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EGYPT.

On 13 February 1841 (21 Dulkaada 1256), Egypt became the hereditary possession of the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. In 1866 and 1867 imperial firmans extended the attributions of the Khedive so as to give him absolute power to do whatever was necessary for the internal administration of Egypt. An Assembly was established to deliberate upon the domestic interests of the country and a regulation in 61 articles determining the attributions of the Assembly was promulgated by the Khedive 20 November 1866.¹ In 1883 the British government undertook the political and administrative reorganization of the country and on 1 May an Organic Law was promulgated by the Khedive creating a number of representative institutions, including a Legislative Council, a General Assembly and Provincial Councils.² But these bodies were mainly consultative and the Khedive and his ministers retained most of the legislative power. An electoral law in 46 articles was promulgated the same date (24 Jomada I 1300). These two laws were replaced³ in July 1913 by the present Organic and Electoral Laws, by which for the Legislative Council and General Assembly was substituted a new body called the Legislative Assembly.⁴

ORGANIC LAW OF 21 JULY 1913.⁵

[PREAMBLE.]

We, Khedive of Egypt,

Whereas it is Our desire to endow Our country with an enlightened system of government, which, while assuring good administration, the protection of the liberty of the individual and the development of progress and civilization, shall be specially adapted to the country ;

¹ French text in *Staatsarchiv*, 41 (no. 7741).

² French text is in the *British and Foreign State Papers*, 74: pp. 1095-1103, and F. R. DARESTE ET P. DARESTE, *Les Constitutions modernes* (3d edition, Paris, 1910), vol. II, pp. 346-356.

³ See Article 54 below.

⁴ These introductory paragraphs are based upon DARESTE, *op. cit.*, pp. 345-346, and *The Statesman's Year Book* (1918).

⁵ Translation taken from the British Parliamentary Paper *Egypt, No. 3A (1913)* (London, 1913) [Cd. 6878], which also contains a translation of the Electoral Law of the same date. French text with the commentary of the British Consul-General at Cairo in the *British and Foreign State Papers*, 106: pp. 917-941. The date of the Khedive's decree is 1 July 1913 (26 Rajab 1331), but the law did not come into force until 21 July (see Article 55).

Whereas such a result can only be obtained by the loyal cooperation of all classes and the coordination of all interests with a view to the calm and considered development of a system of government which, without being a servile imitation of Western methods, shall be capable of advancing the prosperity of the Egyptian people;

And whereas it is consequently Our intention to introduce amendments into the Organic Law with the object of improving Our legislative system, substituting for the present Organic Laws, Laws the objects of which are the fusion in a single Assembly of the Legislative Council and the General Assembly, the adoption of a wider and more rational method of election, the increase of the number of representatives entrusted with a share in the process of legislation, the grant to the new Assembly, and the organization of a procedure of consultation and initiative such as shall enable Our government to profit to a greater extent by the opinions and suggestions of the new Assembly with reference to the management of the internal affairs of Egypt;

Hereby decree :

PART I.

ARTICLE 1. There shall be :

1. A Legislative Assembly; and
2. A Provincial Council in each moodirieh.¹

PART II.—COMPOSITION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

ART. 2. The Legislative Assembly shall be composed of *ex officio* members, of elected members and of nominated members.

The ministers shall be *ex officio* members.

There shall be sixty-six elected members, one of whom shall be elected by the Assembly as vice-president. These members shall be elected in accordance with the forms and conditions prescribed by the Electoral Law.

There shall be seventeen nominated members, that is to say, a president, a vice-president and fifteen members, chosen with a view to securing the representation of minorities and interests not represented by the elected portion of the Assembly.

The elected and nominated members shall be entitled to an allowance.

A decree promulgated at the instance of Our Council of Ministers shall determine the composition of the Legislative Assembly after the election.

¹ That is, in each province.

