

Cámara de Representantes
de Puerto Rico

Secretaría

YO, FRANCISCO L. AMADEO, Secretario de la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico,

CERTIFICO: Que a moción del Hon. Representante, señor Cayetano Coll Cuchí, la Cámara de Representantes en la sesión celebrada en el día de hoy, correspondiente a la 3ra. Legislatura Extraordinaria, de la Novena Asamblea Legislativa, aprobó, por unanimidad, la siguiente

RESOLUCIÓN:

"POR CUANTO, Arthur Yager, Gobernador de Puerto Rico, viene sufriendo larga y penosa enfermedad que le obliga a abandonar nuestra Isla en busca de su quebrantada salud;

"Y, por cuanto, el Gobernador Yager por su buena amistad hacia el pueblo puertorriqueño demostrada en múltiples ocasiones se ha hecho acreedor a nuestro sincero afecto y respeto,

"POR TANTO, RESUÉLVESE por la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico expresar su sincera condolencia al Gobernador Yager con motivo de su enfermedad, expresándole el deseo de que encuentre alivio pronto para sus males en su proyectado viaje al Norte América;

"Y, RESUÉLVESE, ADEMÁS, comunicar esta resolución al señor Arthur Yager, Gobernador de Puerto Rico."

Y para remitir al Hon. Arthur Yager, Gobernador de Puerto Rico, en cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en la Resolución transcrita, libro, sello y firma la presente, en San Juan, P. R., a veinte y seis de abril de mil novecientos veinte.



F. Amadeo
Secretario de la
Cámara de Representantes.

86x11

April 28, 1920.

Mr. Francisco Amadeo, Secretary,
House of Representatives of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of the official copy
of the Resolution passed upon the motion of the Hon.
Cayetano Coll y Cuchí, by the House of Representa-
tives of Porto Rico, on April 26, 1920, and also en-
close my reply for transmission by you to the said
House.

Respectfully,

Governor.

April 28, 1920.

The Honorable Members of the House
of Representatives of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Gentlemen:

I have received and read with the greatest pleasure and appreciation, a copy of the Resolution passed by your honorable body upon the motion of the Honorable Representative, Señor Cayetano Coll y Cuchí, on the 26th instant.

I wish also to acknowledge the kind personal visit made to me by a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, upon the day upon which the Legislature first assembled. I appreciate more than I am able to express the personal sympathy and solicitude for my health and recovery which was manifested, both in the resolution, above mentioned, and by the members of the joint committee. This evident interest and concern in my personal welfare, so beautifully expressed by the highest representatives of the People of Porto Rico, has touched my heart more deeply than anything that has occurred during my long residence here in this island, and will always be cherished as

(28 Apr 20)

-2-

one of the dearest memories of my life. And I wish to extend to you my sincerest thanks, both for myself and my family.

I desire also to express through you to all the people of Porto Rico my gratitude and appreciation for similar expressions of interest and solicitude that have come to me from all parts of the island during my recent severe illness. The people of Porto Rico of all parties and classes have shown in every possible way their friendly interest and concern during the critical and dangerous sickness that has fallen upon me during the last few months, and I feel sure that their prayers and their sympathy were of the greatest value and assistance in my struggle against the terrible sickness. Due to the blessings of God and the skillful ministrations of my physicians this struggle thus far has fortunately proved successful, but I shall always believe that the prayers and the support of the people of the whole island, so cheerfully and kindly extended to me, has had a great deal to do with the happy results, and I shall always be deeply grateful to them.

Wishing for your honorable body a successful and prosperous session, and that your patriotic labors may redound to the benefit of this most attractive

(28 Apr 20)

-3-

and beautiful of all islands, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

Copy from the May 18, 1920/ issue of "La Correspondencia"

CONFERENCE OF SENATOR IGLESIAS IN THE ATHENEUM

Last night between half past eight and half past eleven there was held in the Porto Rican Athenaeum the advertised conference of the labor leader and Socialist Senator Mr. Santiago Iglesias which resulted in an open success for the speaker because of the select group that was gathered in the room to listen to him and the theme he spoke about.

He was introduced by Mr. Toro, President of the Section of Political and Social Sciences of the Athenaeum who analyzed the work done during more than 20 years by the labor leader himself and declared himself an advocate of them by contending that they should be discussed and brought before the Athenaeum so that judgement might be passed on them and an effort made to solve them.

Senator Iglesias presented his subject with great ease and exactness, defined socialism, its causes and doctrines, the evolutions that had followed from the French Revolution down to our days; the creation of the first Internationale, its program, the dissolution of the second after 1878 due to the persecution of the governments.

He spoke about the Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engel in 1848, of the tests of St. Simon Fourier, of the theories of Proudhon, of the humane attitude assumed by the Fiscal of the World Supreme Court against the second Internationale; and finally he explained the relations of the Internationale with the Soviet movement of Russia, its functioning and the possibility of its establishment some day in Porto Rico due to the organization of the International movement. He described the fights between the Socialists right and left flanks that compelled the proletarian laborers to organize themselves into unions for purposes of defense and progress in the movement for human redemption.

He replied to some statements made in a previous conference by Mr. Coll y Cuchi relative to the Soviets, and explained the advantages of the system for human improvement and Happiness.

Messrs. Ademar and Rodriguez Serra made several questions which were answered by the speaker.

At the end of the speech he was congratulated by those present who had also applauded him several times during the conference.

Copy from the May 18, 1920/ issue of "La Correspondencia"

CONFERENCE OF SENATOR IGLESIAS IN THE ATHENEUM

Last night between half past eight and half past eleven there was held in the Porto Rican Athenaeum the advertised conference of the labor leader and Socialist Senator Mr. Santiago Iglesias which resulted in an open success for the speaker because of the select group that was gathered in the room to listen to him and the theme he spoke about.

He was introduced by Mr. Toro, President of the Section of Political and Social Sciences of the Athenaeum who analyzed the work done during more than 20 years by the labor leader himself and declared himself an advocate of the by contendant that they should be discussed and brought before the Athenaeum so that judgement might be passed on them and an effort made to solve them.

Senator Iglesias presented his subject with great ease and exactness, defined socialism, its causes and doctrines, the evolutions that had followed from the French Revolution down to our days; the creation of the first Internationale, its program, the dissolution of the second after 1873 due to the persecution of the governments.

He spoke about the Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engel in 1848, of the tests of St. Simon Fourier, of the theories of Proudhon, of the humane attitude assumed by the Fiscal of the World Supreme Court against the second Internationale; and finally he explained the relations of the Internationale with the Soviet movement of Russia, its functioning and the possibility of its establishment some day in Porto Rico due to the organization of the International movement. He described the fights between the Socialist's right and left flanks that compelled the proletarian laborers to organize themselves into unions for purposes of defense and progress in the movement for human redemption.

He replied to some statements made in a previous conference by Mr. Coll y Cuchi relative to the soviete, and explained the advantages of the system for human improvement and happiness.

Messrs. Adaur and Rodriguez Serra made several questions which were answered by the speaker.

At the end of the speech he was congratulated by those present who had also applauded him several times during the conference.

