

JOURNAL No. 20

APERTURA DE LA SESION

Se abre la sesion a las 4:25 p.m., ocupando el estrade el President, Hon. Claro M. Recto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se abre la sesion.

Lease la lista.

EL SECRETARIO, *lee la lista de los Delegados.*

EL PRESIDENTE: Se declara la presencia de un quorum.

LECTURA Y APROBACION DEL ACTA

Se lee lee el acta correspondiente a la sesion anterior, la cual es aprobada.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Mesa anuncia los siguientes nombramientos de comites:

FOMENTO AGRICOLA

Sres. Ledesma,
Montilla,
Abrigo,
Guariña,
Leonardo,
Villarama,
Millar,
Benitez,
Martinez (R.),

Sres. Ricohermoso,
Liboro,
Hernaез,
Ysip,
Nepomuceno (J.),
Guzman (B.),
Gaerlan,
Castillo,

ASUNTOS VARIOS

Sres. Calleja,
Zurbito,
Ranjo,
Buslon,
Beltran,
Velasco,
Gumangan,

Sres. Ocampo,
Alkuino,
Ricohermoso,
Lizardo,
Caram,
Monrado,

ESTILO

Sres. Sotto (V.),
Ranjo
Muñoz,

Sres. Conejero
Salazar (V.),

PRIVILEGIOS

Sres.Enriquez,
Montilla,
Sanchez,
Ocampo,
Bocar,

Sres.Nepomuceno (V.),
Castro,
Encarnacion,
Beltran,
Mumar,

INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS

Sres.Ortega,
Delgado,
Villarama,
Barrion,
Mumar,
Pio,

Sres.Nuere,
Caram,
Montilla,
Chioco,
Dikit,

SELECCION DE COMISIONADO RESIDENTE

Sres.Caram,
Canonoy,
Joven,
Santos,
Beltran,

Sres.Enriquez,
Benitez,
Kintanar,
Grafilo,
Sevilla,

POLICIA INSULAR

Sres.Zurbito
Cea,
Borbon,
Villamor,
Montaño,
Adduru,

Sres.Zialcita,
Salazar (V.),
Montesa,
Jose,
Alonto,

GOBIERNO INTERIOR

Sres.Melendres,
Martinez,
Buendia,
Guzman,

Sres.Ramos,
Lesaca,
Nepomuceno (J.),
Salazar (A.),

ESTUDIOS COMPARATIVOS DE LAS CONSTITUCIONES

Sres.Hontiveros,
Ventura,
Aruego,
Zavalla,
Ribo,
Muñoz,
Jumauan,
Abordo,

Sres.Balili,
Araneta,
Escareal,
Salumbides,
Abella,
Carin,
Abaya,
Flores,

FRANQUICIAS

Sres. Aruego,
Espeleta,
Romero,
Sandoval,
Benito,
Araneta,
Guzman (A.),
Lim,

Sres. Cabarroguis,
Melendres,
Galang,
Paredes,
Mansueto,
Cinco,
Guzman (J.),
Quirino (D.),

CUENTAS

Sres. Millar
Cruz (C.),

Sres. Marabut,
Cuaderno,

IMPRENTA

Sres. Conejero,
Abordo,

Sres. Salumbides,
Guzman (B.),

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Caballero por Cebu.

SPEECH BY DELEGATE MONCADO OF CEBU

MR. MONCADO: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention: Thank you sincerely for the opportunity of addressing you on a subject that is closest to my heart — the Struggle of the Filipinos in America.

I hope you will judge what I may say here today not in terms of literary style but on the merits. That is all I ask. If you accord me that open-minded attitude, I shall be doubly appreciative of this opportunity of talking shop with you.

We are told that the Governor General and the other leaders of our government are seriously considering plans for bringing back a large number of destitute Filipinos from the Pacific Coast. One of the stated purposes of Senate President Quezon's trip to the United States is to look into this problem personally to see what can be done to repatriate those men.

That is all very well were it not for the fact that many of these men have married American women. Now, what is to become of these Filipinos with American wives when they get back? These men, as we all know, are without jobs. It is bad enough to have men without jobs, but jobless men with American wives are something else again. Are these women to become a public charge if the government does not take the proper steps toward rehabilitating these families? In such an eventuality, the coming of the Commonwealth government will get such a black eye that no amount of speech making and other empty gestures of friendship can cover it up in the estimation of the American people. It will be interpreted as a sign of our weakness as a people and our incapacity to maintain a decent independent existence. No, my friends. The Commonwealth, which it is our duty here to safeguard, cannot afford to be so handicapped. We must not start on this great adventure with a millstone around our necks. Something must be done at once to solve this perplexing problem that has been thrust upon us.

