
LANAO: ITS RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS, 1900 - 1940

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Very little is known about the resources and products of Lanao in the period 1900-1940 or within the forty years of its history under American colonial rule. As a matter of fact, there is hardly any document which deals with the economy of Lanao during the period under consideration. The few studies available are those which deal with very limited aspects of American governance in Lanao. Thus, there is a dearth of informed materials on the complete profile of Lanao from a historical perspective. There is, the need, therefore, to come up with complementary studies such as this one has become necessary.

This paper attempts to tackle in broad outline certain sectors of the economy of Lanao in the period 1900-1940, that is, the state of the natural economy of Lanao as it really was during the first years of American military occupation until the Commonwealth years, including the changes affecting such economy during the period covered. Particular emphasis is given to the agricultural, forest and fisheries resources and products.

Problems and Objectives

The problem and/or issues explored in this paper are those which relate to the identification of the resources found in Lanao and the products created at different time intervals within the period 1900-1940; and, whenever possible as could be gathered from documentary sources, the identification of particular production localities.

The object of this paper is to determine which resources

and products were available, when, and where. Consequently, some generalizations shall be advanced particularly on the matter of changes which occurred at specific times and places.

Scope and Limitation

The locus of the study is the area in central Mindanao demarcated by the Americans as Lanao in 1900-1940. Since this paper deals only with agricultural, forest, and fisheries resources and products, the production localities, the time intervals, and the changes which occurred, no attention is given to mineral resources and products and their manufacture and exchange, even if they relate to the topic.

This paper, moreover, should encourage historians as well as other researchers on related fields to have interest in economic topics. For one, knowledge of economic aspect, being the underlying material foundation of crucial events, is important toward a deeper understanding of Lanao history and society.

Method

All the historical data gathered from documentary sources which relate to the problem and/or issues within the scope and limitation of this study have been organized thematically under the economic sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Where it was necessary, important details such as time frames, localities and other enriching details have been included in order to situate in the proper perspectives such relevant considerations.

Sources

This study partly benefitted from the use of primary data from the archival collections of the Mamitua Saber Research Center of Mindanao State University. More primary data, including supplementary secondary ones, were gathered from the archival collections of the University of the Philippines, (Ateneo de Manila University of the Philippines,) Ateneo de Manila University, and the National Archives and Library in Manila.

Lanao: the Land

The territory in Mindanao invariably designated by the Americans as Lanao in 1900 remained the same in size and shape until 1940.¹ It is bounded on the west by the Zamboanga Peninsula, on the east by Bukidnon, on the north by the bays of Panguil and Iligan, and on the south by the Illana Bay.

The greater part of the land of Lanao is a high plateau where the elevation ranges anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level.² The West Central Range which divides into the western and southern chains make the terrain mountainous, especially on the western and southern parts. The terrain on the eastern and northern parts are also mountainous; however, the mountains in these parts are comparatively lower. Hence, the western and southern parts are more rugged than those on the eastern and northern parts.

There are no extensive flatlands³ of either the upland or lowland type in Lanao. There are, instead, small and narrow upland valleys found between mountains and low level flatlands between Lake Lanao and the mountains that gird it. A much wider flatland of the floodplain type, the Kapatagan Valley, is found in the area which connects Lanao to the Zamboanga Peninsula.

The upland valleys are drained through small rivers, while the narrow strips of land adjacent to the lake are constantly soaked in water, where marshes dominate the landscape. The Kapatagan Valley is drained by several rivers much larger than those found in the uplands, whose waters rise and flood the valley in the wet season but recede to such low levels in the dry season.

Located nearly at the center of Lanao is the large Lake Lanao at an elevation of 2,000 feet above sea level. It is the second largest lake in the country and the highest of such size. The mountains that surround it forms its watersheds from which many brooks, streams and rivers flow and empty into it. While it is fed by many sources, Lake Lanao has only one outlet, the Agus River, which flows on a northeast direction from Marawi City.