(From "La Democracia", issue of May 18, 1920)

THE SOVIET CONFERENCE OF MR. IGLESIAS IN THE ATENEO.

The Socialist Senator assured that the moment is near at hand of a revolution in this Island.

With a large audience there took place in the Ateneo the announced conference of the Socialist Senator Mr. Iglesias, bearing upon the influence of the Socialist Internationale on the events taking place in Russia and the socialist movement in Porto Rico. Many workmen expressed their desire to hear the orator and they were permitted entrance at the building.

Judge Toro Cuebas made the presentation and immediately thereupon the orator began his conference, engaging the attention of the audience from 9 o'clock until after 11.30.

Mr. Iglesias commenced by affirming that the revolution which overthrew the Russian nobility can not be considered as the result of the world war which we have witnessed, but as a consequence of the movement of ideas developed by the Socialist Internationale; and that the war was only an accident which served to put in march the ideas there where the economic and political needs favored the development of the revolutionary germs, which lived and live in the heart of the people, fostered by the terrible situation created by the present social system.

The orator affirmed that the ideas which dominated the minds of the French revolutionists, when the revolution which marked an epoch in the history of human kind took place, were destroyed by the military caste, and the sociologists of that time realized that they had supplanted the whole autocratic system for a new military one which was founded upon the protection of the special interests and has done nothing else but to oppose the socialist ideas, the same ideas of redemption which animated the initiators of the French revolution.

Mr. Iglesias narrated the historical process of the Socialist Internationale from the time of the great revolution to the time of Carlos Marx, when the latter issued his communist manifesto and the Internationale was divided with the establishment of two schools at present existing. Mr. Iglesias stated that he was a follower of the great and noble anarchist (such was his phrase) Miguel Ba-Kounine, rather than of Marx.

11
86x11

(18 May 20)

-2-

Mr. Iglesias maintained that the ideas that are now dominating Russia are the most humane and just, and that they are not the offsprings of the men of the present time, but the result of an intense labor that the Internationale has been developing in the whole world, and that, therefore, the Russian people, standing to-day upon the modern basis of the Soviets, are carrying into practice the international ideas and are by no means a nacionalistic people.

Speaking of the Soviets, he affirmed that the system maintained by Lenine and the Russian reformers is the most liberal and just. What is being selfishly propogated against the Soviets, to the effect that they are organized without the basic representation of the people, is a lie, said the orator. The Russian Soviets are the expression of the popular sentiments, they are formed of elements of their respective professions and with that marvelous system it has been possible to place in the hands of the producers the direction of the public affairs, and that the professionals attend directly to all such questions of a general nature as affect the community.

As to the manner in which justice is imparted in Russia, he affirmed that at present it is the most liberal and just known. Lawyers have been done away with and the doors of the courts have been opened to every body so that the people may defend themselves. As the nobility and the special interests are no more, it is clear that no prejudices exist among the people and those in charge of the administration of justice do so based upon the law, regardless of personal considerations, and thus today justice is administered in Russia in a legal and just manner, to the satisfaction of the people. Justice in Russia is a practical fact now, law is guaranteed there better than in any other place in the world, -said the orator.

As to the interest and stimulus which capital gives to the development of science and progress, it is not true that money is necessary so that such stimulus may exist. He said that in Russia at present the people attend to all the public services; that hundreds and thousands of persons are gathered to operate the railroads and the factories and set in motion the general life of production; and that those men and women do not do that work for money, they go to work for the benefit of the community, encouraged by the ideas of social revolution which awaken more interest in the people than money.

Mr. Iglesias made a brilliant defense of the Russian revolutionary system and affirmed that no nation will be able to

(18 May 20)

escape from it, including the United States, which as he said, by adopting the Soviet system would progress in 24 hours more than in half a century, and would transform the social system in all America.

As to the influence of the Socialist Internationale in Porto Rico, he assured that the same ideas which were defended by the greatest internationalists and which are now being put into practice in Russia are the same which he has been preaching and maintaining in Porto Rico for twenty years, in accordance with the Socialist Internationale of the United States, which is not nacionalistic but is working in keeping with the redeeming ideas of ample universal revolution.

Mr. Iglesias finished his conference by affirming that the moment is near at hand of a fundamental revolution which will transform the whole system in this island, and that as a consequence of this we are all going, islanders and Americans, to the establishment of the comunist program of the Internationale which shall transform society, the State taking charge of private property and putting it to produce for the benefit of the community.

Several gentlemen interrupted the orator with pertinent questions, and he answered them clarifying all doubts and making categorical statements to the effect that the only system of government truly democratic existing is that of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for which he has been working, in accordance with the Internationale of Moscow, and shall continue to work. That is to say, said Mr. Iglesias, that my ideal of government is that which is developing in Russia and which with my help will triumph in Porto Rico, where the Socialist Internationale is doing its redeeming work.

Upon finishing and when Judge del Toro was about to embrace Senator Iglesias, congratulating him, Mr. Rodriguez Serra made to the lecturer interesting questions which placed Senator Iglesias in a difficult position, and could not answer. We report upon this incident in another place in this same issue.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
AUDITOR
SAN JUAN, P. R.

THE AUDITOR OF PORTO RICO.

The first auditing system was established under the Military Government by Executive Order of May 8, 1899, and the auditing regulations issued pursuant thereto May 11, 1899, our first auditing system, was modeled after the system of accountability in the United States. The essential features of this system harmonized so closely with the provisions of the Organic Act of April 12, 1900, better known as the Foraker Act, that when Civil Government was established practically the only change necessary was in the title of the government in auditing blanks, and in the headings of the books.

Mr. J. R. Garrison of Washington, D. C., was the first Auditor for Porto Rico, serving as such during the Military Government. President McKinley, on April 27, 1900, appointed him as Auditor of Porto Rico under the Civil Government, he qualifying as such on May 2, 1900. He had many years experience in the United States Treasury Department and, as Auditor of Porto Rico, rendered able and efficient service, resigning as Auditor April 30, 1903, and returning to the United States for appointment as Auditor of Washington, D. C. He was succeeded by Mr. Regis H. Post, who qualified May 1st, 1903. Mr. Post was succeeded by Mr. E. S. Rockwell, the former Assistant Auditor, who served in the latter capacity under Mr. Garrison and Mr. Post. Mr. Rockwell was succeeded March 5, 1905, by Mr. Thos. W. Hynes, and Mr. Hynes was succeeded February 23, 1906, by Mr. Geo. Cabot Ward. Mr. Ward was succeeded September 13, 1909, by Mr. A. P. Sawyer, who resigned

11178

November 30, 1910. Judge J. W. Bonner, of Tennessee, was appointed to this Office in December of 1910, qualifying as Auditor on January 13, 1911, serving continuously as such to date.

