

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND LABOR

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN, P. R.

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE AND LABOR
SAN JUAN, P. R.

May 11, 1912.

Honorable Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Mr. Yager:-

Through my friend Rodriguez, whom I often inquired about your health, I learned always to my satisfaction that you were improving, and I earnestly desired to greet you personally, but I feared being inopportune at the time when I should go to see you. I expected to shake hands with you before your leaving. Unfortunately, an important official affair kept my mind busy in such a way that I forgot about your sailing away on the transport "Northern Pacific".

Mr. Marlatt, Chairman, Federal Horticultural Board, sent me a cablegram relative to an importation to Porto Rico of a shipment of infected cotton seed whereby the importer violated the law. I was furnishing the Legislature with some information and pushing forward a bill reorganizing the Workmen's Relief Commission, so that I may have nothing else to do with it, and therefore I could not reply to Mr. Marlatt at once. As soon as the bill was passed on Friday the 7th and approved on Saturday the 8th, I devoted myself on Saturday afternoon to making a

86X11

(11 May 12)

- 2 -

long and ample report which had to be translated and put in shape to be sent personally through Mr. Córdeva Dávila, since the transport did not take mail. I was so deeply engaged in this work, which could not be finished until Sunday afternoon, and had to take it myself to the pier, just as the steamer was about to leave, handing it to a naval officer to deliver it to Mr. Córdeva Dávila.

Upon hearing that you were on board, I experienced a bitter grief because of my not having bidden you a personal farewell and handed you a humble present that I had for you; therefore I intended writing to you to the States.

Never in my life have I regretted so much an oversight due to the many things distracting my mind, as in this occasion, wherefore I am hereby giving you this apologetical explanation.

I am sending with this a humble present which I wish you would keep as a souvenir from me.

I who have appreciated so closely your excellent merits in governing our country, your great discretion, your equanimity, your spirit of righteousness and, above all, the sterling value of your honesty, do regret in earnest your going away from this our native Island, and I pray God that the recovery of your health may enable you to return and continue your work amid the affection of the country.

I have been granted a vacation leave of absence in order to go to the States, and my daughter, and I have tickets

(11 May 12)

- 3 -

for the Brazes leaving on the 19th instant.

I intend to go to a sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, which is well known by my relatives, in order to recover from the exhaustion of my physical strength, by means of a two-month rest.

Hoping to greet and say you good-by personally, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

McAmunaf.

MC/rg

The Filson Historical Society

December 17, 1913.

My dear Charley:

I received your letter of the 19th ultimo some-
time ago, but have been too busy to answer.

I find, of course, that I shall have to go very
slow in making changes in the official service here in
Porto Rico, and also that I shall be practically compelled
to give the first consideration to Porto Rican applicants
for office whenever there are qualified men from among
them who are able to perform the duties. Moreover, most
of the minor officers in the Island are under the Civil
Service Rules and therefore must be filled from the cer-
tified list of those who have passed the examinations.
This makes it all the more difficult for me to go outside
of the Island in filling any vacancies that may arise,
and, of course, I am not going to make vacancies until I
shall have had ample time to study the whole situation.

The Board of Agriculture is not an active Board
but is composed of officers of the Island who meet only
occasionally and I think have no salary. However, not-
withstanding all these conditions, I shall bear in mind
your application, and if I find it possible at some time
in the future to do anything that would help you I will

(17 Dec 13)

-2-

give the matter careful consideration.

With best wishes for you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Governor.

Mr. C. C. Coleman,

2701 East 27th Street,

Kansas City, Missouri.

The Filson Historical Society

Kansas City Mo. 2701 E. 27th St. 11-19-13,

To His Excellency Arthur Gayer
Gov. of Porto Rico.

My Dear Gov.:

I beg pardon for troubling you with another letter, but hitherto I was not in position to be definite. It has been difficult to find anything that will give any insight into the affairs of Porto Rico. But the little obtained emphasizes what a great work there is for you and those under you. I find some appointments to be made by you, but in no case is the salary mentioned. Formerly I think I would like to be on the board of Agriculture. Since it is the chief industry in the Island, and my life work having been along that line, I feel I am, in some degree, fitted for it. Of course some clerkships are attractive but usually the work is routine and offers neither the incentive nor the opportunity we find in

(19 Nov. 13)

a broader field. I think the line indicated
will be pleasant and attractive and I will
be glad to become a member of your
Official family and help your Administration
in any way possible, I know your time
is too regressed to take up this matter
now, But when you feel you are in a
position to write I shall be glad
to hear from you.

My father and mother join Mrs. Coleman
and myself in best wishes to you & your family.
Truly your friend
J. Coleman

May 2, 1914.

My dear Bishop:

I enclose letter to Mr. Smith, United States Minister at Haiti, that I promised last night. I hope that you will get it in time and find it useful.

I am anticipating great pleasure in hearing you recount your experiences when you return from the Republic of Haiti.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Right Reverend C. B. Colmers,
Box 1115,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

May 2, 1914.

Dear Sir:

This letter is to introduce to you the Right Reverend C. B. Colmore, Bishop of the Diocese of Porto Rico and Haiti.

The Bishop has his official residence in San Juan and is now on a visit to Haiti which constitutes part of his diocese.

Bishop Colmore is a cultivated and consecrated christian gentleman, and you will find it a pleasure to know him and to cooperate with him in aiding the development of his work in Haiti. As this is his first visit to this part of his diocese, I am sure you will be able to give him information and assistance that will increase the usefulness and pleasure of his journey. I commend him to you most cordially.

Respectfully yours,

Governor.

Hon. Madison E. Smith,
Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary,
United States Legation,
Port au Prince, Haiti.

1126

May 12, 1914.

My dear Senator:

I have just received your very kind letter of the 4th instant and appreciate very much indeed your expression of personal opinion that something liberal will be done for the improvement of San Juan harbor.

Our little Porto Rico Regiment was intensely disappointed at the unexpected turn of affairs in the matter of the legislation for the benefit of that regiment which it was hoped would be put in the army appropriation bill. You will remember that the House passed the bill providing for the placing of this regiment in the lineal list, and the Senate passed this provision with the additional provision for recruiting a third battalion and thus completing the regiment. In some way which we are not able to understand the Conference Committee dropped out of the bill not only the provision for completing the regiment, about which the Houses had disagreed, but also the other provision upon which they had been agreed.

Would it not be possible now, in view of the Mexican conditions, for you to introduce a separate bill providing simply for the completion of the regiment, without any other clauses whatsoever?

This regiment is a most excellent body of men.

11 x 98

(12 May 14)

-2-

and they are exceedingly anxious to have an opportunity for service at the front. If they were ordered to the front it would have a fine political effect here in Porto Rico, and we all fear that as long as the regiment remains a fragment of two battalions that it will never have a chance to see real service. It seems to me, that as they are thoroughly acclimated to tropical conditions and are also acquainted with the language and the people of Latin-American countries, they would be more useful at this crisis than any other regiment in the army. The Porto Rican people are generally quite proud of their regiment. The officers are all white men, those above the grade of lieutenant being all Americans, and most of the privates are all white men, and all of them are exceedingly loyal and could be trusted in any emergency to give a good account of themselves and defend the flag to the last ditch. I would be exceedingly glad to see something done to encourage them.

With best wishes for you, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Governor.

Hon. George E. Chamberlain,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN, ORE., CHAIRMAN.
GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK, NEB. HENRY A. DUPONT, DEL.
LUKE LEA, TENN. FRANCIS E. WARREN, WYO.
DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLA. JOSEPH L. BRISTOW, KANS.
HENRY L. MYERS, MONT. THOMAS B. CATRON, N. MEX.
CHARLES S. THOMAS, COLO. JAMES H. BRADY, IDAHO.
JAMES K. VARDAMAN, MISS. WILLIAM S. KENYON, IOWA.
JAMES P. CLARKE, ARK. NATHAN GOFF, W. VA.

CARALYN B. SHELTON, CLERK.
H. GRANT, ASSISTANT CLERK.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 30, 1914.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
Porto Rico.

My dear Governor:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, in reference to the introduction of a bill for the purpose of perfecting the Porto Rico Regiment. I will take this matter up with the War Department, and will be governed largely in the premises by their opinion in the matter. There was such a radical difference of opinion between the Senate and House conferees that we were compelled eventually to eliminate the Porto Rico Regiment from the Appropriation Bill with the understanding that it would be looked into carefully before the next session of Congress.

With kindest regards, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Walter Hamilton

11
06 X 11

COPY

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 20, 1914.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
Porto Rico.

My dear Governor:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th instant, in reference to the introduction of a bill for the purpose of perfecting the Porto Rico Regiment. I will take this matter up with the War Department, and will be governed largely in the premises by their opinion in the matter. There was such a radical difference of opinion between the Senate and House conferees that we were compelled eventually to eliminate the Porto Rico Regiment from the Appropriation Bill with the understanding that it would be looked into carefully before the next session of Congress.

With kindest regards, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) Geo. E. Chamberlain.

June 13, 1914.

Mr. E. B. Childs,
Central Los Caños,
Arecibo, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Childs:

We will have a meeting of the Economy Commission next Tuesday afternoon at which the Arecibo road and bridges will be taken up and I am confident will be authorized in some form or other and we shall then begin the work promptly.

I am confident we can settle the matter in a way that is satisfactory to the people of Arecibo.

The new scheme involving 2 bridges will cost about \$15,000 more than the old scheme with just one bridge.

It is barely possible that the Economy Commission may wish to have the property holders and merchants of Arecibo, through private subscription, raise a part of this difference.

I wish you would write me by next Tuesday your views as to the possibility and justice of this arrangement.

