

Nature So Ordains

THE courage and noble ideals of Japan in plunging herself in this war and in championing the cause of all Asians and the need of full Filipino collaboration with Japan through the guidance of the Philippine Executive Commission during this time of emergency were stressed by Commissioner Claro M. Recto and Commissioner Quintin Paredes on the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Philippine Executive Commission.

Filipino participation in the present administration is an eloquent expression of their faith in the ultimate glorious destiny of all Asians and of their unshaken confidence in Japan's chivalrous leadership in the struggle to release and liberate them from all forms of bondage, domination and exploitation, declared Commissioner of Education, Health and Public Welfare Claro M. Recto.

Japan's Altruism

The altruism of Japan's motives in this war and the sincerity of the Filipino coöperation with Japan, said Mr. Recto, are nowhere better demonstrated than in the establishment of the commission one year ago. Far from wishing to suppress the native institutions and spirit of the Filipinos, he further said, the Japanese displayed their noble desire to elevate the down-trodden peoples of Asia to their proper places in the world. Nothing, he explained, could have been easier or more logical for Japan than to treat the Philippines as a conquered territory and impose the martial law

to the fullest and severest extent, conscript the populace and exploit the natural resources of the country.

But instead, Mr. Recto stressed, Japan chose the path of righteousness and idealism, and invited the Filipino people to coöperate with the rest of East Asians under a régime of peaceful co-existence and stable co-prosperity. The extent of Japan's sacrifice may be measured from the advantages she forfeited with this course of action. She yielded a notable measure of control over the territory she had conquered at the cost of the lifeblood of her soldiers; shared the fruits of victory with those who had fought her on the battlefield; and restrained her vital and supreme needs for material resources in the midst of a war where her very existence was at stake.

When the commissioners accepted the responsibility of serving in the present administration, Mr. Recto continued, they were moved by the firm resolve to lay down the foundations of a stable politics, economy and culture which will endure and produce happiness because they rest on natural relations and coöperation among the kindred nations of East Asia.

"In the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, Japan has staked her future to make the East more habitable, to bring dignity and honor to the much despised Asians and to let them live their own lives as they will untrammelled and unimpeded by the imposition of Occidental nations."

So said Quintin Paredes, Commissioner of Public Works and Communications.

Active Factor

Commissioner Paredes said that in this fashion, the Orient, which has its instructive and characteristic culture and civilization, will be identified among other countries and will become an active factor in the universal efforts to elevate mankind to a level in which war, as a means of settlement of international differences, will be forever condemned.

According to the commissioner, Nature has ordained that the Filipinos live in the Orient, that the land of their birth have for neighbors their brother Orientals, that as one of the Asiatic races, the cause of the Filipinos be inseparably interwoven with the destiny of their kins. The Philippines lies within the radius of the Sphere and consequently in the path of the war to win "Asia for the Asiatics."

"Could we afford," he asked, "to ignore the results of present events and persist in daydreaming of a future that will never come? The champion of the Asians has generously offered leadership and guidance, and during the last year, has extended to us a chance to

share in the administration of our Government according to our pattern. Is there any reason, on the part of any Oriental, to refuse coöperation with the aggressive champion of his welfare and well-being?

"The Executive Commission, realizing the trend of events, decided to extend full coöperation with the Japanese Military Administration. It is the choice that was inspired by the conviction that Japan's intention in establishing the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is motivated by altruism for brother Asians. It is the only decision that could be made if the interest and future of our people must be protected.

"The result of our collaboration during the last year is shown by the restoration of peace and order, and by the resumption of normal activities in Manila and in many parts of the Philippines. The Filipino people should feel secure in the wise decisions of the Executive Commission, under the chairmanship of His Excellency, Jorge B. Vargas, for only the happiness and prosperity of our people will determine our line of action."