ART. 3. The seats of the elected members shall be assigned as follows:¹

Cairo.....	4
Alexandria.....	3
Gharbieh.....	7
Menoufieh.....	5
Dakalieh.....	5
Behera.....	5
Sharkieh.....	5
Kalloubieh.....	3
Gizeh.....	3
Beni-Souef.....	2
Fayoum.....	6
Minieh.....	4
Assiut.....	5
Girgeh.....	4
Kena.....	4
Assuan.....	1
Port Said and Ismailia.....	1
Suez.....	1
Damietta.....	1

The fifteen members to be nominated by the government shall be chosen in such a way as to assure to the different classes of the population a minimum representation in the Assembly according to the following table:

Copts.....	4
Arab Bedouins.....	3
Business men.....	2
Medical men.....	2
Engineer.....	1
Representative of general or religious education.....	1
Representative of the municipalities.....	1

ART. 4. The mandate of the nominated and elected members of the Legislative Assembly shall last six years. The nominated and elected members shall respectively be renewed by thirds every two years. The first partial renewal of the General Assembly shall take place after a period of two years and the second after a period of four years. The selection of the outgoing members shall be made by lot. The same rules shall apply in the case of the renewal of the Assembly as a whole.

ART. 5. The members of the Legislative Assembly shall, at the first sitting or before acting in their office, take an oath of fidelity to Our Person and of obedience to the laws of the land.

¹ The spelling of these proper names has been made to conform to *Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language* (New York and London, 1915.)

ART. 6. Except for the cases of forfeiture mentioned in the Electoral Law, members of the Assembly shall only be deprived of their office by decree issued at the instance of Our Council of Ministers in pursuance of a resolution passed by the Assembly by a three-quarters majority.

ART. 7. In the case of a seat in the Assembly becoming vacant, a new election shall take place or a new member be nominated, as the case may be, within three months at the latest. The mandate of the new member shall last only until the expiry of the mandate of the member whom he replaces.

ART. 8. The Legislative Assembly may be dissolved by Us at any time by decree issued at the instance of Our Council of Ministers.

In case of dissolution, the new nominations and elections shall take place within three months.

The selection of the members to go out at the first and second partial renewals of the new Assembly shall be made by lot.

Such partial renewals shall always take place in the month of January following the completion of the period of two years fixed by Article 4.

PART III.—POWERS AND ATTRIBUTIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

ART. 9. No law shall be promulgated without having been previously submitted to the Legislative Assembly for its opinion.

All measures respecting the internal affairs of Egypt which relate to the organization of authority in the State or affect the civil or political rights of the generality of its inhabitants, as well as all decrees regulating matters of public administration, shall be considered as "laws."

All other measures may lawfully be taken under decrees promulgated by Us on the advice of Our Council of Ministers.

ART. 10. No law or decree shall be promulgated without being countersigned by the president of the Council of Ministers and the ministers concerned.

ART. 11. The Assembly shall possess the right of initiating legislation except as concerns the constitutional laws.

When the Assembly has been seized by one or more of its members of a bill, it shall decide at a public sitting whether or not it shall be taken into consideration.

In the case of its being taken into consideration, the proposed text shall be submitted to a committee and shall thereafter be examined by the Assembly sitting in committee. In the case of approval, the bill shall be transmitted to the Council of Ministers.

If the Council approves the bill, it shall send it back to the Assembly with or without amendments, in order that it may there be dealt with according to the usual forms. In the contrary event, the

Council of Ministers shall notify the Assembly of the reasons for its decision. Such reasons shall not be made the ground of any discussion.

In no case shall the bill be discussed by the Assembly at a public sitting without having been previously approved by the Council of Ministers.

ART. 12. When the Legislative Assembly is seized by the government of a bill, it may accept it without amendment, it may amend it, or it may reject it.

ART. 13. If the government does not agree with the Assembly, it shall send back the bill, together with a statement of its views.

The Assembly may discuss the explanations of the government, and if it persists in its disagreement, a conference shall take place between the Council of Ministers and the Assembly, sitting in committee.

ART. 14. If the conference does not result in an agreement, the examination of the bill under consideration shall be adjourned for a period of fifteen days. At the end of such period the bill shall again be submitted to the Assembly, either in its original form, or with such alterations as the government considers it advisable to make in it; so, nevertheless, that the government shall not depart from the principle of the original bill or from that of the amendments which have been introduced into it.

