeks ending October 22, 1938, as compared with the same period of 1937 are given (right):

FREIGHT REVENUE CAR LOADING

COMMODITIES	NUMBER OF FREIGHT CARS		FREIGHT TONNAGE		Increase or Decrease	
	1938	1937	1938	1937	Cars	Tonnage
Rice	680	559	11,521	6,637	121	4,884
Palay	40	129	498	1,252	(82)	(734)
Sugar	113	151	3,919	4,531	(38)	(1,532)
Sugar, Cane	—	—	—	—	—	—
Copra	893	729	7,985	5,157	161	2,828
Coconuts	136	60	1,828	619	76	1,209
Mulberry	—	7	—	23	(7)	(21)
Hemp	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobacco	12	21	76	222	(12)	(146)
Livestock	36	12	272	50	24	222
Mineral Products	385	393	3,433	3,562	82	(129)
Lumber and Timber	197	129	4,529	2,938	68	1,591
Other Forest Products	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manufactures	285	223	3,984	2,998	61	1,076
All Others including L.C.L.	2,663	2,708	19,626	17,668	(45)	1,958
TOTAL	5,440	5,008	56,771	45,779	432	10,992

SUMMARY

Week ending Oct. 1, 1938	1,336	1,263	13,560	11,656	73	1,904
" " " 8, 1938	1,324	1,297	13,061	10,653	117	2,408
" " " 15, 1938	1,397	1,181	15,627	10,487	216	5,140
" " " 22, 1938	1,383	1,357	14,523	12,983	26	1,510
TOTAL	5,440	5,008	56,771	45,779	432	10,992

NOTE—Figures in parenthesis indicate decrease.

COLCHICINE

You can tinker with the chromosomes of a turnip and make it grow into a giant turnip, whose seeds in turn will grow into other giant turnips by perfectly natural division of their chromosomes. This is stated as fact by Dr. Louis Berman in *New Creations in Human Beings*, a Doubleday Doran book quoted in the *October Magazine Digest*. Now if it is a fact, to the farmer it is the greatest fact ever discovered. We therefore quote in full:

"The action of colchicine, a substance isolated from the bulbs of the autumn crocus, is most interesting. If a solution of it is injected into a plant, or simply sprayed on it with an atomizer, the leaves and flowers thus drugged grow peculiarly, folding and wrinkling because they grow faster than their adjoining parts. The seeds of these plants tend to generate giant specimens which are much bigger than their ancestral parents and *breed true to their giantism* (italics ours). When the colchicine is next applied to these giant specimens, an additional acceleration of growth is obtained, producing another and larger variety of increase in size, doubling and redoubling.



"Such plants as alfalfa, clover, onions, radishes, tobacco, nasturtium and foxglove have been so treated and changed. This strange effect of colchicine is due to the doubling of the number of chromosomes in the reproductive cells. It has long been known that when the number of chromosomes in these cells doubles, as happens in their spontaneous division before maturation, they may occasionally stay doubled, instead of losing one half their number by extrusion. The resulting specimens were usually found to be giants. Colchicine makes it possible to produce these freaks regularly. Moreover, they reproduce themselves regularly, so that they are no longer oddities, but provide a new way of manufacturing breeds of vegetables and flowers, perhaps grains and trees, like nothing man has ever seen. This method is not at present applicable to the human species, and no one would dare apply it, because he would not know what might be produced in the way of monstrosity or anomaly in consequence." (Dr. Berman's last sentence in this paragraph has no connection with his subject here, plants, and connects only with the title to his book. Our readers should omit it).

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