Some six kilometers from Iligan City, the river falls over a steep precipice of the plateau at the height of 900 feet above sea level; this drop constitutes the Maria Cristina Falls. It is the largest waterfall in the country and the highest of such size. Further downstream, the river empties into the Iligan Bay. Because of the volcanic origin of Lanao, the soil, both in the uplands and in the lowlands, is clayey. It is sticky in the wet season and is compact, hard, and rapidly becomes arid in the dry season. A thin layer of organic materials overlay it and gives its surface a loamy appearance. It is suitable for the planting of many tropical cereals, legumes, fruits, and many others.

Contrasts in elevation between the uplands and the lowlands give Lanao two markedly different climates. In the uplands, the climate is cool for most of the year; while in the lowlands, the climate is hot and humid all year round. Anywhere in Lanao, tropical plants like cereals, beans, nuts, fruits, fiber plants and vegetables grow; however, in the uplands, where the climate is cool, some temperate plants could be grown like Irish potato, cabbage and others.

Resources

Among the territories in Mindanao organized by the Americans at different times in the period, Lanao was comparatively small. The small land mass of the territory partly imposed limitations on its available resources.⁴ Since its dominant geographical feature compose of the mountains, forest cover was its chief natural resource. Many varieties of hard and soft tropical woods abounded. The woodlands were the sources of trees which the inhabitants cut down for timber, lumber, fuel, and other uses. The forests were overgrown with vines, such as rattan, and were host to a variety of orchids. Many animals flourished in the forests which were hunted for food and game. The slopes of mountains and hills were cleared and planted to the upland varieties of rice, root crops, vegetables, and other plants suited to such terrain.

The flatlands particularly in the lake area and in the Kapatagan Valley, were for the most part marshlands, where reeds like Tikug grew. These reeds were harvested and woven into mats and other crafts. The marshes were home to many wild fowls. More importantly, parts of the marshes were cultivated and planted to varieties of paddy rice.

The bays of Panguil, Iligan and Illana were rich fishing grounds. Besides marine fish, other marine resources such as mollusks, crustaceans, seaweeds and others were also found. Fishing and gathering were important means of livelihood which provided the inhabitants with marine products, which were mostly consumed by individual households rather than marketed. The swamps were extensive, where mangrove and other vegetation of many uses could be found. These were ideal habitats of such brackish water fauna as the crab, shrimp, shell, clam and a variety of others. They were also sanctuaries to flocks of birds which could be hunted for food and for pets.

Lake Lanao, including a few smaller lakes and marshes teemed with freshwater fishery resources, such as fish, shrimps, and shells which formed part of the diet of the inhabitants in the interior. The marshes found in vicinities of these bodies of fresh water were also sanctuaries to birds.

People

Two Muslim groups namely, the Illanuns and the Maranaos are indigenous to Lanao.⁵ The former inhabit the coast of the Illana Bay and, for some time in the past, even parts of the coast of the Panguil Bay. Because the Spaniards found them the denizens of what is now Illana Bay, the Spaniards named that seascape after them. They were considered skilled boatbuilders and expert navigators. They lived off primarily not on the bounty of the sea but on slave raids and slave trade, besides being good fishermen and boatbuilders. The Maranaos had since been summarily referred to as the plateau and lake dwellers. The entire plateau areas has been their considered traditional homeland.

There they tilled the lands which they planted to cereals, fruits, vegetables, and others. In the past, the Spaniards feared them because of their slave raiding activities on the northern coasts.

Sometime in the seventeenth century and later, the Spaniards came to Mindanao and founded Christian communities on the northern coast. In 1900, the Americans found Iligan to be a small Christian town. It was during the American period and after that the Christian communities grew and, in fact, spread steadily to other parts in Lanao, particularly in the northern parts; while a few much smaller ones were also found in the interior.

