

## Leading Plantations in the Davao Gulf Region

By N. H. DUCKWORTH, *President of the Davao Chamber of Commerce*

The opening of Davao as an ocean port finds the province furnishing about three fourths of the exports credited to the port of Zamboanga, and therefore fully entitled to the new status as an import-export point in southern Mindanao. Yet the development that has taken place is but a fraction of what may take place. Roads are almost entirely lacking in the province, and the plantations are only on lands near the coast where water transportation is available. The whole vast interior remains to be developed. In the present article I propose to outline a few major

portunities to be on the watch, and pick off their victims from ambush.

The usual weapon was the spear. The country in the region of Batulaki, Caburan and Malita is very mountainous. From Batulaki to Malita the mountains extend to the shore line in many places, forming high cliffs at the water's edge. The valleys along this shore line are very fertile; they are excellent for plantations of both Manila hemp and coconuts. At Malita the flat country begins to widen, affording ample room for many plantations some distance from shore. The



Davao Hemp Plantation: Young Plants in Foreground and Producing Fields in Background Beyond Workmen Cottage

facts in respect to the principal plantations and settlements now contributing to the export trade in Manila hemp and Philippine copra.

Beginning at Sarangani channel (see map inclosed) there are a number of small holdings in valleys along the beach front. These small holdings extend through the districts of Batulaki and Caburan and are owned by Bagobos, which tribe has inhabited these districts from time prior to the discovery and conquest of the Philippines by Spain. The Bagobos, Manobos and Bilans comprise the principal pagan tribes of Davao and are to be found in small settlements through the province. They are best organized in the Batulaki, Caburan and Malita districts, where they have numerous small plantations. In these districts, which are from 40 to 80 miles from the town of Davao, the small plantations of the pagan tribes mentioned are near the coast, while in the districts nearer Davao they are farther inland, having no doubt been pushed back by later settlers, Spaniards, Filipinos, Japanese and Americans.

During the big immigration of Japanese into the Davao region, which occurred during the period from 1917 to 1920, there were some 40 Japanese murdered by these wild people, and in the majority of cases the killings were the direct result of land troubles. It is interesting to note that there is no record of any wild man being convicted for these murders. The Japanese did not follow the established practice of the Filipinos and settle in small barrios or communities for mutual protection. They took up small holdings separated in many instances by distances of several miles. This gave the tribesmen the op-

portunity to be on the watch, and pick off their victims from ambush. The usual weapon was the spear. The country in the region of Batulaki, Caburan and Malita is very mountainous. From Batulaki to Malita the mountains extend to the shore line in many places, forming high cliffs at the water's edge. The valleys along this shore line are very fertile; they are excellent for plantations of both Manila hemp and coconuts. At Malita the flat country begins to widen, affording ample room for many plantations some distance from shore. The

country along the shore continues flat with a fairly wide stretch of plain up to Tubolan point, where the mountains touch the shore line again.

The rainfall through all the districts mentioned is fairly regular; only one or two drouths during ten years have done damage to hemp.

Luayon Plantation is along the shore just north of Caburan. It is the first large plantation passed after entering the gulf. This plantation was opened in 1912, and after trying to grow Castilloa rubber, the owners switched to hemp and coconuts. There are now 6,500 coconut palms and 20,000 hills of hemp on the place. It is owned by Major Wegge, who is at present managing Cumasia Plantation, owned by Judge A. S. Crossfield of Manila.

Lamidan Plantation is owned by J. M. Johnson; it has about 2,000 coconut palms and 30,000 hills of hemp.

Calian and Lopuan plantations are owned by H. W. Pahl. Calian is rather a small place, with two or three thousand coconut palms and 10,000 to 15,000 hills of hemp. Lopuan has 10,000 coconut palms and 20,000 to 35,000 hills of hemp.

We are simply tracing the district bordering the gulf.

Lawa, known as the Mount Apo Plantation Company, is mine. The improvements are 18,000 coconut palms and 30,000 hills of hemp.

Talagutun Plantation is owned by Maruyo, a Filipino. He has 4,000 to 5,000 coconut palms and 20,000 hills of hemp.

Lais Plantation and Trading Company is chiefly the property of H. Peabody.

Improvements are 150,000 hills of hemp and 12,000 coconut palms.

Malita Culaman Plantation Company is owned by the estate of O. V. Wood. It is the leading plantation in this section of the gulf region. Improvements are 20,000 coconut palms and 180,000 hills of hemp. In the town of Malita are many Chinese traders who buy the larger portion of the hemp produced on the many small plantations near this point.

Lacapon Plantation is managed by W. T. Patstone. Improvements are 11,000 coconut palms and 75,000 hills of hemp.

Tubalan is a fine harbor, a small bay. In the valley at the head of the bay are several small plantations owned by Filipinos. Three Chinese traders are located at this point.

Basiawan Plantation is owned by George Van. It is a new plantation, just being opened up.

