

Nacoco Copra Dryer Campaign Progressing

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THE campaign of the National Coconut Corporation to encourage the use of modern copra dryers is making fast progress. The Nacoco has received many testimonials from enthusiastic planters regarding the benefits derived from the use of the modern dryers. We reproduce here one of them, from Judge Servillano Platon.

Judge Platon writes as follows:

"In connection with the Ceylon Drier constructed by the National Coconut Corporation in my planta-



Hon. Servillano Platon, an enthusiastic champion of modern copra dryers.

the same length of time on *pakiao* system is 9.74 meters. The production per day of the daily-wage weaver ranges from 3 to 16.35 meters, while that of the *pakiao* weaver, from 2.80 to 19.40 meters. The fifteen weavers of the daily-wage group show averages of 6.98, 6.25, 6.59, 6.66, 6.80, 7.34, 6.87, 9.15, 7.09, 7.99, 8.12, 8.41, 6.95, 7.32 and 7.75 meters, while the averages of the *pakiao* group were 11.52, 8.62, 12.35, 9.17, 9.49, 6.83, 9.91, 8.47, 10.00, 11.26, 9.17, 10.27, 9.17, 9.92 and 9.97 meters. This difference in performance between the two classes of weavers is, like in spinning work, always attributable perhaps to material ends.

The *pakiao* weaver, having no fixed compen-

tion at Camarines Sur, I am pleased to state that it produces a very good quality of copra—the kind that can stand competition in the open markets anywhere.

"I observed that the white copra produced from the Ceylon Dryer in my plantation commands a greater price than that produced from my old "tapahan". The difference in price ranges from fifty centavos (P0.50) to about one peso and twenty-five centavos (P1.25) per 100 kilos of copra. This is due to the decrease in moisture and other waste matter ordinarily found in copra dried under the old "tapahan" system.

"I further noticed that the copra is dried uniformly. Overheating and scorching of copra are eliminated. These are advantages which I do not doubt copra dealers will be willing to pay in order to get a better price for their copra.

"It is an admitted fact that heretofore, about 82 per cent of Philippine copra is bad copra. This explains why Philippine copra does not command a good price in foreign markets. I believe that your present campaign to improve the quality of Philippine copra must, and should continue until we uniformly produce copra of the highest quality".

Very truly yours,

SERVILLANO PLATON

Through the good offices of Judge Servillano Platon, the holding of a demonstration of the workings of modern copra dryers by the Nacoco on his plantation in Tinambac, Camarines Sur from Dec. 6 to Dec. 8 of this year will be made possible, following the approval of a resolution to that effect by the Municipal Council of that town.

Each councilor of Tinambac was enjoined in the resolution to take charge of inviting the coconut property owners in different districts of the province to attend this demonstration.

All the mayors of Camarines Sur have likewise been invited to be present at the affair.

sation as a daily-wage earner, naturally wants to obtain as much money as possible from his weaving efforts, hence his finishing more length of burlap than the latter. There is, however, an economic disadvantage in the former's daily practice. In his eagerness to accomplish as much as possible, he does not cut the correct length for an exact number of sandbags, hence considerable amount of burlap is wasted in this process. This is, of course, the problem of the management and can probably be remedied by daily measuring and cutting the exact length of burlap for an equivalent number of sandbags in the presence of the *pakiao* weaver himself, whether he entertains the idea or not.

As the vital life-line of the factory seems to lie on the weight of every sandbag produced, which would necessarily meet the management's estimate, otherwise face losses or dissolution ultimately,

there is the urgent need for the constant inspection of the filling yarns used by weavers. It has been observed that, if the number of filling is increased from one to four, the weight of the sandbag is considerably increased. Some results of observations on some burlap received from other units and all containing 1-ply warp ends and from 1 to 4-ply fillings indicate that the average weight per sandbag of 4-ply-filling burlap is 814 grams; 3-ply-filling, 783 grams; 2-ply-filling, 600 grams; and 1-ply-filling, 480 grams. These results apparently show that, in the profitable production of sandbags, only burlap with 1-ply warp ends and fillings should be woven. Of course, the number of fillings is not the only determining factor in increasing the weight of burlap for the number of its warp ends does increase its weight also. If the number of warp ends is more than that required for the exact weight of the burlap to be woven, the excess number automatically adds some weight to the finished product. This unprofitable practice may be avoided by rigidly enforcing the warping of the correct number of ends required for every loom in operation.

