

to Mr. Tang Tack, Secretary General of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines, who spoke on "Rice, and the Chinese." In the course of his remarks, Mr. Tang mentioned that in 1954 there were 141 licensed warehouses with a storage capacity of 758,000 sacks, of which 90 were owned by Filipinos and 51 by Chinese (the former's capacity being 400,000 sacks, the latter's, 350,000). He mentioned further a report of the Central Bank which indicated that the production of palay for the year 1953 had been 11% over 1952 and 29% over 1937, and he asked, "Why the rice crisis?" To the Chinese, he said, the problem is one of distribution, not production, to which many observers would agree. No one at the meeting, including representatives of the National Rice Producers Association, the Filipino Emancipation Movement, the Philippine Economic Independence Movement, the Philippine Nationalization Movement, and others, challenged the figures of Mr. Tang, although Director Chioco of the NARIC indicated his scepticism toward all statistics, public and private, with the exception, of course, of those of the NARIC. It is to be regretted, however, that Mr. Tang was not familiar with the Chinese participation in the rice industry, and was unable to answer any of the three following questions: How many Chinese rice dealers are there in the Philippines? How much rice is handled each month in Manila by Chinese dealers (wholesale and retail)? What is the actual extent of the Chinese participation in the rice market in Manila? Had these questions been answered, and were they answered at any time, a great deal of the fog clouding this issue might be cleared away.

AVERAGE prices for the month were:

Macan, 1st class: ₱22.75. Macan, 2nd class: absent from market. Macan, new crop (Cotabato): ₱22.50. Thai, 1st class: ₱20.00. Thai, 2nd class, absent from market. Wagwag, 1st class: ₱26.50. Wagwag, 2nd class: ₱25.25. Wagwag, Cotabato: ₱23.90. Wagwag, Davao: ₱22.65. Elonelon, new, Cotabato: ₱22.90. Palay, ordinario: ₱10.62 (44 kilos—all the rest, 56 kilos).

Imports

By S. SCHMELKES
Mercantile, Inc.

ALL figures are in kilos with the exception of those for foodstuffs which are given in package units.

Commodities:	September	
	1954	1953
Automotive (Total).....	2,389,649	1,436,807
Automobiles.....	198,540	268,968
Auto Parts.....	102,234	377,654
Bicycles.....	243	2,836
Trucks.....	60,957	128,872
Truck Chassis.....	649,315	434,217
Truck Parts.....	281,993	24,076

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Dealers at: San Fernando, Pamp., Cabanatuan City, Tuguegarao, Cag.

Building Materials (Total)	15,938,485	4,291,078
Board, Fiber	48,521	—
Cement	12,302,933	173,078
Glass, Window	535,423	1,016,804
Gypsum	512,800	—
Chemicals (Total)	6,910,234	5,972,576
Caustic Soda	1,177,023	743,491
Explosives (Total)	63,045	—
Firarms (Total)	5,560	6,639
Ammunition	5,356	6,426
Hardware (Total)	5,286,104	3,344,132
Household (Total)	752,430	1,019,011
Machinery (Total)	1,888,715	1,770,988
Metals (Total)	10,587,140	9,411,065
Petroleum Products (Total)	69,736,285	70,097,559
Radios (Total)	33,292	25,363
Rubber Goods (Total)	692,371	988,640
Beverages, Misc. Alcoholic	5,536	2,845
Foodstuffs, Total Kilos	28,799,148	27,100,472
Foodstuffs, Frsch (Total)	125,629	111,469
Apples	18,420	12,319
Oranges	9,505	15,888
Onions	47,459	23,285
Potatoes	3,530	18,770
Foodstuffs, Dry Packaged (Total)	31,462	14,501
Foodstuffs, Canned (Total)	439,996	395,340
Sardines	27,153	11,639
Milk, Evaporated	154,833	144,047
Milk, Condensed	23,478	40,488
Foodstuffs, Bulk (Total)	623,064	550,378
Rice	—	—
Wheat Flour	590,161	519,822
Foodstuffs, Preserved (Total)	395	5,824
Bottling, Misc. (Total)	408,671	658,130
Cleansing and Laundry (Total)	63,760	30,724
Entertainment Equipment (Total)	677	343
Livestock-bulbs-seeds (Total)	268,398	114,320
Medical (Total)	748,377	287,886
Musical (Total)	21,319	73,924
Office Equipment (Total)	160,020	46,629
Office Supplies (Total)	38,468	41,009
Paper (Total)	5,226,724	6,864,405
Photographic (Total)	35,934	58,878
Raw Materials (Total)	393,645	628,329
Sporting Goods (Total)	8,027	20,502
Stationery (Total)	188,941	170,098
Tobacco (Total)	217,379	931,414
Chucheria (Total)	76,137	55,501
Clothing Apparel (Total)	375,290	600,212
Cosmetics (Total)	16,207	30,945
Fabrics (Total)	324,397	971,502
Jewelry (Total)	331	21
Leather (Total)	159,063	229,863
Textiles (Total)	4,250,838	2,908,201
Twine (Total)	122,520	80,508
Toys (Total)	92,378	22,111
General Merchandise (Total)	1,170,985	994,374
Non-Commercial Shipments (Total)	344,619	106,132
Advertising Materials, Etc. (Total)	190,714	13,953

Food Products

By C. G. HERDMAN

Vice-President, Marsman & Company, Inc.

THE most important event locally concerning food products during the month just terminated was the implementation on October 21 by President Magsaysay of the act of Congress eliminating the 17% exchange tax on wheat flour imports.

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