Deliveries of refined sugar for the week ending July 19 totalled 165,826 short tons, compared with 163,392 short tons for the previous week and 114,214 short tons for the corresponding period in 1951. Total United States distribution to July 19 was 4,500,410 short tons, as compared with 4,489,620 short tons to the same date last year.

Molasses. The Molasses Committee of the Cuban Sugar Institute sold 7,500,000 gallons to Publicker at $0.12 per gallon f.o.b. plus 2-3/4% export tax. The previous quotation had been $0.20 per gallon. Total shipments of Cuban molasses to the United States for storage, as of July 15, were 130,900,000 gallons. Only 9,500,000 gallons had been sold for export as of that date. 1952 Cuban production of molasses up to July 15 was approximately 400,000,000 gallons.

International Sugar Council. Following its meeting on June 23/24 in London, attended by representatives of 18 governments and by observers from 7 other governments and from the FAO, the Council issued a press communique reading in part as follows:

"The Council adopted the report of its Statistical Committee estimating free market supplies for the crop-year ending 31 August, 1952, at 7,335,000 metric tons, and estimating requirements at 4,950,000 metric tons.

"The Council heard a report from Baron Kronacker, the Chairman of its Special Committee, on the progress made in the drafting of a new International Sugar Agreement.

"The Council decided to recommend the governments which signed the Protocol prolonging the present Agreement to 31 August, 1952, to sign another Protocol prolonging that Agreement, on the understanding that as soon as a new Agreement comes into force the Protocol will terminate. To this end the Council decided to press on with the negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement and that a meeting of its Special Committee should be held in September."

Local Market. (a) Domestic Sugar. Demand continued good throughout the month with prices ranging from ₱15 to ₱16, ex mill warehouse, for ordinary centrifugals, and from ₱15.90 to ₱16.90 for regular grade washed. The Sugar Quota Administration, in the face of recurrent fears of a shortage materializing later in the year, has established a tentative domestic quota for the 1952-53 crop of 299,000 short tons, and it is thought that the first 1952-53 crop millings will be charged against the domestic quota until the local stock position is assured. This expectation has kept the market on a fairly even keel. In addition to these steps, the Sugar Quota Administration is permitting the remainder of unsold export sugar to be converted into domestic.

(b) Export Sugar. The month under review has seen little or no activity in the United States export sugar market, most of the crop being already disposed of and most traders having withdrawn from the market. Attention is being directed in political circles to the increasing quantities of so-called Muscovado sugar being shipped to Japan.

General. 1951-52 Milling. Of the 27 centrals milling for the 1951-52 crop, 24 have finished milling, with a production of 1,039,789 short tons. The production of the 3 centrals still milling is estimated at 158,306 short tons, of which 119,795 short tons have been produced up to July 13, or a total production to date of 1,039,789 short tons, indicating a final production of 1,078,300 short tons, or 4,000 short tons in excess of the previous official estimate.

Manila Hemp

By M. S. Robie
General Manager
Columbian Rope Company of Philippines, Inc.

June 30 — July 30

DURING the first two weeks in July the market for Manila hemp, which had steadied somewhat during the latter part of June, showed mixed trends which were characterized by continued sizable buying on the part of Japanese spinners and a fairly steady market for certain selective grades of Davao and non-Davao in both New York and London, but with a general underlying weakness which became steadily more apparent as the month progressed. Finally, during the last week in July, the market experienced a further serious decline in prices which has been, as of this writing, impossible to properly evaluate due to the almost complete absence of buying interest in London and New York, this having caused exporters in the Philippines in many places to withdraw from the market pending stabilization of prices at some level at which they could make selling progress.

The long-awaited increase in production which was expected in non-Davao areas had not yet materialized in the middle of July, but there were indications during the last half of the month that an increase was underway.

Although the rope business has continued poor according to recent reports from the United States, it is our belief that the almost complete withdrawal of American buyers from the fiber market has been occasioned by (1) the news which has leaked out that the Stockpile in Washington will not be purchasing additional quantities of Philippine abacá, and (2) the continued weakness in sisal prices. Insofar as the European markets are concerned, they continue to be plagued with a shortage of dollars and the situation during the period under review indicates that their problem in that respect has become even more serious. Japanese interest in the market was somewhat abated due to the fact that the Philippines-Japan trade Agreement was extended until September 30. Also, they began to take cognizance of the fact that they had been paying over other consuming markets and so were not buying as aggressively at the close of the month as had previously been the case. There will undoubtedly be more interest in Japan in the lower grades of Philippine abacá for paper-making as prices continue to decline.

