

THE RICE INDUSTRY

By PERCY A. HILL of Mufloz, Nucia Ecija. Director, Rice Producers' Association.



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Prices for palay at the terminals have taken a slight drop, being 13.20 to 1'3.25 per cavan of 44 kilos of palay, with rice reduced 0.10 per sack of 571/2 kilos selling at an even 1'8.00 per sack. This is probably the first time palay has registered a decline in price at the peak value in the history of the islands The

peak shipping period, January 15 to March 15, is supposed to be the partially 13 to March 13, is supposed to be the period of lowest prices, but the cereal sold at P3.50 a cavan in January this year. Price enhancement generally is from 10% to 15% in the month of August, but this year, owing to the bumper crop and its slow movement, prices have fallen off as noted

Rice imports from January to June, 1926, were 23,221,000 kilos. In the same period this year, 1927, they were only 6,310,000, a decrease of over 18,000,000 kilos. As a consequence, there is a loss of over half a million pesos in revenue, the tariff collections on rice imports. Of course, the domestic supply being almost enough for insular consumption, means that

approximately ten million pesos extra accrue to insular prosperity, thanks to an excellent

The present outlook is, however, somewhat spotty for the coming crop. Certain regions have too much moisture, while others register The planting season is retarded a lack of it therefore in the latter regions, for in spite of a therefore in the latter regions, for in spite of a limited irrigated area we are still at the mercy of seasonal climatic conditions regarding the main food supply. This year is the first in recent times where the supply produced here seems to be adequate to demand and increasing population. The question of price reduction, however (some 23% from last year), has had a slight effect on area planted this year.

H. B. Pond, president of the Pacific Commercial Company, returns to Manila with Mrs. Pond September 21 from a visit to the United States. A. D. Williams, director of public works, comes back to town on the same day.

The 1927 yearbook of the Manila Harbor Board exhibits the excellency that has come to be associated with this publication. It is replete with pictures and data as well as narrative comment and may be had upon request to the board.

The annual convention of the Philippine Sugar Association opens in Manila September 12. This year surpasses all past years in the progress of the industry. A feeling of optimism prevails.

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