

The Philippines may well take pride in the success of the Eighth Pacific Science Congress and the Fourth Far Eastern Prehistory Congress which, under the auspices of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Research Council, held simultaneous and several joint sessions, mostly on the University of the Philippines premises at Diliman, from November 16 to November 28.

The congresses were attended by no less than 352 overseas delegates, many of the foremost rank, from 27 different countries and by 1076 local delegates of various scientific, professional, and cultural organizations. A total of 789 scientific papers were submitted, 115 of these in the field of prehistory, and many of these were thoroughly discussed. Many of the discussions led to the formation of special committees as well as to the adoption of important resolutions with respect to continued research in geology and geophysics, oceanography, meteorology, animal improvement in the Pacific area, botany, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, social science, public health and nutrition, conservation, fisheries, forestry, the products of various specific industries, etc., all of direct value to national legislatures and government administrative departments and to industrial and business enterprises. These resolutions are too numerous to specify and those interested are referred to the various publications of the two congresses, among them the "Abstracts of Papers" (564 pp.) and the "Supplement" (96 pp.), published by the "Organizing Committee." Further publications are to follow.

Dr. Vidal A. Tan, President of the University of the Philippines, in the inaugural address at the opening of the two congresses, said:

"The Philippines realizes greatly the importance to us of these congresses and appreciates the honor of being able to play host to these distinguished delegates from all over the world. There has never been nor is there likely going to be for a long time a similar event of equal significance in the history of science in the Philippines."

Dr. Tan spoke again at the closing plenary session and said:

"For all of us, the Eighth Pacific Science Congress and the Fourth Eastern Prehistory Congress have been tremendous sources of mutual stimulation, growth, and a widening of vision. The congresses have given us valuable contact and first-hand exchange of information... On behalf of the Filipino scientists, may I say that I know that these congresses have so inspired and challenged them that research in the Philippines will be pursued with greater zeal and just appreciation?"

An important organizational step was taken in the Prehistory Congress in the election on the 27th of November of an executive committee which on December 3 formally organized the Far Eastern Prehistory Association as a permanent institution with a Council as the governing body of which Dr. H. Otley Beyer was elected Honorary Chairman, Bernard P. Groslier of Saigon as Chairman, and Dr. Roger Duff, of Christchurch, New Zealand, as Secretary. Mr. E. Arsenio Manuel is a member for the Philippines of the Council. This establishes an organization more or less parallel to the Pacific Science Council.

A most interesting and to a degree amazing sequel to the great gathering of world scientists in the Philippines was the discovery by the famous Dutch scientist, Dr. G. H. R. von Koeningswald, of definite proof that the Philippine archipelago was connected with the Asiatic mainland by land-bridges during the *Pleistocene* period. Up to that time, fossilized large mammalian remains in this country were known only from single specimens from widely scattered parts of Luzon and Mindanao—a number of fragmentary rhinoceros teeth, from a single animal; a tooth of a unique pygmy elephant, and a stegodon tooth. A few days after the close of the congresses, Dr. von Koeningswald, accompanied by Mr. Laurence L. Wilson, of

Baguio, explored a number of sites unsuccessfully, but then at a site in northwestern Pangasinan found no less than 44 pieces of stegodon teeth and 1 piece of stegodon ivory (representing probably at least a dozen or more different animals); a probable new species of medium-large elephant, represented by a thoroughly fossilized piece of a large tooth; a fossil rib of a large mammal, probably a small elephant; 2 partial fossil horns and another bone, representing two species of deer; fossil tooth, probably Bos; several fragmentary fossils, (and also more than 400 tektites representing three distinct types, one of which is wholly new to tektite students). This is proof sufficient that the present Archipelago was reached at various times in the *past half million years* or so by large Asiatic mammals that traveled only by land, and that such large land mammals as the rhinoceros, the stegodon, and the elephant survived in the Philippines for a considerable period of time,—long enough to develop certain pygmy forms not found on the mainland. Although no actual human fossils have yet been found, von Koeningswald's findings agree with the view of Dr. Beyer that certain primitive stone implements found in association both with fossil remains and with tektites were actually made by early human beings contemporary with and probably resembling the Java Man.

TRUE enough, all this takes us a long way from the price of eggs,—and of sugar and copra and hemp and rice and imported food products and textiles, but where would we businessmen be if the Philippines had not first of all been peopled? However, as pointed out earlier in this brief editorial, a great deal of the work of the two congresses was of more direct practical significance which should not be overlooked by our government administrators and business executives.

At the suggestion of Mr. J. A. Thomas, President of the American Association of the Philippines, the *Journal* is pleased to publish the following letter received by him from the American Ambassador last month:

**American Embassy  
Interest and Duty  
re Protection of  
Interests of American  
Citizens**

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
Consular Section  
Manila, December 11, 1953

Mr. J. A. THOMAS,

President, American Association of the Philippines,  
Manila.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

It has come to my attention that there may exist among certain circles of the American community in the Philippines a misapprehension as to the interest and the duty of the Embassy in regard to the protection of the legitimate individual interests of American citizens in the Philippines. I have been informed that this misapprehension may exist to the extent that some Americans are of the opinion that there would be no point to bringing a legitimate complaint to the Embassy because those who complain are advised to return to the United States if they do not like conditions in the Philippines.