ART. 15. If after the adjournment provided for in Article 14 the Assembly and the government are still in disagreement, the latter may either dissolve the Assembly, or may promulgate the law in the form in which it last put it forward, or with such modifications as it may think right to accept.

The government shall inform the Assembly of the reasons which have led it to disregard the opinion of the Assembly.

ART. 16. In the event of the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, under the provisions of Article 15, on account of the continuance of disagreement between the government and the Assembly, the bill which has given rise to such disagreement may be submitted to the new Assembly at its first sitting, and shall in that case take precedence of all questions except the budget. The bill thus submitted shall be considered as a new bill and shall be examined in the ordinary manner.

ART. 17. No new direct tax, land tax, or personal tax, shall be imposed in Egypt without having been discussed and voted by the Legislative Assembly.

ART. 18. The Legislative Assembly shall be asked for its opinion as to:

1. Every public loan.
2. Every general scheme for the construction or suppression of canals, drains, or railways which affects several provinces.

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3. The general classification of the land in the country, from the point of view of the land tax.

The government shall, if the case arises, communicate to the Assembly the reasons for which it has not accepted its opinion.

ART. 19. The Legislative Assembly may express opinions or pass resolutions, either spontaneously or upon a request from the government, relating to matters or bills submitted for its consideration. The matters on which the Assembly may spontaneously express opinions and pass resolutions as regards the internal affairs of Egypt are economic, administrative and financial matters.

The government shall, if the case arises, communicate to the Assembly the reasons for which it has not accepted any opinion expressed or resolution passed by it.

ART. 20. The services of the civil list, the tribute, and the public debt, and, generally, the charges and obligations resulting from the law of liquidation or from international agreements, as well as questions concerning foreign Powers and the relations of Egypt with them shall not be made the subject of any decision, discussion, observation, or representation.

Questions relating to the nomination, promotion, transfer, prosecution, or dismissal of a public servant, or of any person entrusted with a public duty, or with any other measure affecting any such public servant or persons in his individual capacity, shall equally be outside the competence of the Assembly.

ART. 21. Every resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly which is not in conformity with the provisions of the present Law shall be null and void.

ART. 22. The general budget of revenue and expenditure shall be communicated to the Legislative Assembly one month at least before the end of the financial year.

The Legislative Assembly may express opinions, submit observations, or pass resolutions on any section of the budget except those referring to questions mentioned in Article 19.

Such opinions, observations, or resolutions shall be transmitted to the Minister of Finance, who shall, if the case arises, give his reasons for the rejection of the suggestions of the Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly shall have the right to discuss the explanations thus furnished and to formulate new observations.

ART. 23. In any event the budget shall be put into force by decree issued at the instance of our Council of Ministers five days before the end of the financial year at the latest.

During the month following the publication of the budget, the Ministry of Finance shall furnish the Legislative Assembly with reasons as to any new observations which have not been accepted.

ART. 24. The general accounts of the Department of Finance drawn up for the past financial year shall be presented annually to the Legislative Assembly for its opinion, observations and criticisms four months at least before the introduction of the new budget.

ART. 25. Every Egyptian may address Us by petition.

Such petitions shall be forwarded to the president of the Legislative Assembly and shall after examination by the Assembly be rejected or taken into consideration.

All petitions which are taken into consideration shall be sent, for such action as the case may call for, to the minister concerned, who shall inform the Assembly of the action taken.

ART. 27. The members of the Legislative Assembly shall be entitled to put questions to ministers with regard to administrative matters of general interest, subject to the following conditions:

1. They shall at least five days in advance send to the secretariat of the Legislative Assembly a written notice containing the entire text of the question.

Nevertheless, in case of urgency, and with the approval of the president of the Assembly and of the minister concerned, a question may be put after twenty-four hours' notice in writing.

2. The president of the Legislative Assembly, sitting with the two vice-presidents, shall reject or return for modification any question which in his opinion contains improper expressions or personal attacks, or is of a nature to provoke animosity between the different elements of the population, as also any question affecting the relations and arrangements with the Powers.

ART. 28. The ministers or their representatives shall reply to the questions thus asked; they may, nevertheless, refuse to reply to a question if they consider that to do so would be contrary to the public interest.

