We give below the quotations on the New York Sugar Exchange as of February 23 for Contracts Nos. 4, 5, and 6:

	Contract No. 4	Contract No. 5	Contract No. 6
March	4.36	5.05	—
May	4.36	5.12	5.06
July	4.36	5.17	5.10
September	4.36	.18	5.13
November	—	—	5.14
January	4.29	—	—
March	4.09	—	—

Local Market: (a) Domestic Sugar. — During the month there was little change, quotations for centrifugal sugar, 97° polarization, being reported as ₱15 to ₱15.50. For washed sugar polarizing 99° quotations ranged from ₱18 to ₱18.50, same as in January.

(b) Export Sugar. — In accordance with the tendency in New York, the local export market declined during the month, quotations dropping from ₱13.85 on February 1 to ₱13.25 at the close of the month.

A considerable reduction has been made in the estimate of the current crop which is now placed at 736,808 short tons. This shows very little difference from the production of the previous year.

Manila Hemp

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OUR review covers the period January 16 to February 15, 1950. During this period there was a steady decline in prices in all consuming markets. The United States market opened on a weak tone, and remained pretty dull throughout the month. Little business was done. The United States Government is reported to have purchased small quantities for stockpiling. The market closed dull, with no demand and with declines ranging to 1¢ lower than at the opening.

New York quotations:

	Jan. 15, 1950	Per lb. c.i.f. Feb. 15, 1950	New York Change	Year Ago
Davao I	27-5/8¢	26-5/8¢	Down 1¢	30¢
Davao J1	27-1/4	26-3/8	Down 7/8	29-5/8
Davao G	25-1/4	25	Down 1/4	26-7/8
Non-Davao J1	25-1/2	24-1/2	Down 1	27-1/2
Non-Davao G	20-1/2	19-1/2	Down 1	22-5/8
Non-Davao K	16-1/4	15-3/4	Down 1/2	15-3/8

Demand from Europe was scattered and in total not large due to lack of dollars. Germany is reported to have received a dollar allocation for approximately 1,000 tons, mostly Non-Davao grades, but at the end of the period under review only a small portion of its requirements had been bought.

SCAP continued to buy quite heavily and sales from the latter part of December—when buying was resumed—to mid-February are probably close to 40,000 bales.

Prices in the Philippine provincial markets remained fairly steady until about the middle of the period, when they began to gradually decline without keeping pace with the decline in consuming markets.

Philippine provincial quotations:

	Jan. 15, 1950	Feb. 15, 1950	Per Picul—Basis Loose Change		Year Ago
Davao I	₱62	₱60.50	Down	₱1.50	₱69
Davao J1	61	59.50	Down	1.50	67.50
Davao G	54	53.50	Down	.50	60
Non-Davao J1	54.50	52.50	Down	2	60.50
Non-Davao G	41	39.50	Down	1.50	47.50
Non-Davao K	29	27.50	Down	1.50	29

Pressings during January were 54,116 bales—the highest since May, 1948. The increase over December, 1949, is 3610 bales; and over the corresponding month last year, 7319 bales. The increase in Davao pressings amounted to 3544 bales; in Camarines, Albay, and Sorsogon, 5242 bales; while production in all other Non-Davao grades registered a decline of 1467 bales. Davao pressings in January were 22,822 bales; Camarines, Albay and Sorsogon, 14,966 bales; and all other Non-Davao, 16,328 bales.

The month of February promises to show up with a production at least equal to January production—if not surpassing it by a few thousand bales. If the output of these two months means anything, production for 1950 may equal 1948 production, or even go beyond it. The increase in the Davao districts undoubtedly may be attributed to new plantings coming into production; while for the increase in the Bicol provinces no explanation can be offered other than that the fields have at long last recovered from the effects of the December, 1947, typhoon. It is a regrettable fact that new areas planted to abaca in the Bicol region during the post-war period are almost nil. Unfortunately, no figures are available that would give an idea of the newly-planted areas in the Davao districts. Any attempt to name a figure would be pure guesswork, but it seems fairly safe to assume that the year 1950 will bring out considerably more Davao hemp than last year.

Enlarging upon the brief remarks made in last month's report regarding 1949 production, we give below some tables showing comparative figures of production and exports in the post-war years:

Production:	1949	1948 In Bales	1947	1946
Davao	224,737	206,768	352,822	256,962
Bicol (Camarines, N. and S., Albay and Sorsogon)	111,234	156,815	234,718	80,741
Leyte and Samar	104,198	105,383	104,185	44,476
All other Non-Davao	73,551	108,498	95,040	9,075
Abaca decorticated (Davao)	10,866	9,144	9,429	—
Total Abaca	524,586	586,608	796,194	391,254
Maguey	12,847	27,301	60,254	942
Ramie	162	424	644	729
Grand Total	537,595	614,333	857,092	392,925

Yearly average production, 1916 to 1940, in round figures...... 1,200,000 bales
Year of highest production, 1929........ 1,590,343 bales

Abaca Exports — By Destinations	1949	1948 In Bales	1947
United States and Canada	201,139	267,227	531,119
Continental Europe	94,910	104,059	113,129
Japan	90,330	133,403	9,244
United Kingdom	41,650	60,395	66,730
China	15,536	12,857	7,221
South Africa	4,127	3,757	8,480
India	3,325	2,531	7,635
Australia and New Zealand	1,914	42	5,236
South America	—	3,353	2,060
	452,831	587,624	750,854