As of this writing it is impossible to see anything in the immediate future other than a further decline in prices. The question does arise, however, as to how far a decline can go in the Philippines without seriously affecting production, particularly considering the fact that the cost of living for the average producer in this country has not declined apace with the decline in selling prices of the commodity which he is producing.

Below are the figures for balings and exports for the January/June period.

BALINGS—JANUARY/JUNE INCLUSIVE

	1952	*1951*	*1950*	*1949*	*1948*
Davao	264,451	254,895	166,038	112,701	116,744
Albay, Camarines and Sorsogon	86,426	151,254	89,343	63,449	112,069
Leyte and Samar	76,098	97,887	58,436	60,853	65,038
All other non-Davao	41,804	55,813	40,277	44,638	68,395
Total	468,779	559,840	354,094	281,641	362,246

EXPORTS—JANUARY/JUNE INCLUSIVE

	1952	*1951*	*1950*	*1949*	*1948*
United States and Canada	170,017	330,913	157,669	100,092	166,279
Continental Europe	86,621	92,687	55,296	59,597	57,926
United Kingdom	50,394	93,729	37,204	17,688	47,185
Japan	59,043	69,913	50,724	75,777	83,175
South Africa	5,800	9,590	2,885	2,616	1,460
China	4,808	2,145	7,960	7,673	5,988
India	2,670	3,442	3,830	2,181	490
Korea	—	—	3,100	—	—
Australia and New Zealand	850	1,300	625	350	42
All other countries	160	—	—	80	2,853
Total	380,363	603,719	319,293	266,054	365,398

It is interesting to note that whereas the exports to Japan for the first 5 months of the year averaged slightly in excess of 8,000 bales a month, that this jumped to over 16,000 bales during the month of June. On the other hand, the exports to the United Kingdom and the Continent which had averaged approximately 24,000 bales during the first 5 months of 1952 dropped off to only approximately 15,000 bales during the month of June. Exports to the United States during June were somewhat higher than the previous 5 months average. Balings continued their downward tendency during June, being some 13,000 bales lower than the January/May average.

Tobacco

By Luis A. Pujalte
Secretary-Treasurer
Manila Tobacco Association, Inc.
(Member Tobacco Board)

TOBACCO purchasing in La Union, Ilocos, Pangasinan, Visayas, and Mindanao is continuing very slowly, with approximately 85% of the crop already in the hands of dealers. In Isabela and Cagayan, dealers are proceeding with caution and, generally, most of the tobacco purchased to date was that on which the dealers had previously made cash advances payable on the basis of prices current at delivery time. In general the crop in Isabela and Cagayan is not very good because of the lack of moisture during the growing period. It is estimated that the decrease in the First to Fourth Superior qualities, as compared to last years' crop, will be up to only 35%. Consequently, prices will be lower than last year, as the percentage of filler-leaf will be much greater and it has a lower market value.

I am pleased to quote a United States crop report received from Messrs. J. E. Bohannon & Co., Inc., Bowling Green, Kentucky:

"Generally speaking, the weather has been hot and dry in practically all tobacco growing sections of the United States for the past week. However, the crops beginning in the Georgia-Florida belt extending through South Carolina, eastern North Carolina, middle belt, and old belt are most promising. The planting as a whole has been about two weeks earlier than normal. The acreage is fully as large as last year. Therefore, unless something unforeseen happens, we should have an excellent quality crop and a large one. We understand support prices by grades will be just about the same as just year.

"It is estimated that in south central Kentucky and Tennessee the Burley acreage has been all transplanted with a good stand and that in central and northern Kentucky the crop has been 85% transplanted. There has been a sufficient amount of plants in the planting of these types, which is also about two weeks earlier than normal, and should make an excellent crop of tobacco. The acreage will be fully as large as last year.

"The same condition appears in the Dark Fired, One Sucker, and Green River Districts."

Imports

By S. Schmelkes
Mercantile, Inc.

ALL figures are in kilos with the exception of those for foodstuffs which are given in package units:

Commodities	*June, 1952*	*June, 1951*
Automotive (Total)	1,344,193	877,725
Automobiles	111,630	195,087
Auto Accessories	935	80
Auto Parts	277,870	127,315
Bicycles	749	132
Trucks	73,719	34,489
Truck Chassis	285,542	104,021
Truck Parts	163,755	82,188
Building Materials (Total)	8,483,456	3,533,462
Board, Fibre	80,801	34,973
Cement	6,360,714	121,589
Glass, Window	608,647	525,390
Gypsum	—	80,739
Chemicals (Total)	4,215,970	9,483,675
Caustic Soda	273,782	395,403
Explosives (Total)	—	133,984
Firearms (Total)	7,152	9,063
Ammunition	6,938	9,060