

THE TIMES

PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

Entered January 1, 1907, as second class matter at the Post Office San Juan, P.R., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Edited by THE TIMES PUBLISHING CO.

SUBSCRIPTION

ONE YEAR	\$7.00
SIX MONTHS	3.75
THREE MONTHS	2.00

Single Copy: 5 cents.
Advertising rates on application.

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EDITORIAL

We publish below a striking letter written by a prominent Porto Rican. The writer was inspired by the compelling events of the day, that one after another, and in one form or another hurry themselves after each other with such swiftness as to leave us dazed in attempting to realize the full import of each event. As stated by the writer, the zeal and understanding with which young Porto Rico has hastened to join the gathering columns of troops called for by the President is amazing both as to the energy and the loyalty displayed. It speaks with absolute certainty the future in store for Porto Rico. No combination of bureaucrats between Washington and Porto Rico can conquer this spirit or defeat the purposes of the young men of the Island who have already witnessed and fully comprehend the purpose of the ancient politicians temporarily in charge to continue Porto Rico in the future as a colonial vassal, eating from the hands of those who dispense office without hope, without participation in the affairs of the world, except at such moments as these, when the people, aroused by the call of humanity for help, hurry to the rescue. He has expressed a lack of confidence in the official strength of the Governor. He has said in print what so many had already said and of which complaint has been made privately. It is of no use. The Governor is a kindly man, with a desire to accomplish good results, and who is moved, as far as he is moved at all, by good purposes. But from the vantage ground behind a high top desk in a back room of the palace, seeing a few who complain of something and many who want office, it is impossible for him to get up enough inspiration or executive force to led a camp meeting. The communication follows:

February 25th, 1918.

To the Editor of THE TIMES,

These are, indeed, great days for Porto Rico in which the heart beats faster and patriotic thoughts crowd the mind viewing the newly-made American citizens rival each other in the manifold duties called forth by the participation of the United States in the universal war! Enough praise cannot be bestowed upon the Porto Ricans for so readily taking upon themselves the sundry tasks of an armed conflict, and that with an alacrity which makes us believe that they spring from anglo-saxon stock, that they are their next of kin. They have been fused to the United States in less time than it takes to mature the mind of a child, and their soul is already a national soul in the eternal blending of things spiritual. Providence has decreed that this should be so, and for weal or for woe their fate runs together to a future destiny!

Yes, the Porto Ricans are doing well, handsomely well in the turmoil of the war's preparations, and they are willing to sacrifice their blood, their treasure, to defeat the enemies of their new mother country! But what about the man who, more than four years ago, was sent here to represent the sovereignty of the United States, and who though constrained to deliver a short speech now and then by the casual circumstances of his official standing, seems indifferent to all that which is going on around him for the full development of the patriotic plans?

The sensation at seeing the Porto Ricans in their utmost eagerness is still the greater when we reflect upon the fact that, with real leadership on the part of the Governor, they would have performed wonders in the wave of patriotism which is sweeping the island. It bespeaks for them the admiration of their friends, bereaved as they are of the inspiration of a leader. Against the notorious apathy at the Palace the islanders have placed their belief in the ultimate success of a great principle; their faith in the mighty strength of the Nation of which they are citizens. They are proud of the share allotted to them in the fight for justice, and no amount of official stuper shall deter them from going to the full length of their devotion

also strengthen the faith of the people in the justice of a great cause!

Give us a Governor who does not spread reports that the war will be over in three months, thus weakening with a baseless and dangerous optimism well-directed efforts to overwhelm our foes!

Give us a Governor who does not advise the people to save part of their money when purchasing the certificates of the first Liberty Loan for participation in the Second Loan, thus endangering the success of the first issue!

Give us a Governor who is in harmony with his surroundings, connected with the people (not with a small coterie of politicians) by ties of love and friendship, and devoid of an unshaken belief that, because he is a school-mate of the President, he can do as he pleases unafraid of being removed.

It is a matter of universal record that all well organized countries have always had at the helm of their public affairs or in the confidence of the people a man who, in a great crisis, knew how to raise himself to the height of a situation with the means at his command. Gambetta saved France at the time of the dissolution of the last Empire, and in our later days Joffre rendered a similar service at a moment when all seemed lost before the sweeping invasion of the hated Huns. Lincoln kept intact our Republic by a display of statesmanship for which there is no peer in the history of the world. His enemies may "kick" and "froth" till they get blue in their faces, but Woodrow Wilson has lifted himself, by the force of his character, intelligence and patriotism, to a serene pose and attitude in this national emergency which will give him a secure place next to Washington and Lincoln in the niche of our great men. It now looks as if Russia were an exception to this well settled rule, but who knows that there may not as yet arise from the steppes of the late Empire the man who will thwart the treacherous doings of the Ukraines?

Can continentals congratulate each other for having in Porto Rico at this moment a chief official who knows how to improve an occasion for displaying statesmanship of the first order? No, and a thousand times no! Here are a people who, up to the granting of American citizenship by the United States Congress a year or so ago, nurtured a grievance against continentals which at times embittered social relations, and who now have forgotten all that in a fraternal embrace. Has there ever been presented in the almost two decades of American occupation a better opportunity for a Governor to render this love permanent, to "clinch," as it were, the American sentiment? It almost breaks our Porto Rican heart to think that such a golden chance has been unnoticed by the man who should be most wide awake to it and with all the advantage which his high office gives him. We could well repeat here that which the poet said of "Fortune" in the well-known rhymes:

"Master of human destinies am I,
Fame, love, and fortune on my footsteps wait;
Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate
Deserts and seas remote, and passing by
Hovel, and mart, and palace, soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate.

If sleeping, wake; if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate,
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,

Condemned to failure, penury, and woe,
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore;
I answer not, and I return no more!"

But, regrettable as it is, that the Governor should not have been up to the patriotic task expected from a man holding his official position, we have an abiding faith in the fundamental principle which calls for a perfect understanding between the two peoples. They found themselves through the shadows of days gone by, and they stand together upon the light of a common cause. The human factor will be powerless to check the current of thought and facts. "God takes care of children, drunkards and the United States" can be properly applied in this peculiar case. No man or set of men can stand between the close alliance of the two peoples! Still this does not preclude the Governor from doing his part.

D. C.

The best coffee, the best lunch and the best ice cream in San Juan are to be found at "LA CAFETERA". Tea



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Wasn't it a remarkable parade, that which took place in San Juan on the glorious day devoted to the "Father of his country"? It marked a span in the series of well-concerted events organized by the citizens themselves without the Governor's aid. I viewed the fine show from a point of vantage in Allen Street, and in the emotion which overcame me, I felt like crying out thus aloud with the force of an electric wave, so that it could be heard by the men who make and unmake rulers at Washington for this far away island:

Give us a Governor who realizes that the United States is taking part in a momentous war whose ultimate outcome no one can now predict for Europe and the Western Hemisphere as well!

Give us a Governor who will not refuse to name a Council of Defense as they are now organized in all the States and Territories of the Union!

Give us a Governor who will aid the American Red Cross, not with perfunctory words but with strong and enthusiastic support as an example to the people!

Give us a Governor whose influence and popularity will be powerful enough to build a militia organization amongst all citizens!

Give us a Governor with judgment enough to know that the publication in Spanish of all the President's addresses on the war will not only enhance his prestige but

and in our later days Joffre rendered a similar service at a moment when all seemed lost before the sweeping invasion of the hated Huns. Lincoln kept intact our Republic by a display of statesmanship for which there is no peer in the history of the world. His enemies may "kick" and "froth" till they get blue in their faces, but Woodrow Wilson has lifted himself, by the force of his character, intelligence and patriotism, to a serene pose and attitude in this national emergency which will give him a secure place next to Washington and Lincoln in the niche of our great men. It now looks as if Russia were an exception to this well settled rule, but who knows that there may not as yet arise from the steppes of the late Empire the man who will thwart the treacherous doings of the Ukraines?

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D. C.

The best coffee, the best lunch and the best ice cream in San Juan are to be found at "LA CAFETERA". Tea and Coffee Shop, 6 San Justo St. Advt.

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Public faith in the purity and reliability of Aspirin is justified by the fact that its manufacturers have invariably kept faith with the public — The "Bayer Cross" is universally recognized as the identifying mark of genuine Aspirin, and is your protection against the spurious or the adulterated.

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PIER N° 1,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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On and after March 1st: other notice the importation of live stock, including sheep and other parts for propagation into Porto Rico from all foreign countries and from all United States, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands included, is

EDITORIAL

II SHOTS FOR TWO BIRDS

"D. C." takes a shot at the Governor for his failure to exhibit a more efficient leadership in war work, or perhaps failing to see or understand the important relation of the government of Porto Rico to the conflict in which we are now involved. "D. C." also takes a shot at us for not fully comprehending the importance of that phase of his first letter.

Maybe the criticism is just as far as we are concerned, for we will confess that in reading the first letter we did not analyze it with sufficient care to note that the statement or statements of alleged inefficiency were specialized. Then it is a fact, and perhaps that is the reason why we did not notice more carefully the different features of "D. C.'s" first letter because as a factor in a bureaucracy we do not think any effort will avail much. We assume that the Governor will do all he can in behalf of the nation's needs in this crisis. We do not expect he will do very much, because he is not a leader of men, and in times like these the people must be their own leaders, as they are in Porto Rico and rally to the support of the government as they have done. The people always thus rally in the absence of official leadership.

We want to see Porto Rico keep on in her war work. She has thus far made a fine record and the men she is preparing or has prepared for the field will equal the best that goes to the front.

We want to see our people take hold of the Liberty Loan to the full extent that they are able. And they will, although their leadership outside of the business committee having the matter in hand must be their own patriotic impulse. Also we want to see those who are not able to buy bonds but who can do a little, go to the utmost in buying War Savings Stamps. We have no fear that Porto Rico will not do her part but incorporation must not be overlooked as another patriotic duty in behalf of the generations to come.

The following is "D. C.'s" letter:

March 19th, 1918.

To the Editor of THE TIMES,

Judging by your editorial of recent date, my letter printed in your issue of February 28th last criticising Governor Yager for his evident indifference to all that which the people of Porto Rico are doing, and have done, since the United States entered the Universal war to surpass the cooperation expected from them for the fulfillment of the national plans, did profit you very little inasmuch as you overlooked its main contention as to that official's uselessness for the patriotic purpose referred to therein. It all has been, sir as if readers and outsiders had derived more beneficial education from the tenets propounded in a good book than its editor who sorted the copy, read the proofs and printed it for the author of the same.

As elucidated in your article you seem to believe that, because the appointment of a new Governor would not bring along in its train the desired change from a bureaucratic to a territorial government, we are not going to gain anything by the shifting of men as the unconstitutional practice will remain standing. Of course, I do not deny that your position is sound as far as it goes, but what about the potent influence that a new man may exercise in the premises for goading the Porto Rican people to still better efforts, and to which Governor Yager has paid but little attention since the United States entered the war? Are you aware, sir, that these are abnormal times and that the war is paramount to all other questions?

You will please remember that during the civil strife in the United States the Washington Government always saw to it—in so far as it could do it consistently with the Federal scheme—that all the Governors of the diverse Northern States measured up in patriotic stature and intellectual power to the exigencies of the fratricidal conflict and why should it not be as zealous now when the danger is as great, if no more, for the preservation of the Union for national salvation? If our memory serves us well, Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, was one of the so-called "War Governors" whose cooperation made possible the successful outcome of the conflict, and had it been otherwise the United States would not stand today on the path of the overrunning hordes which threaten the whole world.

