

RICOA Starts Buying Rice, Corn

Board, Administrative Staff Now Constituted With Sabido As Head

With the completion of its organization, the RICOA has now entered upon its functions intensively, having begun buying rice and corn in accordance with plans recently drawn up. Thru its offices and branches in the rice-producing areas, rice is being purchased as fast as harvest conditions permit.

President Jose P. Laurel today appointed the following officers of the RICOA: Board Chairman, Minister Pedro Sabido; Members, Messrs. Teofilo Sison, Leon G. Guinto, Hilarión S. Silayan, Ricardo Gonzales, Vicente Singson Encarnación, and Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. Arturo Tango is the Managing Director, with Army Administrator G. T. Uzaki as alternate. H. Miyake is adviser.

The recent fall in the local price of rice may be attributed to the new activity of the RICOA.

Government authorities are confident that the slump in the price of the cereal will pull down the prices of other goods and commodities considerably and will greatly lower the present high cost of living in Manila as well as in the provinces.

Malolos New B-S Center

MALolos, Nov. 26.—This capital of one of the richest provinces of Central Luzon is fast assuming the air of a minor metropolis, due to the heavy influx of evacuees from Manila. The situation here can be duplicated in the nearby towns of Bulacan, Hagonoy, Sta. Maria, Baliwag, and San Rafael, whose populations have practically doubled since June.

About forty kilometers from Manila, surrounded by ricefields and fishponds, Malolos has always been self-sufficient, and the townspeople, sensing the boom that came with the coming of evacuees, have increased their vegetable acreage by at least twice, while substantially enlarging also their areas to rice, camote, corn, and other food crops. The result of this foresight has been almost miraculous, for there is no food problem here, and the prices of foodstuffs have not soared as high as elsewhere.

Take rice, for instance. Rice is easily procurable at less than ₱200 per ganta, and the tendency, during the last few days, has been downward. Rice may now be bought at from ₱150 to ₱170 a ganta, new crop.

Camotes and corn sell at less than ₱80 a kilo for the former, and less than ₱100 per ganta for the latter.

Bangus sells on the average for (Continued on page 3)

Speaker Calls On Nation To Carry On Work Of National Heroes In November Thirtieth Message

NATIONAL HEROES' DAY PROGRAM WILL BE GIVEN BY RADIO

National Heroes Day will be observed this year without the usual fanfare of previous years, the observance being limited to a national broadcast in which President Laurel will be the sole speaker and to a literary program at the Metropolitan Theater under the auspices of the New Philippines' Leaders Society, of which Assemblyman Pio Duran is president.

The celebration this year has been entrusted to the Kalibapi, of which Speaker Benigno S. Aquino, is Director-General. The hour set for the national broadcast is from 8:00 to 8:30 p. m., with the President speaking from Malacanán by remote control. Choice musical numbers consisting of the best Philippine melodies performed by the foremost local artists will precede the President's speech.

The Metropolitan Theater program will be given in the afternoon at 4 o'clock and will include both literary and musical selections.

It is believed that the quiet observance of the day is in keeping with the spirit of the times. It is hoped that a celebration that is simple yet solemn will go far in reminding the people of the significance of the day, especially in the present period of emergency.

TIRONA GRATEFUL FOR NEW DONATIONS

In a statement released late last week in behalf of the Special Relief Committee of which he is Chairman, Minister Emiliano Tria Tirona of Health, Labor and Public Welfare, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the interest and cooperation of social workers, donors and others responsible for giving the Christmas relief fund drive an auspicious start.

Minister Tirona's statement in full follows:

"In the midst of the present plight of our people, when many homes are visited by the spectre of hunger, it is a great consolation to note and witness that the traditional Christian virtue of charity of our countrymen and foreigners as well has not changed. So many tears will be dried, so many mouths of children, old and destitute crying for food, will be satisfied, at least temporarily, and the naked will have clothing. Interpreting the sentiments of His Excellency, the President, whose interest for the welfare of the poor and destitute is unparalleled, I say that he is very deeply impressed by the generous and spontaneous response being given by many of our countrymen and foreigners to our call for relief of the suffering people, as well as by the great and disinterested activity shown by the distinguished ladies constituting

(Continued on page 2)

Aquino Suggests, Thru "The Republic," Quiet Tribute And Simple Prayer For Dead Leaders Of P. I. Struggles For Freedom

By BENIGNO S. AQUINO
Speaker, National Assembly
Vice-President and Director-General, KALIBAPI

National Heroes' Day comes once a year as a timely reminder of the historic struggles of our people to attain national independence and racial dignity. It comes at this time to evoke in us memories of a past rich in the sacrifice and achievement of men of our own race, of our own blood, who have given of themselves unsparringly so that the ideal of centuries may be realized and so that their posterity may enjoy the blessings of a life of freedom, honor and security.

