

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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REVISED EDITION

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

This book is written for beginners in the study of economic conditions in the Philippines. Its object is to explain the economic position of the Filipinos in their own Islands and in the world in general, and to state, analyze, and discuss economic conditions found here. Theoretic economics enter into this discussion only as subordinate to and explanatory of actual fact. It is believed that this study will give to students an idea of actual economic conditions existing in the Philippines and a comparative idea of those found in other countries, and at the same time will result in a knowledge of the natural laws upon which all economic discussion and reasoning must be based.

Throughout the book the data obtained from special economic reports by teachers are presented in collective form. For reference purposes, information which warrants special notice is credited to the teacher who furnished it.

I am also indebted to the following persons for reviewing the portions of the manuscript which treat subjects in which they are particularly interested. From the Bureau of Agriculture: Mr. Otis W. Barrett, Chief of the Division of Experiment Stations; Mr. P. J. Wester, Horticulturist; Mr. M. M. Saleeby, Fiber Expert; and Mr. C. M. Connor, Chief of the Agronomy Division. From the Division of Ethnology, Bureau of Science: Dr. M. L. Miller, Chief; Mr. H. Otley Beyer and Mr. E. B. Christie. Dr. James A. Robertson, Librarian, Philippine Library; Father José Coronas, Assistant Director, Weather Bureau; Mr. W. L. Gorton, Chief of the Irrigation Division, Bureau of Public Works. In addition I have had

the coöperation of several persons in the Bureaus of Education, Customs, Internal Revenue, Science, and Public Works. The data furnished by Mr. Conrado Benitez of the University of the Philippines, Mr. Herbert W. Krieger, of the Philippine School of Commerce, and others are also duly acknowledged in the proper places.

The manuscript was reviewed at the University of California by Professors David P. Barrows, Carl C. Plehn, and H. R. Hatfield, and at The University of Chicago by Professor Paul J. Goode.

Books which were consulted and from which extracts are taken are mentioned in the text or in footnotes.

H. H. M.

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION

Changes in the course of study have necessitated the addition of more commercial geography and theory of economics to this text. The book now becomes an outline for the entire course in commercial geography and economics in the fourth year of the high school.

Economic facts as they relate to conditions in the Philippines are presented rather fully in the text. The material in commercial geography and economic theory is especially emphasized in the suggestions for review and original work by references to original sources and to textbooks.

It is generally recognized that in an elementary high-school course in economics the maximum of facts and the minimum of theory is desirable. Nevertheless, theory is the course of least resistance for both teacher and pupils. Facts are hard to find, difficult to apply, and less susceptible to discussion than theory. The author hopes that the suggestions at the end of each chapter will be sufficient to point the way, and that the teacher will use his own initiative in having them applied to local conditions. One good original report by the pupil is, in the opinion of the author, far more profitable than the discussion of unapplied theory. A well-directed discussion of an economic condition of fundamental insular or local importance will result in a better grasp of the subject of economics than the elaboration of intangible theory. The theory should be applied, else the subject will soar far above the heads of the pupils, and the objects of the course will not have been attained.

The book has been revised in this spirit and with the hope that the course can everywhere be made a live and interesting one.

Facts have been brought down to the year 1919, which date probably marks a new phase in the economic development of the Philippines.

For assistance in the preparation of this edition I am especially indebted to Mr. John W. Osborn, Chief of the Academic Division, Bureau of Education; Dr. Stanton Youngberg, Chief Veterinarian, Mr. Don D. Strong, Chief of the Fiber Division, Mr. Silverio Apostol, Chief of the Plant Industry Division, and Mr. Antonio Peña, Chief of the Statistical Division, Bureau of Agriculture; Mr. Francis B. Mahoney, Chief of the Commercial Intelligence Division, Bureau of Commerce and Industry; the Directors of the Bureau of Labor and of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry for typed copies of their reports; the Director of the Census of 1918; Professor Kenneth Duncan and Professor C. F. Remer of the Departments of Economics in Canton Christian College and Saint John's University, Shanghai, respectively.

H. H. M.

FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION

In accordance with the present purpose of the Bureau of Education to adapt its instruction as closely as possible to the life needs of the people of the Philippines, a course has been introduced into the high-school curriculum embodying a half year of physical geography, a half year of commercial geography, and a full year's study of economic conditions in the Philippines.

