

THE DROUGHT OF 1938 IN THE PHILIPPINES

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The high price of rice was the general topic of conversation and complaint among our people, in the early part of August of 1938. A severe drought reported by some papers as general all over the Philippines, was given as a partial cause of the high price of rice and a definite anticipation of a considerable shortage in the total rice crop of the Islands. This uneasiness of mind on the subject of drought was reflected in the bitter criticisms published in the press against the policy of the National Rice and Corn Corporation, in the complaints voiced by several Provincial Governors in convention against the high price of rice, in the petition signed by not less than twenty Asemblymen requesting the President of the Commonwealth to take action in the regulation of prices, ^{and} in the importation of 400,000 cavans of rice from Saigon and 40,000 cavans of rice from America by the National Rice and Corn Corporation in order to offset the anticipated shortage of rice and maintain its price at a normal value.

The returns of rainfall received from the meteorological stations offer an excellent opportunity to ascertain the existence, extent, characteristics and probable explanation of the drought of 1938. The answer to these points is based on the analysis of the observations made by seventy two stations scattered all over the archipelago. The comparison of the individual values of 1938 with the normal values ~~for~~ a long period leads to the following