Amidst the sufferings that today torture both body and soul, amidst the tragedy that envelops our entire country, and amidst the apparent uncertainties that seem to lie ahead, all because we are caught in the vortex of a total war, November 30 stands out clear and undimmed to guide us along the straight and only course that should lead us to national salvation.

This day dedicated to the memory of our heroes must serve as a beacon in the passing storm to lead us to the ultimate consummation of our Destiny. Our heroes have long and painfully chartered the route that our career in independent nationhood should follow and I say today, "We follow that route, the only route that will assure us a life of self-respect and dignity and happiness. Let's follow wherever our independence leads us to, cost what it may; let's conserve the advances it has given us; and safeguard our Republic, the sacred embodiment of all that has been sacrificed by our heroes in the past and by those of our generation and the motive-power of all progress and achievement in the future."

On this sacred day, let us remember those who have made our present progress and liberty possible, not with the pageantry and the gaudy fanfare of past celebrations, but with a silent tribute and a solemn prayer within the inner temples of our own souls that we whom they have left behind may be deserving of the legacy that has been passed on to us and that we to whom they have handed the torch may have the courage and the strength to hold it high unextinguished even amidst the vicissitudes and trials that today weaken men's determination and valor.

I can pay no higher tribute to him in whose honor November 30 is primarily commemorated, Andres Bonifacio, "Father of the Katipunan," than by recalling some of his chosen words:

"Worship the Creator with all (Continued on page 2)

DOCUMENTARY STAMPS DEMAND GROWS HEAVY

An extraordinarily heavy demand for documentary stamps has been noted recently, confidential sources have informed the Republic. This indicates heavy transactions in the sale of real estate and other properties.

However, it was gathered from the cashier's office of the bureau of customs and internal revenue, that among heavy buyers are government officials. One particular buyer is reported to have purchased no less than ₱500,000 worth of documentary stamps, and still another, ₱300,000.

While there have been heavy demands for special stamp issues of the Republic since one year ago, specially those cancelled at the Manila post-office, this is the first time that the bureau of customs and internal revenue has experienced something akin to a boom in documentary stamp sale.

Kalibapi, Mother's Day To Be Observed Next Monday, Dec. 4

Next Monday, December 4, will be both Kalibapi and Mother's Day. As Kalibapi Day, it is an official holiday dedicated to the National Service Association known as *Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas*.

Assistant Director-General Dominador Tan and Women's Director Francisca T. Benitez will speak over the radio at the program celebrating the day at 8:00 p. m. It is presumed that Mr. Tan will speak on the Kalibapi and Mrs. Benitez on Mother's Day as well as the part that the women have in the Kalibapi.

By executive order of the President, Kalibapi Day is observed throughout the country. Mother's Day, for the first time, will be publicly observed under the Republic on the first Monday of December, dedicated to all mothers and to womanhood in general.

CUCUMBERS, NOT BOOKS, BRING FELIZA WEALTH

Feliza Acuna was a barrio teacher in Polo, Bulacan, at the time the war engulfed the Philippines. Then the school system was disrupted and she lost her permanent employment. So with her husband, who was a driver,

That is history. Today, they are among the biggest shippers of cucumbers to Manila. They turned their backyards into cucumber plots, and persuaded the neighbors in Pasolo, Polo, to do likewise. Today, with a weekly yield of 5,000 cucumbers weighing about a kilo

(Continued on page 2)

Shoe Prices Unheard-Of; Can't Anything Be Done?

Inspired by the positive action taken by the Negros special court of criminal jurisdiction against criminal profiteering, placing shoes in the same bracket as prime necessities, a representative of the Republic made the rounds of shoe stores still open, on Rizal Avenue, Azcarraga, and the Escolta, to see how shoe prices have advanced criminally.