I am inclined to think that the time has come perhaps for me to appoint a councilman at Arecibo and I shall perhaps give that serious consideration next week. In this connection I would appreciate it if you would give me confidentially a list of 3 or 4 names from amongst whom I might secure the right kind of councilman. You know I want an independent, public-spirited man, American or Porto Rican, who is not too closely identified with either of the factions but will consider the good of the city and at the same time be conciliatory and diplomatic toward all factions.

The budget must be made up, I understand, by July 1st, and I do not want it to be made up in a way to embarrass the future Mayor whoever he may be.

So write me fully your views or come to see me next Tuesday if you can. I am going to Jajome to-day.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

11 X 48

LUCIEN PETERS McCALLA, M.D., BOISE, IDAHO
VICE-PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT INTER-MOUNTAIN GOOD ROADS DEPARTMENT
ARTHUR H. BLANCHARD, C.E., A.M., NEW YORK
CONSULTING ENGINEER
ELIAS VANDER HORST, C. E., NEW YORK
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY TO BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS
TIMOTHY W. SPRAGUE, S.B., BOSTON
ENGINEER TO BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS
C. H. CLAUDY, WASHINGTON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY

GENERAL COLEMAN DU PONT
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS
CHARLES HENRY DAVIS, C.E.
PRESIDENT
FREDERIC REMSEN HUTTON, M.E., SC.D.,
GENERAL SECRETARY
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS
PHILADELPHIA
GENERAL COUNSEL

JUDGE J. M. LOWE, KANSAS CITY, MO.
VICE-PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT NATIONAL OLD TRAILS ROAD DEPARTMENT
HON. JESSE TAYLOR, JAMESTOWN, OHIO
VICE-PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT OHIO GOOD ROADS FEDERATION DIVISION
A. L. WESTGARD, NEW YORK
VICE-PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAYS
WILL WARD DUFFIELD
ENGINEER OF CHART CONSTRUCTION
O. W. GRUENING, DES MOINES, IOWA
MANAGER NORTHWESTERN ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT
WALTER AGNEW ALSDORF, COLUMBUS, OHIO
MANAGER NORTHERN ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT
STANLEY E. BATES, S.B.
ENGINEER HIGHWAY PUBLICATIONS
JOHN STONE ALLEN, A.B.
EDITOR HIGHWAY PUBLICATIONS
FRANCIS HILL BIGELOW
ASSISTANT TREASURER

BY CONSENT, DEPOSITORIES FOR FUNDS OF THE
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ASSOCIATION
BANK OF AMERICA, NEW YORK
GERMANTOWN TRUST COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA
SOUTHWEST NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE
KANSAS CITY, MO.
DES MOINES NATIONAL BANK, IOWA
WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY, DELAWARE
BOISE CITY NATIONAL BANK, IDAHO
THE CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK, COLUMBUS, OHIO



South Yarmouth, Mass.
June 4, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Yager, Member,
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
National Highways Association,
Government House,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of May 14th and we appreciate your acceptance of membership in our COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, and your cooperation and interest in the work of the Association.

As to the proposed NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHWAYS AND ROADS you will be further advised in connection therewith, and you will have notice of a month or more both as to time and place. We shall look forward to your personal presence at that time.

With high appreciation of your letter, I am,

Yours very truly,

Lucien McCalla
President

CHD/FSP

Signed 5/14

86 x 11

September 16, 1914.

Governor George E. Colton,
Room 214, 30 East 42nd Street,
New York City.

My dear Governor Colton:

I have noticed in the papers the announcement of the very important work you are going to take up in South America in behalf of the National City Bank of New York City.

I am writing to congratulate you and also the Bank upon the establishment of this relation. I am perfectly sure that it will be mutually satisfactory and helpful to the whole country. I think you are admirably fitted to just such a task and I feel sure you will greatly enjoy it. When are you planning to go?

I hope that you will find an opportunity to visit Porto Rico before going so far away. You have many friends here who would be glad to see you again, and I want you to understand that Mrs. Yager and I would be both delighted to have you visit us at anytime it might suit your convenience, and this also includes Miss Colton who I hope is well and happy in her home at Washington.

I have no time to write you the news of the Island. I suppose you keep posted through the papers. We are in the throes of the election and you know well what

11X28

that means. This year the excitement began very early and promises to keep up at a high pitch until the ballots are counted. As an indication of the general interest, Mr. Keith, the Supervisor, informs me that after striking off of all the newly registered voters that he possibly can, the list will be increased by about 72,000 names over what it was when the new registrations began. This seems quite abnormal and almost inexplicable.

Please give my kind regards to Miss Colton, and with every assurance of regard for yourself, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

October 13, 1914.

My dear Senator Camden:

I received your very courteous and kind letter with reference to reappointment of Judge Bonner, Auditor of Porto Rico, only the other day.

I hasten to reply that I appreciate your interest in Judge Bonner, as he is a very excellent gentleman and I am just getting ready to take up for consideration and decision the matter of the Auditorship. I have postponed it because the Judge's term does not expire until December, and I therefore regarded it as one of those things not immediately urgent.

I was very glad to receive your letter for it reminded me that I had not yet found opportunity to congratulate you upon your recent and almost unanimous election to fill out the unexpired term of United States Senator from Kentucky. It gives one renewed faith in the good sense of our Kentucky voters to see them do a thing like this in such a splendid way, and I congratulate you most cordially.

I am hoping to be in Washington before long and shall seek an opportunity to renew and improve my personal acquaintance with you. My brother F. S. Yager, of Hardin County, Kentucky, wrote me recently that he expected to

(13 Oct 14)

-2-

be in Washington shortly upon a matter in which he was interested and upon which he will doubtless see you or maybe has seen you before this letter reached you. I am confident that you will do everything that you properly can for him in his legitimate aspirations for some increased employment by the Government in the matter of claims before the Department of Justice.

With every assurance of respect and good wishes,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Hon. J. N. Camden,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

JOHNSON N. CAMDEN, KY., CHAIRMAN.
FRANK S. WHITE, ALA.
HARRY LANE, OREG.
THOMAS B. CATRON, N. MEX.
NATHAN GOFF, W. VA.
W. O. DAVIS, CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

September 26, 1914

Honorable Arthur Yager,
Governor, Porto Rico,
San Juan.

My dear Governor:-

I am informed that Judge Bonner, auditor of Porto Rico, desires to be re-appointed to that position. I presume that you are well acquainted with Judge Bonner, and if so, are doubtless aware that he is a gentleman of the highest character and integrity, and splendidly equipped by reason of his experience and business ability to fill the office acceptably, having to his credit a fine record as a Government official.

Under the circumstances I am taking the liberty of writing this letter and to ask, if it be consistent with your administrative plans, that you re-appoint Judge Bonner as auditor of the Island, assuring you that it will be gratifying to me and also to a number of our mutual friends.

With assurances of my high regards, and wishes for your success, I am

Very sincerely yours,

J. McComb

112 X 11

October 22, 1914.

President R. H. Crossfield,
Transylvania University,
Lexington, Kentucky.

My dear Doctor Crossfield:-

I received a few days ago your very kind letter in support of the candidacy of Judge J. W. Bonner for reappointment as Auditor.

As you perhaps already know, I have recommended him for reappointment and have just received notice that his nomination has been sent to the Senate.

I was greatly pleased to get your letter. I have noticed in the newspapers that Transylvania has opened finely and wish to congratulate you upon this evidence of your success and efficiency as its President. However, I did not need any such evidence myself for I have known you of old. I hope you will find your work pleasant and congenial, though I know it is very onerous and difficult.

I am enjoying my work here in spite of its difficulties and perplexities very thoroughly and am also in the best of health as are my family.

I hope you are well. Please remember me most cordially to all my old friends about the University.

Sincerely your friend,

Transylvania University

(Incorporated)

Lexington, Ky.

President's Office

October 6, 1914.

Dear Governor Yager,

I am particularly interested in the reappointment of Auditor J. W. Bonner, whom I have known for a number of years, and who is a Christian gentleman of high order.

I know of no one whose culture, experience, and ideals better fit in for such a position. Judge Bonner has been a member of our Board of Curators for a long time, and in this way I have had an excellent opportunity of knowing his qualifications personally and intimately. May I say in addition, that his reappointment would not only be, in my estimation, a recognition of service well rendered, but a source of gratification to a large number of your friends here in Kentucky.

With every good wish for your continued success, I am,

Cordially yours,



Governor Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

1126

November 18, 1914.

My dear Governor Craig:

I would greatly appreciate it if you would write me, care of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, Washington, D. C., all that you know about the capacity, training and qualifications of Mr. E. W. Keith, now of San Juan, Porto Rico, as a lawyer.

I know Mr. Keith well in all other respects, but for some reason I should be glad to have your judgment of his legal training, experience and ability generally.

Thanking you in advance, I am
Yours sincerely,

Governor.

Honorable Locke Craig,

Governor of North Carolina,

Raleigh, North Carolina.

11728

San Juan 15 Marzo 1915.

Hon. Arthur Gager

Gobernador de P. R.

Honorable Sr. He tenido siempre muy presente todos los favores de que yo y toda mi familia le somos deudores; no olvidare jamas las delicadas atenciones que prodigamente, tuvo para mi en momentos de angustias.

Admita ese pequeño obsequio que le envio, que es muy grande en los buenos deseos para Ud y su distinguida familia.
Con la mas respetuosa

consideración me despido
con cariñoso saludo á
su distinguida Fra.

S. C.
Luz de Cercedos

The Filson Historical Society

Vice-Consulat de France

Saint-Jean, le 9 Janvier 1915

à

Porto-Rico

Mes au Goerthial,
présente ses plus respectueux
hommages à leurs
Excellences Monsieur
le Gouverneur de Porto
Rico et Madame
Mager et les remercie
de leur aimable
invitation à laquelle
il aura l'honneur
de se rendre /

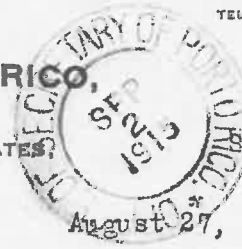
1728

PAUL S. CARTER,
PURCHASING AGENT

1526-1530-1531 WHITEHALL BUILDING,
BATTERY PLACE,
TELEPHONE 515 RECTOR.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO,

OFFICE OF THE
PURCHASING AGENT IN THE UNITED STATES,
NEW YORK.