Within the forty-year period, the Americans were able to conquer the inhabitants of Lanao. The territory was differently organized many times: as a military district in 1900-1903; as a politico-military district in 193-1914; and as a regular province in 1914-1920 and onward. From 1900 until 1920, Lanao was administered directly by American officials and, in the years that followed, indirectly through Christian Filipino officials. Since its founding in 1907, Dansalan was made the capital municipality from which the Americans governed Lanao.

III. Agriculture

Subsistence agriculture --supplemented in part by lumber activities, gathering, hunting and manufacturing -- was the natural economy of Lanao in 1900. Little is known about the products of Lanao before the American period. It was only in the beginning of the twentieth century that information on what the Maranaos produced began to be gathered. Notes on military operations, surveys and later censuses are the valuable sources of information from which a much clearer idea of the products of the land could be acquired. The most important of these sources of information being the Censuses of 1903, 1918 and 1938 which identified not only the products but also the places where they were particularly produced.⁶

Staple

Even further back in time, the inhabitants of Lanao already tilled small pieces of land which they planted to many crops.⁷ Indigenous varieties of upland rice were grown in small upland valleys, on hillsides of low sloping hillocks, and on the marshes that punctuate the landscape of the shores of Lake Lanao. Since the soil of Lanao is clayey, rice was well suited crop. Given the backward technology, the demand for more advanced ones such as necessary for transforming the marshes into productive areas for paddy rice, and the larger labor demands for paddy rice culture, swidden or slash-and-burn agriculture was resorted to in the uplands long before the introduction of paddy agriculture. The many varieties of upland rice found in Lanao attest to the predominance of swidden agriculture to paddy rice culture. Still, only small patches of lands were cleared for cultivation as happens in subsistence agriculture, being the natural economy in existence. Such type of economy as flourished in Lanao produced only enough goods for domestic consumption and the little surplus created was brought to the market.

Although rice was grown in many areas in Lanao, its production was consistently small. Besides the fact that a little surplus was brought to the market, it acquired no commercial significance. From 1900 onward, more arable lands were put under rice cultivation. Also, more marshes in the boggy flatlands, both in the uplands and in the lowlands, were transformed into arable lands for paddy rice culture. Until 1940, it was the upland country or what consists most of the area of Lanao del Sur now, that produced more rice than the lowlands in Northern Lanao and more importantly, the Kapatagan Valley. Thus, while there were only 18,743 hectares planted to rice in 1918, there were 32,720 hectares planted to it in 1938 in all of Lanao. The dominance of the upland country in rice production was beginning to be exceeded by the increased production in the lowlands in the northern parts, the Kapatagan Valley particularly, in the period following World War II.⁸ In fact, in the decade that followed when the Kapatagan Valley was opened to homestead seeking migrants from the Visayas and Luzon, it was the settlement of the

flatlands on the northern parts of Lanao that was the factor in the increase of rice production in the post war era.

Supplementary Products⁹

Corn was another cereal that was also cultivated in Lanao. The extent to which corn was grown in Lanao, as introduced by the Spaniards, was conspicuously insignificant in 1903; however, it slightly increased in 1918. From then on, corn was cultivated and produced in larger quantities. Still, compared to rice, the hectarage for corn lagged behind to that for rice. In 1918, only 428 hectares were planted to corn; however, these increased tremendously to 8,500 hectares in 1938.

Corn never consisted of the staple of the inhabitants, as evident in the negligible number of hectares planted to it, even granted the remarkable increase in hectarage from 1918 to 1938. It was rice which was the staple cereal in Lanao, with camote, cassava, gabi and ube as supplement all throughout the period, especially during drought and locust attacks. Other than rice, corn, camote and cassava, the inhabitants also tilled small pieces of land which they planted to sugarcane, coffee, cacao and coconut. The quantities produced, like all the rest of the crops, were never large. These crops, were chiefly grown for domestic use, both for household consumption as well as for the local market, except for coffee which consisted the only export from Lanao.