In the two biggest shoe stores on Azcarraga near Juan Luna, rubber-soled and heeled shoes that sold for ₱450 a pair in the first week of November, were found tagged at from ₱650 to ₱1,000. Children's shoes that were priced ₱150 a pair two weeks ago are now bearing price tags of ₱350.

Priority Given To Homeless City Residents

Preference Is Granted To Persons Who Lose Houses In Emergency

In order to provide homes for city residents who have been dispossessed of their dwellings by reason of the needs of the Imperial Japanese Forces for housing facilities and for those whose dwellings were burned or destroyed as a result of air-raids, President Jose P. Laurel has issued Executive Order No. 106 authorizing the occupancy of residential buildings owned or leased by residents of the city who have evacuated to the provinces.

The executive order which was promulgated on November 22 reads as follows:

"SECTION 1. All residential buildings in the City of Manila, or parts thereof, which are owned or leased by residents of said city who have evacuated to the provinces or cities are hereby made available to the public for occupancy. Said buildings or parts thereof shall be leased, preference being given to city residents who have been dispossessed of their dwellings by reason of the needs and demands of the Imperial Japanese Forces for housing facilities, and then to those whose dwellings have been burned, destroyed, or otherwise lost, or who have been compelled to vacate the same for military or

(Continued on page 2)

Aid Of Church Heads Sought

In a circular letter to all church dignitaries and heads of religious organizations, Minister of Home Affairs Teofilo Sison, in his capacity as Chief Delegate of the President and Inspector-General of Martial Law, urged that religious institutions help in the maintenance of peace and order throughout the country.

"As the church," Minister Sison stated, "has always been one of the most effective institutions through which the people can be informed of the wisdom and necessity of strict compliance with the mandates of the law, it is most earnestly requested that you kindly ask your priests, ministers, and pastors to transmit to the people this information and the appeal of the government for their cooperation."

Minister Sison's letter follows: "During these crucial times, when our soil has again been converted into a battlefield, we beg to remind you and, through you, all the followers of your church, of the terms and conditions embodied in

(Continued on page 2)

Here To Assist New-Born Republic--Gen. Yamasita

At a state dinner tendered in honor of General Tomoyuki Yamasita, Highest Commander of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines, by President Jose P. Laurel at Malacanán the other Sunday, the Hero of Singapore declared that his mission of helping the independent Philippines grow unmolested by any force and from any source will be fulfilled even at the sacrifice of his own life.

"As it is a natural law," General Yamasita said, "that man should be free, that man should be

to stand on his own feet and live the life to which he is destined, unmolested and untrammelled, so it is with a country. It is written in natural and divine law that a country should be free and independent to decide its own destiny and dictate its own life.

"I wish to pledge my word of honor, and the word of honor of a soldier of Japan is definitive and irrevocable," the General continued, his voice booming with deep sincerity, "that my mission

(Continued on page 2)

The Republic

Published Weekly by THE REPUBLIC PUBLISHING CO.
Suite 28, Jai-Alai Bldg., Daitoa Ave., Manila—Tel. 2-07-56

VOL. I MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1944 No. 7

Editorials

WELL-BEGUN, SO FAR SO GOOD; NOW FOR A YEAR-LONG CITY IMPROVEMENT WEEK

We wish to add a word of commendation to that already voiced in various quarters for the City Hall authorities' initiative in organizing the Garbage Collection Week program. It is high time that a thorough clean-up of long-accumulating and stinking garbage be made. What inspiration has given a new impetus to this move, we don't bother to inquire, least of all claim to have given, although there are not a few who wish to attribute it to the frank and vigorous manner with which "The Republic" has lately focused public attention on city problems. What is important from our point of view is that this drive be not limited to just one week, but extended from week to week and from day to day throughout the year. No amount of labor can dispose of the garbage accumulated for months now in the city in just one week's time, and no city can ever become really clean unless it is kept clean every day of the year.

The President's letter to the Military Governor of Manila fully expresses the sentiment, not only of "The Republic" but also of the public in general regarding the health situation in Manila. It is probably providential that no epidemic has as yet broken out in the city and we have only God to thank for our salvation so far from the ravages of devastating diseases.

