ALBERTO B. BARRETTO
(1867-1951)

Public Servant and Nationalist

Alberto Barretto was born in Cabangan, Zambales on 2 January 1867 to Antonio Barretto and Carmen Blanco.

He finished his degree in Bachelor of Arts from the Ateneo Municipal and pursued Law from the University of Santo Tomas and was conferred his Licentiate in Jurisprudence on March 18, 1893.

In 1894, Barretto was appointed prosecuting judge in Batangas. In November that same year, he was transferred to Manila as prosecuting attorney of the *Audiencia Territorial de Manila*. In 1897, he was named Justice of the Peace for Binondo and later, Judge of the Court of the First Instance of Manila in June 1898. His last term was cut short when he joined the revolutionary government on September 4, 1898, which he served with important positions. He represented Masbate and Ticao in the Malolos Congress. Aside from being a member of the committee that studied the draft of the Constitution, he was a member of the peace mission tasked to negotiate with the Schurmann Commission.

When the Philippine-American War erupted in February 1899, Barretto was named Teniente Colonel Auditor of War for Northern Luzon. On 14 July 1899, Alberto was one of the elected vice presidents of the Revolutionary Congress that convened in Tarlac. However, he was captured and was taken in as a political prisoner. When the civil government under America was established, Barretto took the nationalist aim of the Philippine Revolutionary Government in the political arena. He organized the *Democrata Party* with Jose de la Viña, Justo Lucban and Leon Ma. Guerrero in 1902. However, with the banning of pro-independence parties, this party was eventually dissolved. He joined the Association de Paz, a civic organization led by Pedro Paterno and designed to promote peace.

In 1903, Barretto served the government as *Registrador de Titulos* of Manila, a post that he served until 1905. In 1907, he helped organize with Justo Lucban the *Nacionalista Party*, which he had served as president and editor of its official paper *La Independencia*. In the same year, he was elected representative of Zambales in the Philippine Assembly. From 1911 to 1917, he was Judge of the Court of the First Instance for Rizal and Bulacan. In 1923, he served the government as Secretary of Finance.

Other records of Barretto include his involvement in various institutions: the Philippine Development Corporation, Cebu Portland Cement Company, El Ahorro Insular, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine Long Distance Company.

Barretto died of heart disease on 7 December 1951.

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