The inhabitants in the period did not yet open up larger tracks of land for largescale production of any of these crops, even for coffee which held commercial value as the only export product. Although many coffee trees were to be found, they did not consist of a plantation of sorts, they, instead, grew half-wild in the uplands, especially on mountain slopes.

All these plants, which when grown widely held much promise as potential export cash crops, were grown in many places

in Lanao. However, some were grown more abundantly in some places.

Tobacco and coconut were not propagated in scales much larger than small plots, where the quantities produced sufficed for household use only until 1903. Coconut in particular, despite its many uses in the household, namely, oil for cooking, lumber and fronds for house construction, shells and husks for fuel, tuba as beverage, and others, were grown in limited quantities.

Besides all the above crops, small patches of arable land were tilled and planted to vegetables and fruits.

Until 1940, no larger tracts of land were devoted to vegetable culture; what existed, instead, were vegetable gardens where the quantities of vegetables harvested sufficed for household consumption only. Also, no orchards existed; what existed, instead, were small stands of fruit trees or single trees, usually growing half-wild and unattended. Still, small surpluses were realized at times and were brought to the market.

Export Products ¹⁰

Lanao, like all territories in Mindanao and Sulu organized under the Moro Province and later under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, was opened up to plantation agriculture as an economic thrust which began in 1903. Lanao was one territory where only meager capital flowed for plantation agriculture. This persisted throughout the period even if its soil was found to be suitable to the cultivation of some crops which could be propagated for export purposes, such as coffee, cacao, coconut, abaca and rubber.

Geographical considerations, like the steep mountainsides of the western and southern forks of the West-Central Range and the comparatively gentler slopes of the mountains and hills on the northern and eastern parts of the land and, equally important, the

unsettled peace and order condition, has weighed heavily against the investment of capital in Lanao. Apparently, the unstable political status of Mindanao, especially in the light of the popularity of the independence movement among the Moro people, discouraged capital flow. Besides, except for hemp, which comparatively enjoyed better prices and higher demands abroad, the rest of the crops and manufactures therefrom frequently suffered from low prices and low demands in foreign markets.

However limited the capital that sought investment in plantation agriculture in Lanao may have been, it served as the catalyst for the emergence of plantation with mixed and oftentimes adverse results. Attempts at sugarcane propagation for export in Iligan did not prosper; in fact, in the early years, the results were so dismal that for a time its cultivation ceased. Since there existed domestic demands for sugarcane by-products such as molasses and panocha, it was cultivated in order to tap domestic demands for such product rather than for foreign markets. In 1918, there were only sixty hectares planted to sugarcane, and only one hundred and ten in 1938. Such smallscale production was aimed only to meet the needs of the inhabitants.

Sometime in 1913, as a consequence of the diversification thrust of the government, alternative crops were considered for propagation. These were mainly fiber crops like cotton, kapok, maguey and sisal. None of these were cultivated to a significant extent; in fact, efforts at widescale cultivation never took off at all. Kapok, which was regarded to hold much promise as a cash crop export in the future, was planted in limited scale: only three hectares in 1918 and nine in 1938. None of the other fiber crops were cultivated to an extent any closer to the aggregate of hectarage devoted to kapok.

Of course, coffee, the traditional export from Lanao, was increasingly grown. While in 1903 it was known to grow half-wild, there were efforts beginning in 1903 to open up pieces of land for it. Thus, there were 6,150 coffee trees in 1918 and 92,340 trees in 1938 in Lanao, particularly in the upland country. Coffee from Lanao was considered to be of good quality and consistently enjoyed favorable prices abroad. Despite this encouraging market

condition for coffee, the volume produced in Lanao remained consistently small, because of lack of capital for increased production and of besides other production input requirements.