ART. 29. The replies of the ministers or of their representatives shall not be made the subject of any discussion. Nevertheless, the members of the Assembly shall have the right, with the approval of the president, of putting supplementary questions, but only with a view to elucidating points raised by the ministerial reply.

PART IV.—THE PROCEDURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

ART. 30. The Legislative Assembly shall meet annually on 1 November, and shall continue its session till the end of May the following year.

It may also be summoned by Us whenever circumstances require it to meet.

Neither ordinary nor extraordinary sessions shall terminate until the Legislative Assembly has communicated to the government its opinion on all the questions submitted to it.

ART. 31. Ministers shall have the right to be assisted or represented for special matters by high officials of their department.

ART. 32. The sittings of the Legislative Assembly shall be public, subject to the provisions of such standing orders as the Assembly shall pass with respect thereto.

Conferences with the Council of Ministers and meetings of the Assembly when sitting in committee shall not be public.

ART. 33. The Legislative Assembly can not take valid decisions unless two thirds at least of its members, excluding those on regular leave of absence, are present.

Except when a three-quarters majority is required, resolutions shall be passed by majority of votes.

When the votes are equally divided, the president shall have a casting vote.

Votes shall not be given by proxy. Voting shall be open, unless the Assembly decides in the public interest that it shall be by ballot.

ART. 34. The president of the Legislative Assembly shall appoint the staff required for the despatch of the business of the Assembly.

PART V.—ATTRIBUTIONS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS.

ART. 35.—*a.* The Provincial Council may vote temporary taxes in the moodirieh' to cover expenditure for public purposes, including education.

It may assign the whole of these taxes to education. Within a limit of 5 per cent. of the whole total of the land tax in the moodirieh, the decision of the Council shall be final, both with regard to its imposition and to its allocation, and shall form the subject of a decree.

In the event of the Council exceeding this limit, its decision as regards the excess shall not be final until it has been approved by the government and sanctioned by decree.

The rules regarding public money shall apply to the levy, safe-keeping and expenditure of the proceeds of the taxes in question.

The Council shall have the right to control the expenditure of all that portion of the proceeds of which it has not disposed directly, whether by virtue of the present Law or some other law.

b. Except as provided for in the annual budget, which shall be voted by the Council for a period of twelve months, commencing on 1 January, and be approved by the Minister of the Interior, no payment out of the funds destined to be spent directly by the Council

shall be made without the special authority of the Minister of the Interior.

c. The Ministry of Finance has the right to inspect and verify the accounts of the Provincial Councils.

d. The Council may, through its president, demand from the public services of the moodirieh full information on the subject of the work for which they are responsible.

ART. 36. Independently of the attributions conferred on it by the express provisions of the present Law or of any other law, the Council may be consulted by the moodir or by any minister on any question as to which the moodir or minister thinks it expedient to obtain its opinion. The Council may, further, submit spontaneously to the moodir, or through the latter to any minister, or to the Council of Ministers, representations on the subject of the general needs of the province, and notably on the subject of agriculture, irrigation, means of communication, public security, public health and education.

Nevertheless:

a. The Provincial Council shall not be competent to take cognizance of any question coming within the scope of the local commissions or of the mixed local commissions set up in the moodirieh.

b. The Provincial Council shall not deliberate on the appointment, transfer, discipline, or dismissal of public servants.

ART. 37.—1. The preliminary opinion of the Provincial Council shall be necessary as to the following questions:

- (1) The alteration of the boundaries of the moodirieh;
- (2) The establishment or suppression of a local commission within the moodirieh;
- (3) The establishment, transfer, or suppression of government schools or hospitals and public cemeteries;
- (4) The purchase, sale, exchange, construction, repairing, or change in the purpose for which buildings and immovable property belonging to the State in the moodirieh are used;
- (5) The application of a law to a bandar or village in the moodirieh or the decision to apply it no longer;
- (6) The regulation of the application of a law in a bandar or village in the moodirieh;
- (7) Alterations in administrative and judicial circumscriptions in the moodirieh;
- (8) Alterations in the boundaries of the bandars or villages; the creation of new villages; the suppression of villages existing in the moodirieh;
- (9) The construction of agricultural railways in the moodirieh and the fixing of their route;
- (10) The grant of concessions in the moodirieh either to companies or private individuals.