Perhaps, it was just initiative that was lacking to get the movement started. Now that such initiative is being shown, let all the credit go where it belongs, and it should be ungrudgingly given. It is, therefore, very pleasant to notice that the Military Governor has commended District Chief Ruperto Cristobal of Bagumpunanon for giving an early start to the clean-up movement within his jurisdiction. Like many other districts and all the population of Manila will soon be commended by the enthusiasm of the Military Governor and of District Chiefs like Mr. Cristobal in launching the clean-up week movement. The public has also taken notice of the work now being done to repair city streets, which are in most deplorable condition. Again, this effort to improve Manila's thoroughfares cannot fail to help the people and it is widely appreciated.

Everything so far is well started. Now, let all the apparent enthusiasm be not just like most other beginnings as we understand such things in our country, momentary and short-lived. Let us, indeed, have a year-long city clean-up and street-improvement week.

ON NATIONAL HEROES' DAY

We fully agree with Speaker Aquino, whose statement appears in this issue, that it is not in keeping with the spirit of the times to celebrate National Heroes' Day, Thursday, Nov. 30, with the fanfare and pomp that we have been accustomed to associate with our patriotic days. We also believe with the Speaker that it is enough that individually we should remember the day and pay our tribute of respect to the dead with a word of prayer said silently within the innermost recesses of our hearts, a prayer of gratitude and self-dedication to the task of nation-building left to us to continue and to complete.

On Independence Day and during national ceremonies we have already adopted the practice of saying en masse at a given hour a one-minute prayer for our heroes and for the success of our Republic. Let the manner of our National Heroes' Day prayer be different. Let it be personalized and intimate. Let everyone, at any time of his own choosing, pause for a brief moment from the work on hand, from conversations going on, from anything that one may happen to be doing, and lift his eyes heaven-ward or bow his head downward and in silent meditation fix his mind's gaze upon his soul's own image of his particular hero and say, for example:

"May your great deeds inspire me at this hour of trial for our people and give me strength and courage and determination to carry on with my share of the great task you left behind. And may it please the Almighty to make me deserving of the fruits of your sacrifices so that I may be able to contribute in however small and humble measure towards the work you have so nobly begun, that of seeking to make our people strong, happy, prosperous and dignified, and our Republic great and enduring."

PROVINCES NEED MORE ATTENTION

Just because Manila happens to be the home of the National Government seems to be no reason for the National Government and its instrumentalities to concentrate all their attention and activities to the city. The population and the area of Manila after all are just a small portion of that of the Philippines.

Yet we can safely state that the facilities and assistance afforded the people of the provinces of Luzon are much less than those given to the people of Greater Manila alone. Take the matter of prime commodities, both when they were being distributed by the PRIMCO and now. It cannot be said that people in the provinces are much better off with respect to prime commodities than the people of Manila are. There are provinces, as a matter of fact, that for months, except when the President sent his gifts to the war widows and orphans, have not heard or seen any prime commodities such as clothing, matches, lard, petroleum, vegetable oil, etc.

May we remind and request the authorities and the agencies concerned that a little more attention be given to the provinces. There are provinces where many people, particularly children, will soon go naked for lack of clothing. In Manila clothing is just now being made available through rehabilitated ration cards. Is there any step being taken to extend the benefit to the provinces? Manila is in a doubly advantageous position in that, besides the attention being given by the NADISCO, there are many Japanese firms besides the Japanese Army and Navy themselves, that are offering prime commodities as additional compensation or attraction to people working for them. This opportunity to receive prime commodities as part compensation for labor is either totally unknown or only little known and little practiced in the provinces.

Associated Life Will Formally Open Shortly

The Associated Life Insurance Company, first Filipino life insurance company to be organized under the Republic, will formally open for business this week. The company is capitalized at ₱5,000,000.

The company will write all forms of insurance including war risks, and will accept full premiums for as many years as the

Cucumbers . . .

(Continued from page 1)

each, and with cucumbers selling at ₱45 a kilo in the city, Feliza Acuna and her husband are earning the rich rewards of their having the fine sense to turn to good Mother Earth when everything else seemed hopeless.

On Mondays and Fridays, their carretelas, laden to the rafters with cucumbers, may be seen along Villalobos street or near Divisoria. Insured may want to pay in advance.