Abaca and coconut were also propagated as agricultural exports. Because abaca was faster to grow, hemp was already an export product from Lanao, particularly from Malabang, in 1907. However, even if hemp always enjoyed better prospects in foreign markets, the hectarage for abaca was never large: only 2,530 hectares in 1938. Although it took longer to grow coconuts, copra from productive trees was already one of the new exports, besides hemp, from Lanao toward the second decade of American rule, 1910-1920. The increase in coconut propagation was rather slow and small: from 9,672 trees only in 1918 to 66,730 trees only in 1938.

Livestock and Poultry¹¹

Among other products of Lanao were livestock and poultry. On the grasslands in the plateau country and in the lowlands, although they were not extensive enough for large-scale livestock production, carabao, cattle and horses were raised. The few heads of cattle which the inhabitants sold to the Americans, at least until 1903, came from these parts.

Both the marsh and swamp breeds of carabao were raised which, together with the Indian and indigenous and later the Australian breeds of cattle. Their uses were more as beasts of burden rather than as sources of meat. Carabaos, cattle, and horses were used as draft animals. Horses, in particular, were used for transportation, especially in the uplands where, instead of roads, only pony trails existed.

From 1903 until 1938, more cows were raised than carabaos and more carabaos than horses.

Swine was raised in Christian communities for food,

especially for the local market. Next to swine, goats were raised in Iligan, Dansalan, and Malabang. Very few sheep were raised: only one was reported in 1918 and only twenty-six in 1938.

Chicken was about the only poultry raised both for food and for its commercial value. Chicken and eggs were numerous, particularly in Dansalan, Iligan, Momungan, Kolambugan and Malabang. It was poultry which consisted mostly of the meat part of the diet of inhabitants. Surplus livestock poultry were brought to the market. Between these two products, it was the latter which was raised in most number and consisted of the larger farm animal product for the market.

IV. Forestry

Prior to 1900, the inhabitants of Lanao exploited the forest resources of the land by cutting down trees for timber and lumber.¹² These products were either used for house construction or for boat building. Since the houses of the inhabitants and even their boats were provided with thatched roofs, the fronds of some forest palms and even those of rattan were used as roofing material. The plants which grew vines were also exploited for tying purposes. On the whole, the forest resources were exploited for domestic

Timber and Lumber

The forests of Lanao, which included those of the western and southern forks of the West-Central Range and those on the eastern and other parts of the land, consisted of dense growths of many hard and soft tropical kinds of wood. In 1938 and in fact even earlier still, these kinds of wood were classified and grouped into four.

Under the first group were ipil, molave, narra and yakal. The majority of the logging and lumber establishments exploited molave and narra the most. These establishments were invariably

involved not only in logging for timber but also for lumber production. Until 1938, the logging of the trees under the first group occurred to a limited extent only.

Under the second group, it was *guiho* which was most logged. for timber alone, three establishments were reported to exist in 1938; while twenty-seven establishments were engaged in lumber production. The volume of lumber produced by these establishments were many times larger than those of the first group.

Under the third group were *apitong*, *lumbayao*, *mayapis*, *batino*, *red lauan* and *tanguile*. Except for *palopis*, the rest of the trees under this group were logged for their commercial value. The establishments which exploited these trees were unevenly distributed. Except for *botino*, which was logged for timber purposes only, at least as reported in 1938, these establishments were either engaged in timber and lumber production, or both. Between these trees, it was *mayapis* which was logged the most for timber and *apitong* for lumber.

Under the fourth group were *white lauan* and others. The establishments which exploited these trees were engaged in either timber or lumber production, or both. Most of these establishments exploited *white lauan* more than the aggregate of all the other trees under this group. In fact, in 1938, the largest number of establishments logged *white lauan*, which exceeded the number of those which exploited any of the trees under any of the groups. The lumber produced from *white lauan* was much larger in volume than those from trees under the fourth group.

Timber and lumber were the dominant forest products. Except for *guiho*, with which lumber establishments far exceeded in number those in the timber, for the rest of the trees under the four groups the number of timber establishments exceeded those of the lumber. Logging and lumber activities for domestic use were common in *Lanao*, the same activities for export purposes, however, occurred in *Lanao* only later.

