Non-Davao J1	53.00	54.00	+1.00
Non-Davao G	42.50	44.00	+1.50
Non-Davao K	26.50	28.50	+2.00

Production for the month of November was 34,414 bales—the second lowest so far in 1949—but 4,275 bales over November, 1948—the month of lowest production that year. The drop from October—6,553 bales—is chiefly accounted for by the seasonal slump in production in the Bicol area due to the rice harvest. Camarines, Albay, and Sorsogon districts produced 4,709 bales in November—down 4,173 bales, or 47%, from October; but up 840 bales from November, 1948. Pressings in other Non-Davao areas were 10,377 bales, or 2,155 bales less than in October. Davao November balings were 19,328 bales—down 225 bales from October, but up 4,201 bales from November, 1948.

Production for the first eleven months of 1949 was 463,214 bales as compared with 540,580 bales in the same period of 1948, or with 731,501 bales during the first eleven months of 1947. Indications are that the total 1949 production will be around 10,000 to 12,000 bales in excess of 500,000.

Sugar

By G. G. Gordon
Secretary-Treasurer
Philippine Sugar Association

THIS review covers the period from November 26 to December 29.

New York Market: At the beginning of this period prompt shipment Cuban sugar was offering at 5.95¢ and 5.90¢. January arrivals were easier, with sugar available at 5.85¢. Refiners showed very little interest and little or no business transpired. It was reported that refiners were well covered for December, and that they were not disposed to take on 1950-quota sugar until after the 1950 quota hearings. The quota hearings opened on November 30, on which date Cuban sugars for January arrival were offered at 5.80¢. On this date a sale was reported of 2,000 tons Philippines for shipment in November/first half December at 5.75¢. On December 1, the market was again easier, when 4,500 tons of Cubas for December shipment were sold at 5.70¢. The premium for early arrival (January) declined to only about 5 points, whereas two weeks earlier the premium was about 20 points. On December 2, Sucrest Corporation announced a refined price of $7.93 for immediate shipment, but other refiners remained at the previous quotation of $8.05.

The sugar quota hearings followed conventional lines, with the producers arguing for a low quota to conserve price levels, which were still below the levels of other staple foods, and consumers arguing for an increase in the figure to keep down the cost of living.

The market continued to be without much action but fairly steady. On December 5, Hawaiian sugar for January arrival was offered at 5.90¢, and Philippine sugar for February/March shipment was offered at 5.70¢. Some forward sales were made to operators of Philippines for February/March shipment at 5.70¢.

By the middle of December, the market was steady and prices on the Exchange improved somewhat. Prompt Cuban sugar was offered at 5.80¢, Philippines January/February and February/March shipments offering at 5.75¢. However, there seemed to be little prospect of business until the new quota was announced. The new quota was announced on December 22 at 7,500,000 short tons, which was considered disappointing by producers. However, this could be interpreted as a middle-of-the-road figure, and as an indication that the Government considers the existing price level as reasonable. Following the quota announcement, however, the market weakened and the trend became bearish. On December 29, a sale was reported of 2,000 tons Philippines February/March shipment at 5.58¢, which was the low point of the period under review.

The United States sugar distribution as of December 22 was 7,356,862 tons *vs.* 7,144,308 tons for the same period last year. The latest estimate of the 1950 Cuban crop by the Cuban Minister of Agriculture is 5,679,061 short tons, which is only slightly below the actual outturn of the 1949 crop.

We give below the quotations on the New York Sugar Exchange as of December 22 for Contracts Nos. 4, 5, and 6:

	Contract No. 4	*Contract No. 5*	*Contract No. 6*
January	—	5.20	—
March	4.48	5.35	5.25
May	4.48	5.36	5.25
July	4.48	5.37	5.28
September	4.48	5.38	5.30
November	—	—	5.31
January	4.49	—	—

On December 27, the above No. 6 Contract quotations had declined approximately 10 points for all positions quoted above. It is noticeable that there has been considerable improvement in the Free World Market Exchange Contract No. 4 over last month.

Local Market: (a) Domestic Sugar—During the period under review the domestic market tended to ease off as production increased. Sales have been reported for January delivery at from ₱15.50 to ₱16 per picul. The new crop shows the effects of the drought during the early part of the year, and, due to excessive rainfall during recent weeks, purities of the cane continue to be below average. Unless there is an improvement within the next month or so, it is quite probable that estimates will be revised downwards.

(b) Export Sugar—During most of the period under review the price of export sugar remained steady. Since the publication of the sugar quota and the consequent downward tendency of the New York market, prices are easier and at the close ₱13.60 to ₱13.70 per picul is about the market level.

Tobacco

By Luis A. Pujalte

Secretary-Treasurer, Manila Tobacco Association

I was sad when I bid Count Churruca farewell on board the S.S. *Marselleise* because I was parting from a friend and because I knew the tobacco industry of the Philippines was losing one of its most ardent and energetic leaders. He requested me, before leaving, to continue with this column which he was so fond of, and I will do my utmost to give the readers the same accurate and unbiased information my friend did.

The Philippine tobacco industry is the industry which is probably the most neglected by the Government, despite the fact that it could be one of the largest revenue producers.

However, incidental to the strict import and gold and exchange control measures, imposed because of the economic difficulties in which the country finds itself, the importation of American cigarettes has been greatly affected, this accidentally, as it were, blessing our much neglected industry.

How long these measures will remain in effect, no one knows for I doubt that even the brains which created them