

RAIL COMMODITY MOVEMENTS

By M. D. ROYER

Traffic Manager, Manila
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The following commodities were received in Manila July 26 to August 25, 1927, both inclusive, via Manila Railroad:

	1927	
	August	July
Rice, cavans	265,000	275,750
Sugar, piculs	16,668	18,816
Tobacco, bales	39,600	37,300
Copra, piculs	157,300	120,500
Coconuts	2,705,000	1,022,000
Lumber, B.F.	202,500	523,600
Desiccated coconuts, cases	15,334	12,382

OIL IN MALAYSIA

Three fields in Malaysia and southeastern Asia are now producing oil, Borneo, Burma and Sumatra, and the black gold seems inexhaustible in all of them. Success has followed the employment of American expert drillers in Burma and Sumatra, replacing Europeans. The Americans seem to have the knack of making good strikes, they put on their jumpers and stay with the job. For instance, four years ago, when the shift was made from Europeans to Americans on one concession in Sumatra there were three flowing wells, and now there are 36 flowing wells.

The Burma fields are north of Rangoon, near Mandalay; the old Mermain pagoda now looks lazy at the sea over a skyline of derricks; the gusher is rousing the place from its dreamy mysticism. Business is shared by several companies, all English capital. The Anglo-Persian and Burma Oil companies are prominent. They don't hesitate to employ Americans. The Borneo field is exclusively dominated by the Shell company, supplying its trade in the Philippines from its refineries at Balikpapan. The Standard Oil company ventured into Borneo 18 years ago, had small luck and then went into the Sumatra field. This is in the Palembang Residency, in southern Sumatra, the field lying west of the port of Palembang. There are three concessions there.

The Standard's first well is eight years old. It now has 40 producing wells, all flowing, all averaging 4,000 barrels per day. This supply is largely held in reserve. A refinery, the most modern in the world, it is said, has been erected at Palembang at a cost of \$4,000,000. It is in the charge of an American and has a daily capacity of 7,000 barrels. The district is growing in importance, therefore, Sumatra has proved to be another bonanza oil field.

This will show more in the future than it does now. The output of oil in the Dutch East Indies in 1926 was 21 million barrels, and all but 28,000 barrels was Shell product.

In the oil fields of Sumatra, Malays, Javanese, and Chinese are employed as workmen. They work in gangs of seven, each gang having over it a straw boss, and wages are 40 to 60 cents a day.

After several years of struggling with surplus stocks, the leather industry has so thoroughly liquidated itself that there is now a scarcity of raw and finished supplies, not alone in this country but all over the world. With demand for leather increasing, and no way of immediately increasing the supply of hides, prices have advanced sharply.

U. S.—THE CROP SITUATION

The small grain crops are nearly made, with yields better than those of last year. The Government's estimate upon winter wheat, based upon prospects July 1, is for 579,000,000 bushels, against 627,000,000 last year and 556,000,000 as the average of the last five years. Spring wheat promises a much larger yield than last year, to-wit: 274,000,000 bushels, against 205,000,000, at which the total of all wheat would be 22,000,000 larger than last year. The condition of Spring wheat, however, improved during July, and the crop is likely to make 300,000,000 bushels. From Minnesota to the Pacific Coast there is scarcely a break in the favorable reports upon the outlook, not only for wheat but for other crops.

—National City Bank Current Report.

REVIEW OF THE HEMP MARKET

By T. H. SMITH
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This report covers the markets for Manila Hemp up to and including August 29th, 1927.

U. S. Grades: U. S. market opened quiet with shipping houses showing more desire to make progress. Nominal quotations were D, 18-1 4 cents; E, 17-1 4 cents; F, 16-3/8 cents; G, 10-1 8 cents; H, 9-1 2 cents; I, 14-3/4 cents; J, 11-3/4 cents; K, 16-1/8 cents; S2, 14-3/8 cents. Very little business was trans-

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