You should, also, know by this time, sir, that in both England and France, and even in Germany, when a Minister or a government official shows any incapacity or lassitude when meeting the tremendous requirements of this war, his removal is soon forthcoming by the "powers-that-be" and as demanded by the people. And if that is the case everywhere why should Porto Rico be, then, an exception for fear that it might be useless for other aims?

I do not wish to laborate still further on this important proposition, and will end here stating that your recent

The Filson Historical Society

3/13/18

Yager

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I do not wish to laborate still further on this important proposition, and will end here stating that your recent articles on it are rather inconsistent with your previous attitude toward Governor Yager and his strange unconcern at Porto Rico's cooperation on the side of her new mother country.

Very respectfully yours,

D. C.

The Filson Historic

3/23/18

86x11

San Juan, Jan 31/18

My dear Governor Vaegs:

I take the liberty to
commend to you, my
friend, Mr. Pedro Gomez
Lawson, the bearer, who
as I verbally explained
to you is desiring to
speak to you about
some personal matters.

Mr. Gomez is a lawyer
of ten years experience &

a prominent member of
the San Juan bar. He
has always occupied a
prominent place in the
struggle for Americanism
in Porto Rico and has
been from the first an
enthusiastic pro-American
and has never wavered
in spite of every difficulty.

He wishes to be considered
available for a place
on the Judiciary for

which he is very well fitted
I bespeak for him your
usually kind and courteous
bearing.

Yours very sincerely
Mauricio Rosendo

Hon. Arthur J. ...
Governor.
San Juan.

HENRY W. DOOLEY
CHAIRMAN

EMILIO DEL TORO
VICE-CHAIRMAN.

CHARLES F. HILL
TREASURER

MARIAN S. WOLF
SECRETARY.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.
PORTO RICO CHAPTER

P. O. BOX 996

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS
ROOM 312.
FEDERAL BUILDING

SAN JUAN, P. R. March 11, 1918

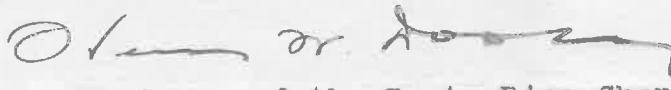
Hon. Arthur Yager
Governor of Porto Rico
San Juan, P. R.

Sir:

Under date of March 2, 1918 I addressed to you a letter on a subject of great importance to the welfare of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross. You have not seen fit to dignify my letter with a reply bearing on the important subject matter of the same. I regret this, because it is now too late. The damage has been done.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours



Chairman of the Porto Rico Chapter
of the
American Red Cross.

HWD/MC

86 x 11

HENRY W. DOOLEY
CHAIRMAN

EMILIO DEL TORO
VICE-CHAIRMAN.

CHARLES F. HILL
TREASURER

MARIAN S. WOLF
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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.
PORTO RICO CHAPTER

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CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS
ROOM 312.
FEDERAL BUILDING

SAN JUAN, P. R. March 2, 1918

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

"Personal."

My dear Governor:

For some time the the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross had been discussing the question of appointing a traveling representative, for the purpose of developing more systematically the Organization throughout the entire Island, by assisting in the establishment of Branches and Auxiliaries, and at the meeting of the Committee which was held February 15 money was appropriated for this purpose, and a Committee named to select the traveling agent. They selected Mr. Domingo Collazo, who seemed by experience and training equipped for the work.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of our Chapter held yesterday, toward the close of the session one of the Members of the Committee called the attention of the Members to an article on the editorial page of the San Juan Times, in its issue of February 28th, 1918, part of which article was signed "D. C.", and asked whether this article had been written by Mr. Domingo Collazo. No one present seemed to be able to answer

(2 Mar 18)

Hon. Arthur Yager-2

this question, and the Chairman of the Committee, the writer, was requested to ascertain from Mr. Collazo whether he was the author of the communication, and that if so that he be advised that he could no longer be useful in the work for which the Executive Committee had employed him. These instructions were afterward modified "that the Chairman ascertain the facts from Mr. Collazo if possible, and present them at the next meeting of the Executive Committee."

Personally I think for our Executive Committee to take any action would be a great mistake, and officially I fear that if any action, one way or the other, is taken by the Executive Committee or the Society in a matter of this kind, it will act very disastrously on the American Red Cross in Porto Rico, and I fear also that it may react upon you personally and officially by provoking an unfortunate and disagreeable discussion.

I have been advised by one member of the Committee, that the motion was indirectly inspired from Government House. I cannot believe this, and I am very loath to take this matter up with Mr. Collazo without first hearing from you, whether you personally and officially approve of the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross taking any action whatsoever in this matter, and especially such action. Personally, as I have said, it seems to me it would be the greatest

(2 Mar. 18)

Hon. A. Yager-3

mistake in your interests, and most deplorable for the welfare of the American Red Cross in this Island, as it would open up possibly a discussion on the question of Freedom of the Press, and the Right of Free Speech. I, therefore, would appreciate your advising me at once in regard to this matter, so that I may be guided in my duties as Chairman of the American Red Cross in Porto Rico.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours

HVD/MC

The Filson Historical Society

U
A
SUPREME COURT OF PORTO RICO
EMILIO BEL TORO
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

P.F.

San Juan, P. R.,
May 27, 1918.

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

My dear Governor Yager:

I have read the letters of Mr. Dooley published in the last issue of "Justicia". If all the charges against you are like those regarding your attitude towards the Red Cross, I cannot conceive Mr. Dooley's action.

I always remember your statements at the mass meeting which opened the campaign of the first executive committee of our chapter, and your private conversations with respect to the work of the Red Cross, and they bring to my memory your firm, conscientious, heartfelt, unostentatious attitude in favor of that institution, better loved and admired when better known. Besides, the untiring, intelligent work of Mrs. Yager and Diana through the past year has been a source of inspiration to me.

It seems impossible, when we act in good faith, with the whole of our souls in the work on hand, that we should receive an injury in exchange. But this is the old story of Humanity. Nevertheless, our knowledge

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(27 May 18)

SUPREME COURT OF PORTO RICO
EMILIO DEL TORO

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

-2-

of the human heart teaches us to have faith in the ultimate victory of every noble cause and every correct attitude. And your attitude and that of your family with regard to the Red Cross is so well known and so generally admired that, I think, Mr. Dooley's statements can do you no harm.

As for me, let me express my sorrow for this incident and tell you that all my sympathy is with you on this occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Emilio del Toro

August 25, 1917.

My dear Mr. de Diego;

Your very courteous letter of the 21st instant was promptly received, but this is my first opportunity to acknowledge it.

I appreciate very much indeed your offer of service while in the States, and have noted also with interest your suggestion as to employees of the House of Representatives, and the recommendations in the matter of appointments. I assure you that I shall give most careful consideration to them all, and I hope that we shall be able to pass the necessary revenue measures so as to make it possible for me to approve your very proper suggestions as to the House employees.

I trust that the objects of your visit to the continent will be fully accomplished and that your health and strength will be greatly improved by your trip.

With best wishes for you and your family,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable José de Diego,
Hotel Ansonia,
New York City.

86X11

MANUEL V. DOMENECH, C. E.
MEMBER AMERICAN SOCIETY CIVIL ENGINEERS
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

June 4/1918

P.F.

My dear Gov. Yager:

I take the liberty to present to you
Mr. Wm. H. McCarty, the head, chief draughtsman
in the bureau of public buildings of the
department of the interior, and an architect
by profession - I have known him for two
years and I assure you he is a young man
of very excellent qualifications -

He wishes to see you on a personal
matter and I beseech for him your
habitually kind and courteous hearing.

With my very best regards
I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Manuel V. Domenech

Honorable Arthur Yager,
San Juan,

11898

San Juan, P. R., June 12, 1918.

The attached memorandum has been sent to Mr. J. W. Blanco, Secretary of the Porto Rico Chapter, American Red Cross, and Mr. Charles Hartzell, Chairman, for presentation to the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter, American Red Cross.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. W. Blanco", written in a cursive style.

HWD/MC

NOT FOR PUBLICATION-:

The Filson Historical Society

11798

San Juan, P. R., June 12, 1918.

TO THE OFFICERS and MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE PORTO RICO CHAPTER
OF
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Fellow Members:

Referring to the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 3, 1918, and published in the Press of Porto Rico, I understand that the purpose of the resolution was to advise the public generally, and those interested, that the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross, nor its Executive Committee, had any connection with the statements made personally about the Governor of Porto Rico by Henry W. Dooley. With such an attitude I have sympathy. The letters of April 15th and April 17th were personal letters, and published without the writer's personal knowledge or consent. The official letter to Mr. F. C. Roberts was of April 18, 1918, and has never been published. The resolution adopted does not seem, therefore, to cover the case, but when analyzed makes two accusations:

First - That the Chairman abused the trust and confidence placed in him by using the name of the Porto Rico Chapter "for reasons personal to himself," and

Second - That when doing so he made false statements against the Governor of Porto Rico.

In cruder words, Henry W. Dooley was, even though there were present seven members of the bar, including two justices of the Supreme Court, "condemned unheard" and "branded as a liar" and his motives impugned. Therefore, especially in view of the further fact that at the meeting held June 10, 1918, the Executive Committee refused to receive or take note of an important letter bearing on the subject of the resolution, I now make the following demands:

First: That the resolution adopted June 3, 1918, be expunged from the minutes, and that notice to that effect duly certified be forwarded to the Honorable Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States and the President of the American

86 x 11

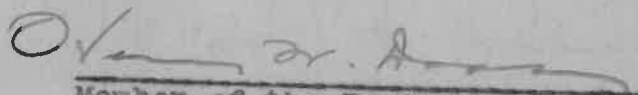
Red Cross; to the Press, both in Spanish and in English, to the same extent and liberality as the copies of the original resolution were distributed; to each and every Member of the Executive Committee, and to all other officials or individuals in Porto Rico, or in the United States proper, to whom were given or sent copies of the resolution adopted.

Second: That immediately thereafter a complete, thorough and impartial investigation be made by unprejudiced citizens of the circumstances and facts alleged in the resolution adopted, and that said citizens report to the Executive Committee, at the earliest date practicable, their findings, and that upon receipt of said report the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross take such action as in its judgment may be necessary in order to serve the cause of truth and justice, and protect the good name of the American Red Cross and its local Chapter. The reasonableness of these demands will, without doubt, be appreciated by each and every member of the Executive Committee.

I take the liberty of suggesting that a special meeting of the Committee be called for this purpose.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours


Member of the Porto Rico Chapter's
Executive Committee
and
Former Chairman of the Chapter.

HWD/MC

40932

REGISTERED
NO 22598

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



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

(personal)

11X8

Return Receipt Requested

The Filson Historical Society

From- Henry W. Dooley
San Juan, Porto Rico



The Filson Historical Society

8-1-1888

San Juan, P. R., June 18, 1918

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

Sir:

I had the honor to address you on June twelfth and to enclose in said communication a copy of the document I had sent the Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross. I have had nothing from you in reply to said communication, but was advised from a most authoritative course, a day or two after sending the same to you, that the Executive Committee would take no action on my statement because you approved the passage of the resolution, and that the Committee would take any action which was agreeable to you. I could not believe that such statements could be true.