This book is to serve as the text in the subject of economic conditions in the Philippines in the fourth year of the secondary course. It is not a theoretical treatise on economics; it rather represents a study of everyday facts with which all young men have to do who are engaged in any useful occupation in this country. In the last year of his school work, instead of devoting himself to purely academic studies, the pupil assimilates a body of information which tends to lead him into intelligent and useful citizenship. This is one of the richest and most interesting fields of investigation open to the Filipino student; it is a new field; it has never been covered heretofore in any adequate way, though all the facts involved have a direct bearing on the industrial and social welfare of the Filipino people.

The preparation of this book has involved many months' work by a large number of well-qualified persons. The dearth of publications on the various subjects considered has necessitated the gathering of original information from all parts of the Islands, and on this task approximately one hundred and twenty American and Filipino teachers have been employed. Under date of March 1, 1912, an outline prepared

by Mr. Hugo H. Miller was sent out by the Director of Education to these collaborators throughout the Islands. The outline took up in detail various subjects treated in this book, and by questions and suggestions presented a plan for a report on the economic conditions found in each district. Selected supervising teachers and special high-school teachers were engaged on this work. The nature of their ordinary duties is such that these persons must have a thorough understanding of the social and economic complexions of the communities in which they are working; they are better fitted than any other class of persons to furnish information of this character. The reports submitted are voluminous and in most cases exhaustive and accurate.

In the writing of this textbook Mr. Miller has had at his disposition all the data accumulated by the Bureau of Education in the working out of the program referred to above. He has brought to this task a breadth of view and a maturity of judgment resulting from several years' study of these problems from the vantage point of a supervisory position in the industrial department of the Bureau of Education.

Mr. Charles H. Storms, Instructor in the Philippine Normal School, was temporarily assigned to the General Office of the Bureau of Education to assist in the preparation of this book. He compiled material from the special economic reports, collected and arranged data, criticized the manuscript and general contents, and wrote the chapter on sugar.

The completed text is an original and valuable treatise on a vital subject, and as the facts here presented are digested by the many hundreds of pupils who will devote themselves to their study, the book may well prove to be one of the effective agencies in the material upbuilding of the Philippines.

FRANK R. WHITE
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REFERENCES

Required Supplementary Text:

Bullock's "Elements of Economics."

Required Reference Texts, of which several copies should be available in the library:

Miller's "Commercial Geography," "The Materials for Commerce for the Philippines."

Toothaker's "Commercial Raw Materials."

Brigham's "Commercial Geography" (edition of 1918).

Finch and Baker's "Geography of the World's Agriculture" (Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 1917).

Bishop and Keller's "Industry and Trade."

Miller and Polley's "Intermediate Geography."

Additional References:

Statistics on principal crops of the Philippine Islands (issued annually in photographic form by the Bureau of Agriculture and obtainable on request through the proper channels).

Statistical Abstract of the United States.

The Philippine census of 1903 and the census of 1918.

The World Almanac.

Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture.

Annual Report of the Director of Education.

Annual Report of the Director of Health.

Annual Report of the Insular Collector of Customs.

Annual Report of the Director of Public Works.

Annual Report of the Director of Forestry.

Annual Report of the Collector of Internal Revenue.

Annual Report of the Director, Bureau of Labor.

Annual Report of the Director, Bureau of Science.

Annual Report of the Director, Bureau of Commerce and Industry.

The Philippine Agricultural Review.

Publications of the Bureau of Science.

Publications of the Manila Merchants' Association.

Bulletins of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry.

The Manila newspapers.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

PART I. INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

PRIMITIVE AND CIVILIZED PEOPLES

Approximately seven eighths of the population of the Philippines belong to a civilized people known as the Filipinos. It is with them that this book primarily deals.¹ However, the primitive and semicivilized tribes, which make up the other eighth, offer excellent examples of various stages of economic advancement from one of the lowest known conditions of the human race up to the present plane achieved by the Filipinos. It is therefore proper to begin a study of economic conditions in the Philippines with a short discussion of certain typical primitive and semicivilized tribes. The economic systems and ideas of these tribes are so simple as to be readily understood, and a study of them prepares the way for a comprehension of more complicated systems and ideas of civilization. Moreover, the trading operations of these tribes with the Filipinos are of considerable commercial importance.

¹ The names by which various groups, tribes, and divisions of peoples in the Philippines are designated are very loosely used. Strictly speaking, the term "Filipino" applies to all Malayan natives of the Philippine Islands. Popular usage, however, tends to limit the term to the eight Christian peoples, and within the covers of this book that usage will be followed. By the term "Filipinos," as used here is meant civilized Christian Malayan natives of the Philippine Islands.

