

**TOBACCO REVIEW**

By P. A. MEYER  
February, 1938



**RAW LEAF:**  
The local market during February was quiet. Weather conditions in Cagayan and Isabela were favorable for the coming crop. Comparative figures of shipments abroad are as follows:

*Rawleaf, Stripped Tobacco and*

Australia .....	1,900
Belgium .....	9,665
China .....	7,200
Guam .....	2,456
Holland .....	6,254
Hongkong .....	23,225
Straits Settlements .....	1,307
United States .....	147,279

February, 1938 .....	199,284
January, 1938 .....	267,425
February, 1937 .....	2,400,021

**CIGAR:** Shipments to the United States compare as follows:

February, 1938 .....	20,633,884
January, 1938 .....	7,484,655
February, 1937 .....	12,807,019

lands totalled 2,164 tons in February, which is considerably better than the January record.

**GENERAL**—We reported in January that the copra and coconut oil business was being largely affected by general business uncertainty in the United States and in Europe. This continued in February, and at the end of the month so uncertain were the prospects that no one would hazard a guess as to what the future might hold. Never have we reported a January and February such as 1938, and we do not expect to do so again. Many people believe that business will take a turn for the better beginning with the second quarter of the year, but any prediction at this time is useless, even though it is fairly evident that supplies of copra will be less in the next two or three months than they have been in January and February, which normally should make for a better market situation. Probably the future of our business will depend upon when the present economic condition in the United States begins to show signs of betterment.

The Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs was working all the month in Washington, and among the problems of debate was the question of export taxes on Philippine coconut oil. This is a problem very close to the hearts of the local oil industry, whole life and death depends on a successful solution of this particular question.

During the month the annual meeting of the Philippine Coconut Association, Inc., was held and the Hon. Maximo M. Kalaw was re-elected President of the Association which is determined to carry on a more aggressive campaign in 1938 than it did in 1937. It is felt that the Association's record in 1937 was very good, particularly as pertains to its representations before the Joint Preparatory Committee.

Fritz Marquardt's copy, the copy we had long wanted came over. Gunther was glad to see it, to remark some changes he had telegraphed the publishers, Harpers, and of course he autographed it. When newspaper men buy another newspaper man's book, it's infallible proof that the book is good. (At the reception at Dick Wilson's house, Dave Boguslav and Arsenio Luz had their copies autographed).

Having at last got the book, over the weekend we browsed in it. You will like it too, when you try it, as everybody does. You may not like every detail of it, but as a whole you will pronounce it first rate. Its only pretention is diligent reporting from an independent viewpoint consistently maintained. It lays down no premises, ends with no conclusions; in form it is the usual size, with 518 well-packed but legible pages; the bibliography exceeds two pages, the index thirteen, and the price is P7.70.

Chapter by chapter, all the major characters now billed on the dramatic political stage of Europe are portrayed clearly, and the stage settings defined and the action of the play followed right through to 1938.

Having just written this, we come upon what Gunther himself says in his general acknowledgment—"This book has been written fresh and as a whole, and all from a consistent point of view. . . I have my newspaper, the Chicago Daily News, to thank for the wide opportunity it has given me this past dozen years to work in almost every country in Europe." If memory serves, it is a dozen years and two besides that Gunther's by-line was a special attraction on the News' famous Page 2, the foreign-news department of the paper ever since Victor Lawson and his old editor Charles H. Dennis founded, forty years ago, special foreign-news reporting as a feature of American newspaper publishing. Gunther's Inside Europe is the apotheosis of the standards set on that great Dennis page, and of his own contribution to it.

He takes you to the show in grand style, on every page. You enjoy with him all Europe's Edgar Bergens and Charlie MacCarthys; and of course, since there are also sincere men everywhere, their Paul Munis and George Arlisses. The edition you can now buy is the fortieth, as we say, revised into 1938. The Gunther's visit to the East is in behalf of another book of his that

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**Copra and Its . . .**

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heavy and mills in the Philippines were either shut down or running on half time during the month. Local factories were hoping that their stocks would be substantially worked off within the next 60 days, thus enabling them to go back to full time operation; but the outlook was not too encouraging, although with the Summer months coming on business should be better. Shipments of desiccated from the Is-

**JOHN GUNTHER'S POPULAR BOOK**

When John and Frances Gunther came to town the second week in March, another shipment to Philippine Education of Gunther's popular book, Inside Europe, had arrived at the customhouse but had not been delivered. But on Friday, while Gunther talked with us, after autographing



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