Waste

As equally important as the spinning of coir yarns and weaving of coir sack burlap in the profitable production of sandbags is the waste incurred in the processing from the fibers to the finished product. As discussed elsewhere in this paper, the percentage of waste in spinning per kilo of fibers ranges from 17 to 38. This result apparently indicates that from 620 to 830 grams of yarn is only spinable from a kilo of coir and some 170 to 380 grams of fiber go to waste, so that if one ton of fiber is spun, some 170 to 380 kilos of this amount are wasted; at ₱.07 per kilo this wastage will cost from ₱11.90 to ₱26.60 which means a lot of money to the factory. It becomes necessary, therefore, to avoid or minimize as possible the waste fibers from spinning. It has been observed that not all of the waste fibers are really waste in the strict sense of the word. They became so because they were carelessly thrown on the floor by the spinners themselves whose practice is to select the best fibers, especially when coir is abundant, in their mad rush to finish as much amount of yarn as early as possible. Observation bears out the fact that, in the absence of available fibers for spinning, the *pakiao* spinners used to muddle over the heap of fibers that once were called waste and still could make their average daily production of yarn from it. This finding evidently shows that the percentage of from 17 to 38 of waste per kilo of fiber can be lessened yet and that the minimizing of the waste fiber can probably be accomplished by strict rationing of fibers to each spinner, who must not be allowed to ask for more until all his fibers, without carelessly or intentionally throwing some, have been spun.

Some wastes are also encountered in the weaving processes. If the correct number of ends for the exact width of the burlap to be woven is not warped, either some of the warp ends or the woven burlap is wasted. For if more number of ends than

necessary is warped, the excess ends become waste and, if the number warped is less than required, the woven burlap turns useless as it lacks the needed width. There is not much waste, however, if the exact length of warp yarn for an equivalent number of sandbags is not made because, allowing for possible shrinkage and the cloth beam tyeing-up which is quite unavoidable, the remaining warp ends that cannot be woven anymore can still be knotted with those of the succeeding warp, in which case the knots so made are from the waste yarn. This knotting method has even some merit in it in that it precludes the need of another threading in the succeeding warp.

It seems that one way of minimizing the waste incurred in the processes of coir sack burlap weaving is the determination of the number of warp and filling yarns or the total approximate number of meters consumed in a burlap of sandbag size. It has been found through various tests that desirable sandbag-sized burlap contains an average number of 125 meters of 1-ply yarn, 67 warp ends and 101.4 fillings and weigh 447 grams on the average. This filling, besides its importance to the management and other interested parties in the estimating of the cost of production per sandbag, is equally important to the weaver himself. For ascertaining, at the outset, the requisite number and ply of warp ends and filling yarns in a sandbag will enable him to know the amount of yarn to warp and to use for fillings and also the equivalent of his finished burlap in number and approximate weight of sandbags, thus avoiding unnecessary waste yarn and expensive, additional burlap weight. Another method of avoiding waste yarn is perhaps to collect, knot and wind into balls again all the yarns scattered around the premises of each loom. The resulting balls will be useful, once more, as fillings.

The practice of not cutting the correct length of burlap for an equivalent number of sandbags from each loom also produces some waste. Some data on the waste from numerous burlap rolls received from other units indicate that the average length of burlap wasted from sandbag cutting is 0.326 meter per roll. This length of wasted burlap is indeed a big loss to the factory when we consider its money value in big scale production. For, out of every possible 1,000 meters of burlap, some 326 meters value at ₱22.82, if we pay ₱0.07 for weaving every meter, go to waste (cost of materials not considered). It becomes, therefore, imperative to effectuate some means of avoiding or at least minimizing some of the waste effected by indiscreet burlap cutting from every loom in operation. Probably

LA CORPORACION NACIONAL . . .

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Cuanta verdad!

En Sariaya he visto un juego magnífico de té hecho de unas chiretas bien labradas. ¿Han visto ustedes algún ejemplar de esa clase, para exhibición siquiera, en los "tea parties" que se celebran por nuestras sociedades femeninas y masculinas?

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