Dear Governor:

Referring to your letter of August 11th, I inclose herewith, for your information, copy of letter from Mr. W. C. Sherman, dated August 26th, through whom we purchased the Governor's car.

Very sincerely,

Paul S. Carter

Hon. Arthur Yager,
The Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

1798

THE F. B. STEARNS COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

New York, August 26, 1915.

Mr. PAUL S. CARTER,
Whitehall Building,
Battery Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

If the Governor of Porto Rico decides to ship his Stevens-Duryea car to the States and have it thoroughly overhauled, wish to say, that Mr. H.C. Beever formerly of the Stevens-Duryea Company is maintaining a repair and service station at 62nd Street and Broadway, The Locomobile Building. He has a most complete shop and is thoroughly reliable.

The Stevens-Duryea people have discontinued manufacturing their cars and the largest part of their plant has been sold. What they have left is used exclusively for the manufacture of repair parts.

It is a question of what is the best thing for the Governor to do in regard to his car. An A-1 overhauled job will cost \$600. to \$800. plus the expense of getting the car here and shipping it back. It seems to me under these conditions, the best thing for the Governor to do is to consider the purchase of a new car. He might take this car to the States and turn it in as part payment, or better still, sell it in Porto Rico. The Stevens-Duryea car here in the States has very little value, due to the fact that the Company is out of business.

If the Governor considers the latter proposition,

86X11

(26 Aug 15)

Sheet 2

we would be pleased upon his arrival here in New York, to give him a demonstration in the Stearns-Knight car. It compares most favorably with the Stevens-Duryea and I have no doubt but what he will be pleased with it. We have cars ranging in price from \$1395. to \$5000.

Yours very truly,

THE F.B. STEARNS CO. OF N.Y.
W. C. Sherman.

WDS/HW.

The Filson Historical Society

THE F. B. STEARNS COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

New York, August 26, 1915.

Mr. PAUL S. CARTER,
Whitehall Building,
Battery Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

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If the Governor considers the latter proposition,

11 x 9 1/2

(26 Aug 13)

Sheet 2

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Yours very truly,

THE F. B. STEARNS CO. OF N. Y.
W. C. Sherman.

WDS/HW.

The Filson Historical Society

August 28, 1915.

Mr. Paul S. Carter,
Purchasing Agent,
Whitehall Building,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Carter:

Yours of the 16th has been duly received.

As I understand it, the Stevens-Duryea people are not now making their cars but they are still furnishing the parts required for repairing their old cars, and I think it possible that they may have some garage or mechanical establishment in New York through which they are trying to keep their older cars in repair.

However, as you say, it may be best to trade the old car for a new one of reputation and reliability. Mrs. Yager and our daughter are expecting to sail on the "Brassos" September 8, and will arrive together with Mr. Van Deusen and wife on the 13th, and if in connection with this car-exchange proposition you could arrange for the manufacturers of the "White" or some other good car in which we might be interested, to meet her at the pier, or if that would be inconvenient, to put one of their cars at her disposal for a day or two in New York City while she is shopping, it would be helpful all round. She would like to try a little any car that we may conclude to purchase before the purchase is made.

22x11

(29 Aug 15)

-2-

As I stated before, I am planning to come on the "Philadelphia" leaving on the 11th, and will either bring my car up with me or send it up with Mrs. Yager.

In as much as the "Philadelphie" does not leave from the dock, it may possibly turn out to be safer and better to send my car up on the "Brasos" with Mrs. Yager. This may be better anyway, because if the arrangement suggested above would not be practicable, Mrs. Yager could use our own car while in the city.

I shall try to see you soon after my arrival and we can take up these matters in a personal conference.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

PAUL S. CARTER.
PURCHASING AGENT

1529-1530-1531 WHITEHALL BUILDING,
BATTERY PLAZA
TELEPHONE 515 RECTOR.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO,
OFFICE OF THE
PURCHASING AGENT IN THE UNITED STATES,
NEW YORK.

August 18th, 1915.



Dear Governor:-

I have yours of August 11th. The Stevens-Duryea people have gone out of business. I am making inquiries to find out if there is anybody they are interested in who can re-build this car. If there is nobody, I think we had better trade it in for a White or some other reliable make of car that is going to stay in business.

I will report to you later on this, and will be glad to see you when you come to New York.

Very sincerely,

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

86 x 11

August 11, 1915.

My dear Mr. Carter;

You will doubtless remember the purchase of an automobile for the Governor of Porto Rico sometime about December 1913. The order was given, I believe, by Mr. Carrel at that time. The car has been in active service ever since, has been in the main satisfactory, but of course has had rather hard service and has received such repairs as the mechanics of the government garage have been able to give it; but it is now showing signs of weakness and unreliability, and I have decided to take it to the States with me when I go up in September and have it carefully examined so as to ascertain whether it will be advisable to have it thoroughly gone over and repaired or whether we should get a new car. In the latter event I desire to trade the present car in part payment for the new one. I am writing thus early to you so as to let you know my plans about it in advance and in the hope that I will see you when I come to New York and get your aid in attending to this matter. I have not as yet determined the make of car I should prefer to buy if I conclude to get a new one, and on this point also I am sure you will be of great assistance. I am hoping now to be able to get away on September 11, and if so will reach New York about the 16th barring accidents. Mrs. Yager will be com-

11 x 28

(11 Aug 15)

-2-

pelled to go up a little earlier and is hoping to sail on the 8th, reaching New York about the 13th. If we conclude to get a new car we want to try it ourselves in New York before finally deciding to purchase. I am sure you can arrange all these details very much better than we can ourselves.

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. Paul S. Carter,
Purchasing Agent,
1529 Whitehall Bldg.,
Battery Place, New York City.

The Filson Historical Society

7

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE FISCAL
SAN JUAN



Private

B.-152.

NOVEMBER 12th., 1915.

S I R:-

As it has not been possible for me to see you personally, I write this lines to give you my wellcome and many thanks for having extended the license which I had obtained.

I have seen that my petition for transfer or nomination as District Judge of Arecibo has not been met for reasons that I sincerelly respect.

I have spoken with the Acting Attorney General and he thinks that Fiscal Torres Grau will be transferred to another district. I beg to ask that I be transferred as Fiscal of Ponce.

Owing to the position I have in the Department, I have many enemies in this district and it would be good to have them to forget me.

On the other hand, I have a brother who is practising the profession of law in partnership with Mr. Tizol and on account of this, althouhg (for the peace of my conscience) without any foundation whatever, it is being said that the Fiscal has some benefits in that law office.

Also the salary is small, the high cost

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(127015)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE FISCAL
SAN JUAN

-2-

of living in San Juan and work is excessive.

I would be obliged once more to your administration if I could be transferred by your honor, as soon as possible, to the City of Ponce.

Very respectfully yours,

Luis Ampullo

Fiscal for the District
of San Juan.

HON. GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO,
San Juan, P. R.

LC/ATC.

CONFIDENTIAL

December 17, 1915.

Mr. R. B. Childs,
Arecibo, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Childs:

Some one has suggested to me the name of Mr. Saijo, a pharmacist of Arecibo, as a possible appointment for mayor of that city. I am informed that Mr. Saijo was elected as a councilman on the socialist ticket last year and that he refused to qualify and enter upon his duties because of certain conditions and policies imposed by the socialist party leaders of which he did not approve. I do not know very much about him and of course will have to know a good deal more before I could impose this heavy task upon him. I wish you would write me promptly what you know or can easily learn about him in this connection. Please make all of your inquiries private and confidential. It is perhaps best that it should not be known in Arecibo that I am making inquiries for fear the dominant faction who are in control there now might undertake to thwart the whole project in some way. I have received a terna from the faction that control which seem to me entirely unsatisfactory, and I have asked for another which I fear will be no better, and I am trying to secure information which will enable me to act independently and at the same time legally in the difficult task of providing a decent muni-

11 x 28

(17 Dec 15)

-2-

cipal government for the municipality.

I hope that this will not be too much trouble for you and that you can let me know promptly and confidentially your views upon this point.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

CENTRAL "LOS CAÑOS."

CABLE ADDRESS:
"EDMUNDO PORTORICO"

A B C 4TH EDITION
AND WESTER UNION
CODES.

Arecibo, Porto Rico, December 20th, 1915



Honorable Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My Dear Governor:

I have your favor of the 17th inst. and have delayed answering same until I could carefully investigate the matter, and give you an unbiased opinion, remembering your accusation that I am one of the greatest "pessimists" in Arecibo.

Seijo, who is one of the socialist leaders, was very active in the campaign, and my understanding is, resigned from the council because Landron would not consent to his being named President of the council.

If it is absolutely necessary that the Mayor be selected from the Socialist group here, then you certainly have not much choice, as they are practically all of the same calibre, except, possibly, Landron, who is now out of it, and a planter by the name of Viñas, whom I hardly think would accept.

Seijo, if named, would undoubtedly be dominated by the leader of the dominant faction, Estéban Padilla, familiarly known as "Peje", whose reputation you already know, as well as by Santiago Iglesias, who has spent some time here lately taking an interest in the selection of Mayor.

Seijo, I understand, is a brother-in-law of Lawyer Pizol, of San Juan, who, although a Unionist, is attorney for

11998

the Socialist party, and has appeared with Iglesias defend-
 ing the socialist law-breakers. Pizol was in Arecibo, I un-
 derstand, on Saturday, in consultation with Seijo, and it is
 already generally rumored that Seijo is to be named, which
 rumor, I might add, has caused some consternation amongst the
 better element here, as it was greatly hoped that you would
 find your way clear to avoid making a selection from that
 element. While I have no facts upon which to base my asser-
 tion, I am very much inclined to the opinion that Iglesias
 is up to another of his sly tricks, and is secretly having
 outsiders push the candidacy of his man. This being his strong-
 hold on the Island, he is naturally resorting to every possible
 means to hold it.

