

ing problems too. The pleasantly appointed plantation house has not been built, but may be whenever it is wanted. Lais is near Malita. Peabody assists in the management of the latter plantation and makes his home there part of the time.

Malita is a magnificent estate, a fitting monument to the character and willpower of O. V. Wood, Peabody's friend and neighbor whose story is something apart. The assessed valuation of Lais is now P168,000. Peabody's associates in ownership of the stock are the estate of the late Mary Polk of the bureau of science, so long librarian there, and Mrs. Dora Wood, widow of O. V. Wood. From well cultivated gardens, melons and many varieties of vegetables are abundant. Fifty-three kinds of fruit grow on the place — as well as at Malita — including figs of enormous size and luscious flavor. There are of course mangos, mangoosteens, lanzones, oranges, lemons, pomeios and alligator pears. California oranges and lemons are thriving.

Rubber, not hemp, was the crop Peabody had in mind in going to Mindanao. But

hemp was what would pay first and pay steadily for the development of the plantation, and nothing could be better than coconuts. Crops were therefore diversified, which is always safer. Uninformed by experience, the less desirable variety of rubber was planted; so if rubber becomes the major crop it will be by a new undertaking. No pressure of circumstances advises one way or the other: the three crops together are perhaps the three best farm crops in the world. Lais plantation made expenses even during the years when hemp was lowest, selling at times for not more than P9.50 at the plantation. No conceivable market situation holds any terrors for the owners; they have triumphed over the worst that might befall. Besides, their position in relation to the market improves yearly: ocean steamers load their products at the Malita dock and export prices are paid by buyers.

A reputation in the hemp market for standard fiber in the higher grades only, is carefully maintained. Strippers are not compensated by a share of the product.

They are paid an agreed price per kilo of dry fiber delivered at the warehouse, the wage being based on the current market. Other workmen are employed to clean off dead growth and cultivate the fields. The fiber produced averages very close to grade E, with a goodly quantity of B and C. The Universal stripping machine is used for grades E, F, and I; hand strippers get out grades B, C and D. The A grades, for tagal hat braid, can be produced but the market margin in their favor doesn't warrant this being done.

Could Peabody's career be successfully imitated today?

Really Davao's public lands have hardly been touched; existing plantations are only a fringe around the coast; the fertile acres of the back country are still jungle. "There is an unlimited quantity of rolling country back of Lais and Malita," says Peabody. "that is public domain of the United States. It is first class for para rubber and will grow the other crops as well." Are there pioneers in this generation? The door to Davao is open.

REVIEW OF THE EXCHANGE MARKET

By STANLEY WILLIAMS

Manager, International Banking Corporation.



Telegraphic transfers on New York were quoted at par on November 28, the last business day of that month. On December 1 the rate was raised to 1/8% premium and on December 5 to 1/4% premium. The market was unchanged at 1/4% throughout

the rest of the month until the 31st, when the quotation was called 3/8% premium with money in good supply and the tone firmish.

Sterling cables were quoted at 2/0 1/2 on November 31, but the quotation was lowered to 2/0 9/16 on December 5 and the market remained unchanged at that level throughout the rest of the month, closing steady.

Three months sight credit bills were quoted nominally at the close at 2/1 9/16, with D/P bills of like usance at 1/8th higher.

The New York London cross rate closed at 484 1/2 on November 30 and rose 485-5/16 on December 5. After dropping to 484 1/2 on the 8th and 9th, it fluctuated between 485 and 485-3/16 until the 29th and 30th, when it touched 485 1/4, closing at 485-3/16 on the 31st.

London bar silver closed at 32 1/2 spot 32 forward on November 30th. It rose to 32-3/16 and 32-1/16 on December 1 and after reacting to 31-9/16 spot and forward on the 16th, it touched 31-13/16 spot and forward on the 18th, 21st and 22nd. It then dropped gradually away to 31 1/2 spot and forward on the 30th and closed at 31-11/16 spot and forward on the 31st.

New York silver closed at 69 1/4 on November 30, touched a high of 69% on December 4 and 5 and a low of 68 1/4 on the 16th, closing at 68 1/2 on the 31st.

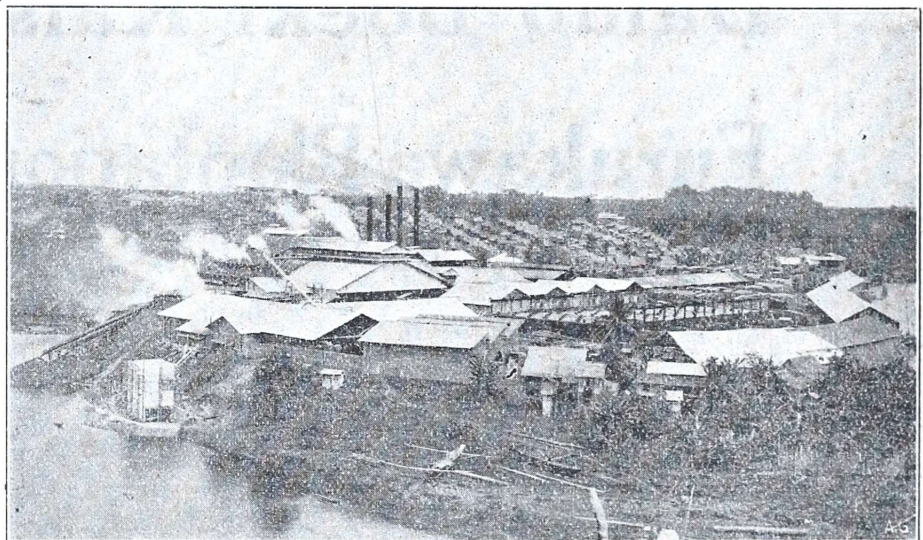
Telegraphic Transfers on other points were quoted nominally at the close on December 31 as follows:

Paris	13	Hongkong	117 1/2
Madrid	143	Shanghai	65 3/4
Singapore	114 1/2	India	131 1/4
Japan	88	Java	122 1/4

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