

PERSONAL.

January 12, 1914.

Hon. John A. Wilson,
Commissioner of the Interior,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

Recalling your statement made to me in conversations at various times that it was your wish to retire from the duties of the commissionership of the interior at the expiration of your term and that you did not desire reappointment or even continuance in the work, I am writing to make this suggestion to you.

The work of the irrigation service has reached a most critical stage and is at present incomplete. In the transition from the construction period to the period of operation it is necessary that all of the old concessions and water rights heretofore given to the owners of lands in the irrigation districts must be settled upon a basis that is fair and equitable both to the owners of these claims and to the public. This is a most delicate and difficult matter and one requiring intimate knowledge of the nature and value of these concessions and thorough understanding of their importance to the success of the whole irrigation project.

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Inasmuch as you have been closely connected with all of the negotiations connected with this matter from the beginning, and inasmuch as they will doubtless all be settled by the Irrigation Commission within a comparatively short period, I am writing to request that you forgo your own desire for immediate retirement from your position as Commissioner of the Interior, and, in the interest of the people of Porto Rico, you consent to remain until the negotiations above referred to are completed or until, in the opinion of the Governor, your services can be dispensed with. There seems to be no way by which this arrangement can be effected except by asking the President to reappoint you for a full term; but if this reappointment be made it will be with the understanding that it will be only for a few months' service and that your resignation will be accepted and you will be relieved of the duties of the office within a few months. If you will agree to accept such an arrangement I shall at once act accordingly.

Yours respectfully,

Governor.

November 5, 1914.

Dear Sir:

I have planned an official dinner for next Monday evening at eight o'clock in honor of all the new appointments to the Executive Council.

Invitations will be extended to the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, heads of departments, also the former heads of departments, and Judge of the Federal Court. The party will be so large that we shall have to confine it simply to the gentlemen themselves.

I would appreciate your prompt acceptance of this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Manuel V. Domenech,
Commissioner of the Interior,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico.
December 9, 1920.

The Honorable Commissioner of the Interior,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

Your letter of December 7th with reference to the free use of the Insular Telephone lines between San Juan and Cayey by the military officers of Ballaja and Henry Barracks with the letter of the Auditor and other papers attached has been received and examined. The letter of December first from the Auditor's office was evidently written under a misunderstanding as to what this matter actually involved.

The military authorities have always heretofore been permitted to use these lines on official business without charge in return for reciprocal courtesies and advantages extended by them to the Insular Government. Some time last summer the Insular Telegraph concluded that it would be proper to keep a record of these messages and make the usual charge for them. The military Commander of the District objected to this charge not so much because of their amount, but which is evidently only a few dollars a month, but because of the extra trouble that would be entailed in keeping a record of the messages and settling them in accordance with the mil-

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itary methods of book-keeping.

He stated that if free use of the telephone was withdrawn he would have to withdraw the privilege, heretofore extended to the Department of the Interior, of taking without charge stone, sand, and gravel from the military zone for use on the roads. After a conference upon this matter, the military Commander and the Governor decided to continue the system which has been in use heretofore for many years both as to the free use of the telephone lines on the one hand and the free access to the military zone for gravel and stone on the other.

I do not myself see why it is necessary to have these accounts that were kept for the months of July and August cancelled. But if they require cancellation I see no reason why the Auditor's office should object. I suggest that you send them back to his office with this letter of explanation of the circumstances.

Very respectfully yours,

San Juan, Porto Rico.
February 10, 1921.

The Honorable Commissioner of the Interior
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a file of papers, letters, etc. with reference to the "rebuilding of shacks in the edge of mangrove swamp in Santurce at foot of Cerra Street, near Stop 15. As you are aware this portion of the manglares swamp was recently, by proclamation of the Governor, taken out of the Forest Reserve in order that it might be reclaimed.

And there is a more or less well-grounded apprehension in the minds of the Commissioners of Agriculture and Labor and of Health as well as the Forester that another Sal si Puedas may be built up on these swamps similar to the one with which we have had so much trouble in removing from the outskirts of Puerta de Tierra. You and I have had so much trouble in getting rid of this latter settlement that we certainly do not wish another similar one to grow up in Santurce.

While it is true, as you state in your letter, that "the land has been desolated by the individual efforts of those who have constructed their homes there," nevertheless the sight is necessarily completely unwholesome and unfitted for the dwelling place of human beings, and we must not allow our natural

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sympathies for the very poor people, who are seeking to find any sort of lot free of costs upon which they might place their dwellings, to outweigh our judgement in the matter of protecting the health of the entire neighborhood.