As stated above, it is very unfortunate, indeed,
 that you are obliged to select any of them, especially as just
 now the settlement of the school-strike, in opposition to the
 dominant faction, is a severe blow, and, certainly, a good
 step towards resorting order in Arecibo.

But, if it is not possible to go outside the Socialist
 Party, and it is absolutely necessary to select one of them from
 here, then, from what I can understand, Seijo is about the only
 one left, other than the above named gentlemen (Landrón and
 Viñas). After all, it really does not matter which of them is
 elected, he, sooner or later, will be controlled by the dominant
 faction.

If I can be of any further service to you, please com-
 mand me.

Very sincerely your,

R.B. Childs

March 15, 1916.

My dear Mr. Chamberlain;

This is to introduce to you the bearer, Lieutenant Jaime Nadal, an officer in the Porto Rican Regiment who desires to discuss with you some personal matters connected with his rank in this regiment.

Lieutenant Nadal has an excellent record as an officer and is also a gentleman of fine personal character, and I hope you will see your way to give him a conference and make his acquaintance.

With the highest personal regard, I am
Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable George E. Chamberlain, Chairman,
Committee on Military Affairs,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

1129

March 18, 1916.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 10th instant with enclosures has just been received.

I have read carefully the proposed amendment for the Porto Rican bill with reference to the appropriation of money for sectarian purposes, and I approve this amendment most heartily. We already have a law to that effect, I think; and I know that it has been and is now the practice of the Government to follow the American standard and keep State and Church entirely separate. But, as you say, laws and practices may be changed and it is better to have a provision of this sort in the organic act.

As to the prohibition amendment, I am exceedingly doubtful. While I have myself personally voted and worked for prohibition in Kentucky steadily for 20 years, the conditions in Porto Rico are so entirely different that I do not believe it would be practically useful to attempt to apply a prohibition law to the island at the present moment.

When your letter was received I had already written and mailed to Chairman Jones an accurate and impartial statement of the facts bearing upon prohibition for Porto Rico at this time, as these facts appeared to me.

(14 Mar 16)

-2-

I am enclosing herein a copy of this letter to you, and I would be glad if you would read it carefully and consider with the utmost seriousness and without prejudice the whole question. I beg you to remember also that all of my own prejudices and bias are on the side of prohibition. If you should have any question in your mind as to this, I hope you will ask Senators Beckham and James, of Kentucky or any of the members of Congress from that State. My record is thoroughly well known there, and I am and have been always an earnest worker on the side opposed to whiskey.

It is perhaps impossible for you or any American who has not visited and remained in Porto Rico for a considerable time, to understand how different is the civilization of this island from that of the United States and how difficult a task the American people have set for themselves here. We have attempted to set up and operate a stable and efficient government of the American type and to make the Porto Ricans themselves sufficiently satisfied with this government to cooperate in its administration. I fear that at this moment the enactment of a prohibition law for the island by Congress would constitute a new cause of friction between the administration and the Porto Rican people, and this added to other causes of friction which have come up from time to time would produce trouble

(19 Mar 16)

-3-

and retard the process of harmonious political development. Congress, however, is far away and not acquainted with the local conditions and therefore not wholly fitted to legislate for Porto Rico upon a matter like this which touches intimately their social life. Porto Rico is in many respects a backward country, and the people are not yet ready to appreciate many of the social questions that have been discussed for a half century in the United States. Of course they are improving in learning and the time will come when such questions as prohibition, woman's suffrage and general social ameliorations will be agitated and discussed here as elsewhere. We will also be much better able in a few years to handle the question of revenue than we are at present, and my opinion therefore is that it would be better to postpone for a time Congressional action upon the subject of prohibition for Porto Rico.

Americans generally need to study conditions in this little island. I wish very much that you yourself could find time to make a visit to Porto Rico, and I want to extend an invitation to you to come down say next winter and see for yourself just what are the problems which we have to face. I am sure you would enjoy it if you could find time for a visit of say two or three weeks. With your training and experience as a student and observer of social life you could learn a great deal in a short

(18 Mar 16)

-4-

time from actual observation that would enable you to be helpful to the Island in many ways. Porto Rico needs help in many directions and that help must come from the United States. An outing like this would be a pleasant experience for you, and I promise you in advance that I shall extend to you every facility and opportunity for seeing the situation whole and entire in the various parts of the island.

Meanwhile I am myself persuaded that Congress should postpone for two or three years at least the enactment of the prohibition law. There is no questioning the power of Congress to enact a law like this whenever they see fit to do so, but I fear that it is inopportune at present. The consumption of alcohol in Porto Rico has declined greatly in the last two or three years according to our tax receipts. In 1913 we received more revenue from the alcohol tax at 28 cents a liter than we do now at 50 cents a liter; and considerable more from the beer tax at 6 cents a liter than we do now at 10 cents a liter. This would indicate that the amount manufactured and consumed is considerably less now than in 1913.

I would appreciate it if you would write me again upon the subject, for I assure you that I am sincerely anxious to use whatever influence I may have with Congress on the side of the wisest and best course for Porto Rico.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts,
206 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

Governor.

April 8, 1916.

Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph.D.,
International Reform Bureau, Inc.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Crafts:

Your letter of March 30 has been duly received and read with unusual interest.

There can be very little error in the figures and estimates that I sent you with reference to the drink bill of Porto Rico. I was not thinking of distilled liquors only but of the whole amount expended by the people of Porto Rico for alcoholic drinks of every sort.

The great bulk of the liquors is made from alcohol, and alcohol is manufactured out of molasses as a bi-product of the sugar industry, and the tax constitutes a very large percentage in the cost of manufacturing, - in fact it is said to be almost the whole of the cost.

In order to make this matter clear I am enclosing a careful detailed statement of the revenues received by our Treasury, not only from the tax on alcohol but from every other form of the liquor business.

I want to insure you that no investigation has been made by Mrs. Mary and Margaret Leitch. All of these figures are official and could have been secured by application; but they simply made a wild guess at it as they did as to the amount paid for flour. All the flour

11 x 11

(8 Apr 16)

-2-

used in Porto Rico is imported and the total amount is less than \$2,000,000, as reported by the Custom House. They fixed this at \$7,000,000, which was simply another wild guess. .

I am sending also copy of a joint resolution passed by the Legislature of Porto Rico with only one dissenting vote, and this I believe accurately represents public opinion in Porto Rico.

As you have referred several times to my address at Lake Mohonk, I would appreciate it if you would do me the honor to get a copy of the report of the proceedings of this Conference and read my address in full. Newspapers attributed to me a remark made by Dr. May and other speakers; and I feel sure that if you would read my address in full you would get a better idea of the enormous social problem we have here in Porto Rico and of the difficulty which confronts the American administration.

Our difficulty will not be relieved in the least by a prohibition amendment, but on the contrary will be greatly increased. The enormous population, seven-eighths of which are ignorant, undeveloped and helpless peasants, constitutes the fundamental problem. The greatest concrete social evils may be stated, I believe, in the following order: (1) Gambling, (2) social immorality, (3)

(8 Apr 16)

-3-

the entire lack of Sabbath observations. We must of course grapple with these things and do our best in the line of amelioration. We have already a stringent anti-gambling law and are making heroic efforts to secure its enforcement and the support of the people in that enforcement -especially in the matter of lotteries and cockfights which have always been the national passtime. If there be added to this now the prohibition law I fear the whole campaign will break down under the enormous difficulties.

Drinking in Porto Rico is one of the lesser evils from the social point of view, and I am perfectly sure that it would be wise to postpone the effort to prohibit that by law. It is already diminishing under the heavy taxation, as you will see by comparing the figures given in the joint resolution of the local legislature. They (the tax receipts) have almost been cut in half in two years.

I wish very much that you could persuade the prohibition leaders in Congress not to press this matter now. Of course the Congressmen will be greatly embarrassed as a matter of political expediency if they are compelled to vote in this year of elections, and many of them might be forced to vote contrary to their real convictions for fear of incurring the anger of the prohibition voters in their districts. But this method of legislating for

(80p.16)

-4-

Porto Rico at a distance of 2,000 miles is unfair to the island and hurtful to all the real American interests not only in Porto Rico but also throughout Latin-America.

I appreciated very highly the spirit of your letter and I am confident that you will look at this matter from the standard of statesmanship and the really best interests of the people who are immediately involved.

With the highest personal regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

April 10, 1916.

Mr. George Colton,
Ensenada,
Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Colton:

I have just received your short letter of April 7th and desire to respond with a brief expression of my deep sympathy for you in the sad and sudden loss of your father. I know his death must have come as a very great shock to you and I appreciate more than I can express the sense of bereavement and loss which I know overwhelms you.

I hope I may see you before you sail Wednesday, if it is possible. Please extend my sympathies to your brother and also to your aunt Mrs. Hagner, of Washington, when you see her.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

11728

President,
REV. W. R. WEDDERSPOON, D. D.

Secretary,
REV. HENRY ANSTADT.

Superintendent and Treasurer,
REV. WILBUR F. CRAFTS, Ph. D.

Asst. Superintendent,
REV. HENRY N. PRINGLE.

Auditor,
MR. B. B. BASSETTE, New Britain, Ct.

Asst. Auditor,
MR. F. S. RAY, Washington, D. C.

International Reform Bureau, Inc.

