

could also obtain accommodation, but at the usual first-class hotel rates. Its great main diningroom is magnificent. A smaller one, wherein the Rotray Club and similar organizations hold their periodical luncheons and dinners, is air-conditioned, as also are the more expensive sleeping and residential apartments; its room service was excruciatingly slow, its servants slack and indifferent, for until the Japs took over, every employee in the place, from manager to page-boy, was either a relative, a friend, or friend-of-a-friend, of some local personage having political pull. For sycophancy had become a curse in the Islands ever since America handed over governmental control from its own hands to those of the Filipinos themselves.

To crown this proud edifice, a luxurious pent-house was added some years ago, especially for the accommodation of General McArthur, commander-in-chief of the Philippines Army, and therein the General and his family lived, rent free, until the outbreak of the Pacific war.

I found in the Manila Hotel quite a few old acquaintances, most of them from the China Coast, all waiting anxiously for steamers to take them away - to America, Australia, India, South Africa - anywhere outside the radius of the coming war. Others were bound, not from, but to China, business men and Consular officials returning to their posts from homo-loavo, and journalists keen on the scent of war news.

#### LANDED - AND STRANDED.

In the first week of December the "President Madison" and "President Harrison" arrived, both crowded with American Marines from Shanghai - some 800 of them - and with civilian men, women and children, mainly British. Most of these people had been shipped out of China with Consular assistance, and so were ill-provided in the matter of funds for their future needs.

After landing the Marines on the 'impregnable' island-fortress, Corregidor, and dumping the civilians ashore in Manila, the "Madison" sailed for Singapore with her now cargo of military supplies and men, and the "Harrison" turned back in her tracks to go north again, for the purpose of bringing down some 400 more American Marines who were stationed in Peking, Tientsin, and Chingangtao. Whether the "Madison" ever reached Singapore I do not know, last news received from her in Manila coming from North Borneo whilst on route for that port. Since my return to Canada I have learned that ultimately she arrived in San Francisco with absolutely empty holds. The "Harrison" was captured by the Japanese Navy and her captain and crew are now interned in Shanghai. The Marines she was sent to rescue, but never reached, are likewise in Jap hands in China.