

■ Here is a brief sketch of the life of a Filipino intellectual.

TEODORO KALAW

Students of contemporary history remember him as an intellectual leader who was in the forefront of the campaign for Philippine independence. As close adviser to presidents Quezon and Osmeña, Kalaw was an active participant in the epoch-making events especially during the first two decades up to the Commonwealth period.

Kalaw's intellectual leadership can be traced to as far back as his student days. He attended the Escuela Pia, Escuela de Latinidad, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Instituto de Rizal and Liceo de Manila where he won honors in all academic subjects and most medals for scholastic excellence.

At 13, in Letran, Kalaw obtained "sobresaliente" in all courses. In all these schools Kalaw showed early promise of becoming a great writer and leader. After graduating with high honors from the Liceo, Kalaw took

up law in the Escuela de Derecho, the first Filipino College of Law, where he was graduated at the age of 21. He became the college director later.

At 23, Kalaw was offered the editorship of *El Renacimiento*, the most influential newspaper at the time. With him in the staff were such literary luminaries as Fidel Reyes, Claro M. Recto, Pedro Aunario, Jesus Balmori, Manuel Bernabe and others.

At 26, as an elected representative from the third district of Batangas to the Philippine Assembly, his most important contributions were those creating the Commission on Independence and reorganizing the executive departments of the government. The first measure was in preparation of the Philippines for self-rule, and the second was for creation of the positions of cabinet undersecretaries to serve as link and effect continuity of department functions often

disturbed by change of political climate.

At 33, Kalaw was appointed undersecretary and three years later succeeded Rafael Palma as secretary of the interior. During the two-year period from 1923 to 1925, he was made executive secretary and chief adviser of the Commission on Independence. The years from 1929 to 1939 was his longest continuous service in one office, when he was appointed director of the National Library. His predecessors were such eminent scholars as Epifanio de los Santos, Macario Adriatico and Dr. Pardo de Tavera. Long before this, in 1916, Kalaw had a short stint as the Library director for one year.

Among his works were: *Hacia la Tierra del Czar*; *La Constitucion de Malolos*; *El Devorcio en Filipinas*; *La Ideas Politicas de la Revolucion Filipina*; *Principios de Vida Social*; *Teorias Constitucionales*; *Como se Puedo Mejorar Nuestra Legislacion*;

El Plan Constitucional de la Revolucion Filipina; *El Ideario Politico de Mabini*; *Manuel de Ciencia Politica*; *La Masoneria Filipina*; *La Revolucion Filipina*; *Court Martial of Andres Bonifacio*; *La Compania del Coumin-tang*, *Dietario Espiritual*; *Gregorio del Pilar*; *Las Cartas Politicas de Mabini*; *El Espiritu de la Revolucion*, *Cinco Reglas de Nuestra Moral Antigua*, and *Aide-de-Camp to Freedom*, his autobiography, translated from the Spanish by his daughter Senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak and published by the Teodoro M. Kalaw Society.

Retana, that famous Rizal biographer, in praise of *Hacia La Tierra del Czar*, a book written by Kalaw after and about his trip to Russia, said: "The chief characteristic of Kalaw is his virility. . . his spirited ingenuity. Kalaw, as no other writer of his country, has that first requisite, an artistic temperament. . ." — V. G. Suarez in *Manila Bulletin*.