Platform and Program: We count it the supreme reform to enlist religious forces in reform, in fulfillment of the second great commandment of Moses and Christ, which requires those who are right with God personally to get men right with men socially. In the all-embracing scope of religion we behold a "far-flung battle line," with generation in the main centre; legislation and law enforcement on the left wing; moral education, on a Bible basis, in school and out, on the right wing. We inform and arouse and express public sentiment to create a better moral environment, and make a "better world" here and now. We proffer co-operation to all associations that stand for the suppression of intoxicants, gambling, and other commercialized vices; for the substitution of recreation for dissipation; for the protection of the young against narcotics; for one day's rest in seven; for the encouragement of reading that comes into life as an inspiration to usefulness, and for arbitration and conciliation instead of industrial and international war.

A Bureau of Lectures, Literature, and Law for Promoting Moral and Social Reforms

206 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S. E., WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 19, 1916.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P.R.

Dear Sir:

Our Secretaries in Porto Rico, Misses Mary and Margaret Leitch, write me that they sent out the estimate which they derived from inquiries as to the amount of money spent for drink as compared with that spent for flour, to many persons, including officials, in Porto Rico, months ago, and that no one until now has criticised the figures, which seem to have been undoubtedly too large, but I think should have been corrected long since by some of those to whom they were sent.

While their estimate of the consumption of liquors is undoubtedly too large, I am wondering if a careful re-examination would not show that your estimate is too small, inasmuch as it names only a slightly larger sum for the cost of liquor to the people than is paid to the Government for revenue. In this country we figure on from thirteen to twenty times as much is spent by the

REV. E. W. THWING,
Oriental Secretary, Peking.

Mrs. WILBUR F. CRAFTS,
Honorary Missionary Secretary.

Office Secretary and Cashier,
MRS. ROSA E. PENNELL.

PHONE, LINCOLN 1955.
CABLE ADDRESS: INREFFBU.

Unless otherwise requested, letters on Bureau business should be addressed to Bureau.

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(19 Apr 16)

Governor Yager

-2-

people in the retail cost of liquors as comes back in licenses and Government taxes. This matter was taken up and worked out elaborately in Baltimore, where the proportion of Government income to the people's expenditure was found to be as one to thirteen, and that is a smaller ratio than has been worked out in some other cases, where it has been as much, in some instances, as one to twenty. It would seem as if the profit which the wholesaler must get in this business, and then the further profit that is paid to the retailers as they sell it out to the people, including also what the people pay for dilutions and adulterations, would reach a larger sum than you have named.

I should be glad if you would make some investigations and inquiries and see if your figures as to the cost to the people are not rather below the mark. On the other hand, we will carefully watch our figures to keep them down in the future, especially when we get some more definite information, which I should anticipate would come about midway between the figures that have been given out on both sides.

Respectfully,

Wilson F. Crafts

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International Reform Bureau, Inc.

Platform and Program: "The International Reform Bureau seeks to promote those Christian reforms on which the churches sociologically unite while theologically differing. It proffers co-operation to all associations that stand for the defense of the Sabbath and purity; for the suppression of intemperance, gambling, and political corruption; for the substitution of arbitration and conciliation for both industrial and international war."

A Bureau of Lectures, Literature, and Law for Promoting Moral and Social Reforms

206 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S. E., WASHINGTON, D. C.

Garrochales, Porto Rico, April 17, 1916.

REV. J. F. BRANT,
 Boston Sec.
 REV. J. E. SQUIRES,
 San Francisco Sec.

Missionary Secretaries
 REV. AND MRS. E. W. THWING,
 Peking, China.
 MR. K. M. GORDON.

Hon. Missionary Secretaries
 MRS. W. F. CRAFTS.
 MISS MARY LEITCH.
 MISS MARGARET W. LEITCH.

Auditor
 MR. B. B. BASSETTE,
 New Britain, Ct.

Asst. Auditor
 MR. F. S. RAY,
 Washington, D. C.

Office Secretary and Cashier
 MRS. ROSA E. PENNELL

PHONE, LINCOLN 1955
 CABLE ADDRESS: INREFBU

Honorable Arthur Yager,

Governor of Porto Rico,
 Executive Mansion, San Juan, P. R.

Dear Sir:

Your name, like the name of George Washington, will shine brighter as time goes on, if you will even now, as a private citizen if not as Governor, throw your great influence, in a letter to Congress, on behalf of the prohibition of the liquor traffic here.

You may have thought that the people of the island did not want prohibition.

You have been surrounded by politicians and men directly interested in the liquor traffic, and by those who, from social and business reasons, are afraid to offend the liquor interests.

But if you have been keeping your ear to the ground, you will have learned before now that there is a strong sentiment among the educated and the public spirited people on the island in favor of the prohibition of the traffic.

In your letter of March 15th to Chairman Jones of the House Committee of the U. S. Congress, you say:- "Porto Ricans in general have never yet felt the need of prohibitory laws upon the subject of intoxicants."

We think that there are facts of recent occurrence which point in a different direction. For example, The Regional Missionary Conference, which was held in Santurce March 16-20, and which was attended by delegates from the various Protestant Missionary Societies working on the island, passed a resolution in favor of the prohibition amendment to the Porto Rico bill now before Congress.

11 x 11

(17 Apr. 16)

Those delegates represented an intelligent, influential and altruistic body of Americans and Porto Ricans.

In these Missions there are 169 ordained ministers, of whom 34 are American Missionaries. And in these Missions there are 115 teachers and lay workers, of whom three are fully qualified Medical Missionaries and 40 are American Lady Missionaries.

The church members of the churches of these missions numbered, on Jan. 1, 1915 13,250 persons.

When the resolution was adopted every Porto Rican present voted for it, and the vote was followed by prolonged applause.

We think that these persons represent the way in which the intelligent, and public spirited citizens of Porto Rico feel about the matter.

Any man, on receiving fresh evidence on a question, has a right to change his views.

Mr. Luis Munoz Rivera, Resident Commissioner from Porto Rico in Washington, D.C., was doubtless mistaken when he said, speaking of the liquor business in Porto Rico, that the business represents a value of two hundred ~~XX~~ million dollars; and the prominent American who gave us the estimate that fourteen million dollars was spent annually in Porto Rico for intoxicating liquors may have been mistaken in his estimate; and you may have been mistaken in thinking that the people of Porto Rico in general have never felt the need of prohibitory laws on the subject of intoxicants.

The people of Porto Rico are not so much concerned as to the mistakes that may have been made, as they are concerned with the vital question CAN THEY GET RID OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC?

Let us help these people to get rid of the 5,500 accursed liquor shops on the island.

The tide is rising here every day in favor of prohibition. Lawyers, merchants, and persons of all classes and professions on the island have been sending Resolution-Petitions to the U. S. Congress, asking for prohibition.

These petitions have been signed by thousands of persons.

Even the local papers are now making caricatures of the liquor traffic.

On which side will you now, at this crisis, throw your influence?

(17 Apr 16)

Your influence with Congress may turn the scales one way or the other.

In your letter to Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts of March 18, 1916, you say:-

"The consumption of alcohol in Porto Rico has decreased greatly in the last two or three years, according to our tax receipts."

From a letter received by us from Hon. Charles F. Hill, Acting Treasurer of Porto Rico, dated April 7, 1916 the total receipts from the Excise Tax and from the License Tax during the past ten years are shown to be as follows.

1906	\$790,148.62		
1907	1,219,702.77		
1908	1,160,067.84		
1909	1,154,642.86		
1910	1,210,435.09		
1911	1,429,267.76		
1912	1,462,095.43		
1913	1,364,658.43		
1914	1,393,194.02		
1915	1,306,134.34		
		<i>Litars</i>	<i>per mo.</i>
		3,770,558	314,215
		1,751,176	142,598

You will see that the trend is upward.

From the same letter from the Acting Treasurer we learn that the License Tax received from Retail Liquors have made an alarming increase, during the past ten years. His figures are as follows.

1906	\$63,272.00
1907	77,579.50
1908	85,693.00
1909	86,404.50
1910	94,896.50
1911	105,531.00
1912	108,360.00
1913	108,233.00
1914	111,372.50
1915	109,688.00

The Acting Treasurer also said, "In view of the fact that liquor licenses are issued quarterly, it is not possible to state the number of establishments doing business through the year. The number varies from about 5,500 to 5,750 different establishments."

Porto Rico has, in round numbers, 1,250,000 inhabitants.

At 5,500 liquor shops this would be an average of one liquor shop to every 227 persons, Allowing five persons to a family, that would be on the average one liquor shop for every 45 families.

That is a very heavy burden for every small community to bear, and this burden falls heavily on the laboring class.

In your letter to Chairman Jones, above referred to, you say:- "In order to aid in this study, I am enclosing, on a separate sheet, a complete and detailed analysis of all the items of income derived by the Insular Government from intoxicating liquors for the year 1914-15. They amount to about \$1,400,000 and constitute 37 per cent of the entire receipts of the Insular Government for that year."

In your letter to Chairman Jones you further say, "The educated people drink, almost exclusively, light wines, and the laborers and the poorer people drink a cheap rum manufactured here on the island."

In the pamphlet entitled, "Summary of transactions in the U. S. Customs Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915" it is shown on page 7, that the total value of all spirits, wines and malt liquors brought into Porto Rico from the United States and foreign countries during that fiscal year was \$268,518. Deducting the amount here named from the amount named by the Executive Council (according to "Porto Rico Progress" of March 29, 1916) as the value for the same year of the intoxicating drinks consumed in the island, viz. \$1,614,000 would leave the sum of \$1,345,482 as the value of the intoxicating drinks manufactured here, and consumed here.

Now it appears that the laborers and the poor people on the island, who drink the cheap rum manufactured here, from which the greater part of the revenue of \$1,400,000 is derived, ~~are~~ are meeting nearly ONE THIRD of the taxation on this island.

This heavy burden of taxation is being thrust on their shoulders by the wealthy classes.

We do not think that the sum of \$1,400,000 is enough to compensate for the demoralization of one man or one boy here.