Cumasie Plantation is the Crossfield property. Improvements are 17,000 coconut palms and approximately 16,000 hills of hemp. Malalag Plantation is also at this point. The owner is O. Hughes, who does considerable trading with the wild people. He probably handles more *bio* or *lumbang* nuts than any other trader in the gulf region. The oil from the *bio* nut is used in the manufacture of high grade varnishes. (If readers of the Journal are interested in seeing how the oil is extracted, they can find a quaintly equipped Chinese factory on *calle Tctuan*. A visit to the place will reward them. The word "Lumbang" appears on the sign over the door.—Ed.)

At Padada there are two principal plantations, those of the Mindanao Estates Company and the Christensen Plantation Company. Both are managed by Edward E. Christensen. The Mindanao Estates plantation has 15,000 coconut palms and 75,000 hills of hemp. The Christensen plantation has 6,000 coconut palms and 16,000 hills of hemp. It might be well to mention that beyond Malalag the country opens into a wider plain which reaches its greatest depth back of Padada and Digos, the next plantation northward. Digos Plantation is owned by the estate of B. A. Crumb, administered by W. H. Gohn. There are 300,000 hills of hemp on the plantation, worked chiefly by Japanese tenants. Digos is the farthest point southward from Davao at which there are Japanese planters.

Santa Cruz is a municipality and has a number of small plantations near it. Also, it is a great trading center for Chinese. There are Chinese traders at Coronon and Astorga, which are just north of Santa Cruz.

Dalaoon is a barrio of the town of Davao, capital and main port of the province. The Furakawa company, Japanese, is established at Dalaoon and claims to have a million of hemp on the company's lands alone. It operates its own press and buys considerable hemp from both Japanese planters and Chinese traders in the district. More hemp is produced in Dalaoon than in any other district on the gulf. This is due to the many Chinese dealers at Dalaoon, who extend their trading operations miles back into the interior. Bato Plantation is the principal one owned by Japanese in this district, excepting of course the numerous plantations operating under the Furakawa Plantation Company.

R. E. McFie owns a plantation in this district. He has 450,000 hills of hemp, all cultivated under the tenant system.

During this year (1925), all plantations having Japanese tenants have agreed to let the tenants sell the hemp at auction. The sales are conducted weekly and are at-

tended principally by Chinese dealers, who make a practice of buying *all in*. (The term *all in* means without grading, this taking place after the hemp reaches the dealer or when it goes to the Davao market.—Ed.). The plantation owners reserve the right to buy the hemp at equal prices with the bidders.

Taloma is also a barrio of Davao. The Ohta Development Company, Japanese, has its offices and warehouses at Taloma, where it likewise has a dock and baling station. The company is reported to control several plantations operated by tenants, total plantings being three million hills of hemp. As on other plantations, the tenants hold weekly auctions. Taloma has many Chinese traders. The "P. F. T." maintain a warehouse for loose hemp at Taloma. There is a fairly good road leading into the interior to a place called Mintal. This is a great Japanese center and it is around this place that most of the Ohta holdings are situated. Captain J. L. Burchfield owns a plantation on this road, about four kilometers from Taloma, the Taloma Plantation Co., Inc., having 350,000 hills of hemp chiefly under the tenant system.

This brings us up to the town of Davao. The shipping point is the barrio of Santa Ana, where are situated the hemp warehouses and the pier. The officers of the export houses are here; a lively community is developing. Adjacent plantations are situated up the Davao river. The town is on the north bank. The river empties into the gulf a short distance below the town, near Santa Ana. With the exception of Juan Anad, the owners of up-river plantations are Filipinos. Considerable quantities of hemp are shipped down the river and bought by Chinese dealers in Davao.

There are several small holdings between Davao and Banawan, the first town north, situated on the coast of the gulf. Banawan Plantation is owned by Japanese. They are represented in Davao by K. Kiyomoto, who also represents Lasang Plantation, another Japanese company. Banawan Plantation has 150,000 hills of hemp; it is worked by tenants. Lasang Plantation has 100,000 hills of hemp; it also is worked by tenants. In the immediate vicinity of Banawan and Lasang are many small holders, Japanese and Filipinos. There are Chinese traders at this point too.

We are now at the Tagum river. Launches of the type used on the gulf for towing purposes can ascend this river several miles. Japanese, Moros and Filipinos own numerous small plantations along the river. Chinese have located at advantageous trading points.

