

Perish 306

Chapter 306: Various Workshops Construction_2

Capito had never considered such a problem before, and for once showed a bewildered expression. After a while, he said helplessly, "Even if the wastewater from refining iron ore is not discharged into the river, it might still end up in the river if we discharge it somewhere else!"

"I have a solution you can try," Maximus said confidently. "Dig several big pits next to the Iron Workshop, and place some charcoal at the bottom of the pits. Discharge the wastewater from iron refining into the first pit, let it settle for a while, then discharge it into the second pit, and let it settle again, then discharge it into the third pit..."

This way, after the wastewater has cycled through these pits, most of the mineral residue will have settled in the pits, and the relatively clear wastewater can be discharged into the river."

Capito pondered for a while and asked, "Why put charcoal in the pits?"

"Because charcoal can absorb the mineral residue in the wastewater. You can try it first, and if it works, use this method to treat wastewater from any workshop in the future."

"Alright... I will let them give it a try." Capito showed interest.

"By the way, I remember that the Supply Camp has a large Weaving Team. They make straw sandals, waistcoats, backpacks, tents... they've made great contributions to our team. Now that we're settled, how is your Public Works Department planning to arrange them?"

"Leader, I was just about to talk to you about this. Most of the Weaving Team are women, and a few days ago they all registered for marriage. In the future, they will work the land and take care of their families with their husbands, leaving no time to make these things.

Moreover, now that the tribe members have land and houses, they can plant hemp and raise sheep, weave straw sandals, and wool, and make coats themselves... I think we can disband the Weaving Team."

Maximus didn't express an opinion and asked, "What about the other sizable team in the Supply Camp—the Transport Team? What do you plan to do with them?"

"Leader, I still say the same thing. Now that we've settled, they've been allocated land too. Therefore, the Transport Team can also be disbanded, and all the carriages can be handed over to the Finance Department."

Maximus looked at the others and asked, "What do you all think about disbanding the Weaving Team and the Transport Team?"

Volenus spoke up first: "I think Capito's approach is correct. Now that we've settled, the Weaving Team and the Transport Team have lost their functions. Disbanding the teams and letting them focus on farming is the right thing to do. The carriages should be managed by the Finance Department, and the cattle, horses, and donkeys can go to our Agricultural Department for rent to tribe members for farming."

Gaius immediately expressed dissatisfaction: "Your Agricultural Department takes all the livestock, leaving us only the carriages. What use do we have for them? Let them get moldy in the warehouse?!"

Pigeris stood up and said loudly: "I oppose disbanning them! Although families can make clothes and shoes themselves in the future, it takes time and isn't as good as what the Weaving Team makes. It's better to retain the Weaving Team to continue making things, sell them to tribe members at a low price, the tribe earns money, and the people save time to focus on farming, isn't that good."

"Pigeris, you think well, but you must understand that if the tribe members can make things themselves, they won't spend money to buy them. Besides, those in the Weaving Team now have their land, and won't want to work for the tribe for free. Can we force them to?!"

Volenus looked at Maximus, seriously reminded him, "Leader, this isn't just about the Weaving Team. Capito mentioned those Blacksmiths, Potters, Charcoal Makers... they also have been allocated land, so they might prefer to farm for themselves rather than work for the tribe.

Even if a few like blacksmithing or pottery, if they neglect their fields and get poor harvests, they'll face tribal penalties, forcing them to focus on farming."

Capito's face changed dramatically. These days he has been busy thinking about how to build bridges and workshops and completely overlooked this issue that could threaten the core of the Public Works Department, causing his mind to be in turmoil, not knowing what to say.

"This problem is actually easy to solve." Maximus's words immediately gave Capito hope as this young leader calmly said, "The land must be allocated to everyone, as we promised before, and that cannot change!"

But for those with skills like Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Potters, and Charcoal Makers, they would actually rather do what they are good at rather than toil tirelessly in farming, and they probably won't know how to farm, so we need to provide them with this convenience. Let them have land but not worry about farming, allowing them to focus on doing what they love. How to solve it? It's simple; the tribe will help them farm—"

Does the tribe help them farm? Some in the hall were puzzled, while others were thoughtful.

