

A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND GROWTH
OF THE DIVISION OF ILOILO CITY SCHOOLS AS A PHASE
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ILOILO

A Thesis

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This thesis is the report of a study of the organization as well as the growth of the Division of Iloilo City Schools as a phase of public education in Iloilo for a period of five years. The study covers the period from the time of organization on June 15, 1949, and continues to include the school year 1953-1954.

Commonwealth Act No. Fifty-Seven was the original act establishing a form of government for the City of Iloilo. It was later amended by Commonwealth Act No. 158 otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Iloilo. By virtue of the said Act, the former municipalities of Iloilo, La Paz, and Arevalo, were fused together on July 16, 1937 to constitute the City of Iloilo.¹ The city proper, Molo, and Mandurriao were the districts formerly under the municipality of Iloilo. On January 16, 1941, Jaro, a first class municipality, was fused with Iloilo City.² The City of Iloilo now includes the districts of Jaro, La Paz, City Proper, Molo, Mandurriao, and Arevalo. It has an area of

¹ Charter of Iloilo City.

² Statement by Valentine de la Torre, Assistant Secretary to the City Board, personal interview.

11,070 hectares.³ It is the commercial center not only for the province of Iloilo, but also for the neighboring provinces of Antique, Capiz, and Occidental Negros.

The records in the City Treasurer's Office show that the city derives its main income from internal revenue allotment, real property tax, residence tax, taxes on agricultural products, franchise tax, weight and measures tax, municipal license tax, taxes on income, market collections, slaughterhouse fee, and light collections. The city also gets additional income from the penalties on municipal licenses, penalties on real property, penalties on weights and measures, forest penalties, interest on deposit and investment, secretary's service fee, cattle registration fee, electrician's fee, fisheries, rents, impounding and sales of stray animals, court collections, sheriff's fee, and sales of fixed assets.⁴

The City of Iloilo with a total annual revenue of ₱2,530,480.83 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952, was classified as a first class chartered city. The classification took effect July 1, 1952, per Executive Order No. 593, dated May 8, 1952, of His Excellency the President

³ A Brochure of the Youth Action Bureau (Iloilo City, March, 1956), p. 2.

⁴ General Form No. 62 A, Trial Balance Sheet, No. 5 and 6.

of the Philippines.⁵

Besides the permanent residents, the city houses transient residents from the interior towns and neighboring provinces. The residents of the city pursue various professions and occupations. There are lawyers, physicians, nurses, dentists, engineers, druggists, and teachers. A great bulk of the working class are employed in dress and tailor shops, carpentry shops, foundries, rice mills, and retail stores which line the main streets.

For recreational purposes, the city has twelve movie houses and several recreation centers. There are five "first-run" movie theaters, and seven "second-run" theaters.

The City of Iloilo has twenty-seven public elementary schools, two public secondary schools, a branch of the University of the Philippines, a national trade school, a normal school, nine private colleges, and two private universities. Aside from these, there are many private vocational schools offering a wide range of courses.

Before June 15, 1949, all public schools in the city were under the Division of Iloilo, except the Iloilo School of Arts and Trades and the branch of the University of the Philippines.

⁵ A note enclosed at the end of the Charter of Iloilo City.

As provided for in Commonwealth Act No. 158, the Division of Iloilo City Schools was organized on June 15, 1949. The new division started with twenty-two elementary schools and one secondary school removed from the jurisdiction of the Division of Iloilo. Mr. Igmedio Parcon was appointed the first superintendent of the Iloilo City Schools.

Mr. Parcon's appointment as City Schools Superintendent came from the Department of Education as recommended by the Director of Public Schools. His appointment to his new post came as a deserved promotion after passing the division superintendent's examination. Of the two hundred fifty examinees only fifteen qualified. Mr. Parcon made the highest grade in supervision, and was rated in the sixth place. He was the academic supervisor for the province of Davao when his appointment as head of the Division of Iloilo City Schools came. Mr. Parcon was a government pensionado to the Philippine Normal School in 1922. He also had been connected with the Division of Iloilo as district supervisor for Leganes.⁶

The Iloilo City High School, the only secondary school in the division, was founded on July 1, 1941, to fulfill two

⁶ Statement by Igmedio Parcon, City Superintendent, Iloilo City Schools, personal interview.

objectives, first, to answer the need of poor city residents, and second, to implement the program of the government to bring the benefit of secondary education to the masses. The school was organized during the incumbency of the city mayor, Oscar Ledesma, who was instrumental in the realization of the project. From the start, only first year classes were opened. The school started with 824 students organized into eighteen sections. The first principal was Mr. Vicente Cornelio. With the resignation of Mr. Cornelio in 1950, Mr. Norberto C. Baylen took over the principalship. The school compound comprises almost twenty hectares, which were partly donated and partly expropriated on M. H. del Pilar Street along the Molo-Iloilo road. With the opening of the Fourth Year in 1948, the Iloilo City High School became a complete high school. In April of that year, the school turned out the first class of 374 graduates.⁷

I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of the present study was to know the outstanding problems of the Division of Iloilo City Schools during the first year of its organization; the growth in the administrative and supervising staffs; the growth of schools

⁷ Statement by David Leyretana, Clerk, Iloilo City High School, personal interview.

as well as the factors responsible for the increase or decrease in the division's yearly enrolment; an appraisal of the sites, buildings, equipment, and health facilities of the twenty-eight schools in the division; a study of the teachers' educational qualifications, civil service eligibility, teaching experience, teachers' efficiency, and the types of in-service training activities for the professional growth of teachers; the implementation of the integrated activity program as a type of curriculum organization planned to meet the needs and interests of pupils; the kind of community work the division has undertaken to improve community life in the City of Iloilo; the various aspects and accomplishments of the adult education program of the division; and lastly, an appraisal of the division's health services, school libraries, and guidance program.