

December 13, 1913.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Greif:

I was not able to write you on my trip, and when I returned to my office this evening I found your letter and enclosures of the 12th instant on my desk.

I am in hopes and I believe that all of the information you get will corroborate the opinion of Mr. Neagle that the question of citizenship for Porto Ricans has nothing to do with the matter of our revenues. That has been the idea upon which I have proceeded all along in considering the question of citizenship.

Now as to matters in Ponce, I want to write you confidentially and frankly concerning the situation there and ask for your help and suggestions. In the first place, there are three vacancies in the Council of Ponce that should be filled promptly by appointment of the Governor. Lists of names from which to make these appointments have been submitted by the central committee of the party in control of the city; but under the law the Governor is empowered to go outside of this list in case he deems it advisable, and I do deem it advisable in this case, because the Unionist Party in Ponce seems to be at odds with Don Simón, the Mayor, who is also a

Unionist, and I fear that the appointment of any of these men will embitter and continue the differences between the Mayor and the Council, which seems to me unwise and unfortunate. I should like, therefore, to appoint as councilmen men who would try to harmonize the differences and work together with Don Simón as far as possible for the good of the city; and there are several matters of importance now confronting the city of Ponce that a good Council could handle with benefit to the town.

The matter is further complicated by the peculiar arrangement for appointing the Dock Commission. Under the law, as I understand it, the Governor must appoint five men on that Commission in the following manner: 2 must be taken from the Council; 2 from independent citizens outside, and 1, the fifth man, must be appointed from a list of nine to be submitted to the Governor by the Council. So you see that in one way or another the Council can control the Dock Commission by having possibly three of the commissioners. Now I have been thinking that if I could find three good independent, competent businessmen who would accept positions on the Council, it would greatly improve the material of which I could name the two Dock Commissioners who are to be taken from the Council, for I might select both these commissioners from the three who would be appointed on the Council, and then with three good additional members of the Council, that body might be

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greatly strengthened for other purposes. I have not examined the list of names submitted by the party committee to fill the vacancy, but I am inclined against all of them on the ground above stated. It is a complicated situation, and I want to do the best possible thing for the city.

Think it over and write me your opinion, and if you feel like doing so, suggest a number of good businessmen in Ponce whom you know and who you think would be willing to accept the duty of serving their city either as councilmen or dock commissioners or both.

I have just gotten back from my trip and had dinner. I am tired, of course, but I had a great time and saw a great deal of the Island, and met face to face and talked with a large number of fine men, mostly Porto Ricans, of course, who are the officials and leaders of their respective municipalities. I am greatly impressed both with the Island and its people. We all had a royal time at Guánica and I am certainly coming back.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. A. J. Greif,

Guánica Centrale,

Ensenada, Porto Rico.

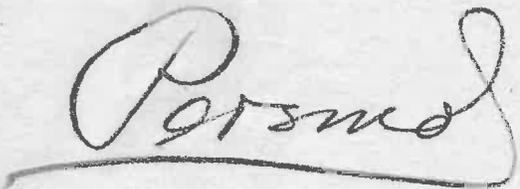
PONCE OFFICE,
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

NEW YORK OFFICE,
63 WILLIAM STREET.

ENSENADA, P. R.

December 12, 1913.



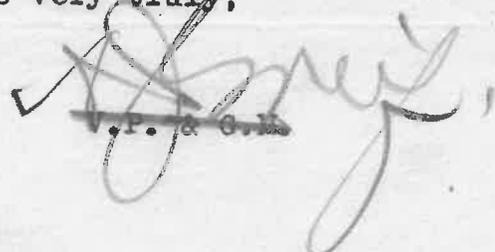
My dear Governor;

On the line that I talked to you a few days ago, I am handing you copy of letter from our Mr. Neagle of San Juan, in connection with the form of government now in operation in the District of Columbia.

Anything else that you would like to know in connection with this ask Mr. Neagle or write me and I will get the information. In the meantime, we are expecting to hear from persons in the United States to whom we have written in regard to the countries that are handled by an autonomy government and also Canada and other matters that I spoke to you about.

As soon as we have replies, we will let you have them.

Yours very truly,



J. P. & G. M.

AJG/JB - 2c

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

COPY.

