

remained largely with the great estate owners, who rely mainly on share-croppers, tenants who share the crops. In many cases the big landowners let small leaseholds to individuals, who lease them again to peasant farmers so that the owner, the leaseholder, and the farmer must all share the proceeds of the crop from one piece of land. Even the small peasant holdings become split up amongst families. A man and his wife begin by farming 20 acres; in time the same area is perhaps farmed by four sons in four holdings of 5 acres; four families live where one lived before. As a result, share-croppers are usually heavily in debt to their landlords. They are lucky, according to some authorities, if £10 in cash passes through their hands in a year.

The uneven distribution of the population does not help the position. The big southern island of Mindanao contains nearly a third of the area of the whole 7,000 islands, but holds only one-tenth of the population. Its valleys are rich and fertile—and nearly empty. Other islands are crowded. It is however, hardly possible to expect a peasant in Luzon, bound by debt to his landlord, to

know that there is rich land for him in Mindanao. And even if he knew, how could he break away from his landlord, and where could he get the money to move his family and pay the small home-steaders fee? Some reforms have been made. To remedy the position of a few thousand share-croppers the Quezon Government, following the example of the American Administration in 1900, bought from the Roman Catholic Church in 1938 its 67,000 acre Buenavista Estate. The Government also entered into negotiations with the Church, a very large property-owner, to purchase other properties and began a resettlement policy, but it has been estimated that, at the existing rate it will take the Filipinos two hundred years to take up the available land.

With agriculture in this position, compelled to import food even in good times, and with their resources still not largely developed, the Filipinos will face another problem when they are given the complete independence for which they have so long agitated and which has been promised to them by the United States. So long as the islands were part of the same political system as the United States—as they were until 1935—goods passed freely between the two countries. Many Americans were opposed to this. The growers of cane-sugar in Cuba and beet-sugar in the United States found it hard to compete in the American market with the duty-free Philippine sugar. Other groups opposed the importation of coconut products lest they should compete in certain manufactures with dairy products. It was the same with ropemakers, and so on. Labour unions claimed that it was difficult for them to maintain standards against cheap Filipino labour. All supported independence for the Philippines because it would enable America to impose the same duties against goods from the Philippines as against goods from any other foreign country. This agitation in the United States, as well as in the Philippines, frightened investors, who did not care to put their money into enterprises in the islands because of the uncertainty about how long the free American market would be available. For this reason the resources of the islands were never fully

