

May 21, 1942

Sir:

From the particular problem of your Power Plant I understand that you are mainly concerned with electric storms in which there is an actual discharge between cloud and ground. The lightning sheet is of no interest to you. The observers of the Weather Bureau, in reporting thunderstorms, make no distinction between sheet lightning and real stroke. The duration of the lightning storm is not usually reported. The number of flashes is not counted.

Based on observations and past experience, the following statements can be made:

1) Monthly Frequency- The lightning thunderstorms are very few, if any, in the months of November, December, January, February and March: they attain their maximum frequency and intensity in May and June: they are frequent, but not at maximum in July- October.

2) From statistics which might be gathered from the press, it seems that the whole Philippines, throughout the year, more lives are lost by lightning stroke than by typhoon winds.

3) Your transmission lines are situated in the first and second quadrant of Manila, namely between the North and South through the East. Unfortunately these two quadrants, comprising Bulacan, Rizal and Laguna provinces are subject to frequent and intense thunderstorms with vivid lightning. The thunderstorms seldom occur between 7 and 11 a.m. they are most frequent in the afternoons and evenings well into the night.

The chronicles of Manila register the fact that in the electric storm of May 29, 1873 there fell more than fifty bolts of lightning. By actual counting it was found in another thunderstorm that the number of lightning flashes was 52 in one minute.

Hoping that this information meets your wishes, I remain

Truly yours,

MICHEL SELMA

Mr. K. Honda
Supt. of power Plant, Manila