San Juan, P. R., December 4th, 1913.

File No. 1-42

A. J. Greif, Esq.,
Guanica Centrale,
Ensenada, P. R.

Dear Mr. Greif:-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 30th, 1913. The first part of your letter really does not call for the services of a lawyer, but for a teacher of government. In years gone by, I was able to bluff the faculty of Harvard University to the extent that they let me teach government, and some of the knowledge which I then had to have, stays with me, consequently, I can give you a real dissertation on the government of the District of Columbia.

The history of the Government of the District of Columbia is set forth somewhat at large in the opinion of the Supreme Court in Metropolitan Railroad Company vs the District of Columbia, 132 U.S. 1, but with that you are not particularly interested.

Prior to 1871, the Government of the District of Columbia was strictly municipal in character, and the United States took no part in the local government, any more than a State Government interferes in the administration of its cities. In 1871, however, a legislature was established in the District with all the apparatus ^{of} a distinct government. A governor and a legislature were created, together with a board of public works. This system lasted until 1874, when a new law was passed vesting the powers then exercised by the governor and board of public works in a commission of three persons, appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate. This Act continued in force until the Act of June 11th, 1878, when a new law was passed, under which the present form of government exists.

This Act provides that the District of Columbia shall constitute a municipal corporation.

11x98

----- . The President, with the consent of the Senate, appoints two private persons to serve as commissioners, for three years, and designates an army officer of the Engineering Corps, above the rank of Captain, as the third member of the Commission. The Citizen members must be three years resident of Washington. The commission elects a president yearly. The Act provides that the commission shall apply all taxes collected and other revenues to the payment of current expenses. All estimates of proposed expenditures must be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, and after approval by him, Congress appropriates fifty per cent of the total budget from the general funds of the United States, and the other fifty per cent of the budget is levied on the taxable property and privileges within the district.

All taxes are paid into the Treasury of the United States, and are then paid out upon proper requisitions by the Commissioners.

The District of Columbia constitutes a collection district for the collection of Customs and Internal Revenues. All monies collected from Customs or Internal Revenue are immediately paid into the Treasury of the United States. The above, I think, will cover what you desire. If not, I should be glad to give you any ^{further} information that I have or can obtain. There is no provision that Customs' revenue and Internal revenue shall be specifically used for the District of Columbia, and such a provision would be unnecessary, for the reason that Congress itself pays one half of all the expenses out of its general revenue which is obtained from Customs and Internal revenue.

With regard to your second question. If citizenship were given by the United States to Porto Rico, that would not abrogate, automatically or otherwise, the present arrangement by which Customs collections and Internal Revenue collections on the Island remain here.

Under the Organic Act, Congress has provided that all duties and taxes

collected in Porto Rico shall be transferred to the local Treasury of Porto Rico, to be expended as required by law, for the benefit of Porto Rico, instead of being paid in to the Treasury of the United States. Porto Rico being a territory, Congress may make any provision with regard to revenues of the Federal Government collected here, that it wishes, and the granting of citizenship would have no effect, so long as Porto Rico remains a territory.

FEN/LCS

Very truly yours,

(Sgt) FRANCIS E. NEAGLE.

BR-4c

The Filson Historical Society

December 26, 1913.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I have at last after a great deal of trouble and difficulty finally gotten the matter of the Ponce Pier Commission steeled. I had to make a new slate because of a declination of Mr. Armstrong and of the fact that Mr. Salazar was not eligible to the Council because it seems he was not a taxpayer in his own name, and so at last had to persuade Mr. F. Manuel Toro to go on the dock commission in place of his father, because his father's name was not in the list of 9 suggested by the Council, and I could not go outside of that list for the 5th man.

Mr. Toro, Jr., kindly consented to this arrangement and so it is settled, at least for the present.

The Pier Commission will consist of Messrs. Vidal Vilaret and Agustin Arce, from the Council; Mr. Salazar and Mr. Domenech, from the city at large, and Mr. F. Manuel Toro from the list of 9 given by the Council. And that is a good Board.

There is a gentleman in Porto Rico by the name of Osgood Harty, from Yale University, who visits Porto Rico to investigate the economic conditions of the Island.