The system of accounting established by Mr. Garrison remained in effect, with practically no change, up to June 30, 1907. Up to and including that date all payments were made under the post-audit system, each department having its own paymaster, whose accounts were audited monthly. On July 1st, 1907, under the provisions of a law approved March 14, 1907, the pre-audit system of accounting was installed whereby all vouchers and payrolls, with certain exceptions to be noted, were pre-audited in this Office. This system has been more than justified by reducing to the utmost minimum the number of unauthorized and illegal payments. Certain payments which, of necessity, had to be made immediately upon the completion of the service, as of laborers, etc., are paid by special disbursing officers in the several departments, appointed under authority of the law just quoted. The accounts of these officers are audited monthly and any expenditure not authorized by laws are, of course, disallowed. Such irregular expenditures are so negligible in number as to be hardly worthy of mention.

During the incumbency of Judge Bonner many important changes have occurred, and the present high standard of accounting in this Office, both as regards insular and municipal finance and property, has been attained under his able administration.

The powers and duties of the present auditor are prescribed by the Political Code of Porto Rico and Section 20 of the New Organic Act, more commonly known as the Jones Bill, approved March 2, 1917, the following brief extracts from the latter being pertinent:

"That there shall be appointed by the President an Auditor, x x x, who shall examine, audit, and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenues and receipts, from whatever source, of the government of Porto Rico, including public trust funds and funds derived from bond issues; and audit, in accordance with law and administrative regulations, all expenditures of funds or property pertaining to or held in trust by the government of Porto Rico or the municipalities or dependencies thereof. He shall perform a like duty with respect to all government branches."

"The jurisdiction of the auditor over accounts, whether of funds or property, and all vouchers or records pertaining thereto, shall be exclusive. With the approval of the governor, he shall from time to time make and promulgate general and special rules and regulations not inconsistent with law covering the methods of accounting for public funds and property, and funds and property held in trust by the government. x x x"

"The decisions of the auditor shall be final, except that appeal therefrom may be taken by the party aggrieved or the head of the department concerned within one year, in the manner hereinafter prescribed. The auditor shall, except as hereinafter provided, have like authority as that conferred by the law upon the several auditors of the United States and the Comptroller of the United States Treasury. x x x "

"In the execution of his duties the auditor is authorized to summon witnesses, administer oaths, x x x and, in the pursuance of these provisions, may issue subpoenas and enforce the attendance of witnesses."

The Filson Historical Society

Statement Showing Annual Trade Balance Resulting From The Commerce

.../Between Porto Rico And Other Countries./..

Fiscal Year	Imports \$	Exports \$	Balance		Total Imports And Exports \$
			In Favor Of The Island \$	Against The Island \$	
1901	8,918,136	8,583,967		334,169	17,502,103
1902	13,209,610	12,433,956		775,654	25,643,566
1903	14,449,286	15,089,079	639,793		29,538,365
1904	13,169,029	16,265,903	3,096,874		29,434,932
1905	16,536,259	18,709,565	2,173,306		35,245,824
1906	21,827,665	23,257,530	1,429,865		45,085,195
1907	29,267,172	26,996,300		2,270,872	56,263,472
1908	25,825,665	30,664,490	4,838,825		56,490,155
1909	26,544,326	30,391,225	3,846,899		56,935,551
1910	30,634,855	37,960,219	7,325,364		68,595,074
1911	38,788,997	39,918,367	1,129,370		78,707,364
1912	42,972,891	49,705,413	6,732,522		92,678,304
1913	36,900,062	49,103,565	12,203,503		86,003,627
1914	36,406,767	43,102,762	6,695,975		79,509,549
1915	33,834,296	49,356,907	15,472,611		83,241,203
1916	38,951,150	66,731,573	27,780,417		105,682,729
1917	53,545,224	80,970,917	27,425,693		134,516,141
1918	63,389,285	74,294,022	10,904,740		137,683,304
1919	62,400,360	79,496,040	17,095,680		141,896,400
1920	96,388,534	150,811,449	54,422,915		247,199,983

W. J. Diaz

86 X 11

ILLITERACY IN PORTO RICO

The Story of the Census

The subject of reducing illiteracy is one of vital importance to the people of Porto Rico, as undoubtedly ^{illiteracy} bears a direct relation to the political destinies of any country. In a Democracy, where the people rule, it is essential that they should possess intelligence and education commensurate with the sacred trust placed upon them.

What progress has Porto Rico made in the matter of reducing illiteracy and what are the problems that confront the people for solution, in connection with this vital issue?

The Federal Census Bureau classifies as illiterate any person 10 years of age or over who is unable to write in any language, regardless of ability to read. Three Federal Censuses have been taken in Porto Rico: in 1899, in 1910 and 1920. The population has shown a rapid increase from 1899 when there were 953,243 inhabitants to 1920 when the total numbered 1,299,809. In this same period the total number of persons between 5 and 17 years of age increased from 322,393 to 438,743, or a total increase of 116,350 children of legal school age. Yet this increase alone represents more than four times the total number of children attending school in 1899. The People of Porto Rico have been generous in their expenditure of public funds for educational purposes, though this statement does not mean that much larger sums could not be expended were the people willing to do so.

In 1920 the total urban population amount^d to 283,934 and the rural population to 1,015,875. All towns and villages with a population of less than 2,500 are included in the rural zone. The census of 1899 showed that 79.6 per cent of the people of Porto Rico 10 years of age and over were illiterate. This figure was reduced to 66.5 per cent in 1910 and to 55 per cent in 1920. In 1899 only 8 per cent of the persons 5 to 17 years of age were attending school; in 1920 45.2 per cent are reported in school.

It is fair to ask what do we mean specifically by stating that 55 per cent of the people of Porto Rico 10 years and over are illiterate. The answer must be given in relative terms. Judging this figure from an absolute standpoint, the results of the work of the schools may appear discouraging. In the United States where there has been a great deal of agitation about the reduction of illiteracy during and since the Great World War, the percentage of illiterates was 7.7 as against 66.5 in Porto Rico. The State with the highest percentage of illiterates, Louisiana, showed 29 per cent in 1910. Certainly the status of Porto Rico as regards illiteracy is nothing but unfavorable as compared with continental United States, and the leading western European countries. A comparison of this kind is hardly fair. Judging Porto Rico with Latin-American countries and the Spanish Peninsula, the progress made in reducing illiteracy has been marvelous.

In 1920 55 per cent of the people of Porto Rico, including foreign residents, were reported as illiterate. In 1900

after centuries of glorious history, mother Spain had a higher percentage of illiteracy, or 58.7. Portugal had 73.4 per cent illiterates; Bolivia 82.9; Chile (1907), one of the most advanced countries in South America, educationally, 49.9; Mexico 75.3; Cuba (1899) 56.8. The great majority of the people of Porto Rico live in the country districts. Their illiteracy can only be reduced through the rural school. In judging the reduction of illiteracy in the rural barrios, it is fair to consider that the rapid increase of rural schools has come only in recent years. During the year 1910 to 1911, when the census of 1910 was taken, there were but 950 rural schools in Porto Rico as against 1,700 in operation in 1920. This means that the great mass of the adult population has not been reached by the schools, as is testified by the census figures. On the other hand, school facilities have been best and have been provided most rapidly for the urban population. Of the urban population from 10 to 20 years of age in 1920 there remain only 13,695 illiterates, whereas those 21 years and over number 60,302. The group where illiteracy is the lowest is that comprised between 10 and 15 years of the urban population, where the percentage has been reduced to 17. These figures can mean only one thing; namely, that the schools are giving results, and results that are highly gratifying considering the low per capita expenditure of funds for educational purposes and considering the very high degree of illiteracy until 21 years ago.