We think that the Government would do better to get its revenue by a direct tax from the people who are best able to pay, rather than through an indirect tax which involves the demoralization of so many of the laboring class.

In your letter to Dr. Crafts of March 18th you say that you voted and worked for prohibition steadily in Kentucky for twenty years.

17 Apr 16

-5-

The laboring classes in Kentucky are not as poor as the laboring classes here.

The drinks consumed there are not, we believe, as deadly as the drinks consumed here.

The souls of people in Kentucky are not worth more than souls here, and prohibition will not do any more good to the people in Kentucky than to the people here.

It may not be too late for you to use your great influence with Congress on the side of prohibition.

If you will do this you will be remembered with honor and gratitude by the people of Porto Rico,, and the women, whose husbands are now spending their money over the counters of the 5,500 licensed liquor shops here, when these shops are closed, will lift their hearts to God in prayer for a blessing on Governor Yager.

Very sincerely yours.

Mary & Margaret W. Leiters

The Filson Historical Society

Garrochales, Porto Rico, April 1, 1916.

His Excellency Arthur Yager,

Governor of Porto Rico,

Dear Sir:

We beg you to use your whole influence in behalf of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in Porto Rico.

You are aware of the wretched condition of the laboring classes here.

And you know that this condition of poverty is being aggravated by the liquor traffic here.

And you know that unless prohibition is enacted by the Federal Government we are not likely to get prohibition here for a long time to come, because the local Government will want the revenue from the liquor traffic, and because the manufacturers of alcoholic drinks here will use their influence for the continuation of the traffic.

Your influence will very probably turn the scale for prohibition or against it.

Your duty to God and to the people of the island is your highest duty.

This is perhaps one of those rare times which may come to you only once in a life time, when the action which you take will have a bearing on the future of this island which cannot be over estimated.

You have to think, not so much of the wishes of a few politicians who clamor for the continuance of the traffic, but of the welfare of the whole people.

If you will cable to Messrs Jones and Shaforth, in Washington, that personally you desire the prohibition of the traffic, the result would probably be that prohibition would be secured.

Your name would be held in highest honor for this act, by all the people of the island,—not only by the best people of the island, but also by those who wish to use you as a tool, and who, if they can so use you, will feel only contempt for you in their hearts.

And furthermore, if you will take this brave stand as a man, it will be a source of joy to you while memory lasts, and when you stand before God at the Great Judgement Day.

With great respect, Very sincerely yours.

Mary & Margaret W. Leitch



His Excellency Governor Yager,

Garrochales, Porto Rico, April 1, 1916.

Dear Sir,

You have doubtless seen in "Porto Rico Progress" of March 29th, the article entitled:- "

"Island Most Temperate, Legislature Asserts.

Joint Resolution in Executive Council Denies Recent Statements Charging Intemperance. Wants no prohibition. Urges Congress not to act on recent memorial of International Reform Bureau."

The article says:- "According to figures set forth in a Resolution of the Executive Council . . . the island consumes 3,800,000 liters of various beverages, including distilled spirits, wine, beer, and champaign. These beverages in 1914-15 were valued at \$1, 614,000."

Now we do not understand how that valuation was made up.

Later on in the article is the following, "The resolution (of the Executive Committee) also shows that there is a marked decrease in the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the island, and cites figures for the years 1912-13 and 1914-15 to prove the statement. The total consumption in 1912-13 was 6,833,000 liters and in 1914-15 was 3,805,000 liters."

Has there actually been such a ~~marked~~ decrease in the consumption of liquors on the island?

According to that rate of decrease there would be no liquor consumed here in a very few years.

In order to fairly understand whether the consumption is really decreasing on the island, we think we should have the figures for the past ten years.

What we want to learn is the exact facts in the case.

We have been trying to get definite figures and facts from Government Officials and others for two years past, but have not been able to get them.

The public has a right to them now as the whole question is up for discussion.

We do not think that it is fair to draw the conclusion that "there is a marked decrease in the consumption of alcoholic beverages" by comparing the statistics from one year with the statistics of one other year.



(10 Apr. 16)

because there might have been an over production one year and a much less amount produced another year, and the amount consumed may have been even greater instead of less. or, on account of hard times, the people may have consumed more Porto Rican rum, and less beer, wine and champaign and so the quantity consumed may have been less, but the actual amount of alcohol in the drink may have been more, and drunkenness may have been on the increase. We want to know if this is so or not.

You will notice in the printed copy of the "Hearing before the Committee of the United States Senate on the Pacific Islands and Porto Rico", held on March 3d, that, in the testimony given by Juan Piza, the President of the Porto Rican Distilling Co. which appears on page 13, he says:- "The distilling industry, after a long period of stagnation, is now becoming paying, and as an exporting industry is now a source of prosperity for the island."

The temperance people on the island ought to know just how much rum the distillers on the island have turned out year by year during the past ten years.

And we want to know how much of this has been consumed on the island year by year and how much has been exported.

We have been shocked during the past nine months to learn about the large shipments of rum sent from Boston, Mass. to the West Coast of Africa.

It would appear from published statements, that about 200,000 gallons of strong drink—mostly rum—are being shipped every two weeks from Boston to the West Coast of Africa.

It has been affirmed by missionaries and travellers that this traffic is doing great harm in Africa. Rev. Charles Satchell Morris, a traveller in South and West Africa, and at the time an agent of the National Baptist Convention, and the American Baptist Missionary Union, says, regarding this traffic, "It has turned the entire West Coast into one long bar room from which no fewer than two million savages go forth to die every year as a result of this traffic."

(See page 39 in "Intoxicating Drinks and Drugs in All Lands and Times.")

Is Porto Rico rum finding its way to Boston?? If so, in what quantities?

Do we want the people of Porto Rico to have a share in that crime?

Would this be "a source of prosperity to Porto Rico." ?

In a syndicate article recently prepared by Dr. W. F. Crafts for the press of the United States, he says regarding the rum traffic between the United States and Africa:-

"Few Americans seem to realize that New England is doing greater ~~atrocities~~ atrocities in Africa through the effects upon body and soul of this New England rum, than Germany has done in Belgium or Turkey in Armenia."

We do not believe that the Governor of Porto Rico, or the more conscientious members of the two Houses of the Legislature of Porto Rico, can wish to have any share in that traffic.

Mr. Pisa says that the distilling industry as an exporting industry is now a source of prosperity to the island.

We want to know how much Porto Rican rum has been exported for the past ten years, and to what ports it has been sent.

King Alfred of Belgium was not willing to lose his soul. He would rather lose every thing else. Satan is bidding for men's souls here on the island.

No intelligent man or woman can take the stand of neutrality at this time.

Mr. Juan Piza, in his testimony at the Senate Hearing, said, "We estimate that the value of spirits consumed in Porto Rico yearly is about \$2,000,000 of which \$1,600,000 is tax." "

And we notice that in the article above referred to, in Porto Rico Progress, the statement is made by the Executive Council, that the beverages consumed by the people of Porto Rico in 1914-15 were valued at \$1,614,000.

Does this sum represent the valuation placed upon these liquors for taxation purposes, or does it represent the price which the consumers pay?

If it represents the valuation placed upon these liquors for taxation purposes, that may be a much smaller amount than the amount which the consumers pay.

What we want to ascertain is, what do the consumers pay?

In order to learn this we would like to have a statement compiled from Gov't statistics, which would show the following:- -

- (1) The quantity of each kind of liquor brought into the island year by year during the last ten years, and the value placed upon it by the importers at the time. and the Government tax levied on these liquors each year.
- (2) The quantity of each kind of liquor manufactured on the island year by year during the past ten years, and the value placed upon it at the time by the manufacturers, and the Gov't tax levied on these liquors each year.
- (3) The quantity of each of the different kinds of liquor shipped from the island year by year during the past ten years, and the value placed upon it at the time by the manufacturers or shippers, and the Gov't export tax, if any, levied on these liquors each year.
- (4) The number of licensed shops of each grade on the island for the sale of alcoholic liquors year by year during the past ten years, the total license fees paid by these each year, and whether paid to the Insular Gov't or to the Local Gov't Boards.
- (5) The total Gov't revenue derived from the liquor traffic year by year during the last ten years, and how much of this was applied toward the work of the Insular Gov't and how much toward the work of the Local Gov't Boards.

With these statistics in hand, it would be possible for you, we think, to ascertain the average price charged to the consumer for each kind of liquor, and to arrive at a fairly accurate estimate of the quantities of the different liquors consumed on the island, and the total cost to the consumer, and the total revenue received by Gov't from this traffic year by year during the past ten years.

In a pamphlet entitled "Summary of Transactions in the U. S. Customs Department of Porto Rico for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 1915," it is shown on Page 7, that the total value of all Spirits, Wines, and Malt Liquors brought into Porto Rico from the U. S. and Foreign Countries during that Fiscal Year was \$268,518.

Deducting the amount here named from the sum named by the Executive Council as the value, for the same year, of the intoxicating drinks consumed in the island, viz., \$1,614,000 would leave the sum of \$1,345, 482. as the value of intoxicating drinks manufactured and consumed here.

Does not this consist largely of Porto Rican rum?

We are told that Porto Rican rum sells at 12 cents a pint and that some persons

(1 Apr 16)

Will get drunk on two or three cents worth of this rum.

Is not this rum mostly consumed by the laboring classes? Considering the wretched condition of the laboring classes, is it right to put this temptation in their way?

The question which we have to face is, Is this state of things to continue and this omni-present temptation of the liquor shops all along the public roads, to be kept before these ~~poor~~ poor ignorant people?

If you can procure the information above asked for, and make it public, we think that it would be a great help toward the intelligent discussion of this question here on the island, and also th the discussion of this question by the U. S. Congress.

Sincerely Yours,

Mary & Margaret M. Litch

The Filson Historical Society

April 22, 1916.