Maximus, enjoying the attention of everyone, patiently explained, "The reason I introduced the Reserve Tribe Members in the Twenty Peerage System is to have these Reserve Tribe Members help the tribe members who don't have time to farm.

Our Reserve Tribe Members are now all Skodisqi people. When they were slaves in the Segestica Tribe, they mainly farmed. Letting them farm for the artisans who don't know how to farm allows the artisans to focus more on Blacksmithing and Pottery, which is a win-win situation.

It's not just these artisans working for the tribe. Like me, like you, and all the departmental subordinates... all the tribe's officials are busy with tribal affairs, and they won't have time to farm for themselves, so they too should have the Reserve Tribe Members farm for them."

Maximus's words alleviated the concerns of everyone present. Volenus spoke up, echoing everyone's sentiment, "I think the leader's idea is great! Now we have over 8000 Reserve Tribe Members, and some Skodisqi slaves will follow mountains from Brochi to join the tribe. Additionally, some Segestica Prisoners may be persuaded by their wives to choose to become Reserve Tribe Members...

With this, our tribe's Reserve Tribe Members can number up to ten thousand, more than enough to farm for all the Official Tribe Members who work for the tribe, and the excess can assist, open up new fields, build roads, and construct houses..."

Everyone expressed approval, but Karina had some reservations: "I feel... letting these Reserve Tribe Members farm for us and work for us, but getting nothing themselves, seems... like slavery."

"Karina, how can you say such a thing!" Pigeris immediately shouted.

"Hey, Pigeris, watch your words!" Flanitnus immediately stood up to defend his wife.

Pigeris immediately softened his tone, "What I mean is that Reserve Tribe Members are protected by the tribal decree just like us, and no one can harm or insult them. The tribe provides them with food, goods, and shelter, which will not be inferior. Although they might not gain much in two to three years of hard work, they can become Official Tribe Members afterward and be allocated land and houses..."

We all have been slaves, and we should know that the life of our Reserve Tribe Members and the abused slaves is like heaven and earth. Don't you think so, Karina?"

Karina didn't speak but just nodded.

"Who said that the hard work of the Reserve Tribe Members in these two to three years will gain nothing." Maximus looked around at everyone, speaking with a more serious expression, "The Reserve Tribe Members should indeed gain something for their hard work, to motivate their enthusiasm."

Chapter 307: About Taxation, Salaries, and Trade

Maximus paused briefly: "My idea is... all families that have Reserve Tribe Members work their fields for them should pay an additional tax of twenty to forty percent to the tribe. The tribe will then transfer ten or twenty percent of this tax to the Reserve Tribe Members as their compensation. However, the current Reserve Tribe Members don't have their own houses or apprentices to store grain, so we can settle it with them altogether when they become Official Tribe Members."

This way, when they live independently, the tribe won't need to provide additional assistance. It also ensures fairness for other families who don't have Reserve Tribe Members helping with farming, so they won't cause trouble for the tribe."

"But leader, we think it's a bit unfair to pay two to three times more tax than others—" Pigeris boldly objected.

"Everyone, don't be anxious. Let me finish." Maximus waved his arm and seriously continued: "The Iron Workshop, Furniture Workshop, Pottery Workshop... all belong to the tribe, not private individuals. Therefore, these craftsmen work for the tribe, just like the officials in the tribe. We shouldn't let them work for nothing. I believe the tribe should pay these craftsmen salaries.

Officials receive different salaries based on the rank of their positions, and craftsmen receive different salaries based on the quantity and quality of what they produce. This way, although everyone has to pay considerable land taxes, they earn compensation by working for the tribe, and these salaries are tax-free. What do you think?"

There was a commotion in the hall.

It was understandable for craftsmen to receive salaries for their work, but the idea that officials could also get paid for working for the tribe was unheard of among the tribes and City States in the Western Mediterranean. As far as Quintus, Capito, and Volenus knew, Rome's Elders and civil affairs officers not only wouldn't earn salaries, but sometimes spent their own money to please citizens, such as hosting large banquets or Gladiator games for citizens to watch free of charge.

"Leader, if we are to pay everyone, how much should it be?" Gaius asked.

"As for how specifically to pay the officials and craftsmen? How much to pay?... We can discuss and formulate this separately later. In essence, we must ensure that those striving for the tribe's interests are not at a loss."

