

**CIVIL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PHILIPPINES.
[1903]**

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DUDLEY O. MCGOVNEY

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[1903]**

Civil Government in the Philippines

BY

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PREFACE.

The importance of giving instruction in the public schools, upon the subject of civil government, can hardly be overestimated.

Every child before he leaves the public school should be taught the general plan of the government under which he lives. This knowledge not only creates in his mind a loyalty to his government, but enables him more perfectly to comply with the duties of citizenship.

I have read the manuscript of "Civil Government in the Philippines," by Dudley O. McGovney, with some degree of care and have found it to contain a true statement of the form and workings of the civil government in the Philippines.

The statements of facts, and the illustrations given, are so plain and simple that every child of proper school age for the study of this subject can easily understand them.

E. FINLEY JOHNSON,
Judge of the Court of First Instance, Manila.

PART I.

GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

It is hard to make a definition of *government* that beginners can understand. If we learn what part of the things that make up our lives is done by government, we shall begin to understand what government is. To do this, we must think about the things that do make up our lives.

When a boy is small his parents care for him because they love him. When he is six years old, they send him to school to study. They ought to teach him to work to make him useful. The boy who does not learn to work while he is a child has a hard task before him in life. Some time or other he must learn to work, for the man who does not work fails.

The boy goes to church to worship God. He

14 CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

learns what good conduct is and sees that the good men are the happy men.

When he becomes a young man he begins to work and to save money. Perhaps he is a carpenter, a mason, a blacksmith; perhaps he works in his father's fields or in the fields of his neighbors. "All labor," he says, "is honorable. People must have food, therefore the fields must be cultivated. I have gone to school. I am more intelligent than many of my neighbors. I can work to better advantage." He goes to his work happy because he has a purpose in life. He has a plan to save his wages and buy a shop, a factory, or some land of his own. He hopes to build a house, to marry, to become well-to-do.

This man has a peaceful, industrious and happy life. He is successful. He is well known to his neighbors and he is honored by them. They choose him town councillor or town president, or elect him to some higher office.

Many lives are different from this one and this is not all of the story of one life.

Now what part does the government take in this?

The parents take care of the child and give him food and clothing; the government does not.

The government builds a school-house and pays the teachers; the child attends free.

But the government does not build a church and compel the people to go to it.

Nor does the government make the young man work and save his money. He does this himself because he wants to make his life successful.

The government does not build him a shop, nor a factory, nor buy him land. It builds a street in front of his house, and roads upon which he can haul the products of his shop or factory, and the grain from his fields, to market.

Government does only a few of the things that make up our lives. Yet, there is a sense in which government takes part in it all. Government protects our lives from childhood to old age. It guards us from injury to person or to property. It guards the school, the church, our houses, our fields. It makes life safe. We can plant our fields, and feel sure that when the grain is ripe we can reap it. We can save our money and buy a house and feel reasonably sure that no man will dare to destroy it.

If these things were not true, we would be as poor tomorrow as we are today. It is the protection of government that allows us to live in peace, to be industrious and prosperous and to have better

16 CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

and happier lives. If we think of the conditions of savage lands, or of lands where the government is weak, we shall readily understand the blessings of strong and just government. It would be well to ask ourselves, "Have we a strong and good government?" "Does it make our lives and our property safe?" That is the most important question.



CHAPTER II.

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

Some Definitions.—*Government* is keeping order, giving justice and doing the public work.

The Government is the group or groups of officials who do these things and two things more. The two other things that *the government* does are collecting taxes and making laws. Thus there will be different answers to the questions, What is government? and What does the government do?

Keeping Order, or keeping the peace, means preventing all public disturbances, such as wars between tribes or sections of the country, riots, or fights by mobs in the streets, and brigandage, which is robbery by organized bands of men. It means also the prevention and punishment of crimes committed by individuals.

Giving Justice is protecting the rights of individuals. This is very difficult. It is so difficult that no government succeeds in giving entire justice to all people. If a quarrel arises between two men about property, they may go to a judge to have it decided. If a man is injured he may go into a