

## MARSMAN TRADING SPONSORS TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

The question: "Shall the Commission Form be Substituted for the Present Elective Form of Government in the City of Manila," launched on April 1st the first "Philippine Town Meeting of the Air" program sponsored by the Marsman Trading Corporation. With Assemblyman Agripino Escareal arguing that the establishment of a commission form of government here will be the most effective means of promoting efficiency, and Assemblyman Prospero Sanidad defending the negative side, the debate lasted from 9 to 10 p.m. Leon Ma. Guerrero, a member of the local bar, acted as interrogator and coordinator.

In the second Town Meeting, a new feature was introduced in the discussion when Federico Mangahas, the HERALD Mid-Week magazine editor, acted as interrogator in the same manner that Dr. Raymond Buell did in the "American Town Meeting of the Air"; while Leon Ma. Guerrero was again the moderator. It was after much persuasion on the part of the Far Eastern Broadcasting that Attorney Salvador Araneta consented to defend the affirmative side and Assemblyman Benito Soliven the negative side of the resolution "That a re-examination of the Philippine Question with a view to Postponing Independence beyond 1946 is for the best interests of the Filipino people."

A particularly interesting feature of these broadcasts is the questions that the debaters usually elicit from the stu-

dio audience. The questions occupy one quarter of the hour devoted to the broadcast; and these, as well as the answers, are entirely spontaneous and unrehearsed.

Intense interest had been manifested by the general public in the third Town Meeting of the Air. The subject of the debate was "Resolved: That Tagalog Should be the National Language of the Philippines," with Mauro Mendez defending the affirmative side, and Antonio Estrada upholding the negative. As usual, Leon Ma. Guerrero was the moderator and Federico Mangahas guest interrogator.

A stirring debate on the constitutional amendment creating the senate and increasing the salaries of legislators was held on April 21, from 9 to 10 p.m. between Assemblyman Dominador M. Tan and Dr. Antonio M. Bautista, member of the Civil Liberties Union, during the weekly "Town Meeting of the Air" program over KZRM.

This absorbing new radio feature, a contribution of Marsman Trading Corporation, which is presenting it as an impartial radio forum entirely non-commercial and reflecting only the views of the speakers as well as those of the general public, has become a national institution. Provincial correspondents of the local papers are describing regular Sunday night gatherings wherever a municipal radio is available and that discussions continue long after the broadcasts have ended.

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