"But in the future, the tribe's finances will primarily come from taxes, and distributing them as salaries every month will leave little left. Should a war break out, there might not be much material to support the army in fighting." As the Chief Officer of the Finance Department, Gaius naturally expressed his concern.

"Everyone doesn't need to worry." Maximus had considered these issues and patiently explained:
"Having tribe member families that let Reserve Tribe Members help with farming pay extra tax already offsets the issuance of salaries.

Moreover, the iron produced by the Iron Workshop, pottery by the Pottery Workshop, and furniture by the Furniture Workshop... are not distributed to the tribesmen for free but are sold to them. The revenue from these sales is returned to the Finance Department... Therefore, we need to set up a market in the tribe, build shops, and sell various items made by different workshops to tribesmen, which will be managed by the Commerce Department.

I remember there were some tribesmen skilled in trading in the original Supply Camp. Pigeris, you can choose capable people among them to manage the shops and pay them salaries.

Additionally, we agreed to trade with the Alde Tribe when signing the alliance, and I think we can start implementing it now due to the drastic change in the situation."

"Leader, leave the trade matters to us at the Commerce Department, and I assure you, the Finance Department won't have to worry about running out of money!" Pigeris said excitedly, feeling it was time to showcase his abilities.

"Leader, the tribesmen have just started living independently and don't have money to buy anything," Volenus reminded.

"Let them buy on credit first, and deduct it during tax collection after the harvest. Pigeris, within our tribe, keep the sale prices of items to tribesmen low, so they are eager to buy and won't have grievances against the tribe."

"Uh... what about the prices for the Aldeans?" Pigeris asked somewhat reluctantly.

"The situation for the Aldeans isn't good right now, so the prices of goods sold to them should also be low so they can afford and are willing to buy. Once they get used to purchasing and using things made by our tribe—" Maximus said meaningfully: "They'll be more inclined to stay close to us rather than leave."

Pigeris' eyes darted around, and he said, "Leader, I understand. Before the market is established and trade begins, I will present the proposed prices for various goods to you for approval."

Maximus shook his head: "This is originally the duty of your Commerce Department, and you can decide on your own. Plus, the prices of goods aren't fixed, as they can fluctuate based on scarcity and demand, which you should be aware of.

But one principle you must remember! We must ensure that not only can the tribesmen afford and like using items produced by our tribe, but also that the Aldeans, Pannonians, and even the various mountain tribes want to use and buy our products. At that time, our tribe will become the commercial hub of the entire Great River Plain, and even if we sell cheaply, we will be abundantly wealthy. So I have great expectations for the Public Works Department and Commerce Department. Let's all work together!"

Chapter 308: On Taxes, Salaries, and Trade_2

"Leader, our Commerce Department will not let you down!" Pigeris was filled with fervor at these words; he turned to look at Capito, who was also looking at him. There was some intensity in both their eyes.

"So... the Weaving Team Capito just mentioned can be disbanded, but we need to select the most skilled individuals from the original group to establish a Weaving Workshop. I see a lot of reeds growing well on the edge of the Validosi Swamp, which can be used to make straw sandals, straw mats, ropes, and straw baskets... anything that can be woven from grass to be sold to the tribespeople to facilitate their lives.

We currently don't have linen or wool; we can start by purchasing them from the Aldeans, letting the Weaving Workshop weave them into fabrics and blankets, to be sold by the Commerce Department. In the future, we could encourage the tribesmen to grow flax and raise sheep, with the tribe purchasing these resources, ensuring a stable supply of raw materials for the Weaving Workshop..."

Maximus, speaking with enthusiasm, continued: "We don't need to completely disband the Transportation Team either. Retain the top ten to twenty skilled individuals and the best-equipped dozen of carriages to form a new Transportation Team, which will be managed by the Commerce Department. After all, in the future, the Commerce Department will need to purchase and transport iron ore from the Alde Tribe, or transport large quantities of goods to other tribes for trade, necessitating a Transportation Team."

"Your considerations are thorough, leader!" Pigeris said happily in praise.

"I have no objections," Capito responded.

"When the Transportation Team is idle, they can serve the tribespeople, fulfilling their transportation needs, but a small hire fee should be charged and submitted to the Finance Department."