2. The consent of the Provincial Council shall be obligatory as regards the following measures, before any steps are taken to execute them :

a. The promulgation, modification, or abrogation by the moodir of a local regulation, whether for the whole or a part of the moodirieh, or for certain bandars or villages of the moodirieh.

b. The application of an order or regulation to a bandar or village, or the decision to apply to the order no longer.

c. The regulation of the application of an order or regulation in a bandar or village of the moodirieh.

Nevertheless, the provisions of Sections *a, b* and *c* (*supra*) shall not apply to provisional orders and regulations enacted or applied in the case of an epidemic or other circumstances having an urgent character. In this case the moodir shall at the first meeting of the Council inform it of the reasons for which its consent has been dispensed with. In the same way the said provisions shall not apply to questions coming within the scope of a local commission or of a mixed local commission of the moodirieh, or to measures provided for by a law on which the Legislative Assembly has expressed its opinion.

ART. 38. There shall be submitted to the Provincial Council for its opinion the annual program of the Ministry of Public Works, concerning the following matters :

a. The construction of canals and public drains.

b. The cleaning out of canals and public drains.

In the case of the Ministry of Public Works judging it necessary to modify in any way a resolution of the Provincial Council, it must consult the Council on the modification.

c. The rotation of irrigation during low water.

Nevertheless, the fact of submitting to the Council the program of rotation shall not deprive the Ministry of Public Works and its agents of the right to modify the order of rotation, in case of urgency, without first asking the opinion of the Provincial Council. In this case the Council, at its first meeting, shall be informed of the reasons which have led to the modification.

ART. 39. From the coming into force of the present Law, no fair or market shall be held at any place in the moodirieh where it was not held periodically before this date, unless authority has previously been given by the moodirieh, with the consent of the Provincial Council.

Fairs and markets held in breach of the provisions of the present article shall be closed by the moodir by administrative service.

Nevertheless :

a. The present article shall not be applicable to markets established by virtue of a concession granted before the entering into force of the present Law; Permission of the Buffalo & Erie

b. No authorization shall be accorded under the present article contrary to the terms of a concession already granted;

c. No authorization granted under the present article shall dispense with the obligation to conform with all sanitary or other regulations in force in fairs or markets.

ART. 40.—*a.* The Provincial Council shall fix, subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Interior, the number of ghaffirs necessary to guard each bandar or village in the moodirieh, except those having a local commission or a mixed local commission; it shall also determine the different classes of ghaffirs;

b. The Council shall fix, under the same conditions, the wages of the ghaffirs, taking into consideration the rate of wages current in the different parts of the moodirieh;

c. If, before 1 January of each year the Council has not altered the number of ghaffirs in any bandar or village, or the rate of their wages, the number of ghaffirs employed in the bandar or village and the rate of their wages shall remain the same as in the preceding year.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of the Interior may, after having taken the opinion of the Council, increase the number of ghaffirs in any bandar or village, if the increase appears to him necessary in the interests of public security.

d. A committee of the Provincial Council shall be appointed annually to decide without appeal the claims formulated against the apportioning between the various dwellings of the sum necessary for the maintenance of the ghaffirs in a bandar or village other than those possessing a local commission or a mixed local commission.

ART. 41.—1. The Provincial Council shall have the following attributions as regards ezbehs:

a. No ezbeh shall be constructed in a province without the prior authorization of the moodirieh given with the assent of the Provincial Council.

The Council shall take into consideration the area of the lands belonging to the petitioner in the place where the ezbeh has been constructed, the number of persons employed in the cultivation of these lands, the distance between the said lands and any village or other locality where lodging could be found and the possibility of arranging in a satisfactory manner for the protection of the ezbeh without excessive expense.

Requests for authority to construct an ezbeh must be accompanied by a plan of the spot, a plan of the buildings, and by all other information required to enable the Council to arrive at a decision, in accordance with the provisions of the present article.

b. The Council may at any time decide to demolish an ezbeh, even an authorized one, if it serves habitually as a refuge for persons of bad character or if criminals find asylum therein.

c. The Council may decide to demolish any ezbeh constructed without authority, either before or after the coming into force of the present Law, if the provision of watchmen is too difficult or costly, having regard to the number of its inhabitants and their conditions of existence.