Judges, Other Officials Appointed By President

Six judges of the Court of First Instance, an assistant solicitor general, solicitors, justices of the peace, and municipal mayors were appointed by President Jose P. Laurel, it was announced by Malacanang last week. The appointments follow:

- Constante Valera, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Cagayan;
- Maynardo Farol, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Batangas;
- Felino Villasan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Nueva Ecija;
- Marcial Rañola, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Sorsogon and Masbate; and
- Hermogenes Caluag, Judge of the Court of First Instance of Tayabas.

Gertrudo de los Reyes, as Judge of the Court of First Instance of Laguna;

Manuel P. Barcelona, as Assistant Solicitor General of the Bureau of Public Prosecution with residence at Lucena, Tayabas;

Eduardo E. Palma, as Solicitor of the Bureau of Public Prosecution with residence at Lucena, Tayabas;

Emilio Torres, as Solicitor of the Bureau of Public Prosecution with residence at Manila;

Olimpio R. Navarro, as Solicitor of the Bureau of Public Prosecution with residence at Manila;

Isidro A. Vera, as Solicitor of the Bureau of Public Prosecution with residence at Manila;

Mariano B. de Flesta, as Municipal Mayor of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya;

Commandeering Of Vehicles During Emergency Is Allowed

Issued by Military Governor Leon G. Guinto of Manila early last week was Military Order No. 2 declaring that all vehicles, excepting those belonging to army and naval authorities, may be commandeered to transport casualties during and after air-raids by city officials, police and Home Guard officers and men and district and neighborhood association officials duly authorized by the Mayor.

The Mayor's order provides: 1. All neighborhood leaders, district association presidents, barrio chiefs and members of the Metropolitan Constabulary and the Manila Home Guard, including all City officials, are charged with the duty, whenever they find a wounded person or persons during and after enemy bombing in the streets or elsewhere, of bringing them to hospitals, and they are authorized to make the first available transportation, except those operating under the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy, and utilize them for the purpose of:

Calixto Dulay, as Municipal Mayor of Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya;

Basilio Germinal, as Municipal Mayor of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya;

Wenceslao Cornejo, as Municipal Mayor of Malvar, Batangas;

Ciriaco Laurel, as Municipal Mayor of Talisay, Batangas;

Jesus Espinas, as Justice of the Peace of Pasacao, Pamplona and San Fernando, Camarines Sur; and

David Mirado, as Justice of the Peace of Milnar, Minalabac, and Gainza, Camarines Sur.

pose without paying the owner or operator for such use.

2. Any of the aforementioned officials who fails to comply with the duty would be dealt with severely under Martial Law.

3. Any owner, operator or driver of all the means of transportation enumerated that disobeys the mayor's order or refuses the use of his vehicle will be subject to arrest under Martial Law.

Revaluation of Friar Lands Is Authorized

For the purpose of protecting the rights of purchasers of friar lands, President Jose P. Laurel has promulgated Executive Order No. 103 authorizing the revaluation and reclassification of friar lands purchased from the Government only upon application of the purchaser.

The Executive Order also extends the period within which registered purchasers, whose contracts have been cancelled or have expired, may reacquire their holdings. This period is for 120 days which shall begin on November 17 when the executive order was promulgated.

Speaker Calls . . .

(Continued from page 1)

thy heart."

"Remember always that by loving thy native land, thou truly worshipst Him, for in so doing thou truly lovest thy fellowmen."

"Engrave in thy heart that it is a great honor and privilege to give thy life for the redemption of thy country from slavery."

"Serenity, patience, forbearance, and trust in a given work make possible the accomplishment of any worthy objective."

"Help with thy life and wealth any one in danger incurred in the performance of a great task."

"Strive to the end that thy conduct may make thyself an example worthy of emulation in obedience, and in the performance of a given task."

"Diligence in making a livelihood is true love and esteem for thyself, wife, child, brother or countrymen."

Let us practise these golden precepts of Bonifacio and thus honor him in deed on this his memorable birthday.

Tirona Grateful . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Sub-Committee on Relief, headed by the well-known social worker and leader, Mrs. Camilo Osias, in this drive, spending their precious time and efforts, in spite of transportation difficulties and air-raid dangers, to make our drive for relief successful.