"That's a great idea!" Pigeris continued to praise.

"There's something I hope everyone will take seriously." Maximus looked at everyone, emphasizing as he said: "The craftsmen in the various workshops under the Public Works Department, and the assistants in the various shops managed by the Commerce Department, although not tribal officials, they work for the tribe and are not ordinary tribesmen. They fall under the supervision of the Civil Affairs Department.

Moreover, they frequently handle goods and finances, which makes them more susceptible to corruption. Therefore, the officials in the Public Works Department and Commerce Department need to enhance their management, while the Civil Affairs Department should conduct periodic audits to prevent such issues from arising."

Capito and Pigeris felt a tightening in their hearts, just as Karina resolutely declared: "Leader, rest assured, I will keep a close watch on them and will not allow anyone to steal tribal property!"

"Good." Maximus nodded in approval, then asked, "We just discussed transportation; Capito, your Public Works Department is in charge of road construction, what's your plan for this?"

"Leader, in the short term, our Public Works Department has decided to concentrate on addressing the transportation between the two villages of Snowdonia and Westeni. The old dirt road is not flat or wide enough, and it becomes muddy and impassable after rain, so I intend to model it after the Roman Road. This way, traveling between the two villages will be more convenient, and we can also display our distinctive strength to other tribes in these mountains."

Capito said with his head held high: "We have attempted this in Campania and Apulia, gaining experience in road building. Additionally, the distance between the two villages is not long, and if we mobilize soldiers to start construction from both ends simultaneously, it can be completed within a month. The only problem is that there is no volcanic ash here; we use kiln-burned lime mixed with river sand to make mortar. Without the addition of volcanic ash, it may be challenging to maintain the surface's durability after the paved stone slabs have been joined—"

Maximus, recalling his knowledge about ancient cement technology from his previous life researching a civilization strategy game, immediately suggested: "Adding some iron ore powder during the lime burning process might enhance the mortar's hardness after curing."

"Adding iron powder to kiln burning?" Capito thought for a moment, uncertain, and said: "Once the lime kiln is ready, I'll have them try it and see if it works. Additionally, apart from land roads, both of our villages are located by the Kupa River, and the tributaries Kolana River and Murenica River lead to the territory of the Aldeans. The lower reaches of the Kupa River also flow through the lands of the Pannonians, making river transport more convenient. Our Public Works Department plans to build an inland harbor at Snowdonia and expand the simple dock at Westeni.

We also plan to establish a Shipbuilding Workshop. Many carpenters in the swamp camp are shipwrights from Campania and Sarabia, although they mostly built sea ships in the past. Recently, they have been studying the few wooden boats we have in the village, and I'm confident they will soon be able to design vessels suitable for transport and combat on the Kupa River. However, the timber for shipbuilding requires a lengthy drying process, so it will take at least six months to launch a finished ship."

"Very well, you have thought everything through." Maximus looked at Capito and spoke earnestly: "The tasks of the Public Works Department are heavy! Expanding village houses, building wooden bridges, constructing various workshops, producing goods by the craftsmen, constructing roads and harbors, building ships... a ton of tasks, not easy!

But I believe you, Capito, can coordinate everything well, making full use of manpower and resources to ultimately accomplish these tasks excellently! If you encounter any difficulties in the execution process, you may report to me at any time, and I will do my utmost to help you resolve them promptly!"

"Thank you, leader!" Capito responded with rare excitement, not troubled by the abundance of tasks; on the contrary, he relished such challenges.

Feeling he had properly arranged the matters of the Public Works and Commerce Departments, Maximus turned his attention to the Military Department: "Although we have repeatedly defeated the armies of the Pannonians, they remain much stronger than us, and now that we have relocated our settlement to the banks of the Kupa River, closer to them, we are undoubtedly taking a significant risk! Flanitnus, Quintus, and Lebilus, what plans does your Military Department have to ensure the entire tribe's safety?"

The three exchanged looks, and with Quintus conceding, Flanitnus stood up: "Leader, our Military Department has already been implementing a defense plan against the Pannonians. The Second and Third Legions have all relocated to Westeni to facilitate command and combat.

