

developed, and the Philippines are not well equipped to compete in other markets if the American market is closed to them.

By 1940 the Filipinos had by successive stages received much of the independence they had demanded. From control in 1901 by an American Governor-General assisted by eight Commissioners—five Americans and three Filipinos—they had advanced to almost full control of local affairs in 1925. Progress was not smooth. In 1916, for instance, the administration was changed abruptly under the Jones Act from a Government by Americans with Filipinos in the minority to a Government by Filipinos advised by Americans. The Governor-General had the power of veto, but avoided interference. In 1920 the results were investigated, and it was reported that "the Government was top-heavy in personnel and enmeshed in red-tape," that the Civil Service was being demoralized, that hospital and health measures had been relaxed, and that the Philippine National Bank had been mismanaged. Still the cry for independence persisted, and in 1934 the United States Congress passed the Act by which in 1935 the Philippines became a commonwealth and the Filipinos took full control of their own affairs at home. The Act provided that after ten years the Commonwealth of the Philippines should become the completely independent Republic of the Philippines, and that the United States should keep only the naval bases needed for defence. The Filipinos adopted a constitution giving equal civil and political rights to all.

The real difficulty facing the Filipinos, lies in the parts of the 1934 Act which provided that during the ten years between the creation of the Commonwealth and the creation of the Republic the amount of Philippine goods imported into the United States should each year grow less and that the taxes on these goods should each year become higher, so



A Filipino woman winnows rice with skilfull, precise motions.

that in 1946 when full independence was granted the Philippines should lose all the advantages of free trade with America. Even by 1940 the Filipinos were not so sure that they wanted independence—at that price—and a "realistic examination" of the Act was suggested. Since then amendments to cushion the shock to trade and to give the United States air as well as naval bases have been made to the act, but America still promises independence as soon as possible.

Meanwhile the Philippines have suffered severely under Japanese rule. Their industries have been ruined and their people have been starved. Yet as they begin to rebuild they must face new difficulties of trade and old difficulties of agriculture.

The future holds many problems for the 16,000,000 people of the 7,000 islands.