"To all the donors and prospective donors and to these distinguished social leaders, in the name of His Excellency, the President, and the Special Committee on Relief, I express our most heartfelt appreciation. May God bless and reward all these sacrifices for the welfare of the poor and the needy."

assist this new-born Republic which is still in its infancy grow unmolested by any force and from any source into strong virile nationhood.

"Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to meet personally this distinguished assembly of true and trusted colleagues of the President, faithful supporters of his ideals and aspirations representing such as it does all ranks of society and calling. I wish to assure one and all, that my mission of defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity will be fulfilled even at the sacrifice of my own life and that the Philippines destined to remain free and independent for all times in accordance with natural law will be freed from all antagonistic and hostile efforts to destroy or annul that sacred independence.

"I ask permission of my host to be allowed to offer a toast. I drink to the health and success of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of the Philippines."

All Goods, Commodities Fall Under Anti-Profiteering Law, Court Rules

All goods and commodities come under the anti-profiteering law. This was contained in a decision handed down by the Supreme Court denying a petition of Jasu Bhopatral, manager of the B. I. Sehwanee Co., of Bacolod, Occidental Negros, for the annulment of a judgment and sentence imposed by Judge Francisco Arellano of the court of special jurisdiction of Occidental Negros.

Bhopatral was charged with hoarding shoes and allegedly selling them at exorbitant prices. He was sentenced to pay a fine of ₱50,000 and to serve a prison term of two years. In his petition for annulment, he contended that shoes

are not prime commodities and therefore do not come within the purview of the anti-profiteering law.

In sustaining the special criminal court, the Supreme Court pointed out that from the provisions of Act No. 65 and Executive Order 157, it may be noted that their scope is not limited or confined to prime commodities and that under the executive order there is no provision that would warrant such limitation.

The high tribunal's decision was penned by Justice Ramon Ozaeta, Chief Justice Jose Yulo and Justices Horileno, Moran and Paras concurring.

Aid Of Church . . .

(Continued from page 1)

the Pact of Alliance between our Republic and the Imperial Japanese Government. Under this Pact, we are in duty bound to lend within our limitations, all possible aid to the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines. To enable us to discharge in part this obligation, it is extremely necessary that we maintain, or help maintain, peace and order throughout the length and breadth of the country. The people should pursue their ordinary calling or usual occupation as heretofore instead of indulging in acts which may cause disunity, suspicion, or misunderstanding.

"It is needless to state that existing laws punish acts inimical to the safety and security of the nation, including the spreading of subversive propaganda and rumors about the present war which tend to disturb peace and order.

"In order that they may not be subjected to severe penalties prescribed by law, the people should be advised to refrain from committing such acts. As the church has always been one of the most effective institutions through which the people can be informed of the wisdom and necessity of strict compliance with the mandates of the law, it is most earnestly requested that you kindly ask your priests, ministers, and pastors to transmit to the people this information and the appeal of the government for their cooperation, every sermon that they preach whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself, counselling them to have confidence in the ever solicitous care of Divine Providence.

"We will greatly appreciate it if you can extend to us your full cooperation on this matter."

Here To Assist . . .

(Continued from page 1)

here is to assist this new-born Republic which is still in its infancy grow unmolested by any force and from any source into strong virile nationhood.

The complete remarks of General Yamasita during the state dinner follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, GENTLEMEN: "It has been less than a month since I arrived in this beautiful country to assume the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Army in the Philippines. I am very happy to be here tonight and I wish to express my profound thanks to His Excellency, the President, for affording me this early opportunity to meet his trusted colleagues and other prominent citizens of this country—all of whom are at present laboring amidst stupendous difficulties and trying circumstances in supporting the President in his tremendous task of building up this newly established country, an infant nation of only one year, to grow into sound and sturdy manhood and to take its rightful place among the great nations of the world. There exists, however, a hostile country which strenuously objects to the very idea of the Philippines being independent. Now, as it is in keeping with natural law that man should be free and independent, that man should be able to stand on his own feet and live the life to which he is destined, unmolested and untrammelled, so it is with a country. It is written in natural and divine law that a country should be free and independent to decide its own destiny and dictate its own life. I wish to pledge my word of honor, and the word of honor of a soldier of Japan is definitive and irrevocable, that my mission here is to