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is a question whether they mean enough; for they certainly do not afford the market that they might.

Fertilization of cane has been introduced upon the plantations, and with remarkable results. To Mindoro, the only moderately successful pioneer, we may perhaps look for the origin of this practice, but when Lee was here before it was his principal work to extend it



H. Atherton Lee, Back from Hawaii and welcomed in our sugar industry. He becomes director of experimental work for the Sugar Association.

throughout Negros, where yields per hectare doubled. But they doubled from a figure far too low; and larger as they now are, they are still too low. Hawaii takes 200 piculs of sugar from a hectare per year, with a growing period

TOBACCO REVIEW

By P. A. MEYER

Alhambra Cigar and Cigarette Manufacturing Co.



Raw Leaf: In view of the inferior quality of this year's crop the big Manila factories have stopped their buying activities in Cagayan and Isabela. Most of the quantities that are yet in the hands of the farmers is being bought up at low prices by Chinese dealers and exporters for speculative purposes. Export ship-

ments during November maintained a satisfactory volume. Contracts for American wrapper leaf in considerable quantities have been concluded by local factories. November shipments were as follows:

Leaf Tobacco and Scrap
Kilos

Algeria	20,880
China	7,773
Hongkong	22,068
Japan	514,383
North Atlantic (Europe)	130,953
Spain	1,716,858
United States	45,207

Total exports, leaf. 2,458,122

Cigars: Unfavorable circumstances continue to adversely affect the Manila cigar trade in the United States market. Comparative figures are as follows:

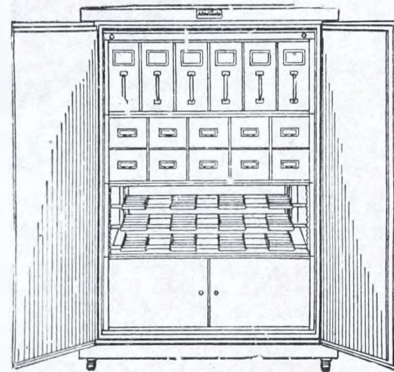
<i>Cigars</i>	
November 1927	16,378,266
October 1927	17,972,202
November 1926	17,506,448

of 18 months, and Java takes 220 per hectare. To equal Hawaii the Philippines must have almost three hectares to her one, and a little more to equal Java.

Few if any Philippine plantations reach this general average, let alone exceeding it materially, as many Hawaiian and Javan plantations must. The question arises, if Filipinos work well enough and intelligently enough in Hawaii to bring about these yields, why can not they be approximated in the Philippines. No doubt they will be, in the fullness of time, but America likes to hustle along and she may become impatient—waiting for Philippine planters to doff old methods and adopt new ones. The solution is of course to be found by the experts, and for that reason it would be well to turn over the La Granja experimental station to the sugar association, since everything could then be undertaken on the plantation scale.

It makes no difference, in deciding about La Granja, what the bureau of agriculture has been able to do there. Possibly it has done very

well, the reports look as if it has. But it doesn't have the liaison connection with the planters which the association enjoys, the planters being a part of the association. If the association were given charge of La Granja, or such of it as is not let out under leases, the bureau of agriculture could do no less for the sugar industry and other farm industries than it does now, by devoting more attention to animal husbandry and the eradication of animal diseases. No reflection on the bureau or its work is made implied. But here is an industry with its own experts, and able to employ more of them if required. Its problems all concern plantation methods, in all other branches it is on the high road to rich rewards. And it could take La Granja, run it as a practical plantation project on the returns from the crops, and demonstrate to one planter after another that plantations in these islands can be made prosperous on the cash-wage system.



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This can't be theorized about, the planters won't heed; it must be shown them on the books. Convincing them seems, at least to the layman, the one big handicap of the sugar industry left to overcome. No government bureau can do this, and while it will eventually be done in any case, La Granja in the hands of the sugar association would expedite it amazingly. It might be said that the association could choose another site, but the same argument applies to the contrary side: for merely breeding and growing cane experimentally, La Granja isn't needed, but it is excellently situated for a demonstration plantation and would yield the income to support the project. Besides, it is what the association wants, and the industry means enough to the islands to justify an act gratifying its often-expressed desire.

It is not proposed to say that progressive planters are lacking in the Philippines. There are some, possibly many, in the cane-growing business. But they do not predominate, nor do they dominate. Their backward colleagues are the ones who bring down the average yields.

This conservative majority of the planters exploit their labor, not their land; and the laborer gets cunning about it and it becomes a case of cheating all round. It is these conservatives who are to be convinced that there is a better way of doing business than by keeping indentured labor. The practice really delivers into the hands of the lowest intelligence on the plantation the management of the plantation. It is common in the Philippines to bargain with one's tenants to grow fields of cane on the share basis, a share for the landowner, another for the tenant; and a big plantation is dotted all over with these tenants, who are kept alive—on a scale of living more wretched than that of old-time Louisiana slaves—until the crop is taken off. Then the score is reckoned between landlord and tenant, and perhaps the crop is insufficient to cover the tenant's debts. But stoically he keeps on from year to year, a Normandy fatalist awaiting the stroke of fortune at the sound of the Angelus. Despair at last consumes him, he lives too much with God and knows too little of nature and simple arithmetic.

It becomes his settled conviction that the planter habitually cheats him, which is sometimes the case. Cash is quite tangible and exact, so much for so much; but farm measures, cane weights, recoveries and long lists of mill figures are abstruse intangibles to the simple mind. The tenant, then, does not seek his rewards in the field, where he should seldom find them, but frequents the cockpit and the fiesta—where excitement and occasional winnings are to be had. In any case he is always assured of a living, for the landlord keeps him on to work out his debt; and the debt is used as the means of keeping him. It is vain to suggest betterments to such a man, for they are not really betterments to him. In banner years Hawaiian workmen get fat bonuses over and above their wages, but Philippine workmen never. Under the present system the latter has no hope, no incentive; and his real interest lies in shirking his tasks, not in exerting himself to the utmost, since he will have his living anyway, and any way he will never have more. As he is hopeless of lifting himself from the ruck, and indeed is not expected to do so, likewise he is thrifless. But that he has a fund of goodwill in him and would, under circumstances making it his advantage, do much better than he does now, is seen in the fact that the yields do average 70 piculs—not half of that or less. He is now, however, not a workman in the current sense of the word at all, he is what his fathers were before him, a retainer, or a pensioner.

It is such plantations that are so efficiently served by the new centrals, the first yield-increasing innovation adopted. And such farms can never be plowed in season, planted in season or cultivated in season. Methods will always be haphazard, yields always low. But the farmers persisting in these methods are the same farmers who adopted fertilization, seeing it paid them, and who, seeing it paid them too, dismantled their muscovado mills and signed up with the centrals. They will, when they are shown that it will pay them, take the final step in the way of progress, discard feudalism and make themselves more the genuine masters

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of their lands by means of the cash box and the Saturday pay-off. Not the lowest intelligence, but the highest available, is the one to say when and how to plow, what and when to plant, and when and how to cultivate the fields. The time is ripe for the change, and until it comes the islands will be deliberately inviting tariff discrimination. The one outcome or the other may be confidently anticipated. It is always to be remembered that the United States has only moral obligations to territories. Her attitude need only be governed by expediency, and what she can legally do with them is positively appalling.

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