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# Philippine Progress



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## General Wood Reports Progress

Progress in all branches of governmental activity was made in the Philippine territory and Philippine trade and industry showed marked advance in 1924, according to the annual report of Governor General Leonard Wood to the Secretary of War which has just been given out in Washington.

Public order was generally good. Some of the native politicians attempted to inflame the people on account of the cutting off of the \$500,000 annual independence fund by Auditor Wright, but failed in the effort. According to General Wood, the people as a whole more than ever appreciate the benefits and advantages of American sovereignty.

Government revenues during 1924 totalled \$37,035,102, or 14 per cent more than in 1923, while expenditures were only \$32,949,270, or 1½ per cent less than in 1923. The tax rate was \$3.10 per capita, one of the lowest per capita rates in the world, and a definite result of American rule.

Philippine foreign trade totalled \$243,355,557, an increase of 17 per cent over 1923. Imports were valued at \$108,010,895 and exports at \$135,344,662. The United States took care of 65 per cent of this trade, with the United Kingdom second and Japan third, the latter country falling from second to third place as compared with the year before.

Given the present multiplied and indispensable uses of coconut oil and other coconut products, and the steadily increasing need for them, the United States is fortunate in having in the Philippines a domestic and controlled source of supply for all such products for an indefinite future. (See page 3.)

The ten leading exports were: sugar (\$41,868,086), hemp (\$29,950,458), coconut oil (\$18,811,030), copra (\$15,351,882), tobacco products (\$9,862,859), embroideries (\$4,688,972), maguery (\$2,922,639), lumber (\$2,030,185), copra cake and meal (\$1,713,337), and hats (\$1,226,480).

The ten principal imports were: cotton and its manufactures (\$24,689,740), iron and steel (\$12,047,060), rice (\$9,262,918), mineral oil (\$8,670,020), meat and dairy products (\$4,931,251), wheat flour (\$4,021,089), automobiles, parts and tires (\$3,242,103), paper (\$3,152,093), coal (\$2,290,757), and silk (\$2,185,723).

There was a further reduction in the American personnel of the civil service. Government employes numbered 15,328 as against 14,315 in 1923, and of these only 526 were Americans, including 325 teachers. This latter situation, the report says, has seriously handicapped the government.

General Wood expresses gratification over the general interest in education, but notes that progress has been made

rather along quantitative than qualitative lines. He advocates better trained teachers, improved supervision and a better curriculum before further expansion is attempted. There are nearly 7,000 public schools, with 26,000 teachers and an annual enrollment of 1,200,000.

The six leading agricultural crops were: rice, valued at \$86,478,645, sugar cane (\$52,833,590), coconuts (\$34,067,185), hemp (\$20,491,140), corn (\$16,651,980), and tobacco (\$5,752,710).

General Wood urges increased personnel for forest conservation and liberalization of the mining and land laws so as to encourage investment of capital. He reiterates his stand in favor of the government going out of business by selling its railroad, sugar, coal, cement and other properties to private interests, as they cannot be run profitably under government auspices. He notes a lamentable lack of popular interest in the development of the natural resources of the Islands and states that Philippine labor will be found satisfactory if properly encouraged.

General Wood complains of the tardiness of the Legislature in presenting its approved bills to him, which fact, he says, may be responsible for some of his vetoes. He lauds the beneficial influence of the growing number of women's clubs, urging the extension of full suffrage to women. He reiterates his recommendation of 1922 that regular army officers be detailed to the Constabulary as inspectors.

Numerous other interesting facts, statistics and recommendations are contained in the report, which covers twenty-eight typewritten pages, not including numerous exhibits. The latter, however, are not issued with the report.



## Coconuts Grown Under U. S. Flag

"We are becoming more and more dependent upon the great undeveloped areas in tropical countries for our existence." This statement was recently made by Professor Pearl of Johns Hopkins University, who estimates that before the end of the century one-half of the calories required to sustain the people of the United States will have to be imported.

Among the foreign products used for food purposes in the United States, the coconut plays an important role. The coconut palm grows only in the tropics at low altitude, preferably near the sea coast, and the Philippines with their tropical climate, their thousands of islands having an extensive coastline, and their prolific soil, are regarded as one of the most favored regions in the world for coconut culture. This statement is further borne out by the fact that the Philippines today produce one-third of the world's supply of copra—the dried meat of the coconut from which the oil is extracted—even though native growers have exercised little care in the planting of their trees and in the harvesting and treatment of their product. And this production is capable of unlimited expansion.

