

pated import licenses. However, this situation is rather confusing because the Philippine-Japan Trade Agreement expires on March 17, and even though MITI does license imports early in March, Philippine exporters will be unable to operate against the new import licenses prior to the expiration of the Agreement. We are of the opinion that eventually the Trade Agreement will be extended for a further month and a half to three months.

From the weakness in consuming markets, it is quite obvious that we have found a marked decline in prices throughout the Philippines during the month of February. We are extremely concerned regarding future production throughout the Islands at present price levels. While we believe producers generally will strip standing abaca stalks, we feel they will delay production as much as possible; they will not let the stalks rot in the fields. We are of the opinion that planters in the Davao area will discontinue spending large sums of money combating mosaic disease, and certainly we cannot visualize planters being interested in planting further areas with new abaca at present prices.

We detail below the usual statistics. The February figures will be included in our March report.

| | Balings—January | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
| Davao..... | 48,073 | 38,060 | 44,606 | 40,025 | 22,822 |
| Albay/Camarines/ | | | | | |
| Sorsogon..... | 9,981 | 27,875 | 15,220 | 25,813 | 14,966 |
| Leyte/Samar..... | 11,038 | 8,484 | 13,319 | 14,821 | 9,618 |
| All others..... | 8,287 | 9,024 | 6,390 | 10,268 | 6,710 |
| Total..... | 77,379 | 83,443 | 79,535 | 90,927 | 54,116 |

| | Exports—January | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
| United States and Ca- | | | | | |
| nada..... | 16,413 | 22,136 | 38,466 | 43,153 | 21,704 |
| Continent of Europe..... | 15,404 | 17,799 | 15,683 | 14,887 | 5,619 |
| United Kingdom..... | 12,840 | 12,364 | 14,306 | 9,650 | 9,546 |
| Japan..... | 18,636 | 29,445 | 8,500 | 4,910 | 9,464 |
| South Africa..... | 150 | 700 | 1,300 | 970 | 80 |
| China..... | 350 | 220 | 1,120 | 310 | 550 |
| India..... | 430 | 512 | 520 | 300 | 500 |
| Korea..... | — | — | — | — | — |
| Australia and New Zea- | | | | | |
| land..... | 700 | 400 | — | — | 625 |
| Others..... | 25 | — | — | — | — |
| Total..... | 64,048 | 83,576 | 79,895 | 74,180 | 48,088 |

Copra and Coconut Oil

By WILLIAM S. RICE, JR.

Copra Buyer, Philippine Manufacturing Company

THE market eased during the first week of the month, setting the tone for February, and the long advance begun last August reversed as trading was done at successively lower levels. The major breaks occurred during the second and fourth weeks, due to multiple depressing influences, such as, limited European demand, aggressive dealer selling, improved Philippine production, and large quantities of African palm kernels available as a copra substitute primarily in Europe.

Copra Prices. During February, prices to the United States ranged widely downward from \$217.50 c.i.f. to \$187.50 per short ton, off \$30.00 for the month. European trading, however, seemed to set the trend, and prices ranged from \$245 down to \$200 per long ton c.i.f. European ports, off \$45 for the month. Speculators pushed the market to this low level at the end of the month with a good quantity of sales at \$200 per long ton c.i.f. European ports, March-April shipment.

In Manila the local price for fresh copra, rescada basis, 30-day delivery, followed the export prices and declined from ₱41.50 at the beginning of the month to ₱34.00 per 100 kilos at the close, down ₱7.50.

The market rallied temporarily during the third week, while production caught up with the decline, and prices moved up about ₱3 before the decline resumed.

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Coconut Oil Prices. Coconut oil prices did not move over so wide a range, but in general followed the pattern of copra prices and moved down from 15-5 8/16 to 13-3 4/16 per pound f.o.b. tank cars, Pacific Coast, for April shipment. Oil stocks in the United States continued at high level.

Copra Cake and Meal Prices. The West Coast meal market has shown some signs of weakness because of competition from cottonseed meal which is being freely offered at lower prices, but the market is still at \$70-\$73 per short ton c.i.f. West Coast.