For this reason, I would greatly appreciate your bringing to the attention of all members of the American Association the fact that not only is the Embassy deeply interested in the individual welfare of all American citizens in the Philippines but it is also the obligation of the American Foreign Service to protect the legitimate rights and interests of all citizens to the maximum extent possible within the limitations imposed by law, national policy, personnel availabilities, and general conditions. More specifically, the Foreign Service operates under definitive instructions as to the representation of the interests of citizens in regard to commercial discrimination, protection of property and personal rights, conservation of estates, and individual welfare. In particular, I am most seriously concerned that the maximum effort be exerted to assure Americans adequate protection and equal treatment in the administration of justice under Philippine law.

I should like to attempt to avoid misunderstanding by pointing out that it is generally not possible, for legal and other reasons, for the Embassy to act in individual cases in the manner that service might

be rendered by a legal counselor, advertising agent, policeman, or social welfare agency. Further, staff limitations and other operating conditions often preclude individual service to the extent that it might, or should ideally, be rendered.

Frequently, the type of situation prevails in which for one reason or another the Embassy cannot feasibly assist an individual person adequately in regard to a complaint but could, if such cases are reported in detail, rather than by hearsay, undertake representations or other action to correct general conditions which brought about the situation or, at least, report the situation adequately to the proper authorities of the United States. In such instances, the individuals concerned are performing a public service, as well as assisting the Embassy in carrying out its functions, by reporting the matter; and I urge all Americans to do so regardless of the limitations which may be known to exist in such instances.

It is my intention to see that existing instructions on these matters are carried out to the fullest extent feasible. This can only be done with the cooperation, help, and understanding of the local American community. It is, therefore, my wish to clear up any misunderstandings which may exist.

I shall greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) R. A. SPRUANCE

Two recent studies by the same author, Dr. Charles O. Houston, Jr., Director of Graduate Studies, University of Manila, one entitled "Rice in the Philippine Economy—1934-1950" and the other, "The Philippine Coconut Industry—1934-1950", are well worth the attention of specialists as well as the general reader. The first appeared in the *University of Manila Journal of East Asiatic Studies*, Vol. III, No. 1 (October, 1953), and runs to 72 pages and the same article in a separate reprint, recently issued, runs to 86 pages. The paper on the coconut industry was published in the *Philippine Geographical Journal*, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 3 (combined) for the second and third quarter of 1953, and runs to 30 pages.

Both are excellent examples of what a diligent reading of existing literature and especially of the periodical press over a long period of years, can turn up and how valuable all this can be, if properly evaluated and correlated, both for the guidance of government policy and of business management.

## Business Prospects for 1954

By CORNELIO BALMAGEDA  
*Secretary of Commerce and Industry*

**A** HEALTHY outlook in our domestic production of basic crops, especially rice and sugar, at the end of 1953 and a steady whittling down of the gap between exports and imports, as the foreign demand for major export products keeps gaining and the local manufacture of articles of consumption formerly derived from imports continues to increase, make the business prospects for 1954 distinctly favorable. Barring any unforeseen developments in the international situation which would alter the present favorable trend in our foreign trade, 1954 may even see for the first time in the post-war years a balanced Philippine import and export trade.

The gap between the value of Philippine imports and exports this year is placed at approximately ₱42,000,000, the lowest since 1950, as compared with an import balance of ₱147,000,000 in 1952. The cessation of hostilities in Korea and the start of Korean rehabilitation open a new and increased demand for Philippine lumber and timber and allied products. At the same time, a bigger demand for major export products of the country in other foreign markets is also expected.

It is significant to note that the monthly overseas commerce showed favorable balances in three successive months during the first half of 1953 and again in three successive months in the latter half, so that at the end of October there was a favorable merchandise balance of nearly ₱2,000,000. Heavy arrivals of goods in November and December, however, wiped out the meager export balance of the previous months. The smaller import balance for this year may signify a moderate export excess in the coming year.

Some uneasiness has been caused in local industrial circles by talk of the removal of the present controls which have afforded needed protection to various new industries, but there is an undercurrent of faith and confidence that the new industries will not be abandoned and that continued impetus and encouragement to the industrial development of the country will be given under the incoming Administration. This will bring about a greater industrial output and will further reduce unnecessary imports.

Among other important developments in 1953 upon which to build a hopeful view for the ensuing year, may be mentioned the following:

1. Agricultural production for domestic consumption and for export continued to increase. The total combined production of certain selected commodities like palay, corn, sugar, etc. is estimated at 20,166,700 metric tons for the last crop-year, as against only 17,523,740 metric tons the previous year.
2. Production of gold as well as base metals likewise showed remarkable gains.
3. Average retail prices in Manila showed a downward trend. The cost of living of a wage earner's family also declined.
4. Wholesale prices of selected commodities showed mixed trends, but the prices of such export products as copra, coconut oil, desiccated coconut, lumber, leaf tobacco, iron ore, and chrome ore were higher than those of last year.
5. The international reserves were maintained at a higher level.
6. Investments made by corporations and partnerships registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed also marked increases from those of last year.

**Foreign Trade.** The overseas trade of the Philippines in 1953 is estimated to reach ₱1,635,000,000, as compared with ₱1,557,036,275 in 1952, or an increase of about 5%. Preliminary figures show that exports are valued at ₱796,374,000, an increase of about 13% over last year's figure which amounted to ₱704,812,410. Imports, which amounted to ₱838,412,000, are slightly lower than the 1952 imports, which were valued at ₱852,223,856.

As in the previous years, the United States, having absorbed about 68.5% of the total exports for the first 10 months, or ₱461,397,690, as against 66.5% for the corresponding period of 1952, was the best market for Philippine products. Likewise, the bulk of the imports was supplied by the United States which was credited with ₱521,897,084 or 77.7% of the total imports, compared with ₱531,431,966 or 71.2% in 1952.