

XII. CONSERVATION OF MALESIAN FORESTS

(see also pages 1694-1697)

The noblest motive  
is the public good

Forest Vandals

No more tragic a sentence on the future of Philippine forests has ever been uttered than that of the Vice-President. "To plant five million hectares is no mean joke," he said. "This area, equivalent to 17 percent of the total land area of the Philippines, make up our denuded lands."

How this came about is the saddest aspect of the failure of the past administrations to enforce the laws and to preserve the richest resources of the country. The kaingineros and the ruthless adventurers in the logging industry rode and are still riding (on the basis of licenses secured through influence) roughshod over the stringent laws which protect our forests.

It was to stop this vandalism that President Marcos imposed the condition that forest concessions should be no less than 20,000 hectares and that the recipient of the concession should establish at the concession site a lumber mill and a plant for the manufacture of plywood. The overriding idea is to prevent fly-by-night operators from legalizing their vandalism.

There is no doubt that in the long run, the fly-by-night operators will be driven off the forest reserves. But the immediate considerations are the apprehension of the buccaneers and the reforestation of the denuded areas. For these, the administration will need to use men and resources, and the sooner the better.

The Vice-President has appealed to the politicians to refrain from rendering aid to the buccaneers. There is the possibility that some of these politicians - not all, for the simple reason that the rest are also buccaneers themselves - will heed the appeal.

But even without political protection, the vandals and the kaingineros find a way to pursue their crime. It is, therefore, a question of law-enforcement. It is a matter for the agents of the bureau of forestry, for the Constabulary and for the police to be compelled to do their duty.

That duty is to preserve the resources of the country for future generations of Filipinos. That duty is to defend the forests against the hungry kaingineros as well as against the vandals.

The whole undertaking will entail millions of pesos. We suggest that it is well worth the expense, that it is better to spend the millions now rather than face in the future the bleak fate of such countries as Spain and China which, in a long outburst of neglect, sanctioned the destruction of their forests. To date, they have not finished paying for that neglect.

Copied Editorial from the  
Manila Chronicle, July 28, 1966, p.4

### REQUEST

In connection with the biosystematical work on the genus Impatiens by Keith Jones and Grey-Wilson at Kew the sending of seed from Malesian species to Kew is encouraged.

### FLORAL DIMORPHISM

My studies center on variation in *Scaevola* and in *Pipturus* in addition to making a few chromosome counts. Time and again I find that genera that are known to have perfect flowers are in fact monoecious, possibly dioecious. However, the stamens sometimes look normal at hand-lens magnification but are completely sterile, so that this seems to be a case of an early stage of evolution to declivity.

Mr. G.W. Gillett, University of Hawaii  
in a letter.

### CORRECTION PAGE 1578

TGH - Collections prefixed by this letter combination are not part of the NGF-series. Hartley worked in conjunction with the Division of Botany at Lae but the collections are not to be related to this institution except that a set of duplicates are housed there.

J.S. Womersley.