

[ Act No. 2868, July 30, 1919 ]

**AN ACT PENALIZING THE MONOPOLY AND HOARDING OF, AND SPECULATION IN, PALAY, RICE, AND CORN UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE THEREOF, AND AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, TO ISSUE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS THEREFOR, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

*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. The Governor-General is hereby authorized, whenever, for any cause, conditions arise resulting in an extraordinary rise in the price of palay, rice or corn, to issue and promulgate, with the consent of the Council of State, temporary rules and emergency measures for carrying out the purposes of this Act, to wit:

(a) To prevent the monopoly and hoarding of, and speculation in, palay, rice or corn.

(b) To establish and maintain a government control of the distribution or sale of the commodities referred to or have such distribution or sale made by the Government itself.

(c) To fix, from time to time, the quantities of palay, rice, or corn that a company or individual may acquire, and the maximum sale price that the industrial or merchant may demand.

(d) To purchase, if necessary, through any Government Department or Bureau or through any company established by the Government, or through any other agency that the Government may designate, the amounts of rice, palay or corn that may be necessary for distribution and resale, preferably and as far as possible at the centers of production.

SEC. 2. It shall be unlawful to destroy, limit, prevent or in any other manner obstruct the production or milling of palay, rice or corn for the purpose of raising the prices thereof; to corner or hoard said products as denned in section three of this Act; to charge prices in excess of those fixed in accordance with this Act; to possess or sell larger quantities of said products than those fixed in accordance with this Act; and in general, it shall be unlawful to conspire or combine with any other person to limit, restrict, or prevent the production, importation, harvesting, milling, storing and distribution of said foodstuffs for the purpose of raising the price thereof;

SEC. 3. For the purposes of this Act, a monopoly or hoarding of palay, rice, or corn shall be considered to exist: (1) whenever any person other than a dealer in or industrial using said products shall have in his possession, or shall have contracted for himself for a quantity of said products in excess of that reasonably necessary for the use of himself and his family; (2) or whenever any industrial or wholesale or retail merchant, or any agent of the same, shall have in his possession or shall have contracted for himself for a quantity of said products greater than that ordinarily