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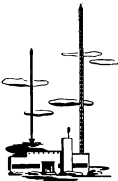
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month, and little tobacco was left for speculation. Tobacco acreage is undoubtedly going to be increased since prices were attractive to farmers and some of the Visayan tobacco was of surprisingly good quality.

Virginia Tobacco (locally grown). The acreage of Virginia plantings will increase considerably because of the great demand for this type of tobacco, but Virginia cigarette factories claim that not all kinds of locally-grown Virginia are acceptable to the public and that only the higher grades will be in demand.

In the Ilocos provinces, there is a tendency toward increasing the acreage for native-grown Virginia, and about 20 flue-curing barns have been constructed in different localities. A well-known foreign concern is experimenting with new types of Virginia seed.

Cigar and Cigarette Factories. Contradictory statements are made as to the stocks of Virginia tobacco in the Philippines. Many factories claim they will have to close down if no more Virginia is imported from the United States, while some government sources state there still are enough stocks of Virginia to last until 1955.

A raid was made on the Sta. Ana Cigar & Cigarette Factory at Hagonoy, Bulacan, where counterfeit internal revenue stamps and several imitation brands of cigarettes were being manufactured. It is a high hope that this good work against tax-evaders and counterfeiters will be relentlessly continued.

Rice

By CHARLES O. HOUSTON, JR.

Director, Graduate School, University of Manila

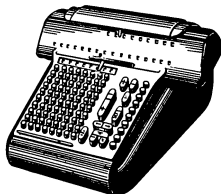
AS supply in production sectors dwindled rapidly at the beginning of the month, all old-crop varieties registered increases over a wide range, from 25¢ to ₱1.20 per sack (56 kilos). Wagwag, from the South, remained relatively unchanged. Palay prices, in producing areas, increased: Nueva Ecija ordinario, from ₱9.70 to ₱10.60; raminad, ₱10.00 to ₱11.60; wagwag, ₱11.70 to ₱13.00. Distribution of NARIC rice (selling at 85¢ and 60¢ per ganta for macan no. 2 and imported), had some effect upon volume in the wholesale market but did not check the upward trend in prices.

The second week of September was marked by steadiness in the market, except for wagwag which increased 25¢ (per 56 kilos). The greatly expanded distribution of NARIC rice in the provinces was generally believed responsible for this steadiness. However, raminad second class and Thai second class, disappeared from the market and macan, both classes, was difficult to secure (as had been the case since the middle of August), not reappearing in any quantity on the general market until the end of the month. This clearly indicated the rapidly dwindling supply in producing centers in Luzon.

The third week of September was marked by a growing weakness in the sellers' market, due to increasing arrivals from the South and the expanded distribution of NARIC rice. All varieties suffered losses over a wide range, from 25¢ to ₱2.00, per sack (56 kilos). As harvest was beginning in Mindoro and the Bicol, the heaviest demand remained in the Manila metropolitan area, where prices per ganta had as yet not been reduced to the corresponding level of the wholesale market. Palay prices followed the general trend and fell off by 50¢ to 80¢ per sack for most available varieties. The higher-class varieties continued their upward trend in the retail market.

The fourth week of September continued to be marked by the weakness of the preceding week. Cotabato and Davao shipments were heavy, NARIC rice was reduced to 55¢ per ganta, newly-harvested Bicol varieties appeared on the market, so that all varieties in the wholesale market dropped over a range from 25¢ to ₱1.00 per sack. Macan

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first class (from the old crop), which had been absent from the market for a month, also reappeared on the wholesale market, and Southern macan, raminad, and elonelon also appeared by the middle of the week. The price-trend seemed definitely to be lowering or at least levelling off, on the wholesale market, but retail prices by the end of the fourth week had as yet not registered significant decreases.

By the end of the month, several new varieties appeared on the market, those from Cavite being the highest in quality and price (as much as ₱1.35 per ganta). These special varieties hardly ever appear on the wholesale market, and are generally sold through retail outlets to "old customers" of the dealers. Their normal price is so much higher than the usual varieties in demand that they are not used in assessing the market picture. Their significance, in a restricted class, appears important and this column is endeavoring to gather some information on their distribution. As far as taste is concerned, they are far superior to anything else on the market.