Copra Statistics

Philippine Copra and Coconut Oil Exports
(In Long Tons)

| | December (1953) | January (1954) |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Copra Exports | | |
| United States | 30,199 | 22,685 |
| Europe | 22,000 | 25,650 |
| Other Countries | 1,753 | 1,986 |
| Total | 53,952 | 50,321 |

| Coconut Oil Exports | 4,845 | 2,463 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| United States | | |
| Other Countries | | |
| Total | 4,845 | 2,463 |

Manila and Cebu Copra Arrivals
(In Metric Tons)

| | Manila | Cebu | Manila and Cebu |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 1951 monthly average | 14,344 | 19,667 | 34,011 |
| 1952 monthly average | 14,604 | 15,102 | 29,706 |
| 1953 monthly average | 12,052 | 15,979 | 28,031 |
| January, 1954 | 13,038 | 15,490 | 28,528 |
| February, 1954 | 11,674 | 14,218 | 25,892 |
| February, 1953 | 7,741 | 13,029 | 20,770 |
| February, 1952 | 16,570 | 11,705 | 28,275 |
| February, 1951 | 12,849 | 20,698 | 33,547 |

Philippine and Indonesian Copra Exports
(In Metric Tons)

| | Philippine Copra Exports | Indonesian Copra Exports |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| November, 1953 | 43,511 | 21,986 |
| December, 1953 | 62,269 | 18,359 |
| 1953 monthly average | 57,821 | 19,998 |
| 1952 monthly average | 67,533 | 23,992 |
| 1951 monthly average | 74,586 | 38,566 |
| January, 1954 | 53,992 | 15,116 |
| January, 1953 | 41,025 | 14,230 |
| January, 1952 | 77,050 | 32,657 |
| January, 1951 | 68,890 | 27,181 |

*Include coconut oil exports converted to copra.

Production and Future Prospects. Even though copra production is in a seasonally-low period, it is much improved over the same period last year. Arrivals at Cebu and Manila are up about 30% from January-February, 1953. During March production should begin to rise from the present seasonal low.

Improved production coupled with limited demand, particularly in Europe, should result in gradually declining prices over the next few months.

Desiccated Coconut

By HOWARD R. HICK
President and General Manager
Peter Paul Philippine Corporation

FOLLOWING are the shipment figures for the month of January, 1954:

| Shippers | Pounds |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Franklin Baker Company | 292,600 |
| Blue Bar Coconut Company | 580,730 |
| Peter Paul Philippine Corporation | 1,041,500 |
| Red V Coconut Products, Ltd. | 1,472,500 |
| Sun Ripe Coconut Products, Inc. | 82,500 |
| Cooperative Coconut Products, Inc. | 0 |
| Total | 3,469,830 lbs. |

Philippine Languages—(Continued from page 93)

LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS SPOKEN
(000's omitted)

| 1948 Rank | Language | 1939 | | 1948 | | +5.8 |
|-----------|--------------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | % | Number | % | Number | |
| 1 | English | 26.6 | 4,831 | 32.4 | 7,156 | +7.8 |
| 2 | Tagalog | 25.4 | 4,068 | 25.5 | 4,840 | +2.9 |
| 3 | Cebuano-Visayan | 14.7 | 2,353 | 13.1 | 2,678 | +1.6 |
| 4 | Hiligaynon | 12.1 | 1,951 | 12.8 | 2,436 | +0.7 |
| 6 | Bicol | 8.0 | 1,289 | 8.1 | 1,535 | +0.1 |
| 7 | Waraywaray (Samar) | 5.7 | 920 | 6.4 | 1,226 | +0.7 |
| 8 | Pampango | 3.9 | 621 | 3.7 | 707 | -0.2 |
| 9 | Pangasinan | 3.6 | 573 | 3.5 | 665 | -0.1 |
| 10 | Spanish | 2.6 | 417 | 1.8 | 345 | -0.8 |

LANGUAGES SPOKEN COMPARED TO MOTHER TONGUE
(000's omitted)

| Numerical Rank | Languages | Mother Tongue | | Non-Mother Tongue | | Percentage Non-Mother |
|----------------|------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | | Number | (est.) | Number | (est.) | |
| 1 | English | 20 | (est.) | 7,136 | (est.) | 99 |
| 2 | Tagalog | 3,730 | | 4,366 | | 61 |
| 3 | Ilocano | 2,340 | | 347 | | 13 |
| 4 | Pangasinan | 515 | | 150 | | 22 |
| 5 | Bicol | 1,467 | | 68 | | 4 |

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