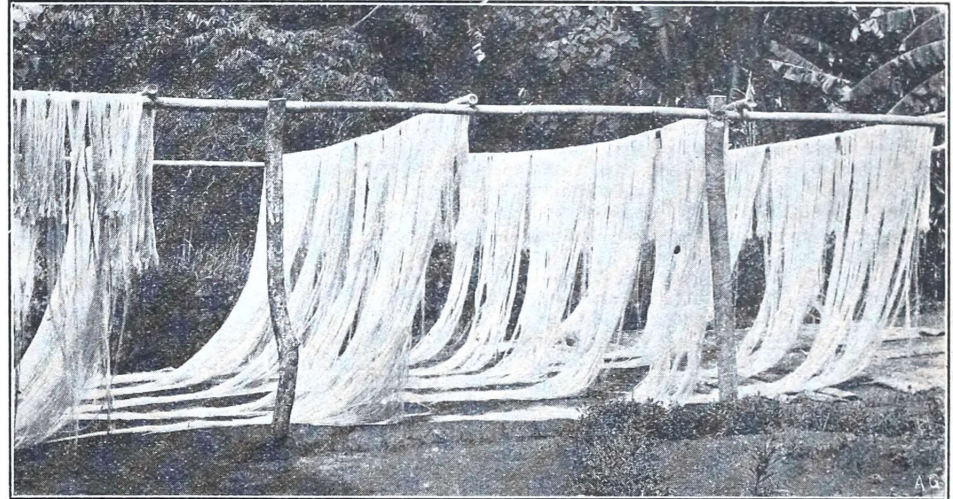
Madaum is often termed the key to the north end of the gulf, as the number of villages on the several trails leading into the back country from it would indicate. The Madaum Plantation Company has 965 hectares here under Torrens title. It is an American company and has had a varied history. A. L. Baker is the present manager. It is estimated that small holders back of Madaum own together more than a million hills of hemp. There are several Chinese traders at Madaum. Cuambog is a small barrio where there are several Chinese traders, handling the product from numerous small holdings in the district. Pandasan Plantation was formerly owned by Mr. Schoppe and was sold to Japanese, who have 250,000 hills of hemp and 16,000 coconut palms. The hemp is worked by tenants. Manipising Plantation is owned by Mr. Schoppe and has on it about 12,000 coconut palms but no hemp. A Filipino manages the place.

Tagnanan Plantation is the property of an American company and is managed by

Charles M. Simmons, who is part owner. It has on it 120,000 hills of hemp but no coconut palms. George R. L. Pond owns Bungabong Plantation, partly developed as a coconut project. Tagdangua is owned by D. Jocolson and has about 40,000 hills of hemp but no coconuts. Magnaga is owned by Japanese and has 75,000 hills of hemp and a few hundred coconut palms.

The famous Gulf Plantation is at Pantucan. It was promoted by Dr. Ames and

coconut palms planted. Lupon is a trading post with several small holdings in its vicinity. Ligahoy is also a trading post. There are small holdings between Lupon and Ligahoy, and Amado Matute owns a trading post at La Union. He reigns supreme, so far as trade is concerned, from Lupon to St. Augustine point. His headquarters are at Montserrat, where there are some coconut plantings but no hemp; but between Montserrat and St. Augustine



The World's Finest Cordage Fiber: Davao Hemp—Pound for Pound as Strong as Steel

fell to the Philippine National Bank under a mortgage of ₱180,000. H. B. Hughes is managing the place for the bank. Improvements include 125,000 hills of hemp and 5,000 coconut palms.

Quinquin is a municipality. A number of Chinese traders are located there who trade with the numerous small planters of the district.

A Japanese company went bankrupt that formerly held Southern Cross Plantation at Pangasinan. The place is now administered by Japanese tenants who have planted 350,000 hills of hemp. The Piso Coconut and Cattle Company was formerly the property of Captain J. L. Burchfield and was sold to Japanese, who have 100,000

Point there are small holdings owned by natives. Matute gets the products of their fields. He stores his hemp and copra at Montserrat and sells to buyers on interisland steamers that call there from time to time.

Samal island, in the gulf, has a few small coconut plantations on it but scarcely any hemp. Talicud island is covered with forest, with no plantings either of hemp or coconuts.

In making up this list, which is done from memory, I have mentioned only the principal plantations and trading points. Aside from these, however, there are hundreds of small planters who produce the bulk of the hemp and copra handled by the Chinese dealers.

## Veterans Turn Davao Jungle Into Rich Plantations Conquer Wilderness: Teach Industry to Tribes

BY H. H. BOYLE,  
Columbian Rope Company

Mindanao is an island 36,292 square miles, the second largest in the Philippine groups—Luzon being the largest which has an area of 40,969 square miles. It is a mountainous country with a number of rich fertile valleys, some of which are from 30 to 100 miles wide by 100 to 150 miles long. Most of the valley country is from 50 to 1600 feet above the sea. Although the north, east and west coasts are a wonderful agricultural country, the south or Davao Gulf section is by far the most fertile country to be found anywhere in the tropics.

The present governor general, General Leonard Wood, when commanding the U. S. forces and Governor of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu had seen this country in the course of his duties, had realized the agricultural possibilities. He, and Gen-

eral Pershing after him, encouraged American soldiers both officers and enlisted men whose enlistments expired, to settle along the gulf of Davao to plant and raise hemp and coconuts and become independent—guaranteeing them a supply of labor and protection against the Moros, Bagobos, Manobos and other wild tribes existing in that island. These men were influenced by the two great men mentioned. They secured their discharge from the Army, but instead of returning to America, took up homesteads in the gulf region.

Very few of these pioneers had any great amount of capital, not more than ₱1,000. They had, however, something equally as good: they had nerve, grit and perseverance. They displayed nerve in many ways. First, by landing on the shores of a country the land of which would have to be