

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC AND EIGHTH ARMY CORPS

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 43

Manila, P. I., August 8, 1899.

The following instructions, issued by the commanding officer of troops on the railway line, for the establishment of order and temporary government in the towns adjacent to that line and within territory of United States occupation, have been approved by the Department Commander, and the same have been adopted as proper measures and regulations for the temporary control of all cities and towns which the United States have or may hereafter take possession of and hold in cases where civil administration is wanting. They will be put in force by the senior officer of troops present in so far as conditions permit—those officers exercising over the formation of such government and the proceedings under its immediate supervision. They are as follows:

1. In each town there will be a Municipal Council, composed of a President and as many representatives or headmen as there may be wards or barrios in the town, which shall be charged with the maintenance of public order and the regulations of municipal affairs in particulars hereinafter named. It will formulate rules to govern its sessions and order of business connected therewith, and by majority vote (to be determined by the President in case of a tie) will, through the adoption of ordinances or decrees, to be executed by the President, administer the municipal government; but no ordinance or decree shall be enforced until it receives the approval of the Commanding Officer of the troops there stationed.

2. The President shall be elected by a *viva voce* vote of residents of the town, approved by the Commanding Officer, and, together with the headmen or representatives of the Council, shall hold office for one year. He

shall be of native birth and parentage and a resident and property owner of the town. The headmen shall be elected by a *viva voce* vote of residents of their wards or barrios and shall reside and own property therein.

3. The President shall be the executive of the Municipal Council to execute its decrees issued for the following purposes, viz:

To establish a police force.

To collect taxes and license fees, to act as treasurer of public funds and to make disbursement on warrants of the Council.

To enforce regulations relating to traffic and the sale of spirits, to establish and regulate markets, to inspect live stock and record transfers and brands of the same.

To perform the duties formerly belonging to the Lieutenant of paddy fields.

To enforce sanitary measures.

To establish schools.

To provide for lighting the town.

4. The senior headman, or one designated by the Council, shall be Vice-President of the same, assistant to the President and shall be *ex-officio* Lieutenant of Police.

5. The headman of a ward is the delegate of the President for that ward; shall take measures to maintain order and shall have power to appoint two assistants.

6. The Council shall have no jurisdiction in civil cases, but on the application of parties in interest and their agreement in writing to accept the award of the Council it shall hear and decide cases involving property not to exceed in value \$500.

7. In criminal matters the President, representing the Council, shall make the preliminary examination and, according to the result, discharge the prisoner or transfer him immediately

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