The national scene continued confused. On September 2, it was announced that the NARIC had discarded the plan to finance importation of 25,000 tons of rice and had instead placed the burden of financing this importation on private enterprise. Bids, which had been submitted to the NARIC, were in the process of evaluation, when Economic Coordinator Alfredo Montelibano informed them of a directive from Malacañang ordering the closure of bids to the public, the Cabinet having decided that NARIC was to confine its activities to local purchasing. Under the new plan, private firms would be responsible for the importation and distribution of imported rice, letters of credit to be opened in the name of the NARIC and exemption from the 17% exchange tax to be granted. Such rice was to be stored, free of charge, in NARIC bodegas and was to be distributed by the PRISCO, similarly. The rice was to be sold under the control and supervision of the NARIC and a penalty of ₱1.00 per ton was to be imposed for every day of delay beyond the end of September. As of September 2, only three importers had expressed willingness: Norson Company offered to sell Pakistan "Kangni" at 52¢ per ganta (ex-warehouse); C. A. Roxas and Overseas Factors offered to sell the same rice at 51¢. Norson offered 10,000 tons; the other two, 5,000 tons each. Later it was announced that the NARIC would sell this rice at about 60¢ per ganta, buying it from importers at 49¢ to 52¢ per ganta.

On September 10, President Magsaysay created a rice purchasing committee, composed of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Director of NARIC, the Chairman of ACCFA, the PRISCO General Manager, the Director of Public Schools, and the Chief of Constabulary, to handle the purchase of rice, expressing his impatience with the NARIC board's failure to properly solve the vexing situation.

Later in the month two prospective importers of Thai rice withdrew from the plan and fear was expressed at the same time that the Pakistan rice would not arrive at the expected date, to hold the price at the level created by the President previously, and Director Chioco stated that only C. A. Roxas could guarantee delivery of Pakistan rice by the middle of October. The NARIC then threatened to sue the two reluctant importers for "taking lightly whatever commitments they may have made with the Corporation." This charge was denied by one of the importers, who stated in reply that it was the NARIC which had changed the conditions of the contract after initial steps had been agreed upon.

At the end of the month some discussion ensued over the possibility of frauds being committed in connection with importation of Thai rice and reports were also circulated that the rice ordered from Pakistan was defective in some respects.



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The President ordered the NARIC to sell rice at 55¢ per ganta, and by the end of the month such sales were proceeding, exercising a general salutary effect upon the retail market. The President stated quite exactly that it was not important for NARIC to make a profit; what was important was to get rice to the consumer as cheaply as possible and in sufficient quantity. The President again thus displayed his earnestness and seriousness of purpose in ending in whatever fashion at his disposal the muddle created by bureaucratic tampering with the laws of economics.

RICE PRICES

(Per sack-36 kilos)

Week of:	Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Sept. 6-11	Sept. 13-18	Sept. 20-25
Wagwag				
1st class:	26.00-27.00	26.50-27.50	26.50-27.00	26.50-27.00
2nd class:	25.00-26.50	25.50-26.50	25.50-26.00	25.50-26.00
(Cotabato):	24.50-25.50	24.50-25.50	24.50-25.00	24.00-24.50
(Davao):	23.30-24.50	23.50-24.50	23.50-24.00	23.00-23.50
Raininad				
1st class:	34.50-25.50	25.50-26.00	25.50-25.00	24.50-25.00
2nd class:	34.00-25.00	—	—	—
Thai				
1st class:	24.50-25.50	22.50-23.00	22.50-21.00	20.50-20.00
2nd class:	24.00-25.00	—	—	—
Macan—unquoted			unq	unq
(Cotabato-New crop):			unq	23.00-23.50 (1st) 21.50-22.00 (2nd)

RICE AND PALAY

(Per ganta)

Week of Aug. 31-Sept. 4:	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago	Pre-war (1941)
Macan				
1st class:	1.02	.98	.95	.93
2nd class:	—	—	.90	.85
Wagwag				
1st class:	1.25	1.19	1.15	1.20
2nd class:	1.16	1.13	1.07	1.10
Elonelon				
1st class:	1.16	1.08	1.06	1.08
2nd class:	1.11	1.03	1.05	1.03
Palay (Ordin.):	.48	.48	.48	.48
Week of Sept. 6-11				
Macan				
1st class:	1.09	1.02	.95	.93
2nd class:	—	—	.90	.85
Wagwag				
1st class:	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.20
2nd class:	1.18	1.16	1.07	1.10
Elonelon				
1st class:	—	1.16	1.08	1.08
2nd class:	—	1.11	1.05	1.03
Palay (Ordin.):	.50	.48	.48	.48
Week of Sept. 13-18:				
Macan				
1st class:	1.13	1.09	.95	.93
2nd class:	—	—	.85	.85
Wagwag				
1st class:	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.20
2nd class:	1.18	1.18	1.08	1.10
Elonelon				
1st class:	—	—	1.08	1.08
2nd class:	—	—	1.03	1.03
Palay (Ordin.):	.53	.50	.48	.48
Week of Sept. 20-25:				
Macan				
1st class:	1.13	1.13	.98	.93
2nd class:	—	—	.85	.85
Wagwag				
1st class:	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.20
2nd class:	1.18	1.18	1.13	1.10
Elonelon				
1st class:	—	—	1.08	1.08
2nd class:	—	—	1.03	1.03
Palay (Ordin.):	.53	.53	.48	.48