However, yesterday at the meeting of the Executive Committee, Mr. O. M. Sewell, after my communication to the Committee had been read, moved that it be laid upon the table. Justice Emilio del Toro then amended this motion with the statement that the subject had been previously discussed, and that it was well for the Committee once and for all to terminate the matter, and that the request and demands of Mr. Dooley be denied. Justice del Toro's amendment was carried, and Mr. Sewell's motion as amended was then put and adopted. As a passing observation it might be said that nothing is settled "once and for all" until it is settled right.

Mr. Hartzell (Chairman of the Executive Committee) then read to the Committee a letter received from you approving the action of the Executive Committee in passing the resolution, and thanking them for doing so. This communication of yours to Mr. Hartzell confirms in substance the unbelievable reports that came to ^{me} as stated above.

Arthur Yager

2

6/18/18

Such being the case therefore,

I, now, challenge you to deny publicly the truth of the statements made by me in my personal letters written to Mr. F. C. Roberts, Special Agent, U. S. Department of Labor, under dates of April 15 and April 17^m, 1918, and which were published without the writer's desire, knowledge and consent in "Justicia" May 25, 1918, and in Porto Rico Progress, May 31, 1918, and

Further I challenge you to deny publicly the statements made by me over my signature as Chairman of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross in my official letter to Mr. F. C. Roberts, Special Agent, U. S. Department of Labor, under date of April 13, 1918, which letter has not been published. I, therefore, send you copy of the said letter of April 13, 1918.

I shall appreciate acknowledgment of this communication, and any other comments that in your judgment it may seem right and proper to make.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours

Arthur W. Yager

HWD/MC

(Copy)

April 13, 1918.

Hon. F. C. Roberts
Special Agent, U. S. Department of Labor
San Juan, P. R.

Sir:

Your letter of April 11th is before me, and contents very carefully noted. As Chairman of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross I do not feel that I should enter into a discussion of any matter except such as pertains directly to the work of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Some of the questions are of such a nature that I cannot discuss them officially.

I may say, however, that the Governor's point of view in regard to the importance of the work of the American Red Cross in Porto Rico is very different, so far as I can judge, from that of many enthusiastic members of our Chapter. Certain proclamations or statements of the President of the United States in regard to the Red Cross the Governor was requested to have issued here formally by him as Governor of the Island. He promised on two occasions to do this, but I regret to say the proclamations or statements by the President in the cases recited were not published.

In another case the Governor was written to on

86x11

(2)

(130 Apr 18)

a subject which in the minds of many members of our Executive Committee was deemed a very important and vital one, but no reply was ever received.

This letter is written in reply to your communication for your official information, and not for publication.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours

(Sgd) H. W. Dooley
Chairman, Porto Rico Chapter
American Red Cross.

HWD/MC

The Filson Historical Society

San Juan, P. R., June 12, 1918.

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

Sir:

I herewith have the honor to state that on June third, 1918, the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross passed a certain Resolution, which has appeared, in both English and Spanish, in the public Press of Porto Rico. I have waited since that date, thinking that possibly you would make some public or private announcement or statement in reference to said Resolution.

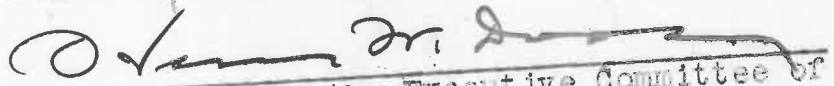
As the Resolution in question certainly does not benefit the American Red Cross, nor the local Chapter, nor the Governor of Porto Rico, nor Henry W. Dooley, it would seem that the adoption and publication of said Resolution was unwise and ill-advised, and as the Resolution was adopted without asking Henry W. Dooley to make any explanation, to make any statements, or to submit any documents to the Executive Committee, said Henry W. Dooley was, by the adoption of said Resolution, condemned without being heard, such action under such circumstances being most surprising, considering the fact that seven members of the Committee present were members of the legal profession.

As the Executive Committee of the local Chapter took no further action in regard to the Resolution at its meeting held June 10th, but on the other hand refused to receive a very important letter bearing on the Resolution, and in the absence of any public or private announcement or statement from you on the subject of the Resolution, I am, therefore, demanding that the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross have the Resolution expunged from the minutes, and I am also demanding a complete, thorough and impartial investigation. I enclose herewith copy of my communication to the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

86x11

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours



Member of the Executive Committee of
The Porto Rico Chapter of
The American Red Cross
And former Chairman of the Chapter.

HWD/MC

The Filson Historical Society

(12 June 18)

San Juan, P. R., June 12, 1918.

TO THE OFFICERS and MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE PORTO RICO CHAPTER
OF
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Fellow Members:

Referring to the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 3, 1918, and published in the Press of Porto Rico, I understand that the purpose of the resolution was to advise the public generally, and those interested, that the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross, nor its Executive Committee, had any connection with the statements made personally about the Governor of Porto Rico by Henry W. Dooley. With such an attitude I have sympathy. The letters of April 15th and April 17th were personal letters, and published without the writer's personal knowledge or consent. The official letter to Mr. F. C. Roberts was of April 13, 1918, and has never been published. The resolution adopted does not seem, therefore, to cover the case, but when analyzed makes two accusations:

First - That the Chairman abused the trust and confidence placed in him by using the name of the Porto Rico Chapter "for reasons personal to himself," and

Second - That when doing so he made false statements against the Governor of Porto Rico.

In cruder words, Henry W. Dooley was, even though there were present seven members of the bar, including two justices of the Supreme Court, "condemned unheard" and "branded as a liar" and his motives impugned. Therefore, especially in view of the further fact that at the meeting held June 10, 1918, the Executive Committee refused to receive or take note of an important letter bearing on the subject of the resolution, I now make the following demands:

First: That the resolution adopted June 3, 1918, be expunged from the minutes, and that notice to that effect duly certified be forwarded to the Honorable Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States and the President of the American

1178

(2)

Red Cross; to the Press, both in Spanish and in English, to the same extent and liberality as the copies of the original resolution were distributed; to each and every Member of the Executive Committee, and to all other officials or individuals in Porto Rico, or in the United States proper, to whom were given or sent copies of the resolution adopted.

Second: That immediately thereafter a complete, thorough and impartial investigation be made by unprejudiced citizens of the circumstances and facts alleged in the resolution adopted, and that said citizens report to the Executive Committee, at the earliest date practicable, their findings, and that upon receipt of said report the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross take such action as in its judgment may be necessary in order to serve the cause of truth and justice, and protect the good name of the American Red Cross and its local Chapter. The reasonableness of these demands will, without doubt, be appreciated by each and every member of the Executive Committee.

I take the liberty of suggesting that a special meeting of the Committee be called for this purpose.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours



Member of the Porto Rico Chapter's
Executive Committee
and

Former Chairman of the Chapter.

HWD/MC

CHARLES HARTZELL
Chairman.

EMILIO DEL TORO
Vice-Chairman.



J. W. BLANCO
Secretary.

JOSE E. BENEDICTO
Treasurer.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
PORTO RICO CHAPTER
P. O. BOX 996

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS
ROOM 312
FEDERAL BUILDING

SAN JUAN, P. R. June 15, 1918

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

Sir:

I beg to enclose you herewith a copy
of a letter addressed to Mr. Charles Hartzell,
Chairman, Porto Rico Chapter, American Red Cross.
I have not sent to Mr. Hartzell a copy of my
letter to you of June 12th.

I have the honor to remain

Respectfully yours

Orlando M. ...

RWB/MS

Enc. 1

The Filson Historical Society

11x28

June 15, 1918

Mr. Charles Hartzell, Chairman
Porto Rico Chapter, A. R. C.
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Since writing my letter to you of the 12th, in which I enclose copy of a memorandum for the Members of the Executive Committee, I concluded to send a copy of the same to the Governor of Porto Rico, thinking that he might wish to make some statement to you, or to the Members of the Committee, regarding the resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting June 3, 1918. The foregoing for your information and guidance.

Very truly yours

HWD/MC

11 x 28

November 18, 1918.

My dear Judge:

I have not had time to acknowledge before this moment the receipt of your recent letter with reference to the "fiscalia" of Ponce, but I assure you that I have been giving careful consideration to your suggestion. I regard it as sound and sensible as are all of your suggestions with reference to the judiciary of the island.

As you will doubtless see in the newspapers, I have at last concluded to promote Mr. Figueras to the vacant post and have promoted Mr. Rivera Zayas to succeed him in the "fiscalia" of Aguadilla.

With the highest personal consideration, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Hon. Emilio del Toro,
Associate Justice,
Supreme Court of Porto Rico.
San Juan, P.R.

San Juan, P. R., July 8, 1919.

Honorable John W. Davis,

Amb. E. & P. of the United States to Great Britain,
American Embassy, London, England.

SIR:

This is to introduce my friend Dr. Gonzalez Martinez, a prominent physician of Porto Rico, who is making a visit to London for the purpose of prosecuting research work in diseases peculiar to the tropics.

Dr. Gonzalez Martinez is a scholarly man and active member of the Porto Rican Institute of Tropical Medicine, and is, moreover, a gentleman of real culture and scientific attainments.

Any aid and courtesies that you may conveniently extend to him while in London will be greatly appreciated by myself and the Government of Porto Rico.

Very respectfully,

Governor of Porto Rico.

11x98

San Juan, P. R.,
August 11, 1919.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to introduce to you the
bearer, Mr. Lopez Diaz, who is taking a
trip to Venezuela for business purposes.

Any courtesies that you may con-
veniently extend to Mr. Lopez Diaz, will
be appreciated both by him and myself.

Very respectfully,

Governor of Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

11x78

September 8, 1919.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the bearer, Mr. Theodore Ducloux, is a German subject, who has been for many years, a resident of Porto Rico, and, during the entire period of the war, he remained in the island and attended to his business. He obeyed the laws of the United States, and conducted himself in such a manner as to keep himself free from suspicion of any improper conduct.

He is now undertaking a trip to Germany to visit his relatives, under permit granted by the Department of State, and I bespeak for him all consideration that may be properly given to him.

Very respectfully,

Governor of Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

11 x 48

San Juan, Porto Rico,
September 13, 1919.

To His Excellency

Monsieur Sudre Dartiguenave,
Port-au-Prince, Hayti.

Dear Sir:

I am taking the liberty to introduce to Your Excellency, the bearer of this letter, my friend, Mr. R. D. Childs, a prominent business man of Porto Rico, who is going to your country to engage in the sugar industry.

Mr. Childs has lived in Porto Rico, and has made a host of friends among the people of this island, because of the excellence of his character, and his generosity and kindness. Although a successful business man he is fair to all, and has been especially kind in his treatment of his laborers.

I trust that you will find it convenient to extend all proper aid and courtesy to Mr. Childs while he is a resident of your jurisdiction, and I am assured you that these courtesies will be appreciated, and in no way abused by him.

With every assurance of respect, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Governor of Porto Rico.

1178

November 23, 1919.

Mr. George L. Dederick,
Secretary, B.P.O.E., No. 972,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My Dear Mr. Dederick:

I received a few days ago your kind invitation to attend the plants of your Lodge to be held at Hato Rey, Stop 31, on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day.