The rural population from 5 to 20 years of age in 1920 was 416,207. 153,972 were reported as attending school (these figures include children in the urban zone of communities of 2,500 population or less). But the number of illiterates comprised between the ages of 5 and 20 was only 102,160, whereas the great bulk of illiterates in the rural population, amounting to 320,932, were 21 years old and over. The total enrollment in the rural schools of Porto Rico last year was 115,077, which is far below the total number of children of school age to be found in the rural barrios. The fact that the total number of illiterates in the rural population between the ages of 5 and 20 years is only 102,160 proves that many rural children who are not in school have been in school and have learned how to read and write, however limited their elementary education may have been otherwise.

There are appended to this article a comparative table of school attendance and illiteracy and three supplementary tables.

The conclusions to be reached from a study of the census figures are as follows:

1. Illiteracy has been reduced to a remarkable extent during the period comprised between 1899 and 1920; namely, from 79.6 per cent to 55 per cent, especially when one considers the low per capita expenditures for education and when one considers that it has been necessary to supply practically all the facilities for the schools, including school buildings, during this period, and that a large part of the money expended represents capital outlays and not current expenditures.

2. As compared with continental United States, the percentage of illiteracy is decidedly unfavorable. As compared with certain Latin-American countries and with the countries of the Spanish Peninsula, Porto Rico has made a remarkable showing.

3. Illiteracy has been reduced in proportion to the school facilities provided and that of the children within the reach of the schools there are relatively few in the urban population that are illiterate, and in the rural population the number of illiterates may be termed reasonable. This result has been accomplished in spite of the fact that the total number of persons of school age has been increased by 116,350 during the 21 year period.

4. The great bulk of illiterates; namely, 381,234 past 21 years of age, are beyond the reach of the schools. Of this number 320,932 are comprised in the rural population. Unless means are provided for the establishment of large numbers of evening schools for adults, at which attendance is not merely made compulsory but enforced through the police power, Porto Rico cannot hope to reduce illiteracy to any marked extent amongst these people.

5. It will take time to reduce illiteracy to a minimum and this will only be accomplished as the years go by, as the schools provide education for the children, and as death eliminates the large numbers of adult illiterates from the population.

To provide school facilities for the 381,234 adult illiterates in Porto Rico would require a school system which accomodates exactly twice the total enrollment at the close of the seventh school month; namely, 190,489.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ILLITERACY

1899, 1910 and 1920

Census	Total Population	Total No. of Persons 5 to 17 yrs.	Total No. of Persons attending school	Percentage of Persons 5 to 17 yrs. attending school	Percentage of illiteracy in Population 10 yrs. & over
1920	1,299,809	438,743	206,533	45.2	55.
1910	1,118,012	361,967	132,349	35.2	66.5
1899	953,243	322,393	26,212	8.	79.6
Increase from 1899 to 1920	346,566	116,350	130,321	37.2	24.6 decrease

The Filson Historical Society

86X11

PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERACY
in Population 10 years of Age and Over

	1920	1910	1899
10 years and over	55.	66.5	79.6
10 to 15 years	31.8		
10 to 14 years		49.2	82.1
16 to 20 years	41.6		
15 to 19 years		59.	77.9
21 years and over	65.8		
20 years and over		82.	80.6
Urban Population			
10 years and over	34.	39.7	
Rural Population			
10 years and over	61.6	74.2	

	Number	Illiterate	
		Number	Per cent
Urban Population : 283,934			
10 years and over	217,454	78,997	34.0
Male	96,055	26,932	28.0
Female	121,399	47,065	38.8
10 to 15 years	39,175	6,656	17.0
16 to 20 years	31,709	7,039	22.2
21 years and over	146,570	60,302	41.1
Rural Population: 1,015,875			
10 years and over	686,969	423,092	61.6
Male	351,722	200,115	56.9
Female	335,247	222,977	66.5
10 to 15 years	157,607	55,829	35.4
16 to 20 years	96,681	40,381	47.9
21 years and over	432,731	320,932	74.2

The Filson Historical Society

Porto Rico is a comparatively small tropical island of an area of about 35 square miles. It is oblong in shape and about 100 miles long and of an average width of about 35 miles. It is well within the tropics lying just north of the 18th degree of north latitude. Its scenery is surpassingly beautiful and its soil exceedingly fertile, though much of the interior is too mountainous for cultivation. The population according to the federal census of 1920 was almost exactly 1,300,000 souls, or on an average of 377.8 persons to the square mile. Considering the fact that there are very few manufacturing industries and no large cities, Porto Rico is probably the most densely populated country in the world. This population has more than doubled in the last 60 years and is still increasing steadily.

When the American military expedition first landed in Porto Rico in 1898, they were everywhere received by the people of the island not as invaders seeking conquest but as liberators. There was practically no fighting, and almost complete possession was gained without bloodshed even before the armistice with Spain. The armistice quickly followed and then came the treaty of peace by which the island was ceded to the United States.

As is customary in such cases the island was held under a military government for a short time, until a civil government could be established. This was done under an Act of Congress passed especially for the purpose, approved April 12, 1900, and known as the Foraker Act. Porto Rico was governed by this constitution for almost 17 years and made sufficient progress in the difficult art of self-government to warrant the passage by Congress of another constitution, approved March 2, 1917, giving the people fuller rights and larger participation in their own government. In addition to this they were granted American citizenship. Under these constitutions and political arrangements the people of the island have lived up to the present time, and have performed their political duties, not perfectly to be sure, but as well as any reasonable man could have expected.

In the twenty two years that have elapsed since the change of sovereignty, which was definitely accomplished by the treaty with Spain, April 11, 1899, immense progress has been made by the people of the island; a progress that includes every phase and department of human life. The changes that have been made ~~by the people~~ are so numerous and so important that it is difficult to realize the progress that has been made in every line of human development without making a careful retrospective survey.

When the Americans came to Porto Rico the people were, of course, Spanish in origin, history, political and legal systems, religion, ideals and customs. In order to modify their life and institutions so as to bring them into harmony with the new conditions under which they would have to live, so many changes had to be made that it was difficult to choose where to begin. But if we compare the conditions of 1899 with those of 1921 it is plainly seen that almost every sphere of human life and work has been almost completely metamorphosed.

Beginning with the Department of Justice and the field of jurisprudence, where changes are usually slowest for obvious reasons, the modifications of the old Spanish system has been so great as to amount to a complete metamorphosis. The laws and the procedure of the courts of Porto Rico have become so closely modelled after the American system that remarkably few of the old Spanish practices are left unchanged. The Porto Rican lawyers and people have been so quick to learn and adopt the best features of American law and procedure that the changes in twenty two years have been simply remarkable. They have organized and are now administering practically an American system of justice. This includes the petit jury, the grand jury, writ of habeas corpus, injunctions, mandamus, quo warranto, codes of evidence, of criminal procedure, and of civil procedure, as well as the American political code and the penal code.

