

the improvement of health and sanitation, the building up of an independent judiciary and of a sound civil service system, the construction of roads, bridges and other important public works, the stabilization of the national economy, the development of self-government and the preparation for ultimate independence in 1946—all these, and more, were accomplished in the short period of forty years. Here, indeed, was national progress and self-development, unparalleled in the history of inter-racial relationship. When war overtook us in 1941 and our soldiers fought alongside their American comrades, we did nothing more than continue our policy of complete cooperation with the United States, a policy already firmly established many years ago.

In the new world of freedom and security, of peace and understanding among peoples of different races, which the United Nations hope to build, the Philippines is in a unique position to make a valuable contribution. History has made us a people that is equally at home in the traditions and civilizations of both the East and the West. This is so because, while geographically, we are located in the Far East, absorbing in the early years the culture of Asia, we have been also the recipient of western influences in the course of our long association with Spain and the United States. It may be said of us, with some degree of accuracy, that we are the most occidental of Orientals, and the most oriental of Occidentals.

Midway between Orient and Occident, with Christian traditions dating as far back as the 16th century, with a background of struggles and sufferings, and with a record

Filipinos Can Now Own Land In California and Arizona

NOW it is possible for Filipinos to lease or buy real property in the States of California and Arizona, according to separate but similar rulings by the Attorneys-General of these two states, thus further strengthening Philippine-American relations.

The California ruling was handed down on April 1st, 1943, in a letter addressed to the District Attorney of Santa Clara County, San Jose, California, by the Attorney General in answer to charges instituted against a Filipino for holding land in California contrary to the Alien Property Initiative Act of 1920. This statute provides in part as follows:

"Sec. 1. All aliens eligible to citizenship under the laws of the United States may acquire, possess, enjoy, use, cultivate, occupy, transfer, transmit and inherit real property, or any interest therein, in this state, and have in whole or in part the beneficial use thereof, in the same manner and to same extent as citizens of the United States, except as otherwise provided by the laws of this state."

"Sec. 2. All aliens other than those mentioned in section one of this act may acquire, possess, enjoy, use, cultivate, occupy and transfer real property, or any interest therein, in this state, and have in whole or in part the beneficial use thereof, in the manner and to the extent, and for the purposes prescribed by any treaty now existing between the government of the United States and the nation or country of which such alien is a citizen or subject, and not otherwise."

of having earned her liberation through the orderly processes of self-government, the Philippines feels that she can—and must—assist the United Nations in their determined effort to assure the fundamental human rights to all the peoples of the earth. For, in this life-and-death struggle between a slave world and a free world, the Philippines stands as a vivid example of what the nations of the West can do for all dependent peoples everywhere; and to these dependent peoples, who hunger for justice, freedom and happiness, the Philippines symbolizes the goal that can be attained not by distrust, bloodshed and violence, but by friendship, understanding and collaboration.

The Atlantic Charter is no new thing. Its democratic principles, with the exception, perhaps, of that relating to economic security, were all embodied in the original American pledge of liberty and self-government to the Filipino people. It is in reality a re-statement of the principles enunciated in the American Declaration of Independence of 1776, drafted right here in this historic city of Philadelphia and proclaimed to the whole world.

Just as America can not, in the immortal words of Lincoln, survive half slave and half free, neither can this world of ours remain half slave and half free. The Atlantic Charter offers a promise of a happy world to all peoples. It is our political creed today, in this dire moment when totalitarianism threatens to destroy civilization. Let it remain our creed tomorrow when peace comes, and let us live up to it forever.

THE question of whether a Filipino is barred from holding real property under this law has never been passed upon by the courts of California, but opinions of the previous Attorneys-General of the State have held that Filipinos, with the exception of those who had rendered service in the United States Navy or Marine Corps or the Naval Auxiliary Service, come within the provisions of the California Alien Land Act. It was contended that Filipinos not being eligible to citizenship unless they have enlisted or served in the the United States Navy or Marine Corps or Naval Auxiliary Service, can not enjoy rights of ownership in real property in the State.

"This office has, in the past," writes the present Attorney-General, "advised that by reason of the unsettled state of the law, it would be unwise to advise any Filipino that he would be secure in the property rights should he acquire and attempt to hold real property in this state. We are inclined to view at this time, however, that, since aliens only are referred to in the California Alien Property Initiative Act of 1920, and since the Nationality Code classifies Filipinos as nationals and says expressly that they are not aliens, were the matter now to be submitted to the courts of this state, they would hold that a Filipino is not barred from holding real property in California."

