

Building in and about Manila



HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE: The American High Commissioner's combined offices and residence is to be built soon, it was announced. Bids will be opened shortly, and construction will start early next year.

The High Commissioner, Hon. Paul V. McNutt, has been living with his family in El Nido, attorney Perkins's residence on Dewey Boulevard, and has been using half of the Elks Club for his offices.

Rumor has it that Oscar Campbell, former Manila contractor, and builder of the National City Bank Building, will bid on this job. Mr. Campbell now lives in Palo Alto, California, but he was here for several months on a visit. It is his custom to come out here from time to time, erect an important building or two, and then go back to Palo Alto.

Stringent bonding requirements will prevent many local builders from submitting quotations on the job.

This construction project is booming building along Dewey Boulevard and other Malate districts. Several apartment houses are now being constructed there, and more will be commenced next year.

Apartment houses have always paid their owners well here. Many American and foreign families, most of them without children, come to Manila intending to stay for three years or less. They have no desire to build or rent a home here, and apartment house life suits them exactly, since it cuts their housekeeping responsibilities to the irreducible minimum. Manila has never had enough first-class apartment buildings or hotels to accommodate this trade. Those who, like Dr. H. D. Kneidler, have had the vision and the confidence to put their money into apartment houses and hotels in Manila, have prospered deservedly well. Even with the present mild "boom" in construction, it is hardly likely that the saturation point will be reached.

MANILA HOTEL SWIMMING POOL: In spite of an occasional Englishman who complains about Manila Hotel waiters serving from the left side, the Manila Hotel is known far and wide as a hotel as good as any that can be found in the Far East. Catering to a somewhat well-to-do clientele, this hotel competes with no other in Manila. This has been especially true since the new air-conditioned wing was inaugurated, and will be truer than ever with the opening of the new swimming pool.

The pool will be opened this month, according to Mr. Mendoza, genial assistant manager. It will be reserved for hotel guests and their guests, for whom it will be free. No expense has been spared to make it as fine as any of the numerous pools in and about Manila.

P400,000.00 DEAL: The Rufino family, theater operators, purchased this month a large lot and building on Rizal Avenue, formerly occupied by the old Liceo de Manila, at a price reputed to be P400,000.00. Leopoldo Kahn, wealthy businessman, was the seller.

The lot occupies an area of about 4,000 square meters. The building on it is 30 years old, and has stood empty for many years. After the old Liceo closed its doors, it became the headquarters of the old Democrata party.

The Rufinos admit only that they will erect a new building on the site. They will not state what it will be.

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