Practically the only laws of Spanish origin remaining in full force in Porto Rico are the Civil Code and the Mortgage Law.

There has been accomplished, therefore, in twenty two years what seemed to the first American governors of the island absolutely hopeless in a much longer period.

In the immensely important matter of public education the progress has been even greater; for in this field of governmental work the people had been almost entirely neglected all through the centuries of Spanish rule.

In the last two decades there has been created in Porto Rico a modern, democratic school system offering free education to the children of the island and providing at public expense teachers, buildings, equipment, books, etc., and although this system of public education is not yet adequate to the great needs, it constitutes as it stands such an immense advance over what existed at the earlier date that the comparison is instructive and inspiring.

In 1899 out of a school population of 322,393 there were

only 21,873 children attending school, and there were only 525 school teachers and not a single public school building in the whole Island. The expenditures for school purposes were less than \$300,000 and the percentage of the children actually attending school was less than 7%. It is not surprising, therefore, that 79.2% of the people 10 years of age and over were illiterate.

At the present time the enrollment of children in the public schools is 184,991; and although the school population has very greatly increased this makes a percentage of about 41%. There are 3288 teachers employed and the work is done in 1903 school buildings, of which number 569 are owned by the government and built for the purpose. The illiteracy amongst the people 10 years of age and over has been reduced to 55%. Of course, the greatest part of this illiteracy is amongst the older people whom it has been impossible for the schools to reach during the short period under review.

Another matter of the most indispensable importance in the progress of a people is the development of their communications and facilities for transportation. Owing to the mountainous character of a large proportion of the Island the construction of roads and bridges is not only a matter of indispensable importance but also one of great expense and difficulty.

In 1899 there were only 187 miles of completed insular road, which was one mile for every 5702 people living in the Island at that time. Now there are 789 miles of well built macadamized road, one mile for every 1957 people. Every municipality in the Island has at least, one road by which it can be reached by motor vehicles and all these roads are maintained in thorough condition by an efficient organization for road maintenance. Using these roads there are 5151 automobiles and 208 auto trucks.

Railway lines, telegraph and telephone systems have developed during the period in the same relative proportion as have the highways, as have likewise the external communication by means of steam ship lines.

Other forms of public improvements show the same rapid development. In 1899 there were only 7 towns and cities provided with waterworks, only one had a sewer system and only 4 had electric lighting systems. At present 38 towns have waterworks, 7 of them have built modern sewer systems and more than 80 have electric lighting systems. There has also been built a large public irrigation system at a cost of nearly five million dollars on the south side of the Island where the rainfall is too limited to insure safe cultivation of sugar and other crops.

3-1/2.

A record of similar progress may be shown in all the other departments of local government of Porto Rico under the American flag. In organization, methods and results all of them have developed modern and efficient agencies for their various tasks.

The financial departments have worked out an efficient system of taxation and auditing and accounting and for crediting and safeguarding the public revenues. As a result of their work the total assessment of property in the Island for purposes of taxation has been increased from about \$97,000,000. in 1902 to about \$264,000,000. in 1920.

The Department of Health is applying itself to the task of protecting the public health and reducing the death rate; and an honest police force preserves public order and aids in law enforcement. The newly created Department of Agriculture and Labor is working for the diversification of the products of the farm and for the improvement of the farmers and laborers.

The Filson Historical Society

4.

~~A record of similar progress may be shown in all the other departments of local government of Porto Rico under the American flag.~~

If we leave aside all forms of governmental work and glance for a moment at the general life of the people we shall see even greater evidences of progress during these twenty two eventful years. Commerce and business have been modernized in methods and immensely increased. Exports have been increased since 1901, the first year for which we have accurate figures, from \$8,558,967.00 to \$150,811,449.00; and imports from \$8,918,136.00 to \$36,368,534.00. Social and domestic life has been greatly changed, and the moral standards much elevated. Many of the worst vices, such as gambling and the use of alcoholic beverages, which in the earlier period were openly practiced and recognized by the law, have now been prohibited by statutes enacted by the representatives of the people.

In everything that enters into or indicates the life of a people there is to be seen this marvelous change and progress. In the architecture of their homes and hotels, in the number and character of the crowded shops and stores, in the traffic that throngs the busy streets and fine roads, in the voluntary organizations formed for pleasure and for social welfare, and especially in the number and quality of the newspapers that make up the press, in fact in everything one sees there is written the record and the proof of twenty two years of a most remarkable progress.

Finally just a word may be permitted on the much discussed feature of the political progress of the people. If we put aside the brief period of autonomic government which never got into thorough operation, so that no one will ever know how it might have worked, there was under the Spanish regime no democratic government and no local self-government. Now after twenty two years the government of the Island is both entirely democratic and in the main locally controlled and responsible to the people. And this is true not only of the political institutions such as the Legislature, and the municipal councils and other officials elected by the people, but practically the entire personnel who do the work of the government are native sons and daughters of the Island. In the last report of the Civil Service Commission the statement is made that of the 8,458 positions in the government service only 233 are held by those who are not natives of the country, and of these 233 there are 126 teaching positions mostly teachers of English and technical subjects. In 1913 there were 769 such positions held by others than native Porto Ricans. So here as everywhere there has been rapid progress. - Just as fast as the Porto Rican people could be prepared and trained in the difficult art of democratic self-government, their local government has been handed over to their own people. Only a few

safeguards which seem necessary to protect the Island itself from the inexperience and lack of preparation of a large part of its own voters have been retained in the national government, and these also may be given to the people of the Island as soon as the work of education and training can be made more universal and complete.

In short and in fine these two decades of progress made by Porto Rico under the American flag taken all together constitute a record which I believe can not be equalled by any people anywhere in the world in the same length of time. It is a record creditable alike to the Porto Ricans themselves and to the great free Republic to which they owe allegiance. Much of it is due to the liberality and generous aid of the great American government and people, but most of the credit is due to the splendid cooperation of the Porto Ricans themselves. But the people of the Island have eagerly availed themselves of every opportunity offered them for improvement. With patriotic devotion to their Island and with a real aspiration for progress, they have made a quick response to all the changes that were necessary for development. In politics and government, in education, in commerce and industry, in social and moral improvement, they have offered their cooperation and aid to the forces that have made for betterment. This is the simple truth as to the past, and this is the best augury for the future. It seems easy to predict that, barring untoward and unexpected events, the next two decades will see here even more wonderful progress and development.

Porto Rico is a comparatively small tropical island of an area of about 35 square miles. It is oblong in shape and about 100 miles long and of an average width of about 35 miles. It is well within the tropics lying just north of the 18th degree of north latitude. Its scenery is surpassingly beautiful and its soil exceedingly fertile, though much of the interior is too mountainous for cultivation. The population according to the federal census of 1920 was almost exactly 1,300,000 souls, or on an average of 377.8 persons to the square mile. Considering the fact that there are very few manufacturing industries and no large cities, Porto Rico is probably the most densely populated country in the world. This population has more than doubled in the last 60 years and is still increasing steadily.