I would appreciate it if you would read carefully all of this correspondence, especially the letters of the Commissioner of Health and of the Chief Forester; and then adopt some method of procedure that will certainly prevent the unauthorized construction of any more houses by squatters upon the unsanitary lands of this sort.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

AY/DLY.

James W. Beardsley
32 Washington St
East Orange

You can cable
the man asking
for Mr. Rodring
competency. He studied at Cornell with him.
also the Cornell Dean can advise you

fin del Recip

N. J.

able on the matter.

Robert H Todd

Jr. Gouvy Brisson

These two have
seen Rodring
as his office
with Morgan
the latter as
Superintendent.

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The Filson Historical Society

See page 1
John Faithful

A copy of this information is in the hands of Mr. Dexter who also ask our friend for it; I know Mr. Dexter is going to show it to the "Power to be", so be careful not to show it to Mrs. G. I know you know how to work out things of this kind.

Arturo Rodriguez was born in Caguas P.R.,

May 1, 1868 and two years later his parents moved to San Juan.

After taking the elementary studies in private schools, he entered the Jesuit College in 1878.

The Civil Institute of Porto Rico was founded four years later and Rodriguez changed from the Jesuit to the Civil Institute, graduating in 1884 with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts.

In September of 1886 he left Porto Rico to enter the Cascadilla Preparatory School at Ithaca, State of New York and in September of 1887 he entered the College of Civil Engineering of Cornell University as a student of said course.

In June of 1891 he received the degree of Civil Engineer from Cornell University and went to practice his profession with the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Co., of Groton, N.Y. being with said firm until January of 1892.

The first of April of 1892 he was called to the Perm Bridge Co. of Beaver Falls Pa. as Assistant Engineer and since that date until May 1895 he was engaged in designing and detailing all kinds of bridges and structural steel for buildings.

On August of 1892 he married Miss Anna E. Fisher, of Ithaca N.Y.

In May 1895 he accepted a position with the Groton Bridge Co. as Assistant Engineer and was with said Company until March of 1899, designing bridges and buildings.

On March of 1899, wishing to enlarge his field of operation, he accepted a position with Lewinson & Just, consulting and contract Engineers of New York City, as Assistant Engineer and during this time he was with them, he had charge of the design and detailing of the Coal Bunkers for the Ruppert's Ice Plant on the Harlem River, Capable of storing 1800 tons of coal, said bunker being located in a building from the third to the seventh story; also the design and detail of the steel work of the Catholic Orphan Asylum in Fordham Heights New York City and other minor buildings.

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On August 1900 Mr. Rodriguez left the employ of Lewinson & Just to accept another call from the Groton Bridge Co. to be Acting Superintendent of Shops of said Co. and he was with that Company in that capacity until May 1901.

On May 1901 he was called to New York City to organize the Engineering Department of Horgan & Stattery the Architects of New York appointed by the Mayor of New York to design several Public Buildings for the City. Mr Rodriguez organized their engineering Department and remained as its Chief Engineer. Mr. Rodriguez designed and supervised the ^{steel} work and foundations for the Hall of Records of the City of New York a building costing over five millions of dollars; the Harlem Hospital at 137 street and Lenox Ave., costing 300,000 dollars; the Fisrt Battery Armory at 66 St. New York costing 200,000 dollars; the Butterick Building at Spring and Vandam Streets, New York, a building of 17 stories and costing one and one quarter millions of dollars; the Fiss & Carroll Horse Co., building at 24th Street and 3rd Avenue, New York, costing 800,000 dollars; the three buildings of the Model Abattair for the New York Butchers Dressed Meat Co. at 39 Street and 11th Ave. New York, called by President Roosevelt the Model Abattoir and costing one and one quarter millions of dollars; the Gerken Bldg. called the small Flat Iran, at Chambers and West Broadway, costing 140,000 dollars; and several Fire Engine Houses and Police Stations for the City of New York. During Mr. Rodriguez administrations of the Engineering Department of Horgan & Stattery, buildings were designed and erected by said concern costing over 10 and 1/2 millions of dollars.

Mr. Rodriguez was with Horgan & Stattery as their Chief Engineer until 1917 in March when he was called to San Juan P.R. as City Engineer of San Juan, which position he held until his resignation in June 26/1918, due to pressure of private business and since that time until the present he has been engaged in the practice of his profession in San Juan, Porto Rico.

Mr. Rodriguez became an American Citizen in Sept. 29/ 1892 at Ithaca, county of Tompkins, State of New York.

He is a member and Ex Vice President of the Cornell Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.