Mr. Joe Mitchell Chapple,
The National Magazine,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing the copy of the sketch
of Porto Rico with only one or two verbal corrections
in it. I think it quite interesting and, as far as it
goes, correct.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

11 x 78

April 25, 1916.

My dear Senator Chilton;

Your letter of the 13th instant with reference to Mr. Blanford has just been received.

The application for pardon of Mr. Blanford has not yet come up to me, but I understand it will be presented in due time, and I assure you I will give the matter most careful consideration, and especially your very kind and strong letter in regard to it.

With every assurance of personal regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable W. E. Chilton,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

11 x 11

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
TREASURER OF PORTO RICO
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

San Juan, April 27-1916.

My dear Governor,-

Referring to the tables on page 3 of a letter dated April 17th, 1916, from the Misses Mary and Margaret W. Leitch, of Garrochales, I find that the parts quoted are taken from my letter to these ladies of the 7th of April and are entirely correct as far as they go. The Misses Leitch, however, neglected to quote the following paragraph of my letter, which has a most decided bearing upon the figures. In this paragraph I drew their attention to the fact that the rate on distilled spirits was increased on March 19th, 1913, to the present rate of fifty cents, or nearly double what it had been prior to that date. Analyzing these figures with this in view it is seen that the revenue derived from distilled spirits for the last complete fiscal year (1914-1915) is less in amount than that for the preceding year, which is the only other complete year under the increased rate, and represents the tax at fifty cents a liter on 1,951,176 liters of distilled spirits. This total, moreover, is not the amount of spirits consumed as beverages, since it also includes all distilled spirits found in medicines, cosmetics

(27 Apr 14)

- 2 -

and flavoring extracts, and, in short, every article which contains alcohol.

For the year just prior to the increase in the tax rate the tax per liter was twenty-eight cents and the amount collected at this rate shows a consumption of 3,770,588 liters, or approximately twice the consumption of three years later.

Referring to the second table concerning the revenue collected from licenses to retail liquor dealers, it is seen that the receipts from licenses for 1915 are less than for 1914 and approximately equal to those of 1912 and 1913, the two years just prior to the increase in the rate, for on July 1st, 1913, the rate for first class dealers was increased from \$28 per annum to \$100 per annum; for second class dealers from \$16 per annum to \$50; third class dealers from \$8 per annum to \$30 and two lower classes added at the respective rates of \$20 and \$10 per annum. From these figures it will be seen that the lowest or fifth class at present is somewhat more than the third class, which was the lowest rate prior to the change. However, most licenses are not fixed at the lowest rate but are fixed at the middle rate or the next to the lowest rate, which pay, respectively, \$30 and \$20 per annum.

The Department has not compiled statistics as

(27 Apr 16)

- 3 -

to the number of licensees in each class and our figures represent only the total collected from all classes, but I feel justified in stating that the license rate has increased from 150 to 200 per cent over and above the rates for 1912 and 1913, as an average covering all classes.

Note is made of the number of establishments licensed to retail liquors, which was given in my letter, as quoted by the Misses Leitch, at from 5,500 to 5,750 and average the number doing business throughout the year.

As stated, the licenses are renewed at the beginning of each quarter, so that the number varies from one quarter to another. Of this number there are but seven establishments which correspond to the saloon in the United States and almost all of the business establishments licensed to retail liquors are, in reality, grocery stores, refreshment parlors, hotels and restaurants, and the business of retailing liquors is in a great majority of cases merely incidental to the other business.

As an example of the establishments which have liquor licenses, there may be mentioned the "Mallorquina" in San Juan, which is frequented by ladies of the highest social position and is more an ice-cream parlor and after-theater refreshment and supper place than a saloon

(27 Apr 16)

- 4 -

in the sense in which the word is used in the United States, yet it pays a liquor license of the first class at the rate of \$100 per annum.

Most grocery stores have a retail liquor license for the convenience of their patrons, which enables them to sell beer and light wines as well as distilled spirits and it is quite possible that many of them sell a great deal more of these comparatively little intoxicating beverages than they do of distilled spirits.

Regarding Dr. Crafts' letter as to the price at which rum is sold to the consumer, I have asked the Chief of the Bureau of Excise Taxes to make a report on this through the revenue agents and I hope to be able to place this in your hands by tomorrow morning at the latest.

Very truly yours,


Acting Treasurer.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
TREASURER OF PORTO RICO
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

San Juan, April 28-1916.

My dear Governor,-

In accordance with my promise in yesterday's letter I am returning the communication written you by Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts concerning the expenditure of alcoholic beverages in Porto Rico.

The figures given in my letter of April 7th to the Misses Leitch show, in detail, in each year for the past ten years, the amount collected from the different sources, such as distilled spirits, beers, wines, etc., as well as the amount derived from license fees and I am accompanying this letter with a table covering the nine months just passed of the current fiscal year, which brings these figures as closely up to date as it is possible for us to do at this time.

I find that of the 1,951,176 liters of distilled spirits upon which the tax amounting to \$975,588.27 was collected during the fiscal years 1914-15, only 1,886,067 liters represent domestic alcohol released in Porto Rico for consumption upon the payment of tax and although this alcohol was used almost in its entirety in the manufacture of rum, still a certain reduction should

(26 Apr 16)

- 2 -

be made on account of the alcohol used in Porto Rico for medicinal and industrial purposes, but assuming, however, that the 1,886,067 liters were manufactured into rum, which generally means twice the number of liters in rum, we would have 3,772,134 liters of rum.

After our conversation of yesterday I instructed revenue agents throughout the Island to make independent investigations as to the selling price of a glass of rum and the average volume in centiliters represented by the ordinary drink served. I find that the average is three centiliters, generally sold for two cents. Upon this basis the value of this rum to the consumer was \$2,514,756. The relation of the retail price to the amount paid on the article to the Government in excise is therefore less than 2-3/4 to 1, and not as Dr. Crafts states as the average in the United States, of 13-20 to 1, according to the Baltimore figures. The Department, up to the time of this investigation made yesterday, had no figures as to the selling price to the consumer, since the tax is collected on the spirits upon their release from the distillery and the Treasury Department has no concern with their further disposal, other than dealers' licenses. Our information as to the price at the distillery was obtained from the distillers and ranged from six to eight cents per liter, whereas the tax is 50 cents per liter and the selling price, therefore, of the article

4/28/16.

TAX ON LIQUORS FOR THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD OF JULY
1-1915 TO MARCH 31, 1916, OR 3/4 OF THE
FISCAL YEAR 1915-16.

Distilled spirits,	\$ 659,392.98
Beer,	92,837.19
Wine,	35,699.52
Champagne,	2,934.90

- LICENSE TAXES -

Distillers,	\$ 900.00
Rectifiers,	9,824.50
Whol. distilled spirits,	10,350.00
Wine, wholesale,	4,400.00
Beer, wholesale,	3,925.00
Retail liquors,	75,675.00.

May 2, 1916.

Dear Mesdames;

Your letter of the 17th ultimo, with reference to the question of prohibition in Porto Rico, has been received and carefully read.

I cannot conscientiously change the position I have taken with reference to this question at this time. I have read very carefully the arguments contained in your letter and am convinced that while you are entirely conscientious in your remarks you are unconsciously influenced much more by preconceived opinions and ideas formed by knowledge of the conditions in the United States than by a careful study of the conditions which prevail in Porto Rico.

You state in your letter to me: "you have been surrounded by politicians and men directly interested in the liquor traffic, and by those who, from social and business reasons, are afraid to offend the liquor interests." This is entirely untrue. We have here in Porto Rico no "liquor traffic" in the sense in which that term is used in the United States; that is, there is no great combination of distillers, brewers and saloon-keepers with enormous capital interfering in politics and pushing in every possible way their nefar-

11x98

(2 May 16)

-2-

ious traffic upon communities that are endeavoring to free themselves from it. No such condition exists in Porto Rico. There are only five or six small distillers of alcohol; only one brewery, and only about seven small saloons in the American sense. These small interests have no organization, do not interfere in politics and have in no way brought any pressure to bear upon the Governor to influence his attitude upon this question. This is simply a fact, and I do not think you ought to assume the contrary and make statements which are based entirely upon conditions which prevail in the United States and do not exist here.

I am convinced that the ministers and missionary conferences and other organizations, to whom you refer as being greatly interested in prohibition for Porto Rico, are influenced in the main by the same preconceived ideas and motives which they have gotten directly or indirectly from a knowledge of the conditions in the States, and not from any personal study of the actual conditions which exist in Porto Rico.

I have examined also the list of figures which you give connected with the excise taxes and receipts from licenses by the Treasury Department of Porto Rico. You have made no answer whatever to my statement in my letter to Dr. Crafts of March 19, that "the consumption of alcohol in Porto Rico has decreased regularly in the

(2 May 16)

last two or three years, according to our tax receipts." That statement can be proved absolutely by the figures, and your reference to the money receipts for 10 years showing a general upward trend in the receipts of money from excise taxes simply misleads. You fail to state that in 1913 the rate of tax upon alcohol was increased from 28 cents a liter to 50 cents a liter, and therefore the money receipts would be greatly influenced by this change of rate of taxation.

My statement as to consumption referred to the QUANTITY of alcohol made and consumed in Porto Rico for all purposes. The figures as to quantity show the following results: For the year 1912 there were produced in Porto Rico 3,770,558 liters; for the year 1915 there were produced only 1,951,176 liters, showing a decrease of nearly one half in the quantity. This decrease has steadily gone on through the current ^{fiscal} year as proved by the figures of the tax receipts for the 9 months ending April 1, 1916, which show a production of alcohol of only 1,318,785 liters. For purposes of comparison this can be stated in the average rate of production per month and we get the following:

1912,	average production per month	314,215	liters,
1915,	-do-	162,598	"
1916,	-do-	146,531	"

which proves absolutely that the consumption of alcohol

(2 May 16)

-4-

in Porto Rico at the present time is less than one-half what it was in 1912. And yet, in spite of this absolutely accurate statement of the facts, you state your conclusion, from a table of figures that have no bearing on it, that "the trend is upward." On the contrary, it is downward in a most remarkable degree.