When the American military expedition first landed in Porto Rico in 1898, they were everywhere received by the people of the island not as invaders seeking conquest but as liberators. There was practically no fighting and almost complete possession was gained without bloodshed even before the armistice with Spain. The armistice quickly followed and then came the treaty of peace by which the island was ceded to the United States.

As is customary in such cases the island was held under a military government for a short time, until a civil government could be established. This was done under an Act of Congress passed especially for the purpose, approved April 12, 1900, and known as the Foraker act. Porto Rico was governed by this constitution for almost 17 years and made sufficient progress in the difficult art of self-government to warrant the passage by Congress of another constitution, approved March 2, 1917, giving the people fuller rights and larger participation in their own government. In addition to this they were granted American citizenship. Under these constitutions and political arrangements the people of the island have lived up to the present time, and have performed their political duties, not perfectly to be sure, but as well as any reasonable man could have expected.

In the twenty two years that have elapsed since the change of sovereignty, which was definitely accomplished by the treaty with Spain, April 11, 1899, immense progress has been made by the people of the island; a progress that includes every phase and department of human life. The changes that have been made ~~by the war~~ are so numerous and so important that it is difficult to realize the progress that has been made in every line of human development without making a careful retrospective survey.

11 x 11

When the Americans came to Porto Rico the people were, of course, Spanish in origin, history, political and legal systems, religion, ideals and customs. In order to modify their life and institutions so as to bring them into harmony with the new conditions under which they would have to live, so many changes had to be made that it was difficult to choose where to begin. But if we compare the conditions of 1899 with those of 1921 it is plainly seen that almost every sphere of human life and work has been almost completely metamorphosed.

Beginning with the Department of Justice and the field of jurisprudence, where changes are usually slowest for obvious reasons, the modifications of the old Spanish system has been so great as to amount to a complete metamorphosis. The laws and the procedure of the courts of Porto Rico have become so closely modelled after the American system that remarkably few of the old Spanish practices are left unchanged. The Porto Rican lawyers and people have been so quick to learn and adopt the best features of American law and procedure that the changes in twenty two years have been simply remarkable. They have organized and are now administering practically an American system of justice. This includes the petit jury, the grand jury, writ of habeas corpus, injunctions, mandamus, quo warranto, codes of evidence, of criminal procedure, and of civil procedure, as well as the American political code and the penal code.

Practically the only laws of Spanish origin remaining in full force in Porto Rico are the Civil Code and the Mortgage Law.

There has been accomplished, therefore, in twenty two years what seemed to the first American governors of the island absolutely hopeless in a much longer period.

In the immensely important matter of public education the progress has been even greater; for in this field of governmental work the people had been almost entirely neglected all through the centuries of Spanish rule.

In the last two decades there has been created in Porto Rico a modern, democratic school system offering free education to the children of the Island and providing at public expense teachers, buildings, equipment, books, etc., and although this system of public education is not yet adequate to the great needs, it constitutes as it stands such an immense advance over what existed at the earlier date that the comparison is instructive and inspiring.

In 1899 out of a school population of 322,393 there were

only 21,673 children, attending school, and there were only 525 school teachers and not a single public school building in the whole Island. The expenditures for school purposes were less than \$300,000 and the percentage of the children actually attending school was less than 7%. It is not surprising, therefore, that 79.9% of the people 10 years of age and over were illiterate.

At the present time the enrollment of children in the public schools is 184,991; and although the school population has very greatly increased this makes a percentage of about 41%. There are 3286 teachers employed and the work is done in 1903 school buildings, of which number 589 are owned by the government and built for the purpose. The illiteracy amongst the people 10 years of age and over has been reduced to 55%. Of course, the greatest part of this illiteracy is amongst the older people whom it has been impossible for the schools to reach during the short period under review.

Another matter of the most indispensable importance in the progress of a people is the development of their communications and facilities for transportation. Owing to the mountainous character of a large proportion of the Island the construction of roads and bridges is not only a matter of indispensable importance but also one of great expense and difficulty.

In 1889 there were only 157 miles of completed insular road, which was one mile for every 3702 people living in the Island at that time. Now there are 789 miles of well built macadamized road, one mile for every 1957 people. Every municipality in the Island has at least, one road by which it can be reached by motor vehicles and all these roads are maintained in thorough condition by an efficient organization for road maintenance. Using these roads there are 5151 automobiles and 208 auto trucks.

Railway lines, telegraph and telephone systems have developed during the period in the same relative proportion as have the highways, as have likewise the external communication by means of steam ship lines.

Other forms of public improvements show the same rapid development. In 1889 there were only 7 towns and cities provided with waterworks, only one had a sewer system and only 4 had electric lighting systems. At present 38 towns have waterworks, 7 of them have built modern sewer systems and more than 60 have electric lighting systems. There has also been built a large public irrigation system at a cost of nearly five million dollars on the south side of the Island where the rainfall is too limited to insure safe cultivation of sugar and other crops.

A record of similar progress may be shown in all the other departments of local government of Porto Rico under the American flag.

If we leave aside all forms of governmental work and glance for a moment at the general life of the people we shall see even greater evidences of progress during these twenty two eventful years. Commerce and business have been modernized in methods and immensely increased. Exports have been increased since 1901, the first year for which we have accurate figures, from \$8,588,967.00 to \$150,811,449.00; and imports from \$6,918,136.00 to \$96,388,534.00. Social and domestic life has been greatly changed, and the moral standards much elevated. Many of the worst vices, such as gambling and the use of alcoholic beverages, which in the earlier period were openly practiced and recognized by the law, have now been prohibited by statutes enacted by the representatives of the people.

In everything that enters into or indicates the life of a people there is to be seen this marvellous change and progress. In the architecture of their homes and hotels, in the number and character of the crowded shops and stores, in the traffic that throngs the busy streets and fine roads, in the voluntary organizations formed for pleasure and for social welfare, and especially in the number and quality of the newspapers that make up the press, in fact in everything one sees there is written the record and the proof of twenty two years of a most remarkable progress.

Finally just a word may be permitted on the much discussed feature of the political progress of the people. If we put aside the brief period of autonomistic government which never got into thorough operation, so that no one will ever know how it might have worked, there was under the Spanish regime no democratic government and no local self-government. Now after twenty two years the government of the Island is both entirely democratic and in the main locally controlled and responsible to the people. And this is true not only of the political institutions such as the Legislature, and the municipal councils and other officials elected by the people, but practically the entire personnel who do the work of the government are native sons and daughters of the Island. In the last report of the Civil Service Commission the statement is made that of the 6,184 positions in the government service only 228 are held by those who are not natives of the country, and of these 228 there are 126 teaching positions mostly teachers of English and technical subjects. In 1913 there were 769 such positions held by others than native Porto Ricans. So here as everywhere there has been rapid progress. Just as fast as the Porto Rican people could be prepared and trained in the difficult art of democratic self-government, their local government has been handed over to their own people. Only a few

safeguards which seem necessary to protect the Island itself from the inexperience and lack of preparation of a large part of its own voters have been retained in the national government, and these also may be given to the people of the Island as soon as the work of education and training can be made more universal and complete.

