

tives. At first prices were reasonable, but now we pay about a cent, Mexican, apiece for bananas and about 5 cents apiece, Mexican, for cocoanuts.

The natives bring very nice little fish to us which they catch in the neighborhood of the town.

#### Relations of Soldiers and Natives.

The relations between the soldiers of my command and the people are most cordial. Our soldiers protect them in every right and as they sell market products to the soldiers at higher rates than formerly obtained they appreciate this as one of the advantages of our occupation to them. The

agent of this city said yesterday that the British soldiers and the insur-

rebs are harsh and unkind and take what they want and pay American soldier is kind

anything. I am glad to the bamboo, which grows

great rapidity and is used in houses.

Leaves of the Nipa palm are used for outside covering of the roofs of houses. The women do a great deal of labor, and they and the men often wear hats made of grass, palm leaves or bamboo, which are some thirty inches in diameter. These hats turn water and serve as an umbrella as well as to protect the head from the sun. I often see women working in the fields with umbrellas like these in use in America.

Luzon, west coast.

The sugar mills are very primitive, very

now have been increased, the amount of sugar produced in the Philippines could be increased many fold. The exports of hemp have greatly increased. In the year 1882 44,200 tons of hemp were exported, which has increased until there was exported in 1897, 112,755 tons and this output can be much enlarged.

The shipment of coffee gradually increased until the year 1886, when the exports amounted to 7,337 tons, and from 1880 to 1890 the shipments averaged about 6,000 tons a year, but from that time they have fallen off, and from 1893 to 1897 the annual shipments averaged only 200 tons.

I learn the following about cotton from reliable sources:

"The cotton tree is found growing in an uncultivated state in many islands of the archipelago. Long staple cotton was formerly extensively cultivated in the province of Ilocos Norte, when, many years ago, large quantities of good cotton stumps were exported. This industry still exists. The cultivation of this staple was, however, discouraged by the local governors, in order to urge the planting of tobacco for the government supplies. It has since become difficult to revive the cotton production, although an essay, in pamphlet form (for which a prize was awarded in Madrid) was gratuitously distributed over the colony in 1888 with that object. Nevertheless, cotton spinning and weaving is still carried on, on a reduced scale, in the Oloco provinces.

Wild cotton is practically useless for

staple is extremely short, but by hybridization and careful culture might become valuable to the colony. The pod is elliptical and the cotton which bursts from it at maturity is snow white. It is used for stuffing pillows and mattresses.

It is a common thing to see wild cotton trees planted along the high road to serve as telegraph posts. By the time the seed is fully ripe every leaf has fallen and nothing but the bursting pod remains hanging on the branches.

Railroads, judiciously located, could be built very cheaply, and with the dense population and the freight which must exist where the production is so abundant, could make the railroads very profitable. I think a light rail, fifty-six pounds to the yard, would do very well, and something less than the standard gauge would be best. I believe the Manila & Dagupan railroad has a gauge of a metre (39.37 inches). Sugar, rice and timber would give much freight.

#### Domestic Animals.

The native horses or ponies abound. They are small but swift and strong. The domestic animal is fed on rice, molasses and grass. These ponies are also found wild in the forests. The buffalo or caragoa is the draft and plow animal of the islands. It is powerful, docile and easy to train and manage. It is very slow and must be immersed in water every day and during hot weather two or three times a day. The flesh of the caragoa is used for food. When wild it is dangerous and, even when tamed, it is dangerous if deprived of its water baths. Sheep do not thrive, but oxen, goats, dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese are more or less abundant. A

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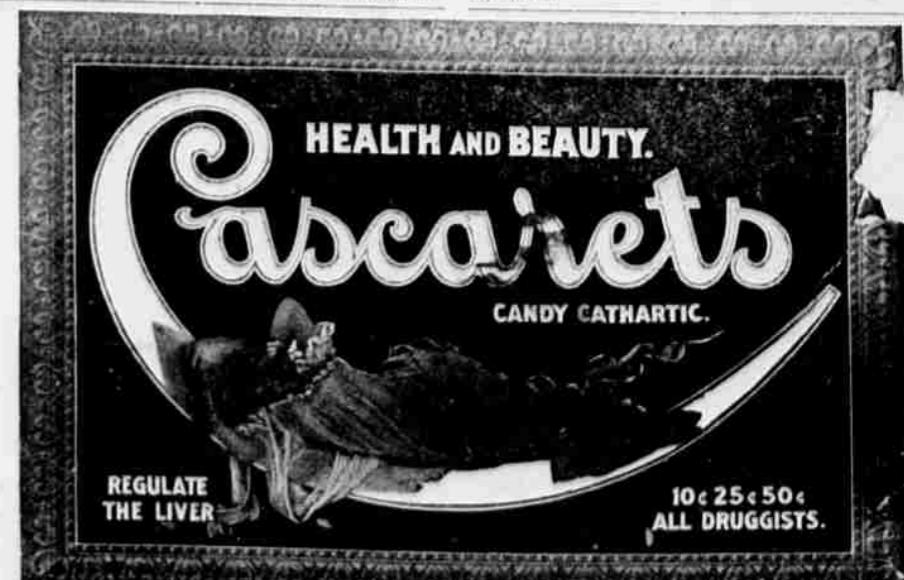
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