



The Chief Executive of the Philippine Commonwealth

FOR more than 300 years the chief executive of the government of the Philippines has always been a foreigner. During the Spanish times, he was a Spaniard; and since the first days of American occupation, he has always been an American. They have been called governors general. For the first time in the history of our country, we shall have a Filipino as our chief executive. He shall be known as President of the Philippines. He shall be elected by the voters of the Philippines. If the candidates for the office of the president receive exactly the same number of votes, then the National Assembly shall elect one of them president.

The President of the Philippines shall hold his office for six years. A person who has been elected president of the Philippines may not be reelected for the following term. There are some good reasons why a person should not be allowed to succeed himself as president. If allowed to do so, he may use his office for the benefit of people who can help him in the following elections instead of using it for the good of the whole country. He may put in various positions men who are corrupt but who might secure many votes for him in the next election. Another reason is to discourage a person from becoming too powerful. This will happen if the

president is allowed to stay in office two or more terms. He might only act as a king if he may stay as president for 12 years or over. Other able persons should be given a chance to serve their country as president.

Before a person can be elected president of the Philippines he must have certain qualifications. First of all he must be a citizen of the Philippines, born in this country. A naturalized Filipino citizen cannot become president. He must be at least 40 years old. He must have lived in the Philippines for at least 10 years before his election. He must also be a qualified voter.

The salary of the president shall be ₱30,000 a year. He has an official residence. His salary may not be increased or decreased during his term of office. In this way the National Assembly cannot control him by threatening to cut his pay. During his term he may not receive any other compensation from the central government, or from any province, or from any municipality, or from any other body controlled by the government.

The president of the Philippines shall have practically the same powers which the governor general has at present.

If the president commits a crime, or accepts bribes, or be-

comes guilty of treason, or violates the constitution, he may be removed from his office by means of impeachment. There is a committee of the National Assembly called the Commission on Impeachment. This committee has the power to present accusations against the president for the purpose of removing him from office. The National Assembly acts as the judge to decide whether or not the president shall be removed. If three-fourths of all the members of the National Assembly not belonging to the commission on impeachment, agree to remove the president, then the president will be ordered removed. This manner of removing is called impeachment.

There will be a vice-president who will also be elected by the voters of the Philippines. His term and his qualifications shall be the same as those of the president.

The president has the power to appoint officers of the higher class. For instance, he appoints the justices of the supreme court, the heads of the executive departments and bureaus, the higher officers of the army, of the navy, and of the air force, and the auditor general. But his appointments must be approved by a committee of the National Assembly. This committee is called the Commission on Appointments.

The President of the Philippines will be a powerful official. As the chief executive, he will be the representative of our nation. We should, therefore, select a very able and honest person to be our president.