

[Act No. 2700, March 09, 1917]

AN ACT GRANTING TO J. V. HOUSE A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN AN ELECTRIC LIGHT, HEAT, AND POWER SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TACLOBAN, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. Subject to the conditions established in this Act and the provisions of Act Numbered Twenty-three hundred and seven and amendments thereof, applicable thereto, there is hereby granted to J. V. House for a period of fifty years from the passage of this Act, the right, privilege, and authority, to construct, maintain, and operate in all streets, public thoroughfares, and public places within the limits of the municipality of Tacloban, Leyte, poles, wires, and all necessary apparatus and appurtenances for the transmission and distribution of currents for electric power, heat, and light, within said municipality of Tacloban, Province of Leyte, for municipal, domestic, or manufacturing uses and for any other use to which electricity may be put, and to charge and collect a schedule of prices for the use of the same: *Provided*, That said prices shall always be subject to rules provided by an Act of the Philippine Legislature or by the entities or authorities authorized by law, and shall in no case exceed thirty centavos per kilowatt hour.

SEC. 2. The concession of the right, privilege, and authority mentioned in the preceding section shall not take effect unless the grantee shall accept in writing and make part of this concession the following condition, to wit:

That the grantee state in writing that he is informed of the message of the President of the United States addressed to the Filipino people and communicated to said people by the Governor-General of the Philippine Islands on the sixth day of October, nineteen hundred and thirteen, and of the reply message of the Philippine Assembly made in the name of the Filipino people and approved and sent on October sixteenth, nineteen hundred and thirteen; that said grantee bind himself not to engage in or aid, by means of contributions in cash or otherwise, any propaganda directed against the policy of the Government of the United States outlined in such message of the President and the aspirations of the Filipino people set forth in said reply message of the Philippine Assembly, whether under the pretext of vested interests or under any other pretext, and that said grantee shall further bind himself to exact a similar engagement from his administrators, agents, successors, and assigns.

SEC. 3. The poles erected by the grantee shall be of such a height as to maintain the wires stretched on the same at a height of at least twenty feet above the level of the ground, and shall be of such appearance as not to disfigure the streets, and shall be placed in conformity with a plan approved by the municipal authorities, and said grantee shall supply electric power, heat, and light to any applicant for the same, (within fifteen days after the date of his application, and as between such applicant and other like applicants, in the order of the date of his application) up to the limit of the capacity of the plant of said grantee, to be determined by the district engineer on the application of said grantee; and should the demand for electric

power, heat and light at any time increase beyond the capacity of the plant of said grantee to supply the same, the capacity of said plant shall be increased to meet such demand, upon authorization by the municipal council: Provided, That the point at which the electric power, heat, or light is to be supplied, shall not be more than eighty meters from the lines or wires operated by said grantee.

SEC. 4. All apparatus and appurtenances used by the grantee shall be modern and first-class in every respect, and said wires shall be insulated and carefully connected and fastened so as not to come in direct contact with any object through which a "ground" could be formed, and shall be stretched so as not to interfere with the free use of said streets and thoroughfares: Provided, That the grantee herein shall, whenever the Philippine Legislature or its successors so direct, place said wires in underground pipes or conduits at his own expense and without any cost or damage to the municipality.

SEC. 5. Whenever it shall be necessary in the erection of said poles to take up any portion of the sidewalks or dig up the ground near the sidewalks or the corners of the public streets or thoroughfares, then the said grantee shall, after said poles are erected, without delay, replace said sidewalks in the proper manner and remove from the same all rubbish, earth, refuse or other material which may have been placed there, taken up, or dug up in the erection of said poles, leaving them in as good a condition as they were before the work was done.

SEC. 6. Whenever any person has obtained permission to use any of the streets of the municipality for the purpose of removing any building or in the prosecution of any municipal work or for any other cause, whatsoever, making it necessary to raise or remove any of said wires which may obstruct the removal of said building or hinder the prosecution of said work, the said grantee upon forty-eight hours' notice from the municipal council, shall raise or remove any of said wires which may hinder the prosecution of such work or obstruct the removal of said building so as to allow the free and unobstructed passage of said building and the free and unobstructed prosecution of said work. Such notice shall be a duly adopted resolution of the municipal council, in writing, and served upon said grantee or his duly authorized representative or agent by any person competent to be a witness in a civil action; and in case of the refusal or failure of said grantee to comply with such notice, the municipal president, with the approval of the municipal council first had, shall order such wires to be raised or removed at the expense of said grantee, for the purposes aforesaid: *Provided, however,* That the grantee may appeal from any such decision to the provincial board of Leyte, whose decision shall be final.

SEC. 7. The grantee shall be liable to the municipality for any injury arising from any claims caused by accidents to person or property by reason of the construction under this franchise or of any neglect or omission to keep the said poles and wires in a safe condition.

SEC. 8. Said grantee shall file his acceptance of this franchise with the Secretary of Commerce and Communications within ninety days from the date thereof, shall commence work within six months' time from and after the date of filing such acceptance, unless prevented by act of God or force majeure, usurped or military power, martial law, riot or civil commotion or other inevitable cause and shall complete the system and have the same in operation within eighteen months from the date of such acceptance, and shall thereafter maintain a first-class electric light,