

RAIL COMMODITY MOVEMENTS

By LEON M. LAZAGA

Traffic Manager, Manila Railroad Company

The volume of commodities received in Manila during the month of March 1937, via the Manila Railroad Company, are as follows:

Rice, cavans.....	249,354
Sugar, piculs.....	837,066
Copra, piculs.....	27,478
Desiccated Coconuts, cases.....	31,280
Tobacco, bales.....	93
Lumber, board feet.....	150,509
Timber, kilos.....	1,431,000



The freight revenue car loading statistics for four weeks ending March 27, 1937, as compared with the same period of 1936 are given below:

FREIGHT REVENUE CAR LOADING

COMMODITIES	NUMBER OF FREIGHT CARS		FREIGHT TONNAGE		PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	1937	1936	1937	1936	Cars	Tonnage
Rice.....	791	551	10,713	6,699	240	4,104
Palay.....	233	112	2,882	1,252	121	1,630
Sugar.....	1,713	869	52,928	14,991	1,250	37,937
Sugar Cane.....	7,768	1,112	143,562	29,093	6,556	123,467
Copra.....	150	525	987	3,733	(375)	(2,746)
Coconuts.....	35	91	832	950	(6)	(118)
Nolava.....	128	66	3,967	1,365	82	2,592
Hemp.....	13	—	68	—	13	68
Tobacco.....	—	5	—	38	(13)	(38)
Lavender.....	35	8	123	—	17	106
Mineral Products.....	338	277	3,973	3,465	61	570
Lumber and Timber.....	96	156	2,278	3,788	(60)	(1,510)
Other Forest Products.....	19	11	79	107	(13)	(27)
Manufactures.....	147	167	2,111	3,236	(39)	(1,125)
All others including L.C.L.....	2,759	2,827	17,128	20,229	(88)	(3,097)
Total.....	11,284	6,531	240,769	78,161	7,935	162,608

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SUMMARY						
Week ending March 6.....	4,324	2,157	74,726	30,108	2,167	44,560
Week ending March 13.....	4,336	1,711	75,099	22,118	2,625	52,888
Week ending March 20.....	4,017	1,308	69,860	13,939	2,709	52,920
Week ending March 27.....	1,609	1,175	24,177	11,947	434	12,230
TOTAL.....	14,286	6,351	240,769	78,161	7,935	162,608

NOTE.—Figures in parenthesis indicate decrease.

Mountain Farmers

(Continued from page 38)

(built from money earned in the mines) are promoting is superior. My criticism of the 'cban' is pragmatic rather than moral, and concerned with the present rather than the past; whatever one may think of its promiscuity—and one can see the subject fairly only through native eyes—it is a system which can endure only where there is no taint of venereal disease. Venereal disease was unknown to the Igorot until very recently (certainly unknown in modern times), and even now its risks are a closed book to much of the Mountain Province. The expected sequence is occurring. We have

more and more cases, all of them traceable to Baguio—again I should qualify: the Constabulary has spread its share, and I know of cases contracted in the new training camps. But the majority certainly originate in Baguio, while the 'cban' is a fertile field for disseminating the contagion. The virulence of some of these cases of gonorrhoea (not surprising, I suppose, in a people who have built up no degree of immunity) is ghastly. When you add to the picture the fact that the older people look on western theories of germs as arrant superstition and scorn any prophylactic practices, you can see the threat this single group of general diseases presents. Fortunately the Igorot can stand blunt speech and has no prudish reticence about

the facts of the body—some of my sermon topic in Besao would get me tarred and feathered at home!

"I must apologize for the length and weariness of this letter. I doubt if I have said anything that can be of value to you; I have let my typewriter ramble. But you have the same hope which I hold to, that these mountains may continue to be inhabited by the people who, against such formidable obstacles, have made a home on their steep hillside. I wish you could get here one of these days so that we might have a talk; Manila is too bustling—I like the remoteness, the quiet evenings, of Besao. You would see, I am sure, much to interest you."

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