In the same misleading manner you have used the figures given by the Treasurer as to the receipts from license tax on retailers of liquors and have attempted to show what you call "an alarming increase during the past 10 years." In this table you also overlook the fact that the rate for licenses to retailers was increased on the average from 150 to 200 per cent in the year 1913, and that the monetary returns from these licenses would naturally be largely increased by the increase in the rate.

I desire also to protest emphatically against your use, or rather misuse of the word "liquor shop" in this connection, applying that word to all the establishments that take out a retailer's license for the sale of any kind of alcoholic beverage in Porto Rico. These establishments include practically all the grocery stores, all the small retail stores for general merchandise throughout the island, all the restaurants, candy shops, ice-cream parlors, etc. All of these establishments have a retailer's license for the sale of some kind of alcohol-

(2 May 16)

-5-

to beverage, but this constitutes a very small part of their business. They are in no sense "liquor shops" such as that name implies in the United States; and your effort to make it appear that "there is in Porto Rico one liquor shop for every 227 persons, or for every 45 families" is so misleading and so likely to deceive the members of Congress and the people of the United States that I do not understand how you could bring yourself to make it. As a matter of fact there are only 7 saloons or bar-rooms in the whole of Porto Rico in the sense in which that word is used in the United States.

As I stated in my letter to Dr. Crafts, I wish emphatically to reiterate that there is comparatively little drunkenness among the people of Porto Rico. Their consumption of alcoholic drinks has greatly decreased in the last 3 years. Any one who asserts the contrary, in my judgment, is simply slandering the people. These people have their faults, as have all peoples, but drunkenness is not one of them.

If conditions with reference to drink in Porto Rico were similar to those of the United States, if the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks played such havoc here as in the States, I should unhesitatingly advocate the prohibition amendment for Porto Rico in spite of the destruction of revenue which is so much needed

(2 May 16)

-6-

for our schools and in spite of the fear of the anti-American feeling that would certainly be aroused. But I am perfectly sure that the need for prohibitory laws in Porto Rico at this time is not such as would justify the difficulties and dangers that would follow them.

Very respectfully yours,

Governor.

The Misses Mary and Margaret W. Leitch,
Carrochales,
Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

May 3, 1916.

My dear Doctor Crafts:

Your letter of April 19 with reference to the amount of money spent for alcoholic drinks in Porto Rico was duly received and I have taken a little time to get some direct information upon this point from the Treasury Department.

As you are perhaps aware, alcohol is manufactured in Porto Rico directly from molasses which is a byproduct of the sugar industry. Within the last year the price of molasses has gone up from 1 or 2 cents per gallon, which has been the price for many years in Porto Rico, to 10 or 12 cents per gallon, which advance is perhaps one of the many things caused by the European war; and this change in the cost of the raw material has increased the selling price of alcohol considerably in the past few months. Nevertheless you can see that the cost of producing the alcohol is still very slight in comparison with the tax, which at 50 cents per liter is nearly \$2 per gallon. Until quite recently alcohol was delivered at the distillery for 15 or 16 cents per liter net, or, with the addition of the tax, at 65 or 66 cents per liter.

Since receiving your letter I have also made

11 x 28

(3 May 16)

-2-

inquiries of tax collectors and officials throughout the island as to the selling price of a glass of rum and the average volume in centiliters represented by the ordinary drink served. I am informed that the average is 3 centiliters and the price per drink is 2 cts. Upon this basis the value of all the rum made from the entire amount of alcohol produced in Porto Rico is \$2,514,756. Of course in calculating the entire drink bill of the Porto Ricans we must add to the estimated selling price of the distilled spirits that of the beer, wine and champagne also; but as the entire amount of revenue collected from beer, wine and champagne is only one-fifth of that collected from distilled spirits, and the tax on these latter kinds of liquors is equally as high as that on spirits, it seems to me that this would not increase the drink bill by more than 1/5 of the amount. So that, in my judgment after additional and more careful investigation, the drink bill of the people of Porto Rico does not greatly exceed \$3,000,000. This I confess is surprising, especially to an American, where all the conditions are so different. But you must remember that the cost of alcohol is now and always has been exceedingly small, and that the laboring population of Porto Rico are very poor and whatever they drink must be sold at very small cost.

(3 May 16)

-5-

As additional proof that the habits of the people of Porto Rico in this matter of drink are in no respect akin to those of the Americans, I would cite you to this fact which I have thoroughly studied and found to be a fact: As a rule the drinking of intoxicants does not constitute a habit here in Porto Rico in the way it does in the United States. In our country the increase in the price of the drink seems to have little effect upon consumption, for those who have formed the habit of drinking will continue the habit at all cost. In Porto Rico since the increase of the tax in 1913, which was made for the purpose of increasing the revenue, the consumption has decreased more than one-half. It was estimated at that time that by increasing the tax on alcohol from 25 to 50 cents a liter and that on beer from 6 cents a liter to 10 cents a liter, the receipts from this source would be almost doubled in amount. The lawmakers were so certain of this result that they proceeded to expend for schools and roads the money that they expected to receive from these increased taxes; but, contrary to their expectations, the people of Porto Rico cut down their consumption of rum and beer so sharply that the Government is receiving now considerably less revenue from both alcohol and beer at the high rates of taxation than they were receiving in 1913 at the lower

(3 May 16)

-4-

rates, and that decline in consumption seems to be going on steadily month by month throughout the current fiscal year.

The entire production of alcohol for 1912 was 3,770,588, or an average of 314,215 liters per month; for 1915 it was 1,951,176, or an average of 162,598 liters per month; and for the first 9 months of 1916 it was 1,318,785, or an average of 146,531 liters per month. This shows clearly that the consumption of alcohol has been reduced to less than half what it was before the increase of tax.

The figures for the consumption of beer show relatively the same decrease in the amount consumed since the increase in the rate of taxation.

I confess that this effect of increased taxation upon consumption is as surprising to me as it was to our lawmakers here who increased the tax. I think it would be equally surprising to any American who had formed his ideas upon experience in the United States.

The more I study the question in all of its bearings as related to Porto Rico, the more I am convinced that it would be a great mistake for Congress to attempt to force upon the people of Porto Rico at this time a prohibition amendment, and I feel confident that if you could make a visit to Porto Rico and study the

(3 May 16)

-5-

situation at first hand you would agree with me in this conclusion.

I am to-day sending a letter to the Misses Mary and Margaret W. Leitch in reply to one that they have written me, and for your information I enclose herein a copy.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph. D.,
Superintendent and Treasurer,
International Reform Bureau, Inc.,
208 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E.,
Washington, D. C.

The Filson Historical Society

September 15, 1916.

Mr. D. Collazo,
Democratic National Committee,
30 East 42nd Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir;

I was very glad to get your note of the 7th instant and am especially pleased to find that you are connected with the Democratic National Committee. I feel sure that you can and will be exceedingly useful to the campaign because of your political knowledge and personal influence with the Latin-American voters who have a part in this campaign.

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

11 x 18

VANCE C. MCCORMICK
CHAIRMAN

HOMER S. CUMMINGS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

WILBUR W. MARSH
TREASURER

CARTER GLASS
SECRETARY

HENRY MORGENTHAU
CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

Democratic National Committee

HEADQUARTERS:

30 EAST FORTY-SECOND STREET

NEW YORK



SPECIAL BUREAU
HUGH C. WALLACE, CHAIRMAN
BUREAU OF INFORMATION FOR
NATURALIZED AMERICANS

DEPT. NO. 5

D. COLLAZO, CHAIRMAN
ABELARDO MONGE, SECRETARY

Sept. 7th, 1916.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P.R.

My dear Governor Yager:

As you will, please, see in the lower left corner of this letter-head, I have already joined the invincible forces of our great leader President Wilson in this campaign, and we are today as confident of electing him in November as we were in 1912. Our field is larger this year as it covers, besides the Latin-American population in the States, Arizona and New Mexico, almost Spanish-speaking.

Were Congress to pass the Jones Bill we would then be in a position to organize the majority of the 3,000 Porto Ricans who live here and who, as American citizens, could vote for Mr. Wilson out of gratitude.

Hoping that you are enjoying good health, I beg to remain

With great respect,

D. Collazo

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War Department,
Bureau of Insular Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

January 16, 1917.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:

At the instance of Honorable James A. Gallivan, Representative in Congress, permit me to present to you Miss K. E. Coakley, of Messrs. Filene Sons Company, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Miss Coakley is visiting Porto Rico in a business capacity in the interest of the concern which she represents, and I commend her to your personal and official consideration.

Yours sincerely,

James M. Entyple
Chief of Bureau.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1917.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to take the liberty of introducing hereby Miss Katherine Coakley, representing Wm. Filene's Sons Company, of Boston, Mass., who visits Porto Rico in the interest of the above firm.

If it is possible for you to assist Miss Coakley by furnishing her knowledge of the sources of information as to the various lines in which the House she represents is interested, I shall be very thankful.

The Messrs. Filene are my personal friends, and I am very desirous of assisting them in any way possible.

With thanks for your courtesy in this matter, I am,

Very truly yours,

William Redfield
Secretary.

Hon. Arthur Yeager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

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Miss Katherine E. Crakley

Winkka Hotel.

145 Winthrop Road
Brookline

86X11

The Filson Historical Society

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 18, 1917.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P. R.

Dear Governor Yager:

This letter will be presented to you by Miss K. E. Coakley, a buyer for William Filene Sons Company of Boston, Massachusetts. I shall appreciate any courtesies you may be able to extend Miss Coakley during her visit to Porto Rico.

Very truly yours,

