

August 1, 1927.

Mr. Lorenzo Tañada,
815 San Marcelino,
Manila, P. I.

Sir:

I am studying the effect of lightning on the coconut trees. Some books contain information about Java plantations; very little is known about the Philippines. It occurred to me that your father and your father-in-law, being exceedingly familiar with coconut problems and with the history of Lucena-Sariaya-Gumaca region, may give valuable information acquired by experience and personal observation of the facts of the past. The questions I would like to be answered or settled are:

- 1.- Are the coconut trees frequently struck by lightning in the province of Tayabas?
- 2.- Does the foliage of the tree take fire? Or is the tree damaged only by vertical scars? Or does the tree secrete a liquid, which afterward dries up, without injury to the tree?
- 3.- Do the struck trees die?
- 4.- Does it happen that a tree is struck, and 20 or more trees all around the struck tree, are also damaged, scorched or killed.
- 5.- Do the people consider the proximity of a tree as a good protection to their houses against lightning?