

FILIPINO LABOR HAS PROVED VITAL FACTOR IN HAWAII'S BIG PROBLEM

Immigrants Become Efficient Workmen and Later Arrivals Are Law-Abiding and Industrious—Troubles Over First Incomers Solved as Experience Improves Methods of Selection

Since the immigration of Filipinos to Hawaii was started in 1909 about 23,625 Filipinos have arrived in the territory. A very considerable number have returned home; a good many have gone to the mainland of the United States and a great many have entered into occupations other than on sugar plantations.

The Planters' Association from the beginning adopted the policy of returning home at its expense all aged and incapacitated Filipinos, and no Filipino out of employment who has sought work upon the plantations is refused employment.

The plantations of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association employ now approximately 10,000 Filipino laborers. The independent sugar growers, other plantations not members of the association, the pineapple planters, the army and navy, the stevedores and other industries in the territory employ a great many.

Labor Is Vital Factor

Since the Japanese immigration ceased and the board of immigration of the territory suspended the immigration of Portuguese and Spanish, the Filipino immigration has been the mainstay of the plantations for the filling of vacancies in the plantation laboring forces arising through natural causes and a gradual drifting away of laborers from plantation work.

The first arrival under any immigration scheme and from whatever country have always been below the general standard, physically and morally, of the people of that country. The Chinese and the Japanese comprising the first lots brought to Hawaii were in many cases no credit to their countries and created a vast amount of trouble for the government of Hawaii. In more recent years, many of the five thousand Porto Ricans and the three thousand or more Russians brought to Honolulu proved themselves extremely undesirable.

Early Years of Immigration

The same situation developed with the Filipinos brought during the first year, or so, of this emigration. In 1909 and 1910 the plantations were facing extremely critical labor conditions, and every effort was made to secure

as large a number of Filipinos as possible. While careful selection was tried, without question a great many adventurers and undesirables were recruited. Hawaii was a new country to the Filipinos and they were loath to emigrate. Wild and exaggerated statements concerning Hawaii were made in the press of the Philippine Islands. The Filipinos were told for instance, that they would starve to death, that they would be enslaved and that the wild animals of Hawaii, lions, tigers, etc., would devour them. It is no wonder therefore that until the conditions in Hawaii became more generally known to the Filipinos only the most adventurous or those who had particular reason to leave the Philippines would brave the journey.

Improvement is marked. Since 1913 there has been a very marked improvement in the class of Filipinos who have come to Hawaii, and a great many of them are the equals of the best of the plantation laborers, industrious and law-abiding.

One of the very great difficulties connected with the immigration of Filipinos has been the inability to secure more families. Efforts have been made and are being continued to remedy this situation. The lack of families and more women has naturally created conditions which are reflected in the criminal records of the territory. In this respect the Filipinos are no exception to any other race. It will be well remembered that before the Japanese picture bride movement grew to its present proportions the newspapers were full of accounts of crimes committed by Japanese growing out of their love affairs.

Later Arrivals Law-Abiding

The records of the Filipinos confined in the Oahu prison confirm the statement that the recent arrivals are of a higher standard than those who first came, for of the 76 Filipinos recently confined in the Oahu prison, only nine had arrived in Hawaii since the year 1913.

With greater knowledge of the business and more extended experience the agents of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association in the Philippines are able to make better selection of individuals and to improve the standard constantly.

HAWAII'S LABOR COMPARED WITH OTHER CANE-PRODUCING COUNTRIES

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daily rate of teamsters and ox drivers in Louisiana was \$1.45; in Cuba, \$1.33; in Hawaii, \$1.15; and in Porto Rico, 70 cents.

Factory rates of wages, as a rule, are highest in Louisiana, but factory employment in that state is for a shorter period each year than in the other cane-sugar countries. The maximum grinding period in Louisiana is from 60 to 90 days each year; in Cuba the maximum is six months, in Porto Rico about 5 months, while in Hawaii the grinding period ranges from 8 to 11 months each year. The period for cutting, loading and hauling the cane in each country is the same as the grinding period. In Cuba cultivation employment is relatively less than in Hawaii and Louisiana. The intensive cultivation required in the latter two countries is not necessary in Cuba, where the cane is cut without replanting for many years. In Hawaii cane is seldom allowed to grow beyond the second ratoon. In Louisiana and Porto Rico plant and first ratoon cane are cut each year. Harvesting requires the greatest number of employees. In

addition to the wages a bonus, based upon the total earnings of the year and the selling price of sugar, is paid in Hawaii, the added amount ranging from 5 to 20 per cent.

Under these contrasting conditions it may be noted that the plantation and factory workers of Hawaii have little or no unemployment, as the factory workers at the end of the grinding season are furnished employment in the fields. Table 44 that follow serve in a general way to bring out these contrasting conditions.

