

[Act No. 2927, March 26, 1920]

THE NATURALIZATION LAW.

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. *Who may become Philippine citizens.*-Philippine citizenship may be acquired by: (a) natives of the Philippines who are not citizens thereof under the Jones Law; (b) natives of the other Insular possessions of the United States; (c) citizens of the United States, or foreigners who under the laws of the United States may become citizens of said country if residing therein.

SEC. 2. *Who are disqualified.*-The following can not be organized government or affiliated with any association or group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines opposing all organized government; persons defending or teaching the necessity of propriety of violence, personal assault or assassination for the success and predominance of their ideas; (c) polygamists or believers in the practice of polygamy; (d) persons convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude; (e) persons suffering from mental alienation or incurable contagious diseases; (f) citizens or subjects of nations with whom the United States and the Philippines are at war, during the period of such war.

SEC. 3. *Qualifications.*-The persons comprised in subsection (a) of section one of this Act, in order to be able to acquire Philippine citizenship, must be not less than twenty-one years of age on the day of the hearing of their petition.

The persons comprised in subsections (b) and (c) of said section one shall, in addition to being not less than twenty-one years of age on the day of the hearing of the petition, have all and each of the following qualifications:

First. Residence in the Philippine Islands for a continuous period of not less than five years, except as provided in the next following section;

Second. To have conducted themselves in a proper and irreproachable manner during the entire period of their residence in the Philippine Islands, in their relations with the constituted government as well as with the community in which they are living;

Third. To hold in the Philippine Islands real estate worth not less than one thousand pesos, Philippine currency, or have some known trade or profession; and

Fourth. To speak and write English, Spanish or some native tongue.

In case the petitioner is a foreign subject, he shall, besides, declare in writing and under oath his intention of renouncing absolutely and perpetually all faith and allegiance to the foreign authority, state or sovereignty of which he was a native citizen or subject.

SEC. 4. *Special qualifications.*-The five years of continuous residence required under the first condition of the last preceding section shall be understood as being reduced

to two years for any petitioner having any of the following qualifications: First, having honorably held office under the Government of the Philippine Islands or under that of any of the provinces, municipalities or political subdivisions of said Islands; second, having established a new industry or introduced a useful invention in the Philippines; third, being a railroad contractor, constructor or director in any part of the Philippines; fourth, being married to a Filipino woman; fifth, having been engaged as a teacher in the Philippines of any of the branches of education or industry for a period of not less than two years.

SEC. 5. *Petition for citizenship.*-Any person desiring inquire Philippine citizenship shall file with the competent Court a petition setting forth his name and surname; his present and former places of residence; his occupation; the place and date of his birth; whether single or married; and, if married and the father of children, the name, age, birthplace and residence of the wife and each of the children; if he is not a native of the Philippines, the approximate date of his arrival in the Islands, the name of the port of debarkation and, if he remembers it, the name of the ship on which he came; a declaration that he has the qualification required by this Act, specifying the same, and that he is not disqualified for naturalization under the provisions of this Act, specifying the same, and that he is not disqualified for naturalization under the provisions of this Act, if the petitioner is anative of the Philippine Islands and has been naturalized in a foreign country, he shall state the date of his return to the Philippines. The petition must e supported by the affidavit of at least two persons, stating that they are citizens of the Philippine Islands and personally know the petitioner to be a resident of the Islands and a person of good repute and morally irreproachable, and that said petitioner has in their opinion of the qualifications necessary to become a citizen of the Philippine Islands. The petition shall also set forth the names and post-office addresses of such witnesses as the petitioner may desire to introduce at the hearing of the case.

SEC. 6. *Competent Court.*-The Court of First Instance of the province or district i which the petitioner resides shall have exclusive original jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands appellate jurisdiction, as to hearing of petitions for naturalization.

SEC. 7. *Notification and appearance.*-Immediately upon the filing of a petition, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the Court to publish the same at petitioner's expense, once a week for three consecutive weeks, in the Official Gazette, and to have copies of said petition and a general notice of the hearing posted in a public and conspicuous place in his office or in the building where said office is located, setting forth in such notice the name, birthplace and residence of the petitioner, the date and place of his arrival in the Philippine Islands, the names of the witnesses whom the petitioner proposes to introduce in support of his petition, and the date of the final hearing on the petitioner, wqch hearing shall be held after sixty days from the date of the last publication of the notice in the Official Gazette. The clerk shall, as soon as possible, forward copies of the petition, the sentence, the naturalization certificate, and other pertinent data to the Department of the Interior: *Provided, however,* That as regards the notice and publication in the *Official Gazette*, and the period within which the petition must be heard, this section shall not be applicable to the persons comprised in subsection (a) of section one.

SEC. 8. *Hearing of the petition.*-No petition, except that of the persons mentioned in subsection (a) of section one, which may be heard immediately, shall be heard