I have withheld my reply in the hope that I might be able to follow my desires and give you an unreserved acceptance of the kind invitation. It seems however at present that I have already undertaken so many duties for that day that I will not be able to spare the time in the afternoon to attend this delightful affair. I wish to assure you and the entire brotherhood of the Lodge that I appreciated the invitation very much indeed and would be very glad to drive out and spend the afternoon with you, but I do not now see how I can do so.

Very truly yours,

Governor.

11798

THANKSGIVING DAY
PICNIC

NOVEMBER 27, 1919.

1101

MEMBERS

\$5.00



TICKET

THIS TICKET
ENTITLES HOLDER
TO DINNER
AND
AMUSEMENTS

ADMITS HIMSELF,
WIFE & CHILDREN

86x11

COUNTERSIGNED:

Donald Gofaris
CHAIRMAN ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

J. Pedersen
SECY & TREAS. ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

San Juan Lodge 972
B. P. O. Elks

Gov. Arthur Yager.

86x11

The Filson Historical Society

Meets:
1st & 3rd Wednesday
of each month
at 8 p.m.

ELKS CLUB
Plaza Principal



SAN JUAN LODGE 972

SAN JUAN,
PORTO RICO

November 19, 1919.

GOVERNOR ARTHUR YAGER,
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:-

It is the earnest wish of San Juan Lodge No. 972,
B. P. O. Elks, that you accept the enclosed ticket which is presented
with the compliments of the brethren and it is hoped that you may be
able to be with us on Thanksgiving Day.

The Picnic is to be held on the grounds of the
Porto Rico Photoplays, Inc., at Stop 31, Hato Rey, and the festivities
will begin about 12.00 o'clock Noon. Dinner will be served at 2.00
o'clock p.m.

With sincere wishes from San Juan Lodge No. 972,
B. P. O. Elks, I am

Yours truly,

R. Devick
Secretary.

186x11

December 20, 1919.

Mr. Jorge V. Dominguez,
2 Rector Street,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

I have just received your letter of the 9th instant, and it affords me pleasure to enclose herein a brief note of introduction to the American Minister at Havana.

With best wishes for your success, and kind personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

The Filson Historical Society

11298

December
Twentieth
Nineteen nineteen.

Honorable William E. Gonzalez,
American Minister to Cuba,
Havana, Cuba.

My dear Sir:

This letter will be handed to you by my friend, Mr. Jorge V. Dominguez, a former resident and prominent attorney of Porto Rico, now residing in New York.

Mr. Dominguez was formerly in the service of the Insular Government of Porto Rico, as District Judge, and also Counsel to the Insular Board of Health, and has a good reputation throughout the island both as attorney-at-law, and citizen of this Country.

He is planning to visit Cuba, upon professional business, and my courtesies that you may conveniently show him, will be appreciated.

Very respectfully yours,

Governor of Porto Rico.

Paris, 39 Boulevard Haussmann.

Coudert Brothers,
Counsellors at Law,
2 Rector Street.

FREDERIC R. COUDERT.
LORENZO SEMPLE.
JOHN P. MURRAY.
PAUL FULLER, JR.
CHARLES B. SAMUELS.
HOWARD THAYER KINGSBURY.
JAMES BARCLAY.
JAMES E. HOPKINS.
CHARLES A. CONLON.

New York,

December 9, 1919.

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

My dear Governor Yager:-

Some time ago while about to visit the Republic of Cuba, you gave me a very nice letter of introduction to the American Minister at Havana.

I am going again to Cuba in January, to organize a very important business enterprise that will give credit to Porto-Rico, and I dare to request you to again write a letter of introduction to the new American Minister in Havana so that my identity and professional integrity may be known to him for any reference or report that may be required. In this connection may I remind you of my past services as District Judge and Counsel to the Superior Board of Health, while in Porto-Rico.

I hope I am not imposing too much upon your kindness, and with best personal regards to Mrs. Yager, from Mrs. Dominguez and myself, believe me gratefully and sincerely yours,

Jorge B. Dominguez,

Dict-JVD-AMC.

March 30, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I appreciate your courtesy in sending me a copy of your recent letter to the President apropos of my recommendation of Mr. M. R. Spelman, of New York City, as administrator of the Virgin Islands in case that a change of administration should be decided upon. I hope that you did not fail to take notice of the fact that my letter and its recommendation was based solely upon the information that the Navy Department desired to be relieved of the administration of the Virgin Islands. Only upon this assumption would I have ventured to make any recommendation whatever.

I desire to congratulate you and especially the Naval officers immediately concerned in the administration of the Virgin Islands, upon the very cordial remarks of Judge Tamm, the Chairman of the investigating committee, before the Naval Affairs Committee of Congress, which you quoted in your letter to the President, and which I have no doubt were fully deserved.

Wishing for you personally, and for your administration of the great Department of Navy, the greatest success, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D. C.

Governor of Porto Rico.

11x78

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
WASHINGTON.

16th of March
1 9 2 0

My dear Governor:

The President has been good enough to send me your letter of March 2nd and I am enclosing copy of a letter I am sending him to-day.

I trust that you are very well and that things are moving along well with you.

Sincerely yours,

J. P. Daniel

Hon. Arthur Yager
Governor of Porto Rico
San Juan

(enclosure)

11 x 98

16th of March

1 9 2 0

My dear Mr. President:

I have received the letter addressed to you from Governor Arthur Yager of Porto Rico, recommending Mr. M. R. Spelman, of New York, for the position of administrator in the Virgin Islands if a change is made in the method of its administration. Some of the members of the Committee that went down to the Virgin Islands believed that the time had come when the government of these islands should be made civil or should be taken out of the control of the Navy Department. I was very glad the Committee went down and made, as it did, a thorough investigation and study of conditions in the islands. On Monday of last week Judge Towner, Chairman of the Insular Affairs Committee of the House, went before the Naval Affairs Committee and stated that the administration of the Virgin Islands by the Navy was as near perfect as could be conducted and they wished the Navy to continue its administration and appealed to the Naval Affairs Committee to increase the appropriation, and to be assured that his Committee thanked the Navy for its efficient administration of the islands.

Faithfully yours,

Josephus Daniels

The President.

11798

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

File

April 12, 1920.

Honorable Felix Cordova Davila,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge:

In the first place I want to express my appreciation for the cablegram of sympathy and solicitude which you have kindly expressed for me because of my critical illness. I am now at Jayome Alto in the mountains and have been here for some ten days, and the mountain air has greatly facilitated my convalescence, although I am not yet strong enough to resume my duties fully.

I am writing especially this morning to mention a local crisis of more or less importance that has developed here in the tobacco industry. As you probably know the tobacco crop this year was short, or at least not nearly sufficient to supply the great demand that seemed suddenly to develop. The entire crop was absorbed in a few days at the highest prices ever known, and I am informed that it was bought up entirely by some five or six large corporations. Of course this has been a great benefit to the tobacco farmers of Porto Rico, and it is estimated that some eight or ten million dollars have been distributed among them, for their tobacco. In this we greatly rejoice.

But it seems that all of the smaller people who have worked in this tobacco, - manufacturers, dealers, etc. - both in Porto Rico and in the United States have suddenly been deprived of their business because of the monopolization of their raw material. Unless some substitute can be found they will have to close down entirely for this year.

The following remedy for this crisis has been suggested thru the importation of a certain type of Santo Domingo tobacco to supply the shortage. But the duty imposed on this foreign tobacco in an unstemmed state is 35 cents per pound; and this would be prohibitive. However it is believed that the Treasury Department, in as much as there is no duty at all upon the tobacco stems when imported separately, might by regulation permit the introduction of the unstemmed tobacco in bond and then allow the weight of the stems to be subtracted from the gross weight of the tobacco and impose the duty upon the net weight of the leaf only. It is entirely feasible to make arrangements to carry out this scheme without any possibility of fraud. Moreover

11x78

(12 Apr. 20)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

You understand that the laws of Porto Rico are such as to entirely prevent any fraudulent substitution of this Santo Domingan tobacco for Porto Rican tobacco.

The duty as you will understand is not to be reduced, but the Treasury Department is requested to adopt a possible regulation whereby this duty will be imposed upon the tobacco alone and not upon the stems which under the law may be imported free of duty. In this way all of the small local stemeries could obtain the material to run their business as heretofore; and the small factories of cigars could continue their business. This seems to me, if such a course is legally possible, that it might relieve a local crisis and at the same time no harm could result.

If you approve of this suggestion I would be glad for you to show this letter to General Walcott to whom I am sending a copy and discuss the matter with him.

The island is at present perfectly quiet and exceedingly prosperous. The total exports for this year will probably exceed by 50% the highest previous records.

With best wishes I am

Very sincerely yours,

I. P. Form "00"

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
INSULAR POLICE
HEADQUARTERS

For your

*With reference to
our conversation last
night, I am handing
you herewith a copy
of the latest report
and information on
the strike situation*

Doby

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
INSULAR POLICE
HEADQUARTERS

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CHIEF OF INSULAR POLICE
SAN JUAN, P. R.

San Juan, P. R.,
April 30, 1920.

The Honorable

The Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

S i r :

In addition to previous information furnished you on the subject, I have the honor to submit the following relative to recent developments in the stevedores strike which is now in progress in Porto Rico.

Mr. Andrés Rodriguez Vera, leader of the Porto Rico Federation of Labor, informs me that some of the agitators of the San Juan Union of Stevedores have gone to various ports of the Island during the past two or three days and have caused some misunderstanding and discontent among the members of the Porto Rico Federation of Labor, specially at Mayaguez and Ponce. However, the local leaders at Ponce yesterday and this morning requested instructions from their

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1198

(30 Apr. 20)

leader Mr. Rodriguez Vera, who advised them by telegraph to continue work and it is believed that this will clear up the situation so far as the Porto Rican Federation of Labor is concerned for the present.

All boats thus far are being loaded and unloaded by members of the Porto Rican Federation of Labor and laborers recruited at Aguadilla and other points in the Western part of the Island, and up to the present, the work is about up to schedule with the exception of the s/s "BRAZOS" which sailed about twenty hours late and one cargo boat which is tied up at Arecibo on which no work at all is being done.

The port of Arecibo is the only one other than San Juan which is controlled by the same Union as San Juan with the possible exception of Humacao which I presume is normal for the reason that I have received no information regarding the strike from that point.

I have been informed by Mr. R. A. Nadal, General Agent of the New York & Porto Rico Steamship Company that there is a possibility of steamship crews sailing out of the port of New York going on strike on May 1, 1920. There has been much talk of this but up to the present he has received no definite information on the subject.

Very respectfully,

M. J. P. P.
Inspector, Acting Chief
of Insular Police.

WFD: SM

May 9, 1920.

Rev. D. Y. Donaldson,
Hotel Eureka,
Sancti Spiritus, P.R.

My dear Sir:

I notice in the papers that you have arrived in Porto Rico to undertake the office of Prohibition Commissioner, for this island. I wish to assure you of my most hearty cooperation in any efforts that you may make to enforce prohibition in Porto Rico.

As you doubtless know, I have been quite ill and have not yet recovered, and am sailing north on the Transport this afternoon, in order to secure complete recovery. This makes it impossible for me to have a conference with you, but I am sure you have already learned that we have here the usual difficulties and some that are unusual and peculiar, in endeavoring to carry out completely the law prohibiting alcoholic drinks. But we have been doing the very best we could under the circumstances, and I want to place at your service in every proper way, the entire Police Force of Porto Rico, as well as all the Departments of the Insular Government.

