

[Act No. 49, November 23, 1900]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET.

By authority of the President of the United States, be it enacted by the United States Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. A civil government is hereby established for the Province of Benguet.

SEC. 2. The officers of this government shall be:

(a) A provincial governor, at a salary of one thousand five hundred dollars per year;

(b) A provincial secretary, at a salary of one thousand dollars per year; and

(c) A provincial inspector, at a salary of four hundred dollars per year;

All in money of the United States.

SEC. 3. These officers shall be appointed by the United States Philippine Commission.

SEC. 4. These officers shall reside and have their offices in the township of Baguio, which shall be the capital of the province.

SEC. 5. The governor shall be the chief executive of the province. Until such time as a departmental government shall be established which shall include the Province of Benguet, he shall report directly to the Chief Executive of the Insular Government. On or before the first day of February of each year he shall make a written statement to such Chief Executive of the condition of the province.

SEC. 6. He shall make known to the people of his province, by proclamation or communications delivered to the presidents of the several townships, all general laws or governmental orders which concern them, and each president shall deliver all such proclamations and communications to the township secretary, to be by him filed and preserved.

SEC. 7. He shall pass upon every ordinance or act of the several township councils of the province, approving it, should he deem it satisfactory. Should he consider it unsatisfactory, he shall return it to the council, suggesting suitable amendments. The council shall inform him of its action, and he shall then approve the ordinance or act as amended, or modify it, as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 8. Should the council of any township fail to fix the limits of the barrios of the township; to fix the salaries of duly authorized officers and employees; to make appropriations for lawful and necessary township expenditures; to provide for the construction and care of trails and bridges in the chief barrio of the township, and of those necessary to connect it with the outlying barrios; to regulate the sanitation of the township and order the removal of nuisances the causes of disease; to regulate the running at large of domestic animals; to adopt suitable measures to prevent the

spread of disease; to prohibit gambling, cockfighting, opium smoking or the sale of opium for smoking; to provide and enforce regulations for the taxation of the retail sale, in quantities of less than five gallons, of any intoxicating, fermented, malt, or vinous liquors, except the native beverage made from rice and known as "tapuy"; to impose such other license fees as may be required by general law; to provide for the care of the poor, the sick, or of orphans; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of schools for primary instruction; to provide for the construction and maintenance of necessary waterworks for supplying the inhabitants of the township with water, and for insuring the equitable distribution and use of water for the purpose of irrigation in the township, or in general, to provide for carrying into effect and discharging the powers and duties conferred on them by the "Act providing for the establishment of local civil governments in the townships of the Province of Benguet;" or should it fail to enact such measures as are necessary and proper to provide for the health and safety, promote the prosperity, improve the morals, good order, peace, comfort, and convenience of the township and the inhabitants thereof and for the protection of the property therein:

Then the governor shall issue to the president of such township suitable written orders for securing these ends, and these orders shall have the effect of law. But, the constant aim of the governor shall be to aid the people of the several townships of the province to acquire the knowledge and experience necessary for successful local popular government, and his supervision and control shall be confined within the narrowest limits consistent, with the requirement that the powers of government in the townships shall be honestly and effectively exercised, and that law and order and individual freedom shall be maintained.

SEC. 9. Until such time as a treasurer shall be appointed for the province, the governor shall act as provincial treasurer, subject to the provisions of general law. He shall audit the monthly accounts of the several townships, and shall cause investigation to be made should he find reason to believe that the finances of any township are dishonestly or negligently administered. Should such investigation reveal ground for action, he shall cause proceedings to be instituted against the offending person or persons.

SEC. 10. He shall have power to suspend any township official charged with misconduct in office or disloyalty to the United States, and, after proper notice and hearing, to remove or reinstate him. Such suspension, removal, or reinstatement shall be reported to the Commission, who may approve or revoke the same.

SEC. 11. He shall provide the presidents of the several townships with official paper stamped by him for convenient amounts, to be used in receipting for all fines, fees, or taxes and in the issuing of true copies of entries in the civil register. He shall hold each president responsible for the aggregate amount of stamps on official paper furnished to him and not returned.

SEC. 12. He shall fix the dates for the first township elections in the several townships, and the day or days during each month from January fifteenth to July thirty-first of each year on which the people of the several townships may appear before the presidents to pay their taxes: *Provided*, That the last day so fixed shall be the thirty-first of July of each year.

SEC. 13. He shall be *ex officio* a justice of the peace in and for the Province of