In the coming days, the soldiers will step up repairs of the damaged wooden walls, dig trenches, and install abatis, enhancing Westeni's defensive capability. Hagux's cavalry will take turns scouting the Segestica people's movements east of Westeni every day.

We also plan to send a team to the southern mountains to rebuild the secret camp where Pequot's team used to hide. According to your previous instructions, we will construct a watchtower in the camp and rotate a small squad of sentries for guard duty. If Brochi people attack, we will ignite dry grass that produces thick smoke to signal the tribe...

No matter which direction enemies come from, all tribesmen must immediately return to their villages and prepare defenses, then formulate an appropriate battle plan based on the attacking force... Hum, Capito just mentioned building harbors and ships; if this plan is completed, I believe it will make our tribe's defense stronger and provide more options in offense."

Maximus nodded and asked again: "Previously, apart from marching and combat, our soldiers spent their other time training. That's not possible now; they have their own homes and have to manage farming and herding, so we can't train like before. How do you plan the training in the future?"

Chapter 309: Military Equipment, Official Rank, and City Lord

Flanitnus looked at Quintus and replied, "We have discussed over the past few days and decided to set the tribe's military training in the two agricultural slack months of May and October every year. The Legion Commander in each settlement will gather tribesmen aged 18 to 40 for military training, focusing on drills, formation changes, overall attack and defense, and familiarizing themselves with various flag signals...

As for individual combat skills training, it mainly relies on their own practice at ordinary times. Now, due to the promulgation of the Twenty Peerage System of the tribe, tribesmen have a strong desire to fight in order to be promoted more quickly, and they all consciously intensify their practice without the need for team officers to urge them.

Therefore, we hope to build a training ground affiliated with the Military Department in each of the two settlements. The training grounds will have various training equipment and be staffed with several instructors to facilitate personal training for tribal members and provide guidance..."

"Your military training plan aligns with the actual situation and can be implemented. In the future, all male tribesmen aged 18 to 40 in the Nix Tribe must participate in annual military training on time and be ready to be conscripted for warfare by the tribe. If anyone dares to violate this, they will be punished lightly or expelled from the tribe or face the death penalty. This must be written into the tribe's military service decree and communicated to all tribesmen!"

Sidonius acknowledged understandingly, "Alright."

"Capito, when your Public Works Department is expanding the settlements, consider the training grounds mentioned by Flanitnus. Discuss with the Military Department the specifics of how to construct the training grounds."

"Yes."

"How does the army maintain security within the settlements daily? Does the Military Department have a plan?" Maximus asked again.

"Snowdonia has the First Legion and the Guard Battalion, Westeni has the Second and Third Legions. Each day, a Centurion is assigned to be responsible for lookout on the wooden walls, inspecting people entering and leaving the settlement gates, and patrolling the settlement for security. At night, another Centurion takes over, standing guard and keeping watch for the settlement..."

"You've considered this comprehensively, so let's implement it as discussed."

"Leader, I have a question," Quintus interjected, "Our original team has fought side by side for more than a year, and we have good relations with each other, so it's unlikely that any disputes or conflicts will occur. But now, quite a few Skodisqi people and some Pannonian people are joining the tribe. If they get into conflicts and are caught by the patrol team, to whom should they be handed over?"

"Naturally, they should be handed over to the Legal Department. The court formed by the Legal Department will conduct trials according to the decree and impose penalties."

"Leader, currently there is no court or prison in the settlement, and our Legal Department cannot conduct trials and penalties." Sidonius started to complain.

"A trial can first be conducted in the courtyard of the Legal Department. The prisoner can initially be detained in the manor of the Legal Department or temporarily held in my main house, watched over by guards performing labor. Of course, the court and prison are also on the list to be built by the Public Works Department, but it will take some time." Maximus said, glancing at Capito.

Capito nodded.

Sidonius wanted to complain further, but Maximus lowered his tone, "We know there are no courts or prisons in the Pannonians' settlement, but if there's no court or prison, the Legal Department can't function during this period. It seems to be a bit too delicate! The newly established tribe faces many challenges, and now is the time for everyone, facing difficulties, to come up with solutions, work hard and endure hardships to create a better future for the tribe!"

The weight of Maximus's words made the atmosphere in the hall tense, and Sidonius did not dare to speak further.