THE NEGRITOS

The most primitive people of the Philippines are the Negritos.¹ Most of them are found in the hills and mountains of several of the larger islands and on a few of the smaller ones. They probably do not exceed thirty thousand in number. These people belong to the black race. They have a dark skin, kinky hair, thick lips, and flat nose. They seldom exceed five feet in height, and are usually under that measurement. They live in groups varying from one family to several scores of persons. In most instances contact with more advanced peoples has changed their original mode of living, but many of them still follow the primitive existence which has been theirs for centuries.

The chief and almost sole aim of the Negritos is food. Their method of obtaining it is such that they keep only a small supply or none at all. They make small plantings of camotes, corn, and squash, but beyond this they usually have no idea of providing for the future needs of their stomachs, feeling that they can find food when necessity demands. The most primitive Negritos depend principally on the chase as the chief means of securing food, and to a less extent on freshwater fishing. The men are the hunters. Their implements are bows and arrows, spears, blowguns, traps, nets, and bolos. They are assisted in the hunt by dogs, their only domestic animal. The women sometimes take the place of the dogs in rousing the quarry. When they kill a deer, they make a definite division of the carcass. The man who first wounded the animal receives the head and breast; the backbone is given to the man who discharged the fatal shaft; one hind quarter is given to the owner of the dogs that roused the deer; and the remainder is divided among the other hunters. If a family kill a deer or a boar, "they halt at the spot where the animal has fallen, scoop a hole in the

¹ See "The Negritos of Zambales," by William Allen Reed, Bureau of Science, Manila.

ground, place the animal in it, and build a fire. Each of them takes the piece of the animal that suits his taste best, and roasts it at the fire. They go on eating until they have filled their bellies; and when thus satiated, they sleep. . . . When they awake, they go through the same operation, and so on until all the meat is devoured; then they set out on the hunt again.”¹

While the meat thus obtained in the chase is the chief food of most Negritos, they have vegetable food also. Much of this is found in the forest in the form of roots. A small amount is obtained through cultivation in kaingin.² The ground is roughly cleared, and rice, corn, squash, and sweet potatoes are planted. Among the most primitive people a few rude shelters are erected near this clearing while the crop matures; but such settlements are not permanent, and when once the food from the kaingin has been consumed, they wander off. Indeed, it sometimes happens (as in case of death) that they leave before the crop matures. Hunting, as we have seen, is the province of the men. They also assist in planting; but cultivation is left almost entirely to the women and children. The implements used in agriculture are sharp-pointed sticks, with which holes are made for the seeds. Bolos are also employed for various purposes.

The clothing of the Negritos is very simple. The most primitive form is made from beaten bark. The men wear a breechcloth. The women sometimes use this garment, but generally wear a short skirt.

The Negritos have simple implements to help them in procuring and preparing food. They use pointed sticks for agriculture, and make arrows, blowguns, and nets for the chase. They obtain fire with the flint and steel, or by rubbing together two pieces of bamboo. They cook in green

¹ See Buecher's "Industrial Evolution," p. 9. This is a quotation from A. Schadenberg in the *Ztschr. f. Ethnologie*, XII (1880), 143-144. Probably no Negritos now exist who do not cultivate crops in kaingin.

² Temporary clearings.

bamboo tubes or in pots obtained by trade. They have bamboo combs and seed necklaces for ornament, and bamboo musical instruments for enjoyment.

Migrating as they do from place to place, the most primitive Negritos accumulate but few articles. Bows and arrows, blowguns, traps, nets, and dogs they take with them. The meat of wild animals, the wild roots, and the product of their clearings they must consume on the spot. Permanent results



A NEGrito SHELTER

of labor which cannot be easily transported, such as substantial houses, coconut palms, and fruit trees, are of no interest to the Negritos. In addition to providing themselves with the simple forms of food and rough implements and ornaments, many groups of them have been able to acquire articles of iron and steel (bolos and spears). The cotton cloth which they use is obtained from the lowlanders, in exchange for forest products. The life of the Negritos may be summed up as one continuous search for food.