In short and in fine these two decades of progress made by Porto Rico under the American flag taken all together constitute a record which I believe can not be equalled by any people anywhere in the world in the same length of time. It is a record creditable alike to the Porto Ricans themselves and to the great free Republic to which they owe allegiance. Much of it is due to the liberality and generous aid of the great American government and people, but most of the credit is due to the splendid cooperation of the Porto Ricans themselves. But the people of the Island have eagerly availed themselves of every opportunity offered them for improvement. With patriotic devotion to their Island and with a real aspiration for progress, they have made a quick response to all the changes that were necessary for development. In politics and government, in education, in commerce and industry, in social and moral improvement, they have offered their cooperation and aid to the forces that have held for betterment. This is the simple truth as to the past, and this is the best augury for the future. It seems easy to predict that, barring untoward and unexpected events, the next two decades will see here even more wonderful progress and development.

Reading the annual reports of the Commissioner of the Interior one comes to realize the extent of the progress achieved and the growth that has taken place during the last 20 years in the various activities placed by law under the province of the Department of the Interior. What this Department has been doing can best be illustrated by making a few comparisons of the conditions as they existed 20 years ago and what they are today, regarding the construction of roads, public buildings, the expansion of the telegraph and telephone lines, municipal improvements, irrigation works, and like activities which furnish a good index of the progress and development of a country.

What has been done along the line of road construction? Before stating the figures which show what has been accomplished, let us explain that the topography of the country does not lend itself to the construction of railroads, except along the coast, and therefore the construction of a good road system has been a matter of vital importance for the development of the Island. And for this reason road construction and road maintenance engage the major part of the activities of the Department.

Up to the year 1898 only 267 Kms. of macadamized roads had been built and only 14 towns had road communications; today there are 1,262 Kms. of well built macadamized roads, and one can go by road from any town to any other town of the Island. And the volume of travel by automobiles and auto trucks has increased beyond comparison, this requiring a large and efficient force of men spread over the 1,262 Kms., and large expenditures of money to maintain every kilometer of road in proper conditions for traffic.

And the Department is now engaged in the construction of new roads to the amount of \$3,000,000.00, and is endeavoring to secure the necessary funds to continue to an early completion the other roads yet to be built to complete the road plan already approved, and which will cost about \$10,000,000.00 more.

Twenty years ago there was not, according to official records, any public school building owned by the Insular or Municipal Governments. At present there are 520 modern school buildings, all of which have been built under the supervision of the Department of the Interior, and likewise the construction of public buildings such as hospitals, city halls, meat shops, etc., has been increasing every year. The construction work

supervised by the Division of Public Buildings during the last fiscal year amounted to approximately \$600,000.00.

As to municipal improvements, let us note that in the year 1898 there were only 7 towns provided with water works, only one town, San Juan, had a sewer system, and there were electric lighting systems only in 4 towns. At present 38 towns, or 50% of the towns of the Island, are provided with water works, 7 towns have built modern sewer systems and the number of towns with electric lighting systems is well above 60. The Department of the Interior has played a most important role in connection with these municipal improvements, offering all possible encouragement and assistance to the municipal governments to promote such works and giving its material support and actually carrying out such works in behalf of the municipalities. At the present moment the Insular Government is contemplating the issue of bonds to the amount of \$5,000,000.00 for the purpose of making loans to these municipalities that have not been able to finance their projects, to carry out such improvements.

The volume of business handled by the Insular Telegraph lines has increased threefold in the last 20 years. At the time of the American occupation in 1898 there were 1,240 Kms. of telegraph lines, and since then this length has increased to 2,151 Kms., and there is not a single town in the Island but that can be reached by telegraph or telephone. It is interesting to note that in the year 1900 the total number of messages transmitted over the telegraph lines was 114,952, while in the year 1919 this number had increased to 349,918. The Bureau of Insular Telegraph of the Department is also operating successfully telephone systems in various towns of the Island.

In the year 1907, the year when records of automobiles began to be kept in the Island, the Automobile Office reported a registration of 99 automobiles. The latest records show a registration of 5,171 automobiles and 208 auto trucks. The annual collections from this source in the year 1907 was \$495.00. Last year this revenue increased to \$136,661.14.

The Irrigation System, built in the South coast of the Island, has been one of the most important undertakings of the Insular Government in the last 20 years. Prior to the construction of this system, irrigation was practised in the dry sections of the country, but on a small scale. This system came therefore to afford a great improvement in furtherance of the agricultural development of the Island. About 30,000 acres of land are irrigated by this system.

In connection with this project there is a hydroelectric development, which furnishes power for lighting of several

towns and for pumping installations. Last year a total of 5,924,520 Kw. hrs. were generated at the power plant and sold to consumers for an average price of \$2.013 per Kw. hr.

One of the greatest tasks now in the hands of the Department, is the work undertaken in cooperation with the Public Service Commission, studying the matter of rates and regulations and preparing forms for annual reports with a view to effect a standardization of same, which will be applicable to all public service enterprises such as electric light and power systems, lightering business in the various ports of the island, railroad as well as automobile passenger and freight service, etc.

The Filson Historical Society

TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

The progress made in the establishment and perfection of the judicial system in Porto Rico, is something of which Porto Ricans and Americans may justly feel proud.

Porto Rico had at the time of the American occupation a well-developed system of laws and procedure based entirely upon the civil-law system. Since that time there has been a constant substitution of the American system of laws relating to government, and especially was this true in regard to the adoption of the American system of judicial procedure, although the laws relating to personal and property rights have remained largely based on the civil-law system. This development was the more remarkable, inasmuch as it was not forced upon a reluctant people, but was adopted by the elected representatives of the people, under the guidance and with the cooperation of the American officials in Porto Rico. These American officials, however, were as often the recipients of inspiration as they always stood for the American system of justice and the people of Porto Rico and of the United States owe them a great debt of gratitude.

1175

The great organization period of the department of justice was from 1901 to 1905. The first law passed by the first legislative assembly was 'An act to establish trial by jury in Porto Rico' (Jan. 12, 1901)

The next session of the legislative assembly saw the enactment of four important codes, the Political Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Civil Code, all adopted on March 1, 1902. In 1904 we find the adoption of an American Code of Civil Procedure (March 10, 1904), an act reorganizing the judiciary (March 10, 1904), and in the succeeding year an American Code of Evidence (Mar. 9, 1905). All of these codes except the Civil Code were based upon the American system.

A reading of the history of this period arouses the enthusiasm of every American and Porto Rican lawyer, and the record of that rapid progress will probably never again be duplicated within such a brief period of time. During the succeeding years much important work has been done, many new laws of importance affecting the judicial system have been enacted, many amendments to the early codes have been adopted, and above all much patient effort has been expended in the improvement of the administration of the system.

The following are examples of the constructive legislation of this period: The laws creating the irrigation service, the bureau of labor, the bureau of weights and measures, the San Juan Harbor board, the civil-service law, the civil-registry law, the sanitation law, the law of corporations, education laws, the law providing for licensing of professional men, and many social laws, all of which made the passing legal work and the administrative work of the attorney general and the work of the courts more pressing. The judicial system and the department of justice, so well organized during the early constructive period, proved its great value during the succeeding years of material growth and prosperity.

