

## Marsman Building Corporation gets contract to build residence of American High Commissioner

*Marsman Building Corporation*, a Marsman subsidiary, was this month awarded the contract by the United States government for the building of the official residence of the American High Commissioner to the Philippines. The Marsman company landed the contract with a low bid of P440,794, competing against a field of three other builders, including the *Santa Clara Lumber Company* of Manila.

The building, which *Rep. Albert J. Engel* of Michigan, described in Congress as a "pretty good sized barn", will cover a large part of the 17.14-acre of filled-in land on Dewey Boulevard. It will be three stories in height, and will contain 47 rooms, of which 27 will be used as offices for the Commissioner and his staff.

The history of this project is interesting, dating as it does back to the approval of the Tydings-McDuffie Act on March 24, 1934, providing for the independence of the Philippines, and the evacuation of Malacañang by the Governor-General.

At that time, a committee, composed of *Colonel F. W. Manley*, *Commander J. E. Kiernan*, *A. D. Williams*, *E. D. Hester* and *C. W. Franks* was appointed to select a site for the Residence. After considering five possible sites, the committee chose the rectangular area of Manila Bay south of the Army and Navy Club and the Elks Club.

The Philippine Legislature then passed Act No. 4269, which provided for the dredging and filling-in of the area by the Philippine Government. Costs of the seawall, landscaping, roads and drainage are borne by the United States, and it is estimated that these costs will not exceed three pesos per square meter.

In 1935, Congress, in the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, provided \$750,000 for the construction of buildings (including a summer Residence at Baguio) for the High Commissioner, including acquisition of land, construction of buildings, and purchase of furnishings and equipment. Plans for the Manila

Residence were drawn up by *Mr. Juan Arellano*, as Supervising Architect of the Bureau of Public Works here, in cooperation with *Captain W. M. Allison*, of the Quartermaster Corps, who had been designated as Constructing Quartermaster.

These plans did not receive the immediate approval of the State and War Departments at Washington. The Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department was called in, and he prepared sketches of floor plans which were sent back here for inspection by Messrs. Arellano and Allison. The plans were generally satisfactory, and were finally approved.

*Pedro Siuchi and Company, Inc.* submitted the low bid to the Bureau of Public Works for the construction of the seawall and boat landing (\$40,800). Construction was commenced on December 31, 1936, and was supervised by *Captain W. M. Allison* and *La Monte Clark*, Construction Superintendent. Filling operations were commenced in February, and completed in July, 1937. Settlement of the fill has been less than expected, and the site is now considered ready for construction activities.

The whole project of the two Residences of the High Commissioner

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(Manila and Baguio) came in for a lot of Congressional criticism during the recent visit of Commissioner McNutt to the United States. Some of this was directed at Mr. McNutt himself, although he had nothing whatever to do with the initiation of the project, selection of the sites or plans for the buildings. In fact, it is probable that he and his family will never occupy either building. Nevertheless, Mr. McNutt defended the outlay (comparatively large in view of Washington's traditional niggardliness in the matter of residences for American representatives abroad) in these words: "The point must be considered that you are making provision for an office which represents American sovereignty in an Oriental community. So far as I am concerned, I would be more comfortable in a smaller house out on Manila Bay, but we must think of the prestige of the High Commissioner."

The Manila Residence is expected to be completed about January 1, 1940.

Tondo . . . . .	57,217	325,325
Binondo . . . . .	99,325	553,768
San Nicolas . . . . .	23,840	32,866
Ermita . . . . .	119,500	155,600
Malate . . . . .	180,701	78,721
Paco . . . . .	59,006	12,650
Sta. Ana . . . . .	50,303	27,041
Quiapo . . . . .	42,321	47,793
San Miguel . . . . .	55,690	130,122
Intramuros . . . . .	37,000	2,800
Sta. Mesa . . . . .	4,000	—
Pandacan . . . . .	1,020	—
	<b>P946,868</b>	<b>P1,770,690</b>

referred the inquiry to Dr. Eulogio B. Rodriguez at the National library, who returned this information:  
D. Agustin de la Cavada spells the name without the "g" in his geographical and statistical history of the Islands. This follows Clemente Cobarrubias in his Protocolo of 1825, Rodriguez San Pedro in his Legislacion Ultramarina, Governor General Manuel Crespo in a proclamation of 1856, the Cedulaario for 1855 to 1857, and the historical committee now marking such edifices, who placed a marker on the palace about October 1935, using the term Malacañan Palace. Tagalogs in our office say there should be the "g" at the end, but they agree with us that the origin may be the vulgate *may lakan dian*, translating into the great (or powerful) are (or live) there. This could easily shorten into Malakanyan, and this is the form that may be most nearly correct philologically, since there is no "c" in Tagalog and the "c" in Malacañan is reminiscent of Spanish.

**HOW TO SPELL IT**

A friend inquired of us the correct spelling for Malacañan, whether it might not be Malacañang with a "g" ending. We

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May transfers were in excess of any May totals since 1918 with the exceptions of 1935 and 1937. The January-May total is however much lower than that of last year:

1938	P 5,763,601
1937	12,295,709

Sales City of Manila  
1938

	April	May
Sta. Cruz . . . . .	P 96,364	P 311,592
Sampaloc . . . . .	129,551	92,499

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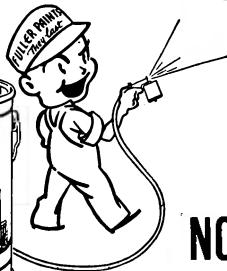
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