THE SUBANUNS

The Subanuns are a pagan Malayan tribe of the Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao.¹ As with the Negritos, but to a less degree, the chief aim in life of the Subanuns is food. Unlike the Negritos, however, they ordinarily secure their food through agriculture, and only resort to forest products when their crops fail. They follow the kaingin system. In the clearings they plant rice, sweet potatoes, corn, millet, yams,



PLANTING RICE IN A KAINGIN

tobacco, vegetables, bananas, papayas, and betel vines. The Subanuns are not naturally of a roving disposition, but their implements of agriculture are not such as to enable them to cultivate the same clearings year after year. As soon as the ground hardens and the cogon grass obtains a foothold, their pointed sticks are useless, and they find it easier to abandon their fields and clear others. This does not mean that they leave the locality immediately. So long as there is new forest

¹ "The Subanuns of Sindangan Bay," by Emerson B. Christie, Bureau of Science, Manila.

suitable for clearing, they remain. But feeling the ultimate necessity of leaving, they do not plant long-time crops, such as coconut palms, areca palms, and the like (although they greatly enjoy the products of these), nor do they build houses of a substantial character. A Subanun family seldom remains in the same spot for more than ten years; the time is usually much shorter.

In clearing the ground different families of the community coöperate. In cultivating the clearing the men of the family to which the land belongs make holes with sharpened sticks, and the women and children follow, planting the seeds. Weeding is done twice, but the crops receive little cultivation.

Although the Subanuns do but little hunting and fishing, they have a supply of meat in the two domestic animals, the pig and the chicken. They understand the fermentation of rice, and make a rice beer.

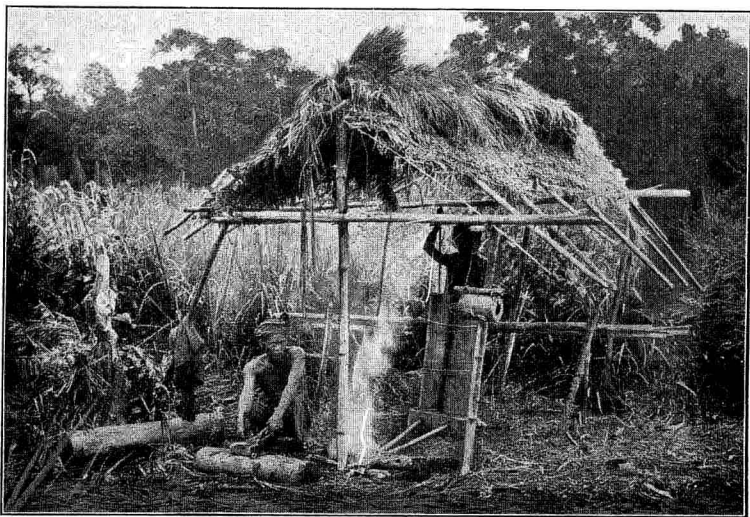
The clothing of the Subanuns is made from cotton and abaca¹ cloths. The men wear trousers and shirts, the women waists and skirts. Turbans are worn by both sexes. For ornament they wear silver trinkets, beads, earrings, necklaces of dried seeds, brass anklets and armlets, wristlets made of shells and silver, rings and earrings of wood, coconut shells, seashells, horn, and brass, as well as bamboo combs, many of these being obtained by trade.

For shelter the Subanuns build houses of one room, on wooden supports. They make the floor of split bamboo, palm, or wood, and the rest of the house of bamboo and light materials, such as the leaves of nipa, buri, sago, and other palms. The space beneath the floor they give to the pigs and the chickens. In the houses they have mats of pandan or palm leaves. Their bedding consists of a few strips of cotton cloth. They also have baskets for storing food, pottery obtained by trade, brass gongs, and Chinese jars secured through barter with the Moros.

¹ *Musa textilis*, Manila hemp.

The Subanuns build rice granaries, which consist of large baskets erected on a platform and protected by a roof. In this way they store food to meet the future needs of their stomachs, and thus they are not at the mercy of the vagaries of nature.

They carry on manufacturing in a rude way. Pottery is made by women. The clay is formed by means of a stone, a stick, and the hand. The pot is first baked in the sun and



A PRIMITIVE SMITHY

then in a hot fire. These crude articles are often objects of trade. Coarse and unornamented baskets are made of nito,¹ rattan, bamboo, and wood. The garments of the Subanuns are made from cloth of their own weaving. They understand the distaff and the spinning wheel, but the cotton which they use they obtain from the Moros, from whom they buy cotton yarn also. The abaca is a home product. The looms are crude. The Subanuns understand working in iron. They use as tools bamboo bellows, an anvil (a piece of iron placed on

¹ The stems of climbing ferns (species of *Lygodium*).