You will probably have to appoint an Assistant Prohibition Commissioner, and I would recommend to you most heartily, for this position, Mr. John L. Gay, a good American citizen, an ex-service man and captain in the National Army, and above all a sincere and conscientious believer in prohibition. He knows the language and the people, and would make an excellent official, loyal to you and faithful to the cause.

I greatly regret that I can not have a personal conference before leaving, but I desire to place this matter before you for your earnest consideration.

Hoping to make your acquaintance upon my return, and to be of real service in cooperating with you in this important work, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

11x98

HENRY WILLIAMSON DOOLEY

PORTO RICO

P. O. BOX 551

CABLE ADDRESS:
"DOOLEY" SAN JUAN.

San Juan, Porto Rico

Feb 19 1921

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

My dear Sir:

I have the honor to advise you, on behalf of Mrs. Dooley and myself, that we take much pleasure in offering to you the use of fifty (50) acres of land at Puntas Marias property, in connection with the campaign against bubonic plague if you and the authorities think the property suitable in any way for such purpose.

This is the property used during the war by the United States for the Target Range, and is offered for the use of the authorities free of all expense.

I have the honor to remain

Most respectfully yours



HWD/MC

86x11

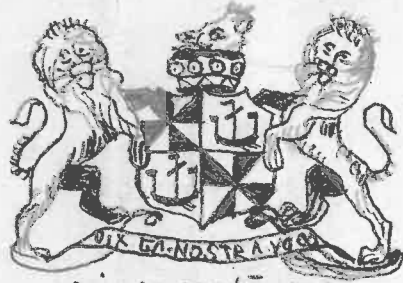
Ep XII
Peerage of England. Barons page 173.

Silvermore

Leals

Cannage

Yours



DIX EA NOSTRA VOCA.

Translated

"We scarce can call these things ours"
John Campbell Lord Sundridge
(Duke of Argyll ¹⁷⁶² in Scotland)

Embley most
When

have it -

The Filson Historical Society

We have the Genealogy of the Estill Family -
If you want to know any more about the Argyles
who are our ancestors, look in Encyclopaedia
Britanica, vol 2 N.A. Pag 498) begin at Argyll &
by same author vol (II) Book on Heraldry page (697)
fig (70) is the Gyron that is one part - of the Crest -
& fig (99) the Boars head & the Gally fig (121) is another
& combined we have the present picture
copied by
Lavinia C. Shenault -

The Filson Historical

My dear Diana: - I hope you &
Governor Hager may find
this article on "Woodcock"
and "Pocahontas" of inter-

MRS. JAMES W. CAPERTON

est. It has been charmingly
done by Mrs. Kimpton
plus came over and inter-
viewed me. Had I written it
I would have put in more of

The Filson Historical Society

your brilliant mother, &
grand mother. After all,
she said, it was the old
Mansion she was writing
up & not a family histo-
ry. Please write to Eliza-
beth. My supply is lim-
ited. Affectionately
Katherine P. Caperton
Oct 10, '38

The Filson Historical Society

"AMBERLEY"

RICHMOND, KENTUCKY

Daughter of Mrs. Arthur Yager (Cobie Lewis,
wife of Governor Yager of Porto Rico
under Woodrow Wilson, President of the U. S.
1912-1920. - Statement given by Mrs. Yager,
at "Amberley" Richmond, Ky. April 6, 1929. -

H. P. C.

Daughter of Dr. James Edmonds Lewis of
Brunswick Co., Va. "Windsor", the name of the
family estate, where she resided in 1888, near
Lawrenceville, Va. - Her uncle, Benjamin Lewis
lived at "Mossy Hill" and her uncle Ashton
Lewis at "Woodstock" - both estates in
Brunswick Co., Va. - Dr. James Edmonds
Lewis was descended from the "Warner
Lewis" family of the Eastern Shore of
Va. He was the son of Gabriel Lewis, who was
the son of Miles Lewis, who was the son
of Warner Lewis of "Warner Hall".
The mother of Dr. James Edmonds Lewis

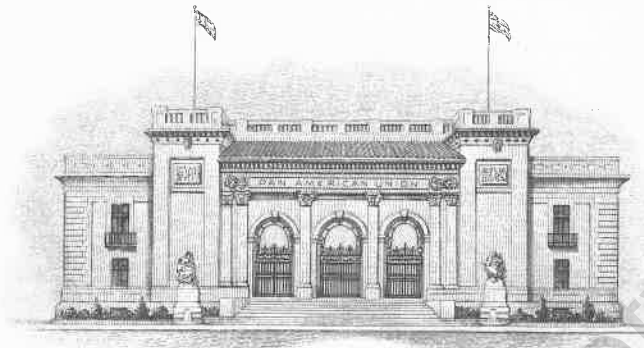
11798
86711

The F...

was Francis Stuart of King George Co.
The daughter of Col. Charles Stuart
who was the son of Charles Stuart,
who was the son of Rev. David Stuart
of the King George Co. Va. Church.
The Rev. David Stuart was the grand
son of the Earl of Murray. - Dr. James
Edmonds Lewis married Elizabeth Rodes Holmes
daughter of William Holmes and his wife, Mary
Estell, daughter of James Estell and his
wife, Mary Estings Rodes, "Castlemore"
Madison Co. Kentucky. Mrs. L. R. H.
Lewis was born at the family residence
of her parents, Louisiana -
and was married to Dr. Lewis in New
Orleans, where the family was spending
the social season, as was the custom
of Southern planters. -

Lewis line (Lewis Families of America -
p. 11) - Gen. Robert Lewis - His son, John Lewis (b. 1635)
of "Warner Hall" - m. Isabella Warner - Their son
Col. John Lewis (1669-1725) Royal Council, Judge etc. m. Elizabeth
Warner - Their son - Warner Lewis etc.

The Family



Mr. John Barrett

Director General of the Pan American Union

Extends to you the Greetings of the Season, and expresses the hope, that during the coming year the great Cause of Pan Americanism which is now making extraordinary strides forward and which stands not only for the Solidarity, Fraternity and Well-being of the Republics of the Americas but, through their cooperation, and example, for the Peace, Progress and Welfare of all nations, may have your valued personal interest and support.

*Pan American Union
Washington, D.C.*

86x11

When Governor Yager arrived in Porto Rico and addressed our people, he was influenced surely by those who had pretendid to vex and deprive us, he said speaking emphatically then with the gesture of the conqueror, who thought he was before a hostile people: "En Porto Rico will never be lowered the American Flag". Behind those menacing words, we saw in our minds the squadron and the powerful American army behind the Governor, imposing the handsome flag which should ~~arrive~~^{come} only through love and a free heart.

And when I had an opportunity I said to to Governor: "Would it not have been better if you had said to our people: "I feel sure that the American flag will never be lowered in Porto Rico, because we ~~have to~~^{will} do everything possible, ~~and the~~^{so that} Porto Ricans ~~do~~^{will} not desire nor will they permit it".

Rep. Answell: Have you said that you wish independence now?

Mr. Barcelo: I have not asked immediate independence in the name of the Unionist Party.

Rep. Answell: But you wish it, without doubt, some day?

Mr. Barcelo: Naturally.

Rep. Answell: When?

Mr. Barcelo: The problem ~~ought~~^{will have} to be decided after the United States, gives to Porto Rico

self-government, making a study of the conditions and the economic situation, the ^{means to prepare it} ~~measures in order~~ ^{the same for} ~~to apart/in,~~ the future, and all other questions which should be taken into account.

Rep. Answell: But you wish independence now if we will give it to you?

Mr. Barcelo: I told you that if you offer us independence immediately, naturally we would take it quickly, because to that we never could answer negatively.

Rep. Answell: Do you wish the assignments (meaning improvements at the expense of the U.S.) before we grant independence to you?

Mr. Barcelo: The Unionist Party has not asked assignments, now I think that the United States, while ^{in charge of} ~~arranging~~ our international life and also our local life is obliged to protect us. The problem of our tariff ^{places us in a position to need} ~~is to have to arrange according to our necessities,~~ because we are poor; poor, because we can not regulate our revenues, nor do we have sufficient in order to grow and develop ourselves.

Rep. Answell: You need our help, without doubt?

Mr. Barcelo: We need it because our largest sources of income, ^{which could be} ~~that we are able to~~ derive from our revenues, appertain to the United States in virtue of her protective tariff, and without this, naturally we have to ask help; now if you give us independence, I think that the United States ought

always to help Porto Rico. Porto Rico asks independence under the protection of the United States, and she will be obliged for her own honor to defend and aid the people who are placed under her protection. I wish to tell you the following: The American tariff has profited almost exclusively from the sugarmakers and tobacco growers. From the latter product, all the benefit remains in the United States, because it is in the hands of a corporation which lives and spends ^{its money} there; and with the sugar, it is almost the same, at least 75%. ^{so that the} ~~the~~ balance ^{between} ~~among~~ our exportations and our importations goes out ~~of~~ of Porto Rico.

Rep. Answell: But I wish you to tell me if you prefer assignments to independence.

Mr. Barcelo: Well then; I ought to accept the responsibility that I have before the people, in this question of honor. **WE WILL NOT SELL OUR LIBERTY AT ANY PRICE; WE WANT IT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE SURROUNDED WITH HUNGER.**

*even than we die
of hunger*

Informe

Form 5194

Railway Mail Service

OFFICE OF CHIEF CLERK

Confidencial

La oficina de la Censura establecida en San Juan, a mi juicio marcha con bastante regularidad y orden; salvo pequeñas deficiencias que dejaré indicadas a la terminación de este informe.

El número de Censores que actualmente trabajan en la oficina llega a veintey siete (27) incluyendo tres señoras americanas, (una de ellas vive en Manati y solo trabaja un día a la semana leyendo la correspondencia en Alimani que es muy exigua), Mr Falbe que censura alguna correspondencia en Mayaguez, Mr Hayler en Ensenada y Mr Barry Empleado del departamento de marina, este último censura cartas que contengan cables. Hay además dos Censores o Empleados que se ocupan de pegar las cartas censuradas.

Regulamente se trabajan ocho horas y á veces se termina la correspondencia y los Censores permanecen

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sin hacer nada hasta la hora de salida. Ha habido días que solo se han trabajado tres horas.

Los Censores que trabajan en San Juan están divididos en cuatro grupos; uno censuran correspondencia que viene del Extranjero, otro la que sale, uno la escrita en Español y otro la escrita en Inglés.

Para la Correspondencia en Francés e Italiano; hay dos Censores bastante competentes, hay otro Censor Arabe, etc. etc.

Para la Correspondencia Certificada existe un Censor que la trabaja en la misma oficina de Censores.

Los Perjudicios y Retrasos están a cargo de los mismos Censores que se toman hasta terminar el trabajo que no es constante.

Existe en la oficina un Libro o Registro que firman los Censores a la hora de su

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tra y salir y en momentos que necesi-
ten salir a la Calle a practicar algu-
na diligencia.

Las Cartas que los Censores separan por
considerarlas sospechosas, son mas tarde
de recibidas por el Censur Mr Stiles que
hace las veces de Supervisor y que lo consi-
dero incapaz para este trabajo.

