

Philippine Export Trade First Six Months 90% With U. S.

Data from E. D. HESTER, Trade Commissioner

The value of all exports was advanced by increased quantities, especially of sugar, copra and abaca (Manila hemp) sustained against lower price levels. The total value at about ₱122,000,000 was 22 per cent above that for the first half of last year.

Sugars, valued at approximately ₱89,000,000, were up 25 per cent and composed 73 per cent of the value of all exports. The quantity of centrifugal was a third greater than a year ago while refined and molasses were down in both values and tonnage and muscovado (semi-raw brown) practically disappeared.

The coconut group accounted for nearly ₱16,500,000, or 10 per cent up. Of the separate items: the tonnage of copra more than doubled to yield a 50 per cent gain in value; oil, cake and meal, all slightly up in tonnage were off in values; desiccated lost in both respects.

Fibers and their manufactures held the same group value at near ₱7,100,000. Abaca and cordage, both decidedly forward in tonnage, suffered lower value. Gross fibers and hats each registered gains both in quantity and value.

Except for improvement in the very minor item of cigarettes, all items in the tobacco group declined both in value and quantity. Leaf at less than ₱2,000,000 was 40 per cent under the corresponding period last year. Cigars, a fifth less in number, decreased nearly a third in value.

Embroideries were down by one third of their value for the equal period in 1932.

In wood, the value decline was indexed at 17 per cent but was entirely due to lower prices. The ratio between rough timber and sawed lumber continued to increase in favor of the former resulting in considerably less sawmill activity.

The details of the principal exports so far as available at present are appended.

Our Comment

Whoever studies this table of Trade Commissioner Hester's on current Philippine export trade can't escape the proof it

contains of the vital importance of the American market to these islands. Total value of exports in the first half of this year was up ₱17,000,000 over the value of all exports during the same period a year, because of sugar sold wholly in the United States. The Philippines, during the first half of this year, had consistent adverse visible trade balances with all countries save one, except with the United States where their visible trade balance was favorable by ₱67,000,000, materially more than the total tax revenue of the insular government.

Invisible items tend of course to set this balance right with the United States. Effort has been made to indicate some of these items in sums of money, but no capitulations could be reached. A few facts can be stated. Gold, for instance, mined in the Philippines and sent to the United States practically offsets funds sent the Philippines on account of the army and navy. There has been comparatively heavy investing (and much more speculation, buying and selling) in American securities. A leading broker estimates purchases of these securities in excess of sales at \$600,000, or ₱1,200,000. Four banks at least are actively in the business of effecting such transactions for their patrons, and there are other brokers; it may be estimated that ₱7,000,000 or ₱8,000,000 from the Philippines were invested in American securities during the period under review. Remittances of profits, as from the sugar industry, from banks and insurance companies, marine insurance premiums and freight charges are all invisible items of trade tending to offset the visible balance in favor of the Philippines. The even tenor of exchange

rates hints that they do so adequately enough. Yet it remains a fact that not only do the Philippines find in the United States customers buying 90% of their surplus products, but they find this trade advantageous above all other overseas trade they have.

—W. R.

Philippine Exports, January to June, 1932 and 1933

	January to June	
	1933	1932
Sugars, pesos	88,864,067	70,715,168
Centrifugal, pesos.....	83,659,543	64,087,280
metric tons.....	731,520	557,008
Muscovado, pesos.....	60	9,319
metric tons.....		171
Refined, pesos.....	5,015,206	5,211,340
metric tons.....	32,828	33,297
Molasses, pesos.....	189,258	807,224
metric tons.....	40,931	62,653
Coconut products, pesos	16,418,686	14,861,821
Copra, pesos.....	6,527,185	4,239,579
metric tons.....	109,604	52,354
Oil, pesos.....	7,525,165	8,167,065
metric tons.....	62,943	59,178
Cake & meal, pesos.....	831,058	1,007,994
metric tons.....	36,093	35,975
Desiccated, pesos.....	1,318,378	1,449,083
metric tons.....	6,919	7,584
Fibers & manufactures, pesos	7,090,848	7,109,552
Abaca, pesos.....	5,320,497	5,339,688
metric tons.....	68,429	52,519
Other raw fibers, pesos.....	441,933	327,437
metric tons.....	5,239	4,858
Cloth, pesos.....	626	4,852
square meters.....	2,761	1,593
Cordage, pesos.....	658,598	681,791
metric tons.....	2,280	1,904
Hats, pesos.....	519,527	491,532
metric tons.....	357	310
Knotted abaca, pesos.....	158,957	258,054
metric tons.....	132	154
Tobacco & manufactures, pesos	4,161,659	6,428,383
Leaf, pesos.....	1,824,473	2,968,739
metric tons.....	7,173	10,855
Cigars, pesos.....	2,158,255	2,995,140
thousands.....	65,555	90,582
Cigarettes, pesos.....	44,048	31,741
thousands.....	14,329	12,659
Other tobacco, pesos.....	174,883	435,463
metric tons.....	390	966
Embroideries, pesos	1,988,785	3,096,848
On cotton, pesos.....	1,928,991	2,957,852
On silk, pesos.....	64,726	78,028
Laces, pesos.....	68	963
Wood, pesos	815,966	982,607
Timber & logs, pesos.....	355,453	437,667
cubic meters.....	51,239	44,868
Sawed lumber.....	460,513	545,174
cubic meters.....	18,054	19,350
Other exports, pesos	2,478,411	1,638,362
TOTAL EXPORTS, pesos	121,811,422	104,786,531