Nevertheless:

a. No decision shall be taken by virtue of paragraphs *b* and *c* of this article until the owner of the ezbeh has been invited to express his views before the Council or before a committee of the Council, nor without the approval of the Council of Ministers;

b. No authorization shall be given for the construction of an ezbeh within 100 metres of the embankment of the Nile, or a public drain, or a cemetery, or within 300 metres of a birket situated to the north of the site proposed for the ezbeh or within 200 metres of any other birket;

c. Any refusal to grant authorization shall be subject to an appeal before the Minister of the Interior.

2. If an ezbeh has been constructed, or the construction of an ezbeh is undertaken, without the authority of the moodir or the Minister of the Interior, in the case of appeal the administration may proceed to demolish the ezbeh before its completion, or within six months of its completion.

The moodir shall have its demolition proceeded with by administrative service. The expenses of demolition shall be recovered from the owner of the ezbeh or the owner of the land on which the ezbeh was being constructed in the form prescribed by the Decree of 25 March 1880.

ART. 42. In addition to the development of elementary education (including training in agriculture and handicraft), the Council is empowered to supervise the development in the moodirieh of education in all its branches and grades in the following manner:

a. It may decide to establish or acquire schools in the moodirieh, and provide for their management, and shall have all the powers necessary for the purpose.

b. Independently of schools thus established or acquired, the Council may equally take over the control of any other school in the moodirieh and arrange for its management, provided that the allocation of buildings to the needs of education is permanently guaranteed and that the effective control of the school is secured to the Council by the conditions stipulated in the act of transfer.

c. In order to establish a uniform system in the whole moodirieh, the Council may issue regulations and schemes for the management of schools of different categories, besides those established, acquired, or managed in conformity with the preceding paragraph; it may confer the title of "recognized schools" on schools managed

in conformity with the said regulations and the owners or managers of which submit to the conditions laid down on the subject.

d. It may associate with itself four persons at the most, chosen from those particularly interested in education in the moodirieh, who shall be present to give their advice at the meetings held by the Council for the purpose of deciding questions connected with education, and in the case of the institution of a committee for education such persons shall be members of it *ex officio*.

The mandate of the said persons shall be for two years; it is renewable.

e. The Council may set up committees composed of members of its own body or of the persons interested in education in the moodirieh. These communities shall be entrusted each with the management of one or more schools. The Council shall define their powers itself.

f. It may accept gifts of money, which are destined, or real property, the revenues of which are destined, to the needs of education in the moodirieh generally or in stated localities.

It may also accept subscriptions presented for special objects coming within the scope of the Council in matters of education; in this case the subscriptions shall be spent in accordance with the conditions of the gift.

g. Seventy per cent. of the total of the taxes destined for education shall be appropriated by the Council for elementary education, including training in agriculture and handicraft. The thirty per cent. remaining shall be used for the benefit of primary education and that of higher grades.

In the exercise of powers conferred by the present article the Council shall observe as far as possible the general principles contained in any general regulation promulgated by a law or an order of the Minister of Public Education.

ART. 43. The Council shall, within a reasonable period from the day on which it was notified thereof, examine any question submitted to it under the present law or any other law, and express its opinion.

If the Provincial Council refuses to express its opinion, or if it does not express it within a reasonable time, the Council of Ministers may decide to dispense with it.

PART VI.—COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURE OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS.

ART. 44. The Provincial Councils shall be composed as follows:

Each Council shall consist of two representatives of each markaz of the moodirieh, elected by the elector-delegate of the villages in the markaz.

The two representatives must be domiciled in the circumscription of the markaz which they represent.

For the purposes of this provision :

1. The capital of a moodirieh with its own administrative organization shall be considered as forming part of the markaz in the circumscription of which it is situated.

2. Every markaz, the population of which does not exceed 20,000 inhabitants, and every administrative subdivision of a moodirieh not forming a markaz, shall be amalgamated with other markazes by order issued by the Minister of the Interior with the assent of the Council of Ministers.