As a Member of this Constitutional Convention and as a Filipino who has devoted many years to the preservation of our good name in America, may I just make a suggestion? In order to appreciate the workability of my suggestion, it is necessary to turn back our attention to some ten years ago when there was no organization looking after the welfare of Filipinos in America. Those were dark days for us. We had followed the rainbow to America hoping that we would find the well-known pot of gold there. What fools we were! We not only did not find gold, but the large majority of us were hopelessly getting into debt. Gambling and vice flourished. The Filipinos were getting a reputation as undesirable elements in the communities where they had established themselves.

I was caught in that surging mass of discouraged, lawbreaking men, and came near being swept away with the others. With a few trusted friends, I organized what is known throughout the United States today as the Filipino Federation of America. From a handful of men our membership grew so rapidly that today we have about a million members here and in America.

The Federation was organized with one aim—the preservation of the good name of the Filipinos in America. It was necessary to eliminate those vices that for years had been throttling our countrymen in the States. The Federation promulgated a ban on gambling. Poolroom operators went after us because their business suffered, but we held our ground for gambling remained taboo in our ranks. We built homes for the members, helped them secure jobs. Many Filipinos walked the streets discouraged. They were a straggly lot. They looked toward a future that stretched hopelessly ahead — toward nothing. Today, their heads are erect. They are glad of the name Filipinos.

Our methods have been the target of much undeserved criticism. Our critics are men who do not know and cannot know the facts, because they are afraid to face those facts. We have not chosen to answer their attacks. We are satisfied that of the large number of destitute Filipinos in America who are creating such a problem for the Philippine Government, not one belongs to the Federation. The reason for it is that the Federation takes care of its members in a manner this government should have done — but has failed to do.

Now, in Mindanao we have what is known as the Moncado Colony. We have about 3,000 families there. We have built homes for them and provided them with all the conveniences of civilized life. More important still, we have provided them with those things they have been accustomed to in the States. That is necessary in order to make them contented. And when men are contented they generally do what you expect of them. What is more, you get results.

In the Federation, we have engineers, experts in farming, men skilled in planning and laying out communities. These men preceded the establishment of the Moncado Colony. They made a thorough survey of the place, and when everything was ready, the men were brought here from America. Only a sufficient number came, just as many as can properly be taken care of. Our Federation makes it a point to have a home and lot ready, and work to do, before bringing back a single member from the states. As a result, there is no unemployment in our colony. It seems to me that what has been accomplished in America and here in the Islands could well be duplicated by the government in the case of Filipino families who are to be brought back from America. Certain it is that if they are dumped in Manila and allowed to

move about at will, they will become a menace to the community. I am happy over the effort now being put forth to bring these men back. At a time like the present, we need all the brain power and brawn power that we can muster in laying broadly and surely the foundation for an independent existence. But it would be sheer folly for an independent government to attempt to bring these men back without first making adequate plans for properly directing their energies. I have studied this question from every possible angle and I honestly believe that they should be sent to Mindanao and given work there. The government should get up a revolving fund of say P1,000,000 to be repaid by the colonists out of their labor. The details could be worked out by a committee composed of men familiar with handling land and laborers, men skilled in planning and laying out communities. But make sure of one thing: make your colonists feel that they are not wasting their efforts. Make it possible for them to own their homes and land after a given time.

It will be necessary to segregate those with American wives. This is important. They should be grouped together in a certain designated section of the colony in order to afford them an opportunity to live as nearly as possible in conformity with what they have been used to in the States. This is necessary in order to preserve harmony within the colony itself.

And another thing: the colony should be managed by a man well known for his kindly, paternal attitude toward people in humble circumstances. He must have a thorough knowledge of the mental reaction of the Filipino who has spent several years in America. In short, he must be a man who sympathizes with the problems of the returned Filipino.

My time does not permit me to go into details. I have merely mentioned and outlined to you what I have proven by experience as an effective way of handling this difficult problem. I have shown you a plan in skeletonized form hoping that you will give it a place in your thoughts. I have given you facts — not political arguments.

In closing, I wish to thank you again for your kind indulgence. Question my judgment, if you will, my skill in presenting my facts, but I beg of you, do not question my sincerity. These Filipinos are as much entitled to our consideration as those who have remained in the Islands, If properly directed, they will prove their mettle in Mindanao, insure our rights to that rich territory which unfortunately is rapidly passing into foreign hands. I ask you to give this problem a place in your patriotic endeavors toward the attainment of our common objectives: the happiness and security of the Philippines of the future.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Caballero por Nueva Ecija.

MANIFESTATIONS OF MR. BALTAO

Mr. BALTAO: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention:

We are now on the eve of our emancipation, the realization of an ideal for which our fathers and forefathers with a few venerable Members of this Body have suffered but most of whom were not able to see the dawn of that freedom. The political question of our country with the ruling nation apparently has now been definitely settled. Upon us the Filipinos alone and not upon other people depends principally