Mr. Siderik Jefe de la Comision de Censu-
ra rara vez observa a los Censores, dejan-
do esta misin a Mr Stiles que aunque su-
mamente pundonoroso y honrado, no reu-
ne las condiciones para ese desempeño.

Hay algunos Censores que a mi entender
no son capacitados para ello y esto tam-
bien ocasiona deficiencia en el servicio.

Estas deficiencias consisten en que coneta-
temente se separa correspondencia inde-
bidamente sin que contenga nada cu-
sualle, solo por Capricho del Censur
duda

H

Form 5194

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luego en la revisión Mr. Stiles (Superior) aprueba esa separación o exclusión, y esta carta urgente unas veces por enteras noticias de familia y otras por enteras de que Chek o que Postal esperado con ansiedad por personas necesitadas, si que en los trámites de las Leyes Postales y permanecen muchos días sin que lo interesado las reciban, a pesar de que dicha correspondencia no enteraria nada para ser censurada. Esto demuestra la falta de una dirección competente en la oficina.

Diariamente el Superior toma nota a cada Censo de las cartas que ha revisado y separado y el Idioma en que es tan escrita, anotandola luego en un Registro que la oficina lleva del trabajo realizado.

Existe también de graciamen

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te un citado que pudieramos llamar Morbozo entre casi todos los Empleados de la Censura sobre todo entre los que componen la Comisión, con excepción de Mr. George W. Lewis nombrado recientemente.

El origen de todo, es lo siguiente.

El Censur Luis Bozo recomendado y aprobado por Mr. Haas miembro de la Comisión fue expulsado por Mr. Bidderik luego de una minuciosa investigación motivada por un informe que yo presenté, probando que Bozo había cometido graves informalidades, consistentes en apropiarse de cartas que iban de tránsito y que contenían billetes de Banco Americanos. Mr. Haas y Mr. Baker se opusieron a la expulsión de Bozo estableciendo una defensa en favor de Bozo y una campaña en contra de Mr. Bidderik, llevando hasta reportarlo a Wras...

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ton. Este asunto trascendió hasta los Censores creando entre algunos de ellos cierto antagonismo; pues los Censores colocados por el Haas censuraban la actitud de el Sr. Siderik, los otros en cambio la aplaudían. Aunque corda esta actitud, notábase cierta rivalidad entre los Censores y el Sr. Stiles en favor de el Sr. Siderik, trataba y tenía preferencia para ciertos Censores partidarios de el Sr. Siderik, de aquí que diariamente dictaba circulares que perjudicaban a algunos Censores mientras favorecía a otros. La situación no fue buena durante algunos días, aunque ya ha variado algo. Entre los Censores existe también un Censador de Bozo colocado por el Haas (1)

Fue entendido que las relaciones entre

(1) Entre Haas y Bozo existen íntimas y delicadas cuestiones de familia.

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Mr Haas, Mr Baker y Mr Biderik no eran nada cordiales y no desperdiciaban ocasión de irrogarse todo el daño posible con grande perjuicio para la Censura que es quien recibe las consecuencias.

Cada vez que se reúne La Comisión se suscitan ciertas cuestiones Haas y Baker unidos y de común acuerdo rechazan cualquier medida de Mr Biderik tendente a beneficiar la oficina, y Mr Biderik como represalia rechaza también los proyectos de Baker y de Haas.

Aunque Mr Biderik no es partidario de nada en perjuicio de la Censura; la actitud de Baker y Haas lo obligan a serlo y de ahí que la organización en general no es eficiente.

Estas anomalías en la Censura, lo serían disgusto entre Biderik, Baker y Haas obedecen a la expulsión del Censur Bogo

protejido y colocado por Mr Haas.

The Filson Historical Society

DISCURSO DEL PRESIDENTE DEL PARTIDO UNIONISTA, Sr. Antonio R. Barceló,

En el Hearing celebrado en el Salón de la Cámara de Representantes
el día veintitres de Abril de mil novecientos diecinueve.

Señor Presidente:
Distinguidos Representantes del Congreso de los Estados Unidos:

Me doy cuenta de la inmensa responsabilidad mía en estos momentos. Soy el último en hablar en este acto solemne. Hablo en nombre de la Unión de Puerto Rico. Represento al Partido que en las últimas elecciones obtuvo una mayoría de treinta mil votos sobre el partido republicano y de setenta mil sobre el partido socialista, no llegando a constituir ambas agrupaciones juntas un número de votantes igual al de los votantes unionistas, que excedieron de noventa mil.

¿Qué desean los unionistas? ¿Qué quieren los Republicanos Puertorriqueños? ¿Qué piden los socialistas? Este es el problema que de una manera confusa, vaga, e indecisa, ha desfilado en estos hearings ante vosotros. Yo voy a aclarar los términos de ese problema. Somos los unionistas el centro, por decirlo así, de la opinión puertorriqueña. Habéis visto aquí a nuestra juventud representada bajo el nombre de Asociación Independentista, pidiéndonos a todo trance, inmediatamente, la independencia de Pto. Rico. Ellos militan en las filas de nuestro partido. Hablan en nombre del sentimiento general de la isla. Son ellos la voz del porvenir que alienta y fortalece nuestro espíritu. Habéis visto, de otro lado, a hombres, ya maduros, produciéndose contra ese sentimiento y rebuscando soluciones contrarias a la realidad y a la naturaleza de las cosas; hombres que, en su convencionalismo llegan al extremo de predisponer vuestro ánimo contra nosotros acusándonos de desleales o traidores a nuestra bandera y llevando a nuestras almas la desconfianza y el desaliento.

Yo debo decir que el Partido Unión de Puerto Rico se siente tan americano, en el alto concepto de esta palabra, como el que más; que los unionistas hemos bebido en las fuentes de vuestras instituciones y de los grandes principios que forman nuestro credo y que somos, como vosotros, señores representantes, los descendientes de los que emigraron de Europa, libres de prejuicios de raza y de preocupaciones legendarias, con el ansia de establecer en el continente americano, sobre bases firmes, la vida de la libertad y del derecho.

Cuando los Estados Unidos entraron en la reciente guerra mundial, el partido Unión de Puerto Rico, constituido en asamblea magna y soberana, levantó su voz hasta vuestro Presidente para ofrecerles voluntariamente el concurso de sus hombres, cuando aún no habíais legislado en vuestro Congreso estableciendo el servicio obligatorio. Y en ese momento supremo, cuando mayores pruebas de lealtad se requería de todo buen americano, los republicanos, nuestros adversarios, los que alardean aquí de un americanismo mayor que el nuestro, los que de modo implícito y velado, por boca de sus representantes en este hearing nos llaman desleales, trataron de ridiculizar nuestro patriótico acuerdo colocándolo en un cuadro y en sitio culminante de su más autorizado periódico "El Tiempo", a la vez que hicieron uso de aquella actitud nuestra, en el pasado período electoral, para llevar al ánimo de los electores la idea de que los habíamos comprometido sin su voluntad en una empresa a la cual no estaban obligados ni se sentían dispuestos.

He dicho que somos sinceramente americanos y dije la otra noche que el Partido Unionista deseaba que los destinos del pueblo de Puerto Rico estuvieran unidos para siempre a los destinos de vuestra gran nación. Os quise decir con ello, que Puerto Rico desea vivir y desenvolverse su vida hasta llegar a la mayor penetración posible con el pueblo americano al amparo de esa gloriosa bandera de las estrellas y las franjas. Sentado esto, hay ahora una cuestión esencial que divide a unionistas y a republicanos: la incorporación o no de Puerto Rico a los Estados Unidos.

Ese es todo el problema y es ésta toda la cuestión, la única cuestión, que desde el punto de vista de vosotros está casi resuelta desde el momento en que nos disteis el Acta Foraker, una ley especial en virtud de la cual Puerto Rico, con personalidad propia se regía como un pueblo distinto de vosotros y bajo una organización distinta a la de vuestros territorios incorporados. Y desde el momento también en que por medio del Acta Jones, que es igualmente una ley especial, aplicásteis a Puerto Rico, como parte de su constitución los principios de la constitución americana, no implícitamente como resultado de la ciudadanía que nos otorgásteis, sino explícitamente, con la sola diferencia de que dejásteis a nuestra Legislatura la facultad de establecer el Gran Tratado y con el propósito de que rigiésemos y encauzásemos nuestra vida bajo los altos principios de vuestra constitución.

El Partido Unionista rechaza la incorporación de Puerto Rico a los Estados Unidos. Nuestro leader Muñoz Rivera así lo declaró el año 1916 y toda nuestra política y todas nuestras declaraciones han estado siempre contestes en este punto esencial.

No es ésta una cuestión puramente sentimental; es una cuestión económica y es una cuestión étnica que está de acuerdo con los principios generales de la naturaleza humana. Nuestra mentalidad no es la vuestra; nuestra isla está separada de vosotros

por muchas millas de distancia; nuestros intereses son en algunos momentos incompatibles con los vuestros; no habláis nuestro idioma, no podéis encauzar nuestro pueblo en la manera y forma como nosotros podemos encauzarlo, porque no lo conocéis. Veinte años de proceso, durante los cuales habéis pretendido establecer un sistema de americanización que prácticamente tendía a anular la personalidad de nuestro pueblo, han demostrado cuán grande es la equivocación que cometieron los que constituyeron aquí aquella Asamblea Legislativa en la cual estaba de una parte la voluntad del pueblo y de otra parte un Consejo Ejecutivo, nombrado por vuestro Presidente, que actuaba como una alta Cámara, oponiéndose a toda evolución natural y lógica de este pueblo hacia los verdaderos principios de libertad y democracia.

¿Qué significó ese proceso de veinte años? ¿Cuáles fueron prácticamente sus resultados en la educación de nuestro pueblo? La pregunta es fácil de contestar si comparamos los esfuerzos hechos por nuestra Legislatura y el dinero gastado en vuestras escuelas con el resultado de las mismas en el presente bajo la dirección y la influencia de ese poder ejecutivo. Se pretendió enseñar a nuestros niños en el idioma inglés y se insistió una y otra vez



"PUES BIEN; YO DEBO ACEPTAR LA RESPONSABILIDAD QUE TENGO ANTE EL PUEBLO, EN ESTA CUESTION DE DIGNIDAD. NO VENDEREMOS NUESTRA LIBERTAD A NINGUN PRECIO. LA QUEREMOS AUNQUE NOS MURAMOS DE HAMBRE."

en tan enorme disparate sin atender la voz ni la protesta de nuestro pueblo. Cada uno de vosotros podréis comprender la tortura que se forma en la mente de un niño cuando en vez de recibir, en su propio idioma, las explicaciones de la asignatura que se le trata de enseñar, las recibe en un idioma extraño. Aparte de otros motivos que yo no quiero exponer en estos momentos, ésa y no otra es la causa principal de que unos cuantos miles de puertorriqueños no sepan leer ni escribir en Puerto Rico. Niños hubo que salieron del tercer grado de las escuelas habiendo aprendido mecánicamente unas cuantas cosas en inglés, pero sin saber leer ni escribir ni explicar el concepto de las cosas que habían aprendido. No sabían de ellos mismos ni de la naturaleza que los rodea una sola palabra. Sus padres, pobres campesinos, no teniendo con qué sostenerlos en la escuela y necesitando en cambio de su ayuda, tuvieron que resolverse al fin a desistir de su instrucción.