Because the timber and lumber produced ranged from a

few hundred to several hundred cubic feet only, the forests of Lanao still remained largely untapped in 1938.

Other Forest Products

Besides timber and lumber, other products such as rattan, nipa, firewood, and charcoal were also created from the exploitation of the forest resources.¹³ The number of establishments engaged in the production of split and unsplit rattan were evenly distributed between these two types of products. There were also a number of establishments engaged in the production of nipa shingles. A few establishments which dealt with firewood production existed. No establishment which dealt with charcoal production for its commercial value existed in 1938.

From 1900 until 1940, products from all of these forest resources were limited and sufficed for domestic use only. Timber and lumber, together with split rattan and nipa shingles, were used domestically for house construction. The wood products were used as posts, floor and beams; while nipa and rattan were used as thatch roofing materials. In fishing villages both on the shores of Lake Lanao and on the coasts of the bays of Panguil, Iligan and Illana, timber was used for boat construction.

Timber and lumber, together with bamboo and cogon, were used by the Americans for the construction of temporary barracks and quarters in the earlier years of American rule. Even in later years, when galvanized iron was used for roofs in the construction of permanent barracks and quarters, timber and lumber remained valuable as construction materials.

Public infrastructure projects, like the construction of the Iligan-Dansalan and, later, of the Dansalan-Malabang road systems also used timber and lumber. The wharves in Iligan, Malabang and Kolambugan were constructed with the use of these wood products. The construction of schools, hospitals, and others similarly made use of these construction materials.

V. Fisheries

Lanao is blessed with large marine and fresh bodies of water. The bays of Panguil, Iligan and Illana, especially the swamps which frame them, consisted veritable rich fishery resources. Lake Lanao, other and smaller lakes, and marshes found in low lying areas between mountains were rich freshwater fishery resources.

Marine Fisheries¹⁴

The bays of Iligan and Illana were rich grounds for shallow and deepwater fishing; while the bay of Panguil was a rich shallow fishing ground. In these bodies of marine water, many fish, crustacean and mollusk species abounded, most of which were gathered for their commercial value.

Fishing establishments were engaged in the capture of any of the fish, or any combination of the following fishery resources: herring and sardine, bonito, skipjack, albacora, chub mackerel, Spanish mackerel, red snapper, cavalla, anchovy, mullet, grouper, lizard fish, shrimp and others. Besides, crabs, siganid, surgeon fish, squid, and turbo trochas were also among those fishery resources available, although in insignificant quantities only.

All these fishes were produced at varying quantities at different times of the year, and measured either by boxes or by kilos. Among these fish which were measured in boxes, it was herring which was gathered the most; while among those measured in kilos, it was bonito which was gathered the most.

The commercial values of these fishery products also varied, although some like caesio, nemopterid, and lizard fish and others, more or less remained the same. Among those fish measured in boxes, it was herring and sardine which commanded

the highest prices; while among those fish measured in kilos, it was grouper which commanded the highest price.

Inland Fisheries¹⁵

The inland fisheries resources of Lanao were not exploited as much as its marine or offshore fisheries resources. Although there already existed ten fishponds in Lanao in 1938, with an aggregate area of 1,822 hectares, much of Lanao's inland fishery resources remained untapped. In terms of production, inland fisheries production lagged behind its marine counterpart. Except for mullet, with which four establishments were engaged in its production (but only in limited quantities), the rest of the inland fishery resources were not exploited to any extent for their commercial values. The production of crab, grouper, shrimp, catfish, mudfish, bream, and others consistently remained insignificantly small.

Lake Lanao was the major source of fish and other fresh water sources of the inhabitants in the lakeside communities. Although there was a variety of fish, shrimp, snail and others, that could either be caught by fishing or simply by gathering, production was small, although it sufficed for household needs. The little surplus that was realized was usually brought to the market in many of the population centers in the lake area.