The Grand Jury was established in Porto Rico by a law passed by the legislature on June 18, 1919.

It is a pleasure to state that the grand jurors have shown themselves very well adapted to this institution and in the discharge of their duties they have proven to be honest and impartial.

Also in 1919, the New Municipal Law, which is a successful step toward the establishment of a Commission government throughout the municipalities of

the Island, the Election Law, the Excise-tax law, which has proven to be a great helper of the National Prohibition Act, and many others of a social and progressive character were approved.

Finally, among those approved by the special session of the legislature in 1920 are the Workman's Accident Compensation Act, which was amended so as to be put in full and effective operation and the act for the building of houses for artisans and laborers, commonly known as the "Barrio Obrero Act."

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LABOR

San Juan, Porto Rico,

March 5, 1921.

The influence of the Department of Agriculture and Labor on the general progress of Porto Rico during the past twenty years and the mere account of said progress during such period of time is a matter that would require a large extent. However, we shall try to circumscribe our ideas to the most essential in order to embody them in the short number of 500 words requested.

----- 0 -----

A G R I C U L T U R E

Up to the year 1900 the agricultural production of Porto Rico was limited to Coffee, Sugar, Tobacco and minor fruits, coffee holding the first place. The first three mentioned crops were export products and the minor fruits satisfied the home consumption. The practice of planting and cultivation was a routine work if we consider the fact that the methods followed were not the most scientific ones. Little work of agricultural research had been done prior to 1900. There was an Experiment Station at Rio Piedras, which published a few works on Sugar Cane and Coffee.

Since there occurred in the year 1899 a terrific cyclone which swept away all crops, it is not easy to find the data corresponding to that period.

In the Official Census of 1910 we find the following data on exportation for the year 1897:

Coffee	---	25,855 tons	---	\$12,222,600
Sugar	---	63,414 "	---	4,007,992
Tobacco	--	3,128 "	---	<u>1,194,318</u>
				\$17,424,910.

From 1901 on, some North Americans commenced growing pineapples and citrous fruits, the cultivation thereof having reached such import-

ance that in 1920 there were exported to the United States 900,000 crates of said fruits valued at \$ 2,600,000.

In 1901 the U.S. Agricultural Experiment Station was established at Mayaguez. In 1910 there was created at Rio Piedras the Experiment Station of the Sugar Growers' Association of Porto Rico, which in 1914 was transferred by law to the Government of Porto Rico and became the Insular Agricultural Experiment Station, its work being extended to involve all crops. Both said Stations have carried out a goodly number of experiments of great value in relation with the crops of the island as well as with its soils, insects, cryptogams and birds.

In 1911, the Legislative Assembly created a Board of Commissioners of Agriculture whose aim was the promotion and defense of the agricultural interests of the Island. Later, on March 2, 1917, the Congress of the United States created the Department of Agriculture and Labor of Porto Rico, whose services of agriculture were organized by the Legislature in that same year, extending the field of work of the Insular Experiment Station.

Since then the activities of this Department, as regards the branch of Agriculture, have been devoted to the study, furtherance and good of agriculture and industries derived therefrom, patronizing and working for the promotion of the agricultural interests of the Island. In 1918 the agricultural extension service was organized, which is carried on in all the districts of the Island. Attention is being given to the improvement of bovine, caprine, ovine and porcine breeds, to which end good stock has been imported from the States. Work is being done in the eradication of cattle tick, there being up to the present some 90 dipping vats.

Many methods have been propagated for controlling plant diseases, very particularly the yellow-stripe disease of sugar cane. Information concerning improvement of crops, seed selection, etc., according to the modern scientific methods, is being furnished to farmers, thru visits to their farms and by means of conferences.

From 1900 to 1910 a large number of laws beneficial to agriculture has been enacted.

The progress of the agricultural work of the Island is shown in the following table of products exported in 1920:

Sugar-----	\$98,923,750
Leaf Tobacco-----	12,416,388
Cigars-----	11,613,997
Coffee-----	9,034,023
Pineapples-----	570,633
Oranges and other fruits-----	2,179,885
Coconuts-----	1,142,412
	<hr/>
Total	\$135,889,093.

As will be seen, the difference between the value of the exportation in 1897 and that in 1920 gives an increase of \$118,464,182.

F O R E S T S

By the year 1900 the great wealth of original forests which covered almost the entire island had all but completely disappeared. And after that time such forest growth as had remained disappeared with great rapidity.

The Inguillo National Forest including approximately 15,000 cuerdas of former Spanish Crown Lands, was created in 1903 by Proclamation of President Roosevelt. This Forest is administered under the same regulations as govern the National Forests of the Continent. Late in 1917, "The Forest Law" was enacted, a Porto Rico Forest Service being created under the supervision and direction of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor and its practical work placed in the hands of technically trained foresters. In 1918, the Governor by Proclamation according to law set aside as Insular Forests some 15,000 cuerdas of mangrove swamp lands situated in some twenty different municipalities. Again on December 1919, the Governor by Proclamation set aside some 25,000 cuerdas of dry or upland forest lands, including Mona Island, as additional Insular Forests. Preparations for extensive reforestation projects on some of the upland forests and regulated exploitation of the mangrove forests are being actively made, one small plantation having been undertaken already. A forest experiment station and forestry nurseries are now being established. Seeds of the most valuable native

trees are being collected for the production of planting stock while at the same time promising exotic species are being introduced from various tropical and sub-tropical countries.

LABOR

From 1900 to 1908 there was hardly any legislation directly favorable to the working classes. And from 1908 to 1912 only three labor laws, including that creating the Bureau of Labor, were enacted. After said Bureau was established the laws now in force were enacted. From 1913 to 1920 laws were enacted regulating the working hours; the minimum wages for working women; work of children over 12 years; compensation in cases of industrial accidents; preventing and settling industrial controversies; construction of scaffolds; emigration; the construction of houses for laborers; claims of wages, and payment thereof in legal tender.

In the rural districts, salaries amounting ⁱⁿ 1900 to 50 cents per day of 12 hours were gradually raised to five times as much in 1920, per day of 8 hours, save in the coffee-growing districts where the increase has been low. In the urban districts, artisans and their helpers receiving in 1900 \$1 as an average per day of 12 hours earned in 1920 an average wage of \$3 per day of 8 hours.

There are about 40,000 women engaged in the tobacco industry, in making blouses, drawn work and embroidery for exportation and small stores. The wages paid these women, which in 1900 were 25 cents and later 50 cents, are at present \$1 as an average per day of 8 hours.

Some 400 houses have been built in San Juan to provide homes to laborers, payable on long terms, a special suburban district with sewerage, water and electric works having been established in a convenient place. Under similar conditions, provision is being made for farm laborers, the first step having been taken by granting in the municipality of Vega Baja lands of The People of Perte Rico, which are appropriate for growing minor fruits.

M. C. Amund
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND
LABOR.