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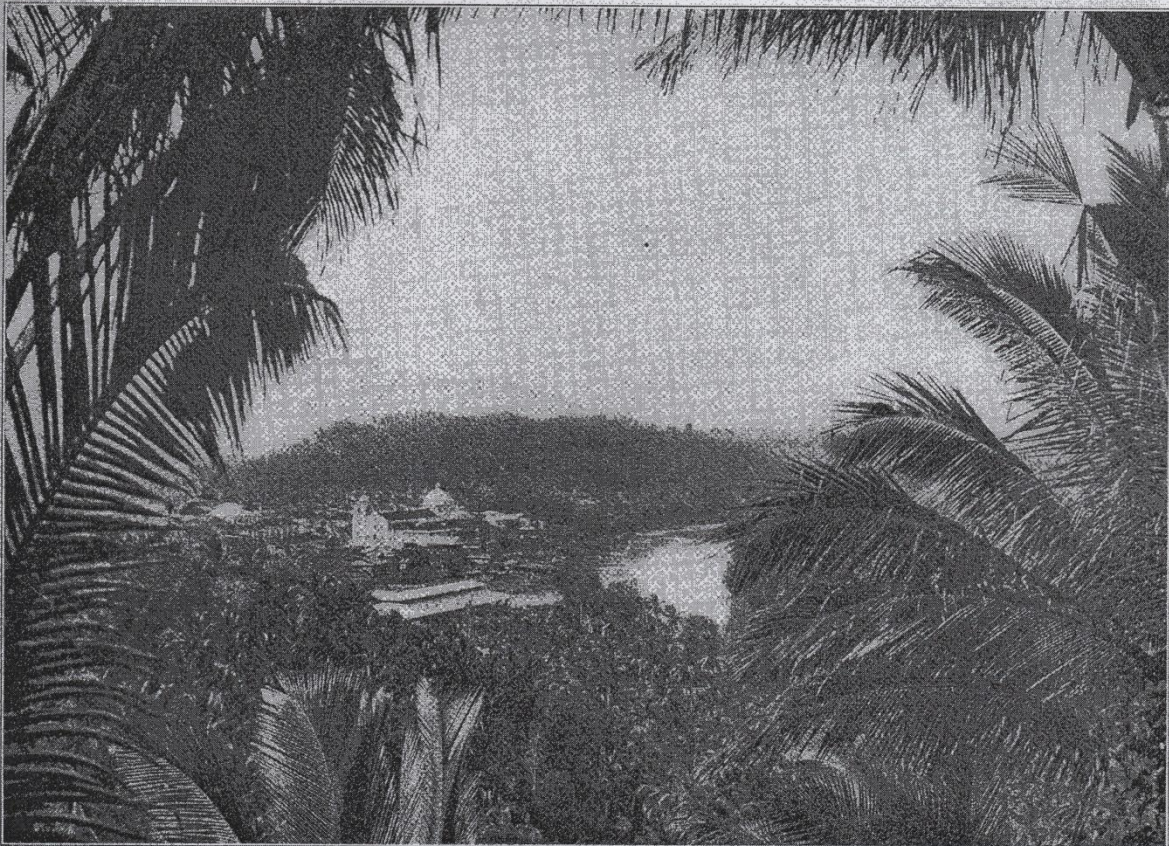
## PAGSANJAN FALLS

ONE of the prettiest and wildest spots in the Philippine Islands lies within easy reach of Manila. Pagsanjan, in itself worth seeing for its beautiful residences and the surrounding forests, can be reached in three and one-half hours by train through a lovely coconut country. There are good hotel accommodations with clean beds and food. Everything is done for the tourist; arrangements are made for boats and guides, and lunches are pro-

vided. Splendid roads for automobiles lead here also, and parties from Manila are constantly spending week ends in this lovely provincial town.

split bamboo chair with reclining back and bottom of bamboo splints. The two boatmen take their places at the ends of the boat and push off into the small stream for a few hundred yards to Pagsanjan River.

The boat is paddled up the river past large rafts of coconuts, by great trees dipping their leaves into the river. Along the shores are parties of laughing people—some bathing and some washing clothes.



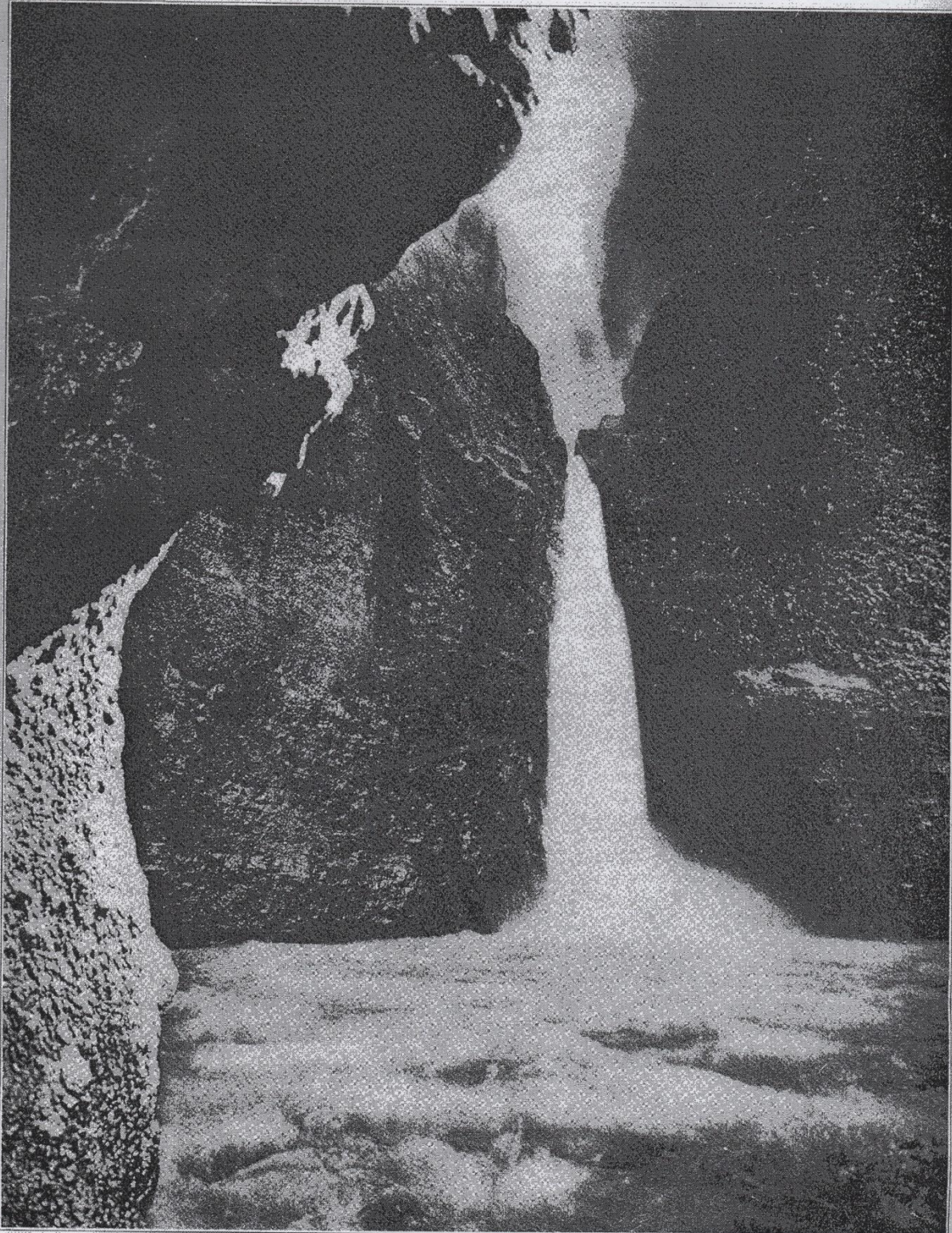
PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA, SEEN THROUGH COCONUT TREES FROM A NEIGHBORING HILL.

vided. Splendid roads for automobiles lead here also, and parties from Manila are constantly spending week ends in this lovely provincial town.

From the hotel you walk a short distance to a long row of bancas, prow on shore, and a noisy throng of men clamoring for the favor of your patronage; but you have probably chosen men at the hotel and are conducted to certain boats by your guide. In the center of your boat is the seat, a

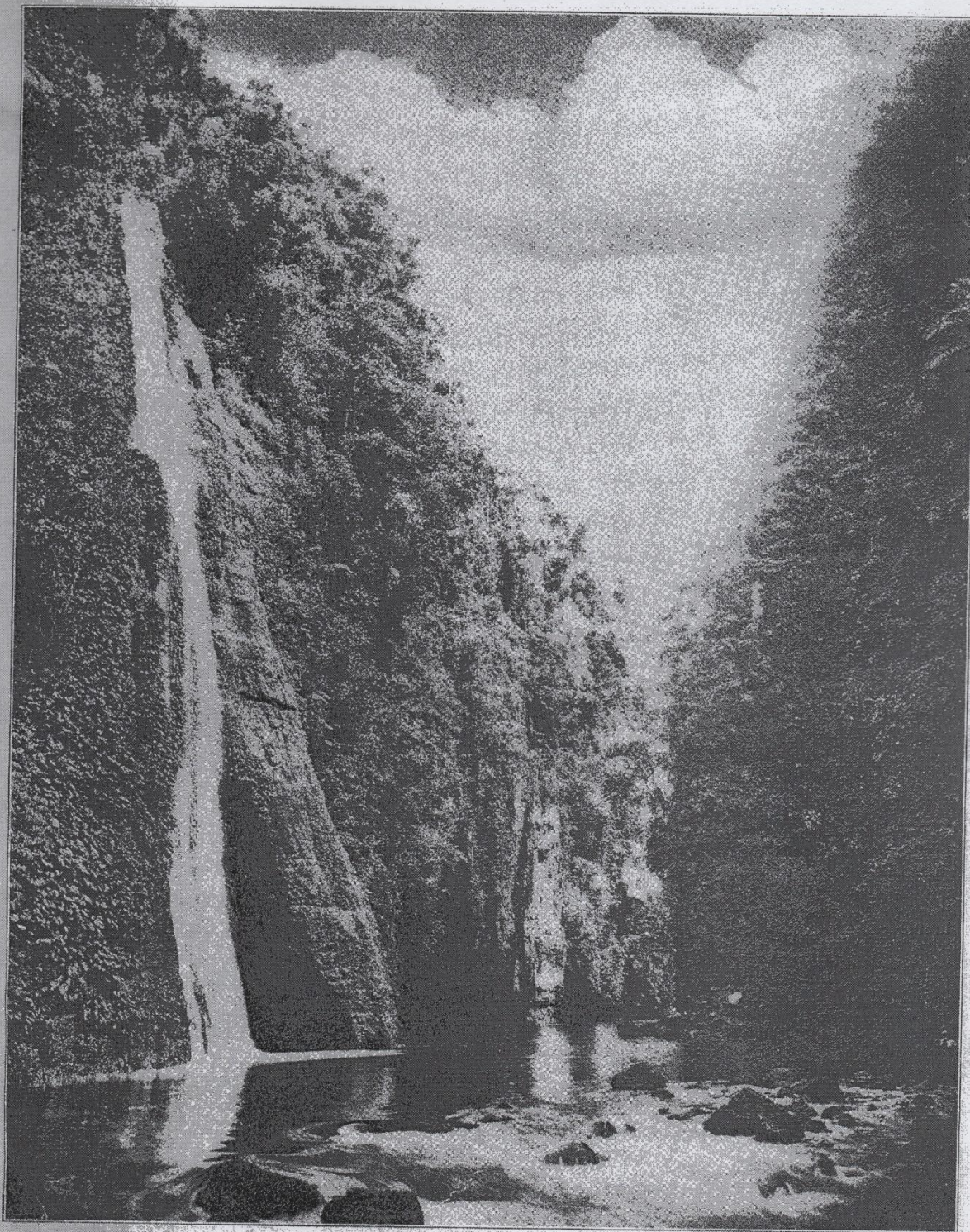
Now there are long reaches of quiet water, clear and deep; then banks begin to rise above you; there is a swirl here, a ripple there, and a swish below the gunwale. You are drawing toward the rapids. The boatmen get out into the water and pull and tug and shove; the water sucks viciously. The boat enters the gorge and its shadows. The river becomes silent stretches of black water, and the air is cold. Above for hundreds of feet tower the great





THE FIRST FALLS.





THE SECOND FALLS.

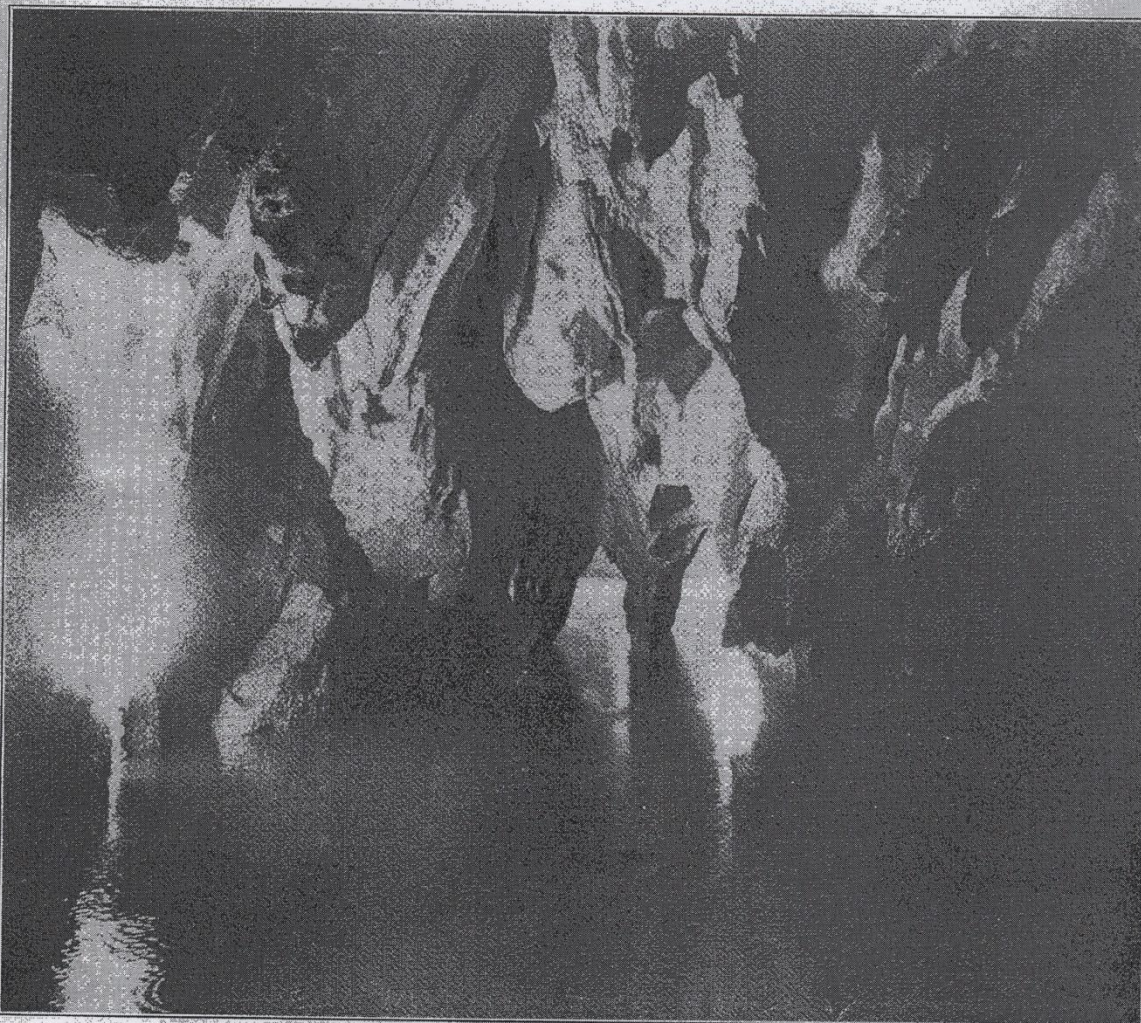


cliffs of Pagsanjan, to which cling vines, desperate trees, and dripping shrubs. On all sides are falls, breaking upon the rocks and filling the cañon with a pleasant murmur; then more rapids and sweeps of fierce water. Great bowlders have fallen into the river. Unable to paddle against the current or to wade, the men now fight painfully forward by clinging to vines, the rocks, anything. Then out of the boat again, lifting it and you bodily up steps of pouring water, around corners, shooting across a quiet pool into a fury of cascading foam. At times you scramble out of the boat and detour a little over intervening rocks, while the fight with the river goes on. For two hours the journey continues, until you come to the end—a large pool, above you Pagsanjan Falls, around, the insurmountable cliffs fringed above by

shining palms. Monkeys and iguanas scurry over the slippery bluffs complaining at intrusion.

You should go prepared to rough it. Only a bathing suit is worn in the boats, and except at times of low water kodaks had better be left at the hotel, for rapids lap over the side. Indeed many have been the spills in the swift water. But there is no danger, and a wetting is of no consequence. The whole trip need cost no more than twenty pesos nor occupy more than a day and a half.

It is a wonderful trip for those who enjoy the wilds. There are few prettier spots in the world. Those who have seen the falls are surprised that the Islands contain such a scenic jewel; indeed, some maintain that Pagsanjan Falls are without an equal anywhere.



SUBTERRANEAN RIVER, ST. PAUL'S BAY, PALAWAN. TAKEN BY FLASH LIGHT, LOOKING TOWARD THE EXIT.