

The Nederlands Indische Handelsbank, N. V.

(The Netherlands India Commercial Bank)

Established through a Royal Charter in 1863, "to fill the banking needs of Netherlands India", this international commercial bank has kept pace with the growth in importance of the Dutch East Indies to the world's commerce. The bank has grown from a small enterprise (1,500,000 florins capital) with a single banking office at Batavia, to an integrated banking organization which blankets Holland's colony with no less than 22 branches, and spreads out all over the Far East. Paid-up capital is now 33,000,000 florins—about P\$7,000,000—and a reserve fund has been built up to 13,200,000 florins (P\$14,800,000).

These figures seem to be small change when compared with the enormous resources at the command of some of the big banks, such as the National City Bank of New York, the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, or the Chase National Bank, but the importance of the Netherlands India Commercial Bank is not measured by the size of its paid-up capital. The thriving and

growing trade of the Dutch East Indies is helped along enormously by the facilities offered by the bank and its branches. Twenty-two branches in the East Indies alone, two in British India—Bombay and Calcutta; one each at Kobe and Tokyo; three on the China coast—Amoy, Hongkong and Shanghai; one at Singapore, and, since last year, one here at Manila. This bespeaks a multitude of services; small banking offices, small staffs, familiar with conditions in their respective localities—in short, personalized banking.

The bank had rough going at first. The "banking needs of Netherlands India" had, prior to the bank's organization, been filled, after a fashion by a few merchant-bankers, i.e. merchants who loaned money on the side against crops and shipments. These gentry had a pretty good thing of it—the sky was the limit on interest rates—and they felt an understandable resentment at the advent of a bank satisfied to receive a normal return from loans. However, the new bank ignored the vested interests and their vested interest rates, and it was not long before it was firmly established and respected throughout the colony. The merchants had, perforce to revert to their business of merchandising, and the bank, on its part, has never bought and sold merchandise.

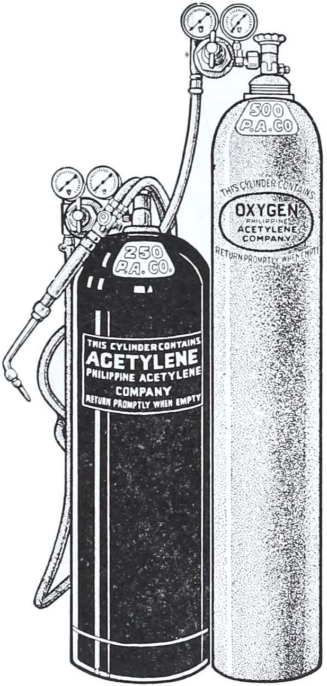
Although the bank had long been represented in India, Japan, China, and the Straits Settlements, it was not until last year that the governors

at Amsterdam decided a branch in Manila would be desirable. E. M. Nikkels is the manager of the local office, assisted by D. A. ten Groen-hius, Jr., as general proxy (assistant manager, to you), and two young Hollanders, Messrs. Wilmer and Nutbey.

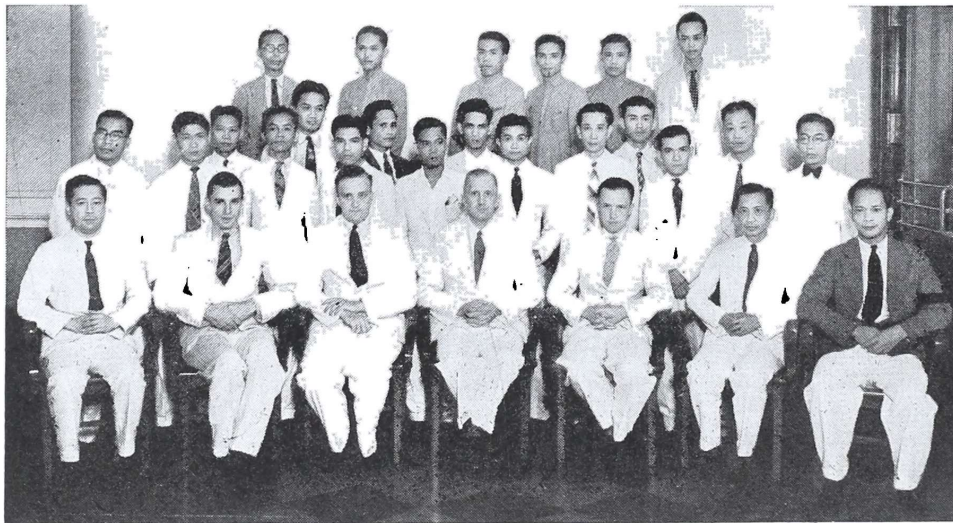
We asked Mr. Grotenhous how the various branch offices of the bank are staffed, and were told that the demand is filled by shipments of apple-cheeked young Dutchmen from home. They come out for an initial period of seven years, after which they get an eight-months' furlough. The next stretch is usually for about five years, and the periods between furloughs become successively shorter thereafter. Retirement comes at about 45 or 50 years of age. This seems to us to be a very early age at which to call it a day, but the Dutch may have the right of it. Certainly we would not turn down a retirement and a chance to see snow again if it were offered to us at 45, or even 35. If that mining stock we've got in the sock ever gets to be worth something

THE PHILIPPINE BANK OF COMMERCE

Opening of this bank at a time when local capital seemed definitely apathetic to investments in any form, and during the period of transition of the Philippines from the Commonwealth to the Republic seemed to be a courageous, if not an audacious, move. Yet the bank already appears to have made important progress. This article is written on September 7th, just two months to the day when the Philippine Bank of Commerce first opened its doors, and a balance



OXY-ACETYLENE
Welding & Cutting Equipment
Philippine Acetylene Co.
281 CALLE CRISTOBAL, PACO
MANILA, P. I.



The local staff of the Netherlands India Commercial Bank.