He is a scholarly, capable youngman and wishes to write the results of his investigations for the Department of Commerce of Yale University. He will be in Mayaguez on Monday at the Hotel Palmyra. I told him he must try to get down to Guánica Monday afternoon, because his investigation of our Island would be incomplete without a stay at the unique establishment which you have built up down there. I think he is going to try to get to Guánica; but if you could call him up at Mayaguez and send a conveyance to meet him at Yauco, it would be a great accommodation to him.

I have just signed a conditional pardon for a man named José Graham, largely because of a letter that you wrote to Governor Colton in his interest on September 12, 1913. I made the pardon conditional because he had not yet served long enough for an unconditional pardon under the law, and also because I think that in a case like this a pardon which is conditioned absolutely upon continued good behavior is all that any man who has committed a crime ought to ask for. The conditions are set forth in the pardon, and I feel sure, from what you have written of this man, he will prove himself worthy of this clemency.

Mrs. Yager and I arrived safe at home last Monday night after a most enjoyable visit to Ponce and Guánica.

26 Dec 13

-3-

I hope I will see you again in Ponce at the
opening of the pier January 3rd.

With best wishes for you and your family, I
am,

Sincerely your friend,

Mr. A. J. Greif,

Guánica Centrale,

Ensenada, Porto Rico.

PERSONAL.

December 31, 1913.

My dear Mr. Greif:

Yours of the 29th instant has just been received and carefully considered.

I have accepted Mr. Toro's resignation to take effect when his successor has been appointed and has qualified, so I feel that I have no occasion to hurry the matter and will take ample time to give it very careful consideration. I realize its great importance.

I note carefully all you have said with reference to Mr. Domenech, and also with reference to the other gentleman whose name has been suggested for this position.

I hope that I shall be able to see you in Ponce next Saturday when I can talk it over with you as well as some other matters.

Thanking you for your interest in this and other matters, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Mr. A. J. Greif,
Gudnico Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

11 x 28

PERSONAL.

Ensenada, Porto Rico.,

December 29th, 1913.

My dear Governor Yager:-

I understand that Don Carlos Toro, one of the appointees of Governor Colton to the Irrigation Commission, has resigned, and that you will find it necessary in a few days to supply the position with another man.

We have just heard that Don Ramon Dapana, an Attorney of Ponce, has been recommended to you by a number of people.

Our main reason for writing you now is to ask you not to appoint Dapana to the position. When Governor Colton made his appointments to that Commission it was his idea, and without doubt a good one, to have every man on it, as far as possible, speak both languages, English and Spanish, which has proven to be a good thing, not only for people holding water concessions and who expect to take water, but also for the Government, as it has placed a number of Government officials who speak only English in a position to talk directly to the Commission without having to use an interpreter.

In addition to Dapana not speaking English, he is very lazy. A lazy man is a bad thing for the Commission, as it should be a very live body.

Carlos Toro's appointment by Governor Colton was our recommendation. I am sorry that Toro is leaving the Commission. He was raised in the district, understands both languages perfectly, and is by profession a farmer; he also understands irrigation, and if it is possible to get him to stay on the Board, it would be a good thing.

If it is not possible to get him to remain, I hope that you will find another man who does speak both languages. The only man I know who, in our opinion, would make a satisfactory man in place of Toro is Manuel Domenech, the same party that you have appointed as a member of the Dock Board at Ponce. Domenech is an engineer, native of the country, speaks English as well as he does Spanish, and without doubt would make a good member of the Commission. I don't know that he would accept it, but I believe if you offer it to him he will.

If you do not decide to appoint Domenech, and you do not find another man who speaks both languages, and it is not absolutely necessary that the appointment be made at once, I would be very glad if you will give us a little time to try to find another proper man to recommend to you.

Thanking you for whatever you may do in the matter, I am,

Yours very truly,



Hon. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Ensenada, Porto Rico,

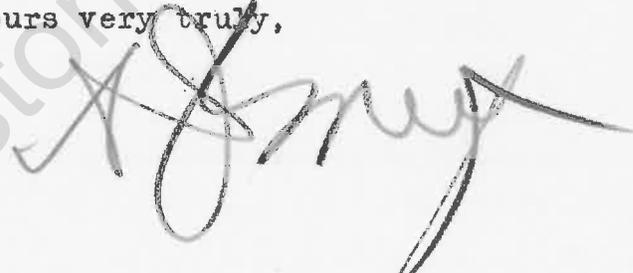
December 29th, 1913.