TABLE 44. WORKING PERIODS AND POSSIBLE YEARLY EARNINGS OF FIELD AND FACTORY EMPLOYEES IN HAWAII, PORTO RICO, LOUISIANA AND CUBA. MAXIMUM PERIODS OF EMPLOYMENT

	Hawaii	Porto Rico	Louisiana	Cuba
Planting and cultivating, field hands.	12 months.....	12 months.....	9 months.....	12 months.....
Cutting, loading, and hauling harvesting hands, average.	234 days.....	130 days.....	78 days.....	156 days.....
Manufacture of sugar, factory periods.	208 to 306 days.....do.....	60 to 90 days.....do.....
Normal hours of labor per day and per week:				
Cultivation of cane.....	10 hours, 6 days	10 hours, 6 days	12 hours, 6 days	10 hours, 6 days
Cane cutting.....	8 hours, 6 days	8 hours, 6 days	10 hours, 6 days	12 hours, 6 days
Sugar manufacture.....	12 hours, 6 days	12 hours, 6 days	12 hours, 7 days	12 hours, 7 days

BANK PRESIDENT POINTS TO EFFECT OF BONUS

Good generally will come out of the distribution of the bonus to plantation laborers is the opinion of L. Tenney Peck, president of the First National Bank. The retailers will profit and the distribution will add to the comfort and contentment of the plantation laborer.

"While the payment of the extra compensation or 'bonus' money adds no wealth or capital to the territory, it will stimulate business, especially that of the retailers, to a great extent and exert an influence for months to come in all lines of activity, commercial and social, and add to the comfort and contentment of very many besides those for whose toll it compensates," he says.

TABLE 45. POSSIBLE YEARLY EARNINGS OF TYPICAL FIELD AND FACTORY WORKERS. (NOT INCLUDING BONUS PAID IN HAWAII, NOT ELSEWHERE)

Field employment:		\$215	\$198	\$373
Adult male field hand.....	\$302	243	91	113
Adult male cane cutter.....	243	91	113	207
Factory employment:				
General mill laborer.....	234	104	117	190
Sugar boiler.....	1,471	575	333	735
Centrifugal tender.....	234	110	106	237
Other, mill.....	248	106	159	319

HAWAII ISLAND TO DISTRIBUTE \$600,000 BONUS

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happen this month. Inquiry at several Oriental stores in Hilo elicited the fact that the bonus of last year made a great difference on the right side of the ledgers of their businesses. They stated that clothing, shoes and hats went like hot cakes and added that the class of goods purchased were of the best to be obtained. These merchants, like the others of the city, say that with a bonus of 75 per cent coming to the plantation laborers, the people will be better off than ever and able to purchase goods that should make them very contented.

And so it goes right down the line. Every business in the county benefited last year through the bonus, and this year things look even brighter. The plantation employes are in the lucky class and they will be not only able to buy the good things of life, but will also be able to lay some money aside for the possible rainy day.

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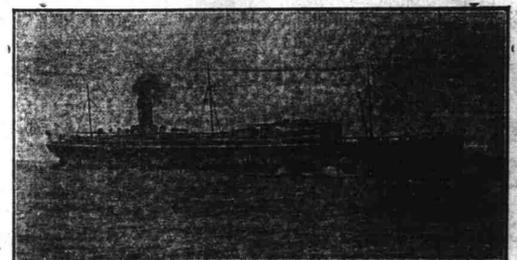
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PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES ARE WORLD'S LARGEST SUGAR USERS

High Cost of Living Has Been Cause of 10 Per Cent Decrease

The United States is the world's greatest consumer of sugar, despite the fact that the per capita consumption has decreased about 10 per cent as the results of the high prices. A compilation by the National City Bank of New York shows that the consumption of sugar in the United States for the fiscal year of 1917 was only eighty-two pounds per capita against eighty-nine pounds in 1914 (the year preceding the war). The total quantity consumed in 1917 was, however, eight and one-half billion pounds, and we also exported one and one-quarter billion pounds, or twenty-five times as much as in the year before the war.

The bank's compilation shows that the world's sugar production is now about 12 per cent below that of the year preceding the war. Beet sugar production in Europe has fallen 43 per cent, but cane production in the tropics has increased about 25 per cent. The beet sugar of Europe, which was eighteen and one-half billion pounds in the sugar year 1912-13, was only ten and one-half billion pounds in 1916-17, and the world cane production, which was a little more than twenty billion pounds in 1912-13 was more than twenty-five billion pounds in 1916-17; world production of cane and beet sugar in 1913-14 was forty-two billion pounds. Beets produced one-half of the world's sugar prior to the war, but in 1916-17 supplied only one-third of the world's total.

Increased Output in U.S. Possessions

In the United States and its island possessions there has been a rapid increase in production. In every one of the sugar areas under the American flag—Porto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippines and the cane and beet fields of continental United States—there has been a marked increase. The aggregate production of these areas having grown from about four billion pounds in 1912-13 to virtually five billion pounds in 1916-17. The share of our consumption drawn from foreign countries has fallen from 75 per cent in 1897 (twenty years ago) to 48 per cent in 1917.

In consumption of sugar the United States stands at the head of the list of the world countries, our total consumption being eight and one-half billion pounds in the fiscal year 1917 against approximately five billions in Germany, five billions in the United Kingdom and two billions in France, the figures for the European countries being those for normal years. Our per capita consumption, however, is less than that of certain other countries. Denmark's consumption being ninety-three pounds per capita. England ninety, United States, eighty-two, Germany seventy-five, Norway and Sweden sixty, Netherlands seventy-three, France forty, Russia thirty, Spain fifteen, and Italy ten. About 25 per cent of our consumption is drawn from our fields, 27 per cent from our islands, and 48 per cent from foreign countries, chiefly Cuba. The value of the sugar entering continental United States was, in the fiscal year 1914, \$155,000,000, and in 1917 \$343,000,000, the average import price per pound (including that from the islands) having been, in 1914, 2.5c, and in 1917, 4.6c.

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