Quintus broke the silence, "Leader, Snowdonia here can hand over offending tribesmen to the Legal Department. What about Westeni?"

"The Legal Department can dispatch one or two subordinates to reside in Westeni, establish a town court, and be responsible for handling these matters."

"Yes, Leader." Sidonius responded in a low voice.

Quintus asked again, "Previously, Reserve Tribe Members came under the direct control of the Military Department. Do we still follow the same approach now that we have settled down?"

Since its establishment, the rebel army has always been in a state of war, with soldiers continuously under military management. However, now that the tribe is established, soldiers are allocated land and families and begin normal life. Except for military training, they are no longer under the control of the Military Department in their daily lives. Quintus raised this issue because the situation of Reserve Tribe Members is special. They are still in a state of communal living. Due to the large number of Reserve Tribe Members, and the two races forming the Reserve Tribe Members being mortal enemies, if they are not strictly managed, problems are likely to arise.

Maximus understood the meaning in Quintus's words and, after thinking for a moment, said, "As I've mentioned earlier, in the future Reserve Members will primarily be responsible for farming and herding and should be centrally managed by the Agricultural Department. However, those with specific skills can be selected by the Public Works Department to work in various workshops and be managed by them.

The large number of Reserve Tribe Members, along with the conflicts between the Skodisqi people and the Segestica people, allows the Military Department to assign some soldiers to assist the Agricultural Department in managing the Reserve Tribe Members.

After the meeting, the Agricultural Department can discuss with the Military Department to formulate a management plan to ensure good order among the Reserve Tribe Members."

"Yes, Leader." Volenus and Flanitnus responded in unison.

"Leader, I have one more concern. Here in Snowdonia, with you present, any issues can be quickly resolved. Though not too far away, Westeni takes an hour on horseback. If something goes wrong, and a quick decision and action cannot be taken, I'm afraid..." Quintus hesitated.

Chapter 310: Military Equipment, Official Rank, and City Lord_2

"You mean that Westeni is lacking a person who can take charge." Maximus candidly articulated Quintus's concern. He glanced around the hall at everyone present. Most showed concern, but their eyes were somewhat evasive. Clearly, they all realized the issue but were hesitant to raise it due to his authority.

Maximus smiled slightly and said calmly, "Originally, I intended to leave this issue for discussion at the end of the meeting, but since Quintus has already mentioned it, I'll address it now.

I've previously stated that our Nix is different from other forces in the Mediterranean, and power needs to be highly centralized in the Political Affairs Hall. Naturally, Westley requires a City Lord to manage its affairs, but this City Lord is not like the chief of a small tribe under the great tribe of Alde who decides everything within the tribe, nor is he like the City Lord appointed by Rome to various towns in Italy, where power is largely held by local councils and nobles making him basically a figurehead.

The City Lord of our Nix is appointed by the Political Affairs Hall. He has his own subordinates, and each department must send subordinates to the town to jointly handle municipal affairs with the City Lord—"

"Like a small Political Affairs Hall," Pigeris blurted out.

Quintus then keenly identified another issue: "With both a City Lord and departmental subordinates, whose instructions should be followed in managing town affairs?"

"Indeed, the administrative institutions of subordinate towns are somewhat similar to but different from the Political Affairs Hall," Maximus patiently explained. "Our Nix Tribe Officials, like the military, are sorted by ranks from top to bottom, starting with me as the tribal leader, followed by you all present here—the chief officers of the nine departments, next are the city lords of other towns, then the deputies of various departments, and finally the subordinates of various departments..."

Looking at everyone listening attentively, Maximus said, "Currently, the tribe is newly established with small territory and population, and few officials, so the tribal officials are simply divided into 5 levels initially. In the future, as the territory expands, population increases, and officials grow in number, further subdivisions will be made. I imagine ultimately there might be a dozen levels of tribal officials."

Someone in the hall gasped, followed by Acronis asking: "Leader, may I ask what level I, as Chief of Internal Affairs, am?"

Maximus seriously answered: "The Chief of Internal Affairs is responsible for the internal affairs of my residence, differing from tribal officials and having a separate set of ratings. Currently, you don't have

many subordinates, so there's no distinction between sizes; when more personnel are involved, detailed ratings will be established. But no matter what, the level of the Chief of Internal Affairs is the highest."