A large part of Panguil Bay is part of Lanao; it is a veritable rich fishery ground, where brackish water fishery resources were plentiful. It was in this area where the fishponds were found, all ten of them, by which some 1,390 individuals earned their living in 1938. But the total area devoted to fish culture was incredibly small. While production in these fishery units were aimed at the domestic market, there was no attempt to develop the expanse of marsh, swamp and mangrove for largescale fish production until 1938.

Of these fishery resources, it was fish and shrimp that could easily be preserved. The inhabitants were skilled at fish

preservation; however, it was limited to drying, smoking, and salting. Dried, salted, smoked fish and dried shrimp were usually produced for household consumption. Besides surplus fresh fish, crustaceans, mollusks, some seaweeds, preserved fish and shrimps were among the surplus fishery products which were often brought to the market.

VI. Summary and Conclusion

It was the eastern extension of the Bukidnon-Lanao-Cotabato plateau region which the Americans demarcated as Lanao, which they differently organized several times from 1900 until the outbreak of World War II.

Here lived the Maranaos and the Illanuns, two Muslim groups related ethnolinguistically. The former were densely concentrated in the Lake Lanao area and its vicinities in the plateau; the latter were sparsely scattered along the coast of the Illana Bay.

Given their natural resources and their ingenuity and industry, the inhabitants produced from the wealth of the land by farming, fishing, logging and other productive activities. Throughout the period of 1900-1940, subsistence agriculture -- the natural economy of Lanao -- continued to flourish, affected minimally by the penetration of meager capital in plantation agriculture. Subsistence agriculture, supplemented in part by fishing, logging, lumber production, and craft making, coexisted with plantation agriculture. It was subsistence agriculture and the other economic activities of the inhabitants that created the products for domestic consumption. Plantation agriculture, on the other hand, since it had limited success in Lanao, penetrated the economy most slowly with mixed results. Because this new type of economy aimed at the production of cash crops for foreign markets, it did not drastically alter the natural economy. The same prevailed in the exploitation of the forest and fisheries resources of Lanao despite their potentials for commercial exploitation.

Well within the period, at a time when capital transformed many natural economy of Mindanao in many of its provinces, especially on the eastern and western parts, Lanao continued to remain as the least penetrated by capital, both foreign and local. At first it was the unsettled peace and order situation that discouraged the flow of capital. But capital flow, as encouraged and supported by the government, was least practicable in Lanao for other reasons as well. Its mountainous terrain worked against the opening of coffee, cacao, rubber, and coconut plantations in scales much larger than the small areas would allow. No vast flatlands ideal for fiber crops exist, not even in the Kapatagan Valley, which was rather too marshy, becoming alternately wet and dry with the swing of the seasons. The grasslands were rather small for the opening of pastures for commercial livestock raising.

While many areas in Mindanao felt the tremendous impact of capitalist penetration, the same could not be said of Lanao. For this reason, the natural economy largely remained unaffected. Thus the inhabitants continued to till and cultivate only small patches of land for traditional cereals, vegetables, fruits, raised livestock and poultry, logged the forest for timber and lumber, fished and gathered aquatic resources, and hunted wild game and fowl. The products created were, in the main, for domestic consumption only rather than for the market, where the little surplus was brought for sale. At the time when the thrust was the production of export crops, coffee, together with hemp and copra became the exports of Lanao. Still, the quantities were not large. In short, the natural economy, which coexisted with plantation agriculture, predominated, enough only to suffice for their domestic needs, and whatever little surplus was created was brought to market.

Coffee remained the traditional export product and, with the emergence of small plantations of abaca and coconut from 1903 and onward, hemp and copra became the new exports. Except for the negligible participation of enterprising individual native of Lanao, these new exports were controlled by outsiders -- Americans, Europeans, Chinese, and a few Christian Filipinos

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