Y no es que seamos refractarios a la enseñanza del idioma inglés. Por el contrario, reconocemos y sentimos la gran necesidad de poseerlo como un factor importante a nuestra vida; pero queremos enseñarlo como una asignatura preferente, tal y como

lo aprendieron estos hombres que os han acompañado por la isla y que os han hablado en vuestro propio idioma.

En lo económico, dependiendo como dependemos de vuestras tarifas, este pueblo está a merced de ellas, sufriendo continuamente crisis tremendas que agitan y commueven en lo más íntimo sus elementos naturales de vida, trastornándolos, y haciéndonos perder toda orientación posible en el camino de nuestra seguridad y en nuestros propósitos de progreso y bienestar. En virtud de la protección que dispensásteis a nuestro azúcar, Puerto Rico extendió sus plantaciones de caña, ocupando hasta las más altas colinas de nuestro país. Y tuvimos un progreso grande y vertiginoso que influyó enormemente en el ánimo de nuestro pueblo hacia un porvenir de mayor felicidad. Hicimos grandes presupuestos para completar nuestras escuelas y nuestra red de carreteras. A más de cinco millones, contando con los presupuestos municipales, ascendieron nuestras asignaciones anuales para escuelas y a más de un millón las que hicimos para carreteras, sin contar con los empréstitos que por más de tres millones hemos votado en nuestra legislatura para esta importante rama de nuestro servicio público. Prácticamente las carreteras de nuestra Isla forman una gran tela-araña que se extiende de Norte a Sur y de Este a Oeste, no habiendo una sola población a donde no se pueda ir en automóvil.

Y cuando estábamos en el camino de esta gran prosperidad decidisteis, como una medida necesaria para vuestros fines, rebajar en vuestras tarifas el tipo protector de nuestros azúcares, deteniendo, de un sólo golpe, con esta medida fatal, todo el progreso de Puerto Rico y alterando en todos sus órdenes su vida financiera; porque aunque tenemos otros productos, como el café, el tabaco y las frutas, ninguno de ellos emplea tantos brazos, ninguno de ellos llega hasta el fondo de las necesidades de nuestro pueblo como el producto azucarero. Y el conflicto vino a pesar de nuestras protestas y de nuestras demandas. Nuestros clamores se perdieron en el espacio, nuestro pueblo se encontró envuelto en la mayor miseria y nuestro tesoro tuvo que apelar a serias medidas de economía para poder nivelar los gastos con los ingresos de la Isla. Se habló en Washington de la necesidad de imponerle un tributo al café extranjero para proteger el nuestro y yo recuerdo las frases de uno de vuestros representantes que dijo: "No estamos dispuestos a proteger a un millón de habitantes para encarecer la vida de cien millones y gravar así el plato de nuestros pobres". No pensásteis seguramente en ese momento que al propio tiempo favorecíais a unos cuantos productores de arroz en los Estados Unidos sin considerar que ese era el alimento principal del pobre en Puerto Rico. Hicisteis vuestra tarifa de acuerdo con vuestro pensamiento, desde vuestros puntos de vista, y en consonancia con vuestras propias necesidades, sin tener en cuenta las nuestras. Declaráis, por ejemplo, libre la lana, el vestido de vuestros pobres, y no hacéis lo mismo con el algodón que es el vestido de los nuestros. Y en este conflicto de intereses, en esta gran cuestión financiera, está precisamente todo el problema de nuestra Isla en relación con vosotros. Pasada la guerra, que levantó por un azar de nuestro destino el precio de nuestro azúcar, habremos de encontrarnos otra vez frente a la gran crisis que provocásteis en nuestro suelo y que trajo nuestra ruina, porque las circunstancias no han variado. Volveremos a sentir aquellos terribles efectos que determinaron la quiebra de unas cuantas factorías de azúcar y que obligaron a muchos colonos puertorriqueños a entregar sus tierras hipotecadas a las grandes corporaciones porque no pudieron cumplir sus compromisos. Volverá la crisis, y sin nuestro azúcar y nuestro café protegidos, que son nuestros productos principales, yo os quiero hacer presente la enormidad extraordinaria que resulta del hecho de que nosotros estemos obligados a vivir bajo el margen protector de vuestra tarifa, en virtud de la cual, vuestros productos monopolizan nuestro mercado levantando sus precios dos o tres veces más de lo que podríamos obtener en cualquier otro mercado del mundo y de lo que podríamos obtener de vosotros mismos si no rigiese aquí el arancel protector de vuestros productos industriales, porque cuando vendéis para el extranjero, lo hacéis en competencia con el precio de otros mercados, mientras que a nosotros nos aplicáis vuestros precios domésticos, y aún a veces excediéndonos del margen de vuestra tarifa en virtud del monopolio que entraña tal sistema de tributación. De los sesenta y cinco millones que representa nuestra importación, os podemos asegurar enfáticamente que veinte millones, por lo menos, representan el tributo de Puerto Rico a las industrias de vuestro país.

Abrió vuestra tarifa, tomad los artículos de primera necesidad, el arroz, por ejemplo, que estuvo gravado con dos centavos de derecho hasta el 1914 y desde entonces con un centavo por libra, lo cual representó antes un tributo para nosotros de dos millones ochocientos mil dólares, y representa ahora un tributo de un millón cuatrocientos mil dólares sobre el millón cuatrocientos mil quintales de dicho cereal que en promedio consume anualmente Puerto Rico. Y si seguís leyendo vuestro arancel veréis que cada uno de los artículos que producís y que nos imponéis es

lá protegido por un veinte, un cincuenta y hasta un ciento por ciento sobre el valor y comprenderéis la importancia del gravamen que eso representa para nuestra vida. Comprenderéis entonces lo que significa la gran dificultad que entraña ese problema de que os habló el senador socialista señor Santiago Iglesias tomando como punto de partida de sus argumentos los beneficios que obtenemos hoy en virtud de los precios anormales que ha traído la guerra, pero sin tener en cuenta los demás factores que antes actuaron y que después actuarán inevitablemente, una vez establecida la normalidad en el mundo. Ciertamente que el salario de nuestros jornaleros no es en muchas regiones de nuestra Isla lo que debe ser, de acuerdo con sus necesidades en el presente y con los beneficios que obtienen determinadas industrias; pero este problema al fin, no puede hablar como ha pretendido el señor Iglesias, en contra de nuestra capacidad, porque este conflicto entre el capital y el trabajo es una cuestión de carácter mundial, no exclusivamente nuestro, pues otros pueblos que disponen de sus destinos y que están en mejores condiciones que nosotros, no han podido resolverlo todavía. Pero es que el líder socialista, que representa por primera vez casualmente a Puerto Rico en nuestro Senado, ha tomado este problema para él y para su política en contra de nosotros tomando como un asunto solo previsto por él y estudiado por él, lo que es precisamente nuestra inmensa preocupación, lo que un día y otro día es objeto entre nosotros de grandes controversias en que tiene que intervenir nuestra Legislatura y nuestro Gobierno. Pero él, que no es puertorriqueño, ha querido declararse aquí como el único apóstol rendidor de Puerto Rico. El, maliciosamente, ha omitido decirnos que nuestra Legislatura—en donde está en mayoría nuestro partido desde el año 1904 en que se constituyó esta Unión de Puerto Rico, vencedora en todas las elecciones desde entonces y muchas veces dueña absoluta de la legislación, pues las minorías no pudieron traer a nuestras Cámaras un solo representante.—él no os ha dicho, repito, una sola palabra de las leyes que hemos votado tendientes a remediar esos males; no os ha dicho q. hemos votado una ley de indemnizaciones a obreros, tan liberal como no la hay en muchos de vuestros Estados; no os ha dicho que hemos votado la ley prescribiendo las ocho horas para el trabajo del obrero en Pto. Rico en los servicios públicos, lo cual ha traído como consecuencia el establecimiento de igual medida en todas las obras de carácter privado; no os ha dicho que hemos votado una ley regulando el trabajo de las mujeres y niños; que hemos votado otra de hogares seguros y que estamos esperando llevarla a cabo cuando estemos en condiciones de hacer el empréstito que prescribe dicha ley; y como éstas, un gran número que yo haré que formen parte de esta exposición. Y por último, no os ha dicho el líder socialista que hemos tenido en Puerto Rico el valor de otorgarle el privilegio del voto a los ciudadanos de 21 años de edad, sepan o no leer y escribir, medida a la cual debe el representante socialista su puesto en la Legislatura. Seguramente él no se atreverá fuera de aquí acusar a ese pueblo, que le otorgó sus votos, de no estar preparado para el gobierno de su país. Cuando él va a pedirle sus votos a nuestros campesinos explotando la miseria y el dolor de los que no pueden remediarla, y presentando a los demás partidos como culpables de aquella situación, entonces él aparenta creer en la capacidad de ese pueblo, entonces le cree consciente, le habla de sus derechos, y de la necesidad de ejercerlos eligiéndolo su representante, para después venir aquí, ante vosotros a acusarlo de inepto e inconsciente, lo cual podría llevaros a la conclusión de que el señor Iglesias es aquí un representante de la inconsciencia puertorriqueña; y es que el señor Iglesias coincide, por inexplicable afinidad con vuestro representante Cannon, y él así lo ha declarado, en el punto aquel de nuestra incapacidad para regir nuestros destinos e imponer por nosotros mismos remedio a nuestros males. No sabemos lo que diría el señor Iglesias si nosotros, coincidiendo ahora con sus propias ideas, restringiéramos el sufragio en nuestra Legislatura. ¡Ah! Seguramente entonces él alegraría que nuestro pueblo está capacitado para elegir, y volvería sobre sus propios argumentos. Todo lo cual demuestra, señores representantes, que esto de la falta de capacidad no es, al fin, otra cosa que el recurso usado por todos los tiranos en el mundo y por todos los que aspiran a serlo. No estaban preparados los esclavos americanos para ser libres, al decir de los esclavistas. Y lo fueron gracias a Lincoln y a los esfuerzos del noble pueblo americano. No estaban preparados tampoco nuestros esclavos para ser libres en el año setenta y tres, y lo fueron gracias a nuestra decisión y a nuestra determinación. ¡Ah! Y quienes son los que están preparados en cada pueblo para regir sus destinos? Hay un grupo de hombres inteligentes que salen de las escuelas y de las universidades en todos los países y que se levantan por su inteligencia y por su cultura sobre el nivel de los demás, y son ellos los llamados en cada pueblo a dirigir y a gobernar las multitudes. A éstas solo les toca prepararse para aceptar un buen grado el privilegio que la naturaleza otorgó a sus directores y para ser gobernadas y cooperar al buen gobierno de acuerdo con el estudio y la observación que aquellos hagan de sus propias necesidades. ¿Es que el argumento debe ser aquel que pretende nivelar al hombre ignorante despojado de facultades, que no quiso darle la naturaleza, con el más inteligente y capaz? ¿Es que los que aran allá nuestras tierras detrás de los bueyes y las mulas, deben estar a la altura de los que nos encontramos aquí, para que entonces tengamos derecho a regir nuestros destinos? Seguramente que ni los propios Estados Unidos, dentro de tan estrecho y original criterio, estarían tampoco preparados para gobernarse a sí mismos.