MACAN (36 kilos) and PALAY (44 kilos)

Week of Aug. 31-Sept. 4:	This Week	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Macan				
1st class:	unq	20.50-21.50	20.00-21.00	18.80-19.30
2nd class:	unq	unq	19.50-20.50	18.30-18.80
Palay (Ordin.):	9.70-10.60	9.70	9.00	18.50-8.80
Week of Sept. 6-11:				
Macan:	unq	unq	20.50-21.00	18.80-19.30
1st class:	unq	unq	20.00-20.50	18.30-18.80
2nd class:	unq	unq	9.70	8.50-8.80
Palay (Ordin.):	10.60-11.50	9.70-10.60	9.00	8.50-8.80
Week of Sept. 13-18:				
Macan:	unq	unq	20.50-21.50	18.80-19.30
1st class:	unq	unq	unq	18.30-18.80
2nd class:	unq	unq	9.70	8.50-8.80
Palay (Ordin.):	11.80	10.60-11.50	9.70	8.50-8.80

Week of Sept. 20-25:			
Macan: 1st class:	unq	unq	21 00-21 50
2nd class:	unq	unq	18 80-19 30
Palay (ordin.):	11 00	11 00	9 70
			8 50- 8 80
Oct. 1:			
Macan: 1st class:	22 00-22 50	Macan (per ganta)	1 00
2nd class:	unq		90
Palay (ordin.):	11 00		

Note: "Unq"—indicates absence from market (sometimes indicated by dashes).



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By S. SCHMELKE
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ALL figures are in kilos with the exception of those for foodstuffs which are given in package units.

Commodities:	August, 1954	August, 1953
Automotive (Total)	1,931,406	1,344,620
Automobiles.....	363,974	268,410
Auto Parts.....	146,470	329,779
Bicycles.....	2,331	191
Trucks.....	68,348	98,734
Truck Chassis.....	281,196	401,396
Truck Parts.....	383,464	38,301
Building Materials (Total)	15,507,471	20,966,369
Board, Fibre.....	2,974	—
Cement.....	11,448,871	17,621,408
Glass, Window.....	893,032	686,605
Gypsum.....	—	45,359
Chemicals (Total)	5,750,478	8,407,333
Caustic Soda.....	209,944	1,191,159
Explosives (Total)	—	—
Firearms (Total).....	138	12,776
Ammunition.....	138	2,981
Hardware (Total).....	5,426,971	4,618,113
Household (Total).....	1,011,994	1,158,745
Machinery (Total).....	1,932,857	2,604,860
Metals (Total).....	10,691,246	11,826,723
Petroleum Products (Total).....	53,968,400	72,989,954
Radios (Total).....	29,037	98,455
Rubber Goods (Total).....	858,969	874,670
Beverages, Misc. Alcoholic	3,635	3,183
Foodstuffs, Total Kilos	19,992,087	26,593,285
Foodstuffs, Fresh (Total)	44,589	60,119
Apples.....	6,188	5,053
Oranges.....	9,596	4,582
Onions.....	450	21,680
Potatoes.....	15	5,146
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total)	9,955	16,795
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total)	543,344	319,274
Sardines.....	30,193	15,796
Milk, Evaporated.....	182,048	112,088
Milk, Condensed.....	35,382	42,897
Foodstuffs, Bulk (Total)	303,320	678,617
Rice.....	—	—
Wheat Flour.....	271,450	646,039
Foodstuffs, Preserved (Total)	677	342
Bottling, Misc. (Total)	973,988	974,120
Cleaning and Laundry (Total).....	110,289	98,062
Entertainment Equipment (Total).....	3,179	6,137
Livestock-bulbs-seeds (Total).....	343,180	356,472
Medical (Total).....	853,240	402,681
Musical (Total).....	56,977	46,569
Office Equipment (Total).....	103,980	37,705
Office Supplies (Total).....	25,885	34,503
Paper (Total).....	3,845,914	5,850,393
Photographic (Total).....	12,983	83,599
Raw Materials (Total).....	2,344,730	1,704,824
Sporting Goods (Total).....	3,203	13,465
Stationery (Total).....	155,169	548,622
Tobacco (Total).....	368,343	2,365,476
Chucheria (Total)	86,517	85,493
Clothing Apparel (Total).....	400,391	570,831
Cosmetics (Total).....	5,362	57,525
Fabrics (Total).....	263,540	878,672
Jewelry (Total).....	—	76
Leather (Total).....	134,111	165,728
Textiles (Total).....	2,932,503	3,254,432
Twine (Total).....	54,800	45,824
Toys (Total).....	28,138	26,232
General Merchandise (Total).....	1,514,766	523,054
Non-Commercial Shipments (Total).....	137,665	102,705
Advertising Materials, Etc. (Total).....	40,202	17,528

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