

The Revitalization of our AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES and COMMERCE

IN the eve of her independence, the Philippines is faced with serious and momentous problems, which challenge the statesmanship of her leaders and the patriotism of every Filipino. The wanton destructions wrought by the Pacific War have set Philippine economy half a century back. Due to operations of war, cities, towns and even barrios lay in ruins and ashes, agriculture is in a prostrate condition, animal population is decimated, and our exports have faded to nothing. The immediate need of the country is undelayed rehabilitation and reconstruction. Our President is exerting all efforts in Washington toward getting ample aid from the United States to enable us to meet this immediate need.

The long-range solution of the problems confronting us consists in the revitalization of our agriculture, industries and commerce. The natural wealth of the country must be developed, through a systematic exploitation and husbanding of her diverse agricultural resources. Her industries should be promoted and multiplied, by creating new ones. Her commerce should be expanded by means of proper planning and organization. In other words, the agriculture, industries, and commerce of the country should be developed, revitalized and expanded to such a level that will enable them to produce sufficient revenue to meet the mounting expenditures of an independent Government and to maintain moderately high standard of living among the people, thus insuring individual contentment and happiness. Toward this end the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is dedicated.

I congratulate the publishers and editors of the "Farming and Cooperatives" magazine in coming out in the field of journalism with a periodical having aims and objectives identical with those of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Its announced policy "to cooperate with the government for the speedy rehabilitation of Philippine economy" is particularly timely and encouraging, for it is now more than ever when there is an imperative need of concourse and unity of efforts in attaining a speedy reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Philippines.

(Sgd.) VICENTE SINGSON ENCARNACION
Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce

The NEED for GUIDANCE and ENCOURAGEMENT

PHILIPPINE agriculture has suffered tremendous losses during the war. Cultivated farms have been devastated, work animals slaughtered for food; farm machineries, implements and tools lost or destroyed; industrial processing and manufacturing establishments wrecked or denuded of equipment; seeds and planting materials lost and cultivated crops reduced to such an extent that now the country faces one of the most serious food shortages in its history. Exports of agricultural products which constituted the main pillar of our national economy have been reduced to nil. The rehabilitation of these damaged industries is a task that requires not only the government effort but as well as the united strength of all the people, faith in our future, unlimited patience and full determination to work and work and work, but also very careful planning and execution of such well-laid out plans. There is lack of almost everything necessary for farm work and for the industrial processes in agricultural production. As a con-

sequence of lack of work animals only about 60 to 70 per cent of our basic agricultural areas have been put under cultivation. Interpreted in terms of crop production that would mean an almost staggering amount of shortage of essential farm products the most important of which is food. Aid in the form of productive equipment and relief goods has been sought but it may take some time for such aid to reach us in adequate quantities. In the meantime the people must have to make the best of the situation to avert further sufferings and possible hunger on account of shortage of foodstuffs. No other activity of the Government during these trying times is as pressing and as essential as the revival of our damaged productive industries which before the war was our mainstay in the production of food and other essential commodities. In this task of rehabilitation the people need guidance, moral and material encouragement, and all the support the Government is capable of giving. Our farmers must unite, cooperate and coordinate their efforts to secure maximum results.

The press has a share to perform in providing this guidance and in keeping the people inspired and encouraged. The publication of "Farming and Cooperatives" magazine as an organ of the Philippine Farmers' Association is very timely, especially during this period of intensive rehabilitation work. It will foster a close relationship among the farmers, promote improvement of rural life, help organize efforts for the stabilization of agricultural production and encourage improvements in the efficiency of farm management, promote cooperation between the farmers and the Government and contribute to a speedy rehabilitation of our economy.

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