My dear Governor Yager:-

I have received your personal letter of
December 26th, and thank you very much for it.

If it is possible for me to do so, I will be at
Ponce on the day that the new dock is opened, which I understand
is January 3rd.

Yours very truly,



Hon. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
San Juan, P. R.

AJG/JB - 2c

The Filson Historical Society

111

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

MEMORANDUM

Van Deusen

Personal File

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86x11

R. 4954—Jan. 23, 1913—100 P.

The Filson Historical Society

Ensenada, Porto Rico,
January 3rd, 1914.

My dear Sosthenes:-

Your telegram of the 2nd, and my reply today, in regard to the meeting of the Insular Chamber of Commerce in San Juan at 3 P.M. Tuesday, January 6th, your invitation to be present:

For your personal information, and in saying this I request that it be regarded as such, I would be very glad to attend this meeting and do anything in my power to help the Island of Porto Rico as a whole, and especially the sugar people, more especially those that are, and will be absolutely ruined with the new tariff law, unless the Good Lord comes to their relief in some way that nobody knows anything about at this time.

I feel, however, that a meeting of the kind that is to be held on next Tuesday is of very little, if of any value in a matter of this kind, for two reasons. First, there are always a great many people, and San Juan is full of them, who want to be heard and seen and who talk on every and all occasions and about everything on earth, and who absolutely do not know anything about what they are talking about. Meetings are usually filled up with just such people, and just such talk, and the people who are bound to sit and listen to them become tired and disgusted and go away in a much worse frame of mind than before.

Second, I am sure that there will not be any statistics furnished to the gentleman that is visiting us that he can use or that he will feel he can use, unless a special effort is made by some reliable person to furnish these statistics. The Committees that have been sent to Washington have been full of them, and I believe I am safe in saying, and I believe you know it as well as I do on account of your visit to

(3 Jan 14)

Washington, that the President of the United States does not believe one word that was said to him by the people from the different sugar parts of the country. If he did not at that time, and unless this man has been sent here by him, or by the Secretary of War, I do not believe it will do any good to do any talking to him. If, however, he comes here by their instructions and is authorized to bring back statistics that they can and will look at and read and consider fairly, such statistics will never be given to him publicly at a reception such as you propose to hold next Tuesday; that is my opinion. If Mr. Shafroth is here by instructions of the President or the Secretary of War, the thing for him to do, in my opinion, is to get in a car with some responsible person and go to the different Centrals on the Island, where the books are being kept and he could see them and get the facts and then he can go back home and talk sensibly and logically.

As I said in the beginning, if I can do any good, all right, I will go. I am no speech maker, and I won't make a speech because I don't carry statistics in my head and I always question seriously the advisability of doing so because if the other man is posted he is sure to have other statistics that are better than yours and it is mighty hard to answer him. I have found this to be a fact, - In the short time that I was in conference with the Secretary of War. He asked me some very pointed, conclusive questions. I answered them the best I could, and he then immediately went into foreign statistics compared with United States, and I was lost because I had not tried to post myself on such matters.

If you want me to come over under these circumstances, and with these ideas before you, write me so I may get the letter on Monday morning

(3 Jan 14)

and I will go.

Yours very truly,

Sosthenes Behn, Esq.,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

AJG/JB - 2c

*Cop to Governor
for your personal information
Smy*

The Filson Historical Society

June 30, 1914.

Mr. A. J. Greif,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Greif:

Mr. Welty has arranged for a conference of reporters and sugar men in my office for Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. at which you are expected to be present.

As I am anxious to talk with you about two or three other matters of importance before you go away, and as I am sure you are going to be very busy while in San Juan, I suggest that you come to the palace at one o'clock and take lunch with me so we can have an opportunity to talk and economize your time.

I had hoped to see you some time ago when you were in San Juan but, as you remember, we did not make connection.

I would appreciate it if you could let me know sometime Thursday morning whether I can expect you; but if this is not convenient I hope you will come right ahead as soon