Pero hemos de echar a un lado todos estos argumentos, hijos del convencionalismo, cuando no de la pasión. Yo sí con religio-

sidad las declaraciones de nuestro simpático representante J. Cannon. Y se las agradece desde lo más profundo de mi corazón, porque ellas nos dan la oportunidad de rebatirlas. El nos habla sinceramente y expresaba aquellas ideas que le habían sido sugeridas a su llegada a Puerto Rico y que le fueron sugeridas en las dos ocasiones que él visitó anteriormente a nuestra sesión conjunta, de que él habría de recorrer nuestra Isla, y un conjunto de hombres preparados para dirigirlo en mayor proporción que lo que él creyó que iba a encontrar y sus juicios habrían de ser rectificadas. La diferencia está en que cuando Cannon vino la primera y la segunda vez fué dirigido y llevado por los elementos oficiales del gobierno, que estuvieron y están aún empeñados en ocultar lo que somos, lo que valemos y lo que podemos representar en nuestro pueblo. Y esta vez él, vuestro venerable representante, ha ido en su recorrida por la isla llevado en brazos del pueblo, ha podido sentir las palpitaciones de su corazón muy de cerca y beber en la fuente de sus propias ideas.

Puerto Rico, señores, lo espera todo de vosotros. ¿La Independencia? ¿El Estado? ¿El Gobierno Propio? Vosotros se lo habéis preguntado ya al pueblo y ahora os lo va a decir por mi boca el Partido Unión de Puerto Rico. Naturalmente que la finalidad de nuestro problema es que algún día podamos regir de un modo absoluto los destinos de nuestra patria. En un principio el partido que represento tuvo para tal finalidad dos soluciones: Estado Independencia. Y tomó el acuerdo de solicitar antes un régimen que le permitiera el gobierno de sus asuntos locales y durante el cual pudiera demostrar su preparación para cualquiera de dichas dos finalidades.

Un día vuestro Presidente Taft dijo desde las alturas de vuestro Capitolio a vuestro Congreso que nos otorgáseis la ciudadanía americana sin temor de que ello implicase el compromiso de la estadidad. Otro día vuestros estadistas Stimpson y Root declararon que Puerto Rico tenía que regirse por leyes especiales, pues que éramos un pueblo de distinta raza y de distinto pensamiento, que no podía unirse al pueblo americano y que debía ser gobernado bajo el principio que tenía Inglaterra establecido en sus colonias. Otro día, ante una comisión de Puerto Rico, de la cual formaba parte el que tiene el honor de dirigiros la palabra, el Presidente de vuestro Comité de Asuntos Insulares dijo que no debíamos pensar en la Estadidad. Puerto Rico entonces se preparó para declarar una sola y única aspiración: su independencia, puesto que él no podía conformarse con permanecer bajo un régimen de gobierno colonial. Y esta es la situación en que encontramos a la Unión de Puerto Rico.

No apuramos, sin embargo, nuestro problema; sabemos que tenemos necesidad de esta Isla bendita para vuestros fines internacionales, porque ella es un punto estratégico a la entrada del Mar Caribe y en el camino del Canal de Panamá y nosotros estamos obligados a respetar esto y a convenir en esa alta necesidad, porque ella es justa, porque ella es necesaria y porque ella es conveniente para nosotros mismos. Nosotros estamos dispuestos a aceptar y a convenir en que, pues que sois los más fuertes, los que estáis mejor preparados, debéis tener la hegemonía del Hemisferio Occidental, y sabemos que tenemos que aceptar cualquier solución que favorezca esos altos y nobles propósitos que tienden a establecer y a afianzar la seguridad de un gobierno libre en nuestra América, y sabemos también que tenemos que llegar con vosotros a una fórmula de gobierno que concilie todos esos grandes intereses, pero que nos permita marchar al porvenir abiertamente, sin prejuicios, esperando que Dios y la naturaleza resuelvan aquellas cuestiones que los hombres no pueden ni deben violentar.

Dados ahora un gobierno en virtud del cual podamos regir todos nuestros intereses locales, concededle a nuestro pueblo la elección de su gobernador por el sufragio, y que todos los demás funcionarios ejecutivos sean elegidos o nombrados en Puerto Rico, según lo disponga nuestra Legislatura; que todas las facultades legislativas para solucionar nuestros propios problemas nos sean otorgadas, de tal manera que si algún día llega a existir entre vosotros y nosotros un conflicto de intereses, podamos hacer nuestras propias tarifas arancelarias, como lo hace el Canadá respecto a la propia Inglaterra. Y no existiendo así conflictos, ni fricciones, Puerto Rico se desarrollará como él quiera, a su manera, y vosotros tendréis la facultad de intervenir, cuando queráis, por la acción de vuestro Congreso, en el momento en que creáis que nos hemos excedido de nuestras facultades.

Esta es la única política posible entre vosotros y nosotros; política de amor, de atracción, de paz y libertad; aquella política que está de acuerdo con vuestros principios republicanos de gobierno, la que aprendimos de vuestros padres, los próceres americanos, la que aprenden día por día nuestros niños en las escuelas, aquella en virtud de la cual cada pueblo se gobierna de acuerdo con su voluntad y ejerce su propia determinación. Si ésto hacéis, Puerto Rico caminará hacia un estado de felicidad tal que de seguro ni ustedes ni nosotros sabremos responder cuál será el pensamiento de este pueblo en el porvenir acerca de vosotros y cuáles las relaciones que deben mantenerse entre ambos pueblos.

Ahora bien, si nos preguntáis qué queremos, no debemos contestaros otra cosa que lo que queremos es nuestra independencia, y si nos la ofrecéis ahora mismo, tendremos que contestaros que ahora mismo estamos dispuestos a aceptarla; porque es ese un sentimiento de dignidad latente en todo noble ciudadano que ama a su país y está orgulloso de la tierra en q. ha nacido. Vosotros mismos no concebís al ciudadano que se niegue a recibir la libertad que se le ofrece. Pto. Rico será o no será independiente, pero en nuestro corazón estará vivo siempre el sentimiento de su inde-

pendencia y pronto a salir de nuestros labios el grito q. proclama el ideal mientras no sepamos cuál ha de ser al fin nuestro destino en el mundo. La Unión de Puerto Rico ha hecho siempre estas declaraciones terminantes. Ahora mismo, con motivo de vuestra visita a la isla, nuestro órgano "La Democracia" ha venido publicando artículos dirigidos a vosotros e insertando en sus columnas las declaraciones de nuestras asambleas políticas; las declaraciones y los discursos de nuestro gran "leader" Luis Muñoz Rivera; las controversias que en determinadas ocasiones hemos tenido con nuestros adversarios; los discursos pronunciados por el actual Comisionado Residente en apoyo de nuestros ideales, todo un conjunto, por último, de datos y detalles que yo omito leeros en este momento para no cansar más vuestra atención, pero que os los entrego para que formen parte de esta exposición mía y queden en el record de este hearing.

Y voy a concluir. Los puertorriqueños no debemos jamás presentar a vosotros nuestro problema en una forma agresiva, en aquella forma que implique la idea de que no queremos saber de vosotros ni convivir con vosotros, porque no es ése el sentimiento de Puerto Rico. El sentimiento de Puerto Rico es todo lo contrario. Puerto Rico os quiere y os ama como a hermanos, y os agradece grandemente todos los beneficios recibidos hasta el presente de vuestra liberalidad y de vuestra generosidad y tiene puesta su fe y su confianza en vuestro pueblo; pero creo también que los americanos no deben expresar jamás ante nosotros idea alguna que implique su afán de predominio sobre la base de ser nuestros conquistadores y los representantes de un pueblo grande que se cree superior cuando le habla a un pueblo humilde y pequeño, porque eso hiera el sentimiento de nuestra dignidad y rebela nuestra condición latina.

El Gobernador Yager, cuando llegó a Puerto Rico y saludó a nuestro pueblo, influenciado seguramente por los que aquí han pretendido siempre vejarnos y deprimirnos, nos dijo enfáticamente hablando entonces con el gesto de un dominador que creyó tener delante un pueblo hostil: "En Pto. Rico no se arriará jamás la bandera americana". A través de aquellas palabras amenazadoras, vimos en nuestro pensamiento la escuadra y los poderosos ejércitos americanos detrás del Gobernador, imponiendo la hermosa bandera que solamente debía llegar por el amor a los corazones libres.

Y cuando tuve una oportunidad le dije al Gobernador: "¿No hubiera sido mejor que le hubiérais dicho a nuestro pueblo: 'Yo tengo la seguridad de que la bandera americana no se arriará jamás de Puerto Rico, porque nosotros hemos de hacer lo posible porque no lo quieran ni lo permitan los puertorriqueños?'"

Representante Answell:—¿Ha dicho usted que quiere la independencia ahora mismo?

Barceló:—Yo no he solicitado a nombre del Partido Unionista la independencia inmediata.

Representante Answell:—Pero, ¿la queréis, sin embargo, para algún día?

Barceló:—Naturalmente.

Representante Answell:—¿Para cuándo?

Barceló:—El problema deberá decidirse después que los Estados Unidos den a Puerto Rico su gobierno propio, hagan el estudio de sus condiciones y de su situación económica, los medios de poderla conjurar para el porvenir y todas las otras cuestiones que deben tenerse en cuenta.

Representante Answell:—¿Pero ustedes querían la independencia ahora si se la diéramos?

Barceló:—Yo dije que si a nosotros se nos ofrece la independencia inmediata, naturalmente la tomaríamos en seguida, porque a eso no se debe nunca contestar negativamente.

Representante Answell:—¿Queréis las asignaciones antes que os concedamos la independencia?

Barceló:—El Partido Unionista no ha pedido asignaciones; ahora yo creo que los Estados Unidos, mientras disponen de nuestra vida internacional y aún de nuestra vida local, están obligados a protegernos. El problema de vuestra tarifa nos coloca en condiciones de tener necesidad de vosotros, porque somos pobres; pobres, porque no podemos regir nuestros impuestos, ni tenemos lo suficiente para desarrollarnos y desarrollarnos.

Representante Answell:—¿Necesitáis nuestra ayuda, sin embargo?

Barceló:—La necesitamos porque nuestras mayores fuentes de ingresos, que podrían derivarse de nuestras Aduanas, pertenecen a los Estados Unidos en virtud de su tarifa protectora, y faltándonos eso, naturalmente tenemos que pedirles auxilio; ahora si nos dan la independencia, creo que los Estados Unidos siempre deberán ayudar a Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico pide la independencia bajo su protección y los Estados Unidos estarán obligados por su propio honor a defender y auxiliar al pueblo que se coloca bajo su amparo. Quiero decirles lo siguiente: las tarifas americanas aprovechan casi exclusivamente a los azucareros y a los tabaqueros. De este último producto, todo su beneficio se queda en los Estados Unidos, porque está en manos de una corporación que vive y que gasta su dinero allí; en el azúcar pasa lo mismo, por lo menos en un 75 por ciento, de modo que el balance entre nuestras importaciones y nuestras exportaciones se va fuera de Puerto Rico.

Representante Answell:—Pero yo quiero que usted me diga si prefiere las asignaciones a la independencia.

Barceló:—Pues bien; yo debo aceptar la responsabilidad que tengo ante el pueblo, en esta cuestión de dignidad. NO VENDEREMOS NUESTRA LIBERTAD A NINGUN PRECIO; LA QUEREMOS, AUNQUE NOS MURAMOS DE HAMBRE.