

[ Act No. 194, August 10, 1901 ]

**AN ACT CONFERRING JURISDICTION ON JUSTICES OF THE  
PEACE AND PRESIDENTS TO MAKE PRELIMINARY  
INVESTIGATIONS OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES, AND AMENDING  
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER FIFTY-EIGHT OF THE MILITARY  
GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED.**

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

SECTION 1. Every justice of the peace in the Philippine Islands is hereby invested with authority to make preliminary investigation of any crime alleged to have been committed within his municipality, jurisdiction to hear and determine which is by law now vested in the judges of Courts of First Instance. It shall be the duty of every justice of the peace, when written complaint under oath has been made to him that a crime has been committed within his municipality and there is reason to believe that any person has committed the same, which complaint, the justice believes to be well founded, or when he has knowledge of facts tending to show the commission of a crime within his municipality by any person, to issue an order for the arrest of the accused and have him brought before the justice of the peace for such preliminary examination.

The order of arrest shall be directed and delivered to any officer authorized by law to make arrests, signed by the justice of the peace, shall contain the name of the accused, if known, and the offense with which he is charged. The form of the written complaint may be substantially as follows:

"The United States against A. B. " \_\_\_\_\_, justice of  
the peace for the municipality of \_\_\_\_\_  
Province of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 190\_\_\_\_ .

"A. B. is accused by the undersigned of the crime of (giving its legal  
appellation, such as murder, arson, robbery, or the like) committed as  
follows:

"That the said A. B. on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 190\_\_\_\_, at the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Province of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (here set forth the acts or commissions charged  
as an offense), contrary to statute in such cases made and provided.

"(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_"

The form of the order of arrest may be substantially as follows:

"To any lawful officer, greeting:

"You are hereby commanded to arrest (giving the name of the accused),  
who stands charged before me with the crime; of (stating the nature of  
the offense charged) and to bring him before me as soon as possible, to