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nand and barked out a command. The leveled guns blazed, and the little, frail schoolteacher lay dead at the foot of the flag he tried to defend with his life.

Bello was 42 years old, and father of six children. He was well known as an Ilocano poet and declaimer. Humble and unassuming in appearance, conservative even in his way of dressing—the hard white collar and the black bow tie—yet he looked with an open mind at the Philippine youth who adopted the ways of the west, meanwhile retaining their own.

Now his children are fatherless but well may they be proud of him. Well may every Filipino teacher feel pride in his heart for this humble man who was a credit to his profession. Well may every Filipino remember and respect the memory of this man who was true to his creed, who was honest to himself, whose courage typified that of his brothers who remained at home because they were too old to join their sons who flocked to the colors at the approach of the enemy. But Bello stood for something more. In the words of President Quezon, Bello "was paying tribute to the solidarity between the United States and the Philippines—a solidarity that will live even when, one day soon, the Philippine flag flies alone over our school houses."

Filipinos Can Now Own Land (Continued)

Section 101 (b) of the Nationality Act of 1940 provides as follows:

"The term 'National of the United States' means (1) a citizen of the United States, or (2) a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States. It does not include an alien."

Furthermore, in his letter, the California Attorney-General paid tribute to the intense loyalty of the Filipino to the United States when he stated that:

"Our nation has been impressed with the heroism and the loyalty of the citizens of the Philippine Islands. We Americans do not—nor do our courts—regard them as "aliens"—but as American Nationals, who rose as one, unflinchingly, to make our fight, their fight,—they are adding their full strength and effort alongside that of this country for the total defeat of our enemies."

Subsequently, on April 14, 1943, the Attorney-General of Arizona held that "Filipinos come within the purview of the definition of 'National of the United States', and therefore, are not included within the inhibitions contained in the Arizona Code Annotated, 1939. These provisions prescribe only aliens from acquiring, possessing, enjoying, transmitting and inheriting real property in the State of Arizona.

It will be recalled that in February 1941, the Supreme Court of the State of Washington ruled that Filipinos are not included in the provisions of the State Anti-Alien Land Law and may lease or buy real property in the State.

The Office of the Philippine Resident Commissioner, to whom credit is due in obtaining this liberal interpretation of the alien land law in these two states, has had this matter under consideration for some time now. At present, efforts are being exerted toward obtaining similar rulings in other states.

HERE AND THERE

Philippine Government Buys Bonds

THE Philippine Government, through its agency, the New York branch of the Philippine National Bank, has subscribed and paid \$2,700,000 to the second Victory War Bond drive, according to an announcement made recently by Auditor-General Jaime Hernandez at Washington, D. C.

"The Philippine Government," said the Auditor-General, "in wholeheartedly participating in the United States Treasury drive, is giving a good example to all Filipinos in America."

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Awards

THE Michigan Daily, official organ of the University of Michigan, carries the news that Eduardo Salgado, a Filipino painter, was awarded a medal of honor for distinguished work in the field of art by the Fine Arts Section of the Michigan Academy.

The paintings that won Salgado the award were two panoramas of the Philippines and two portrait studies. A member of the committee on awards praised them for their realistic touches, their fine details and brilliant colors. "The pictures," she said, "are typical of his people, and illustrate their feelings well."

The same paper states that among six foreign women who received the Barbour scholarship for the 1943-44 school year, was a Filipina, Miss Pura J. Hernandez, who has attended the University of the Philippines, Columbia University, and George Washington University. She specializes in accounting.

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A Letter

AMONG the many letters we have received so far from Filipinos all over the country, this one from Raymundo Lapitan of Taunton, Massachusetts, paints an almost heroic figure of a man humbly doing his bit in his own unobtrusive way in a country far from the homeland. He wrote:

"I am a Filipino—born in Cebu—am married and have five sons and daughters—the oldest, 16, is a welder in the Bethlehem Steel Shipyard. I myself work for the government at the Miles Standish Army Camp as a mason . . . I have been working on defense since 1940.

"I own a farm here in Massachusetts and have three acres to be planted, and I shall see to it that some of my less for-

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