The growing scarcity and increasing cost of animal fats—due to our rapidly diminishing grazing areas—has tremendously stimulated the consumption of vegetable oils. Coconut oil stands out as the premier vegetable oil. Aside from its use as the base for making high grade vegetable soaps, glycerine, etc., it is becoming more and more a food product. Butter and lard, salad dressings and other similar preparations made from coconut oil, are now in general use as animal fat substitutes. In desiccated or shredded form the coconut enters largely into the making of candy, cakes and other eatables.

The husk of the coconut, called coir, goes to the making of mats, rugs and upholstery, while the residue, left after extraction of the oil and known as copra

meal, has great value as a cattle and poultry food. During the late war the most effective gas mask devised was made from charcoal produced from coconut shells.

Philippine exports of coconut products during 1924 totalled \$37,474,804, made up as follows: Coconut oil, \$18,811,030; copra, \$15,351,882; copra meal, \$1,713,337; and desiccated or shredded coconut, \$1,598,555. The great bulk of these exports went to the United States. Coconut exports from the Philippines rank second only to sugar, exports of which last year amounted to \$41,868,086. While all Philippine products enter the United States free, coconut oil coming from countries other than the Philippines must pay two cents a pound duty, with three and one-half cents a pound duty on shredded coconut. Thus these important Philippine products have a considerable advantage over importations from foreign countries.

The late Viscount Leverhulme, in an introduction to a recent book entitled "Coconuts, the Consols of the East," says:

"I know of no field of tropical agriculture that is so promising at the present moment as coconut planting, and I do not think in the whole world there is a promise of so lucrative an investment of time and money as in this industry. The world is only just awakening to the value of coconut oil in the manufacture of artificial butter of the highest quality, and of the by-product copra cake as a feed for cattle."

To those familiar with the various uses now made of coconut oil and the by-products of the coconut (the shell, husk and copra meal), the above statement needs no confirmation.

Given the present multiplied and indispensable uses of coconut oil and other coconut products, and the steadily increasing need for them, the United States is fortunate in having in the Philippines a domestic and controlled source of supply for all such products for an indefinite future.

## Filipino Bosses

The Hon. Sergio Osmena's mission to Washington, ostensibly to ask for Philippine independence but in reality to dicker for minor concessions which may help him at home politically, recalls an incident in the Quezon-Osmena feud, interesting because it throws a garish light on the realities of Filipino politics.

When Mr. Quezon decided in 1921 to overthrow Mr. Osmena (first disrupting the old Nacionalista party) he wrote him this letter, reproduced in ex-Judge D. R. Williams's "The United States and the Philippines":

"Since the government of the Philippines was established by virtue of the Jones law, the members of the Legislature, as well as the Nacionalista members of the Cabinet, permitted that you control and direct legislation in our country on the one hand and the administration of public affairs on the other. It may be said that practically all measures which received your approbation were transformed into laws, and no law could be approved without your consent. The department secretaries, individually and collectively, guided their course of action under your inspiration and nothing that was against your opinion was ever done by them. Recommendations on appointments made by the secretaries to the Governor General were made upon your initiative, at least with your consent. Your veto in these cases was definite. . . . This practice put the executive and legislative powers of the government of the Philippines in the hands of one man, or at the utmost in the hands of two men. I say two, because all this was allowed to go on with my knowledge and consent, or at least with my approval."

Mr. Quezon ousted Mr. Osmena and assumed his dictatorial powers. The Osmena system continues and the founder of it is now trying to "come back." The Jones law, feebly applied by Governor General Harrison, gave these two politicians an opportunity to set up their arrogant bossism. They fight each other, but both want more political concessions. It is the duty of Congress to amend and strengthen the Jones law so as to restore the Governor General's authority and to clip the wings of these native bosses, who are Mestizos, not Malays, and have no natural sympathies with the Malay masses which must look to the United States for guardianship and protection.

—Editorial, *New York Herald Tribune*,  
Oct. 5, 1925