The moodir shall be the president of the Provincial Council, and, if absent or prevented from attending, he shall be replaced by the sub-moodir.

The Provincial Councils thus constituted shall be considered to be corporations. They shall be represented by the moodir for the purpose of the exercise of the powers and the carrying out of the duties assigned to them.

ART. 45. The representatives of the markazes in the Provincial Councils shall be elected for four years. One representative of each markaz shall retire every two years in turn.

The retiring members of the Council shall continue to perform their duties until the appointment of their successors. They may be reelected.

ART. 46. In the case of a seat of a member of a Provincial Council becoming vacant, a new election shall take place within three months at the outside. The mandate of the new member shall last only until the expiration of the mandate of the member he replaces.

ART. 47. Each newly-elected member of the Provincial Council shall, before he enters upon his duties, take before the moodir the oath of fidelity to the Khedive and of obedience to the laws of the country.

ART. 48. Every member of a Provincial Council who, without reason considered by the Council as sufficient, shall be absent during three consecutive sessions shall be declared by the Council to have forfeited his seat.

By "session" is understood one or more consecutive sittings held by virtue of a single summons.

Except for the cases of forfeiture of seats provided for by the Electoral Law, the members of the Provincial Council shall not be dismissed save by decree issued at the instance of Our Council of Ministers on a resolution passed by the Provincial Council by a three-quarters majority.

ART. 49. The Provincial Councils shall assemble at the times fixed by their standing orders, or otherwise when summoned by the moodir.

The moodir may at any time summon the Council to a special sitting, and it shall be obligatory for him to do so whenever a written demand to this effect is made to him, signed by at least one third of the members of the Council.

Excepting members of the Provincial Council, no one may be present at the sittings of the Council or at those of its committees without being invited by the Council or moodir for the better elucidation of the questions under discussion.

Nevertheless, each minister may appoint one or more delegates to be present at those sittings of the Provincial Council or its committees at which questions relating to a service under his department are to be discussed. These delegates shall take part in discussions without voting.

The moodir, or the sub-moodir for him, shall be an *ex officio* member of all the committees of the Council. He shall preside over every sitting at which he is present.

The sittings of the Council shall not be in order unless the number of members present exceeds one half. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of votes, and in case of an equal division the president shall have a casting vote.

The Minister of the Interior may enact, by order approved by the Council of Ministers, regulations of general application for the working of the Provincial Councils.

While complying with the general regulations, each Provincial Council may, with the approval of the Minister of the Interior, draw up its own standing orders.

ART. 50. The dissolution of a Provincial Council may be pronounced at any time by a decree stating the reasons for this course. In this case there shall be a fresh election within three months from the date of dissolution.

PART VII.—INTERPRETATION.

ART. 51. All questions arising as to the interpretation of the present Law shall be decided definitively by a special commission composed of two ministers, one of whom shall be the Minister of Justice, who shall preside, and the other of whom shall be nominated by the Council of Ministers, of two members of the Legislative Assembly chosen by that Assembly, and of the president, the vice-president and the senior judge of the Native Court of Appeal.

PART VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS.

ART. 52. The first partial renewal of the Legislative Assembly shall take place in January 1916, the second in January 1918, and the third in January 1920.

The selection of the members to go out at the first and second renewals shall be made by lot.

ART. 53. The existing members of the Provincial Councils shall remain in office until their mandate runs out. Nevertheless, in order to secure the retirement of half of the members every second year as required by Article 45, the representative whose mandate would normally run out at the end of 1916 shall only remain in office until the end of 1915.

ART. 54. The Organic Law of 1 May 1883, as successively amended by the decree of 29 September 1883, and by Laws Nos. 3, 18 and 22 of 1909, Law No. 2 of 1911 and Law No. 7 of 1912, is hereby repealed, as are all provisions of laws, decrees, superior orders or regulations which are in conflict with the provisions of the present Law.

ART. 55. Our ministers are charged, each so far as he is concerned therein, with the execution of the present law, which shall come into force as from the date of its publication in the *Official Journal*. The Law shall, in addition, be placarded in all towns and villages throughout Egypt.¹

¹ Here follow the signatures of the Khedive Abbas Hilmi and the six ministers.