"That's great!" Acronis rejoiced.

Maximus continued: "According to the tribal official ratings I just mentioned, specifically in the village of Westeni, the City Lord's rank is the highest. When consulting with departmental subordinates on town matters, he has the leading authority and decision-making power; departmental subordinates should implement his final orders as long as they do not violate the tribal decree.

However, a few points must be emphasized! First, the City Lord and departmental subordinates must obey any orders issued by the Political Affairs Hall; second, the City Lord must not interfere in the internal affairs of the town's departments; third, the City Lord has no right to command the town's army, nor does the army have the right to interfere in town affairs; fourth, the City Lord's term has a time limit, and after serving for three or four years, he must be transferred..."

Maximus looked at everyone listening and pondering, then said: "That's all I can think of. Does anyone have anything to add?"

After a brief silence in the hall, Gaius looked around and said: "Leader, your plan is very thorough. I tried hard to think but couldn't come up with anything else to add."

While Gaius's words had a hint of flattery, they were also factual. After all, most of the chief officers, being of humble origin, were naturally quite limited in experience; although they had been trained for more than a year, the tribe had just been founded, and everyone was still political novices. The set of systematic political frameworks Maximus proposed had already made them rack their brains for quite some time, leaving little room for immediate suggestions, so they readily chimed in agreement.

Only Quintus asked: "Leader, I want to know how our army ranks are divided? How do they compare to the ranks of administrative officials?"

Maximus quickly replied: "As for the military, from top to bottom, it's the three Chief Officers of the Military Department > Legion Commander > Great Captain > Centurion and Military Department subordinates > centurion. Legion Commander is on par with a City Lord, and Great Captain is equivalent to deputies in other departments."

"If the Segestica people invade again and Westeni needs defense, do the tribesmen follow the Legion Commander's orders or adhere to the City Lord's command?" Quintus asked further.

"In a wartime situation, of course, the Legion Commander takes precedence, with the City Lord as secondary." Maximus firmly added: "Two legions are stationed at Westeni, with two Legion Commanders there, Torrelugo and Camillus being of the same rank. The legion with the earlier number can temporarily take charge until the Political Affairs Hall issues an order specifying who the chief commander is."

Quintus nodded, finally ceasing his questions.

Maximus continued: "After all that's been said, Westeni needs a City Lord, yet Snowdonia also requires one. However, with small territory, few tribesmen, and not many tasks for now, I will temporarily serve as the City Lord of Snowdonia. Everyone can also serve as members of the respective departments in that village, thereby learning together how to manage and build a village, which I believe will help us in managing larger territories in the future.

Now we need to decide who will take on the role of City Lord of Westeni. You may recommend whoever you think is suitable, but I hope this candidate has certain management skills and can read and count."

Initially, everyone was eager, but the two conditions set by Maximus dimmed the enthusiasm of many.

Vallerus spoke up: "I recommend our Agricultural Department's Deputy Officer, Sicropus. He was once a slave of the Vidius family in Pompeii, recording the movement of goods at the docks for years, and later actively joined our team.

While I served as the administrative officer in Sarabia, he assisted me in completing various tasks assigned by the leader, making significant contributions to keeping Sarabia stable during the months of our occupation. I think he is suitable for the role of City Lord of Westeni."

"Sicropus, I know him. He certainly is quite capable, but are you willing to let him go from the Agricultural Department?" Maximus teased.

"We are all working for our tribe; there's nothing to be reluctant about. Besides, the other people in our Agricultural Department are also quite capable. I will recommend someone else as Deputy Officer and seek your approval, Leader," Vallerus replied earnestly.

"It seems your Agricultural Department has plenty of talent," Maximus laughed.

Capito couldn't resist saying loudly: "Leader, I recommend Yulitimos from the former Supply Camp. He was Sarabia's shipwright and was forced to join us but began proactively working for us afterward.

He was responsible for drawing some of the workshop blueprints in Sarabia, and later during the march, I made him the head of the carpenters. From Italy to here, the carpenters have been the most orderly among all craftsmen in the Supply Camp, which shows his capability. I believe he is suitable to be City Lord."