

effort, it would seem that, due to prohibitive freight rates, the American market will be lost if the Government does not take action to maintain the exportation of lumber to the United States. The potential of the lumber industry is so enormous that if properly developed, it would unquestionably play a large part in the stabilization of the nation's economy, he said. He was particularly critical of the present move of the shipping combine to increase the emergency rates by \$3.

## Manila Hemp

By FRANK P. HILL

Vice-President and General Manager  
Macleod and Company of Philippines

IN last month's report it was stated that the total balings in the Philippines for 1954 were 774,982. Actually that figure does not include decorticated abaca, known in the trade as "deco". In 1954, 17,294 bales of decorticated abaca were produced, making a total of 792,276 bales for the year, as compared with 866,671 bales in 1953 (including "deco"). In the past "deco" balings and exports were not included in the statistics at the end of these articles. Production of "deco" fiber is increasing, and from now on we will give those figures each month. There are two new decortivating plants in the Davao area, making a total of three.

Prices for all grades of Davao and non-Davao fiber improved during the month in all consuming markets, but there was little demand in the United States. Rope-makers there covered their requirements with Central American abaca while Davao producers and merchants were keeping supplies off the market, which they did for several weeks prior to January 13. Whether or not the upward trend in prices will be sustained, depends chiefly upon demand in the United States.

Prices for British East African sisal increased about £6 per ton in the London market.

The Philippines-Japan trade agreement was again extended.

The usual statistics are given hereunder:

	Balings—January, December Inclusive				
	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Davao.....	453,396	500,279	507,469	502,412	389,151
Davao (Deco).....	17,294	10,516	17,085	18,827	12,321
Albay, Camarines/ Sorsogon.....	120,782	157,886	178,192	229,795	167,560
Leyte/Samar.....	120,413	107,171	105,805	154,163	120,683
All others.....	80,391	90,819	78,768	92,396	75,539
Total.....	792,276	866,671	887,319	997,593	765,254

	Exports—January, December Inclusive				
	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
United States and Canada.....	191,817	292,382	360,073	554,726	403,513
—do— (Deco).....	6,605	9,392	18,729	17,709	6,000
Continent of Europe.....	176,577	179,612	157,736	163,373	121,894
—do— (Deco).....	1,516	78	—	—	650
United Kingdom.....	106,077	107,249	96,502	170,028	84,662
—do— (Deco).....	2,665	262	592	212	328
Japan.....	218,464	235,056	203,707	130,127	103,890
—do— (Deco).....	2,474	978	1,204	1,992	8,090
South Africa.....	11,650	9,850	9,000	15,777	7,200
China.....	3,422	1,595	5,435	7,529	13,587
India.....	8,084	9,550	6,190	5,656	8,130
—do— (Deco).....	50	—	—	—	—
Korea.....	17,842	1,580	600	—	3,100
Australia and New Zealand.....	6,264	3,500	2,215	4,450	1,826
Others.....	8,367	1,745	70	—	947
—do— (Deco).....	25	—	—	—	—
Total.....	761,899	852,829	862,053	1,071,579	763,817

## Copra and Coconut Oil

By WILLIAM S. RICE, JR.

Copra Buyer, Philippine Manufacturing Company

THE market maintained a steady to firm tone in January, and the general price level continued a slow upward trend.

Prices failed to advance in accord with many predictions for a substantial rise in January. European speculators were generally credited with preventing this by depressing the market through considerable active selling which kept our export markets in a confused state. Many Philippine exporters and local dealers were anticipating a seasonal rise because of very low production the first half of the month, and they resisted selling at market prices until the last half of the month. The European sales continued however; and first-hand sellers were unable to hold off longer as production improved. On January 21, prices reached the low point of the month as a wave of first-hand selling hit the market. European consumer interest then appeared, causing sellers to react sharply, but buyers resisted the sellers' quickly inflated ideas, and new speculative sales caused the market to close cautiously easy at month-end.

Indonesian copra appeared as a factor several times, but it has become increasingly difficult to know what Indonesia is doing since it commenced trading with Communist China. Evidently, recent negotiations have been in progress with both Europe and Communist China, and at month-end a sale for February shipment to China was rumored closed. Therefore, Indonesia appears to have been removed as a potentially bearish factor in the free world's markets for the near future.

### Copra and Coconut Oil Prices

Copra:	High	Low	Close
West Coast, c.i.f. per short ton nearby and afloat.....	\$182.50	\$170.00	\$180.00
Europe, c.i.f. per long ton, 45-60 days.....	\$212.00	\$195.00	\$202.50
Manila, fresh, resecada basis, per 100 kilos at bodegas 30 days....	₱33.00	₱31.00	₱32.50

### Coconut Oil:

West Coast, c.i.f. per pound, bulk 45-60 days.....	13-1 8¢	12¢	12-3, 4¢
East Coast, c.i.f. per pound, bulk nearby and afloat.....	14¢	13¢	13-1, 2¢

**Copra Cake and Meal Prices.** The Pacific Coast market continued tight with a further price advance up to \$76.00 c & f Los Angeles. This continued firmness seems to have been largely due to the fact that Pacific Coast buyers had earlier allowed Europe to buy good quantities of Philippine production, and by January the lack of arrivals from the Philippines was being felt most acutely.

European buying-interest continued active and competitive to mid-January, but then fell dormant, and there have since been few indication of possible additional interest. It is difficult to say whether this lack of interest will continue.

### Copra Statistics

#### Philippine Copra and Coconut Oil Exports (In long tons)

Copra Exports	Monthly Average	
	1953	1954
United States.....	25,957	24,376
Europe.....	17,526	30,828
Other countries.....	5,872	7,903
Total.....	49,355	63,107