

March 3, 1917.

Sirs:-

In the first place I desire to inform you officially that the so-called Jones Bill, which is the new Organic Act for Porto Rico, was approved by President Wilson yesterday afternoon, March 2, 1917.

I desire also to take this occasion to express to you my cordial felicitations and congratulations upon this auspicious event. It is the consummation of a long series of efforts on the part of the Government and the people of Porto Rico for a new and better constitution for the government of this island.

Inasmuch, however, that this new Organic Act takes effect upon its approval and also provides some important changes in the executive departments, it seems to be necessary that I should immediately make some important appointments which I have sent to you to-day. I make these temporary appointments immediately, because it seems necessary and proper that they should be made at once and receive immediate confirmation by the Executive Council; but I desire it to be understood that the permanent appointments for all of these positions require the approval of the Senate of Porto Rico which has not yet been elected.

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It seems also to be necessary, under the provisions of the new Organic Act, for me to assign at once to some executive department of the government, certain bureaus, commissions and other offices which are to-day left without direct connection with the executive offices, and I hereby make the following assignments of the bureaus, and institutions which have heretofore been under the Department of Labor, Charities and Correction:

1.- All the penal institutions, including the penitentiary and the reform school at Mayaguez, to the Department of Justice;

2.- All the so-called charity institutions, including the insane asylum and the blind asylum, to the Department of Health, Sanitation and Charities;

3.- The boys' charity school and the girls' charity school, to the Department of Education; and, finally,

4.- The bureau of labor, to the Department of Agriculture and Labor.

I also hereby assign to the Department of Agriculture and Labor, the work of the commissioners of agriculture and the agricultural experiment station at Rio Piedras.

I also hereby assign to the Department of Health, Sanitation and Charities, the entire work and duties heretofore performed by the Director of Sanitation.

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As to other bureaus and offices, I shall probably make assignments at some future time.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

The Honorable,

The Executive Council of Porto Rico,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society