

THE NEW TREASON ACT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

NO. 292. BY THE UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

An act defining the crimes of treason, insurrection, sedition, conspiracies to commit such crimes, seditious utterances whether written or spoken, the formation of secret political societies, the administering or taking of oaths to commit crimes or to prevent the discovering of the same, and the violation of oaths of allegiance, and prescribing punishment therefor.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNITED STATES PHILIPPINE COMMISSION, THAT:

Section 1. Every person resident in the Philippine islands, owing allegiance to the United States or the government of the Philippine islands, who levies war against them, or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the Philippine islands or elsewhere, is guilty of treason, and upon conviction, shall suffer death or, at the discretion of the court, shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than five years and fined not less than ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars.

Sec. 2. Every person, owing allegiance to the United States or the government of the Philippine islands, and having knowledge of any treason against them or either of them, who conceals and does not, as soon as may be, disclose and make known the same to the provincial governor in the province in which he resides, or to the civil governor of the islands, or to some judge of a court of record, is guilty of misprision of treason, and shall be imprisoned not more than seven years and be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Sec. 3. Every person who incites, sets on foot, assists, or engages in any rebellion or insurrection against the authority of the United States or the government of the Philippine islands, or the laws thereof, or who gives aid or comfort to anyone so engaging in such rebellion or insurrection, shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than ten years and be fined not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Sec. 4. If two or more persons conspire to overthrow, put down, or destroy by force the government of the United States in the Philippine islands or the government of the Philippine islands, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States or of the government of the Philippine islands, or by force to seize, take or possess any property of the United States or of the government of the Philippine islands con-

trary to the authority thereof, each of such persons shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and by imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a period not more than six years.

Sec. 5. All persons who rise publicly and tumultuously in order to obtain by force or outside of legal methods any of the following objects are guilty of sedition:

1. To prevent the promulgation or execution of any law or the free holding of any popular election.

2. To prevent the insular government or any provincial or municipal government, or any public official from freely exercising its or his duties, or the due execution of any judicial or administrative order.

3. To inflict any act of hate or revenge upon the person or property of any official or agent of the insular government or of a provincial or municipal government.

4. To inflict, with a political or social object, any act of hate or revenge upon individuals or upon any class of individuals in the islands.

5. To despoil, with a political or social object, any class of persons, natural or artificial, a municipality, a province, or the insular government, or the government of the United States or any part of its property.

Sec. 6. Any person guilty of sedition, as defined in section 5 hereof, shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$5,000 and by imprisonment not exceeding ten years, or both.

Sec. 7. All persons conspiring to commit the crime of sedition shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

Sec. 8. Every person who shall utter seditious words or speeches, write, publish, or circulate scurrilous libels against the government of the United States or the Insular government of the Philippine islands or which tend to disturb or obstruct any lawful officer in executing his office, or which tend to instigate others to cabal or meet together for unlawful purposes, or which suggest or incite rebellious conspiracies or riots or which tend to stir up the people against the lawful authorities or to disturb the peace of the community, the safety and order of the government, or who shall knowingly conceal such evil practices, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 9. All persons who shall meet together for the purpose of forming,

or who shall form any secret society or who shall after the passage of this act continue membership in a society already formed, having for its object in whole or in part the promotion of treason, rebellion or sedition, or the promulgation of any political opinion or policy, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Sec. 10. Until it has been officially proclaimed that a state of war or insurrection against the authority or sovereignty of the United States no longer exists in the Philippine islands, it shall be unlawful for any person to advocate orally or by writing or printing or like methods, the independence of the Philippine islands or their separation from the United States whether by peaceable or forcible means, or to print, publish or circulate any handbill, newspaper, or other publication, advocating such independence or separation.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding \$2,000 and imprisonment not exceeding one year.

(Secs. 11, 12 and 13 forbid and prescribe penalties for the taking of oaths to perform acts, etc., forbidden in other sections. Sec. 14 relates to the violation of oaths of allegiance to the U. S.)

Sec. 15. The provisions of this act shall not apply to the organized provinces of Batangas, Cebu and Bohol, nor to any province where civil government has not been established, so long as insurrection against the authority of the United States exists therein, unless the commanding general of the Army of the United States, division of the Philippines, shall authorize and direct prosecutions in the civil courts in such territories for offenses under this act, in which event it shall apply.

(Sec. 16 relates to status of laws previously in force.)

Sec. 17. A foreigner, residing in the Philippine islands, who shall commit any of the crimes specified in the preceding sections of this act, except those specified in sections 1 and 2, shall be punished in the same way and with the same penalties as that prescribed for the particular crime therein.

Sec. 18. This act shall take effect on its passage.

Enacted November 4, 1901.

Drummer (on western express)—Your deal. What makes you so nervous?

Mr. Gotham—I'm afraid I'll get carried past my station.

"Where do you get off?"

"At Chicago."—N. Y. Weekly.