

SANITARY MEASURES DURING FIESTAS

(Sec. 164, C.P.C.)

The following extract from a communication dated September 16, 1915, of the Director of Health is published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

"In connection with the work for the control and eradication of dangerous communicable diseases, one of the means by which the efforts of the health officials are rendered ineffective in some measure, is the annually recurring 'fiesta.'

"A 'fiesta' means a concentration from all portion of nearby territory of an extraordinary amount of food-stuffs, much of which are improperly prepared and handled, and exposed to contamination. The reason for the 'fiesta' may be a celebration at some religious shrine to which many sick people are brought in the hope of improvement. Any contagious disease which may exist at any of the points from which these foods and people come may thus be carried to and concentrated at the place at which the 'fiesta' is held, and, it has been found by actual experience that diseases have been spread in this way, not only to most of the territory from which the people came, but to points at a great distance therefrom.

"The reasons for this distribution of disease have been a lack of sanitary preparation to accommodate the crowds and insufficient effort to control the preparation and sale of food and drink provided. In order to meet this menace, each and every town at which

a 'fiesta' is held should make the following provision to care for the extraordinary population and its attendant conditions:

"(1) To provide temporary convenience station at points of greatest concentration, such as near the church, at the feria, near cinematographs, the plaza, etc. These convenience stations must be adequate to care for the demands of the crowds; must be kept clean, disinfected, and otherwise supervised; and their contents must be disposed of as often as necessary and in a thorough manner.

"(2) The water supply must receive careful attention. It must, of itself, be safe at its source, and must thereafter be handled in a cleanly manner.

"(3) All foodstuffs must be carefully supervised to provide for their protection for flies, for the destruction of decayed and unsafe food, and for their general handling and service in a cleanly manner.

"To meet these abnormal conditions it will be necessary not only for the sanitary and police forces of a town to put forth extraordinary efforts, but additional personnel must be provided to ensure efficient supervision and service. It is probable that in some cases the expense of this precautionary work will tax the resources of the municipality, but since all surrounding municipalities, and in fact, the entire province, are vitally interested to prevent the introduction of epidemic diseases, they may properly be expected to assist by the loan of sanitary and police employees.

* * * The experiment at Antipolo during 1915, which was inaugurated, and managed and paid for in a great measure, by the insular authorities, showed conclusively that if the proper preparations are made, the 'fiesta' may be conducted in the sanitary manner and, instead of proving a menace to the people of the town and of the surrounding territory, will prove a means for educating and improving them. If it were possible to secure similar pre-

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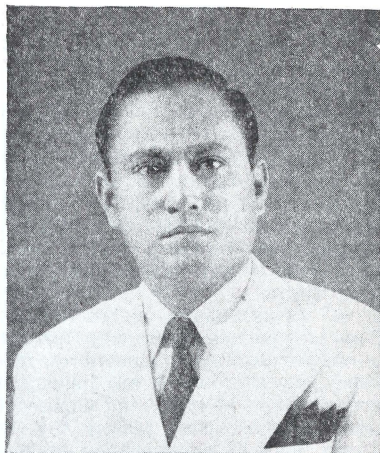
Sanitary . . .

paration in the case of every 'fiesta' held, they would cease to be detrimental to the public health.

"These 'fiestas' undoubtedly bring a great deal of money to the towns at which they are held and are an important source of revenue to the townspeople, but if they also bring with them diseases which cost the municipal, provincial, and insular governments large sums of money to eradicate, they cease to be a benefit, and become a bad business proposition, carrying with them losses in life and money which make them most undesirable."

The above suggestions of the Director of Health are approved by this Office as they will undoubtedly contribute to the eradication of dangerous communicable disease. Municipal councils, therefore, are directed to comply therewith strictly, and for the purpose, consult with the health authorities as to the best means of carrying out the above suggestions at least two months before the date of the celebration of

Our Local . . .



FILEMON SAMACO
*Municipal Mayor of Calapan,
Mindoro.*

Born Nov. 22, 1902, in Calapan, Mindoro; married to Marta Ylagan; high school graduate and second grade eligible; had been public school teacher, bud-rat inspector, deputy governor; paymaster, auditing clerk, and, previous to his election to his present post, acting municipal mayor of the same municipality by appointment. *Hobbies:* Reading books and poultry raising. *Motto:* "Be Helpful".

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the *fiesta* in the municipality.

Failure to comply with the above instructions will be considered by this Office sufficient cause for the imposition of disciplinary punishment upon the negligent officials.

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Mama, when the fire goes out where does it go?

My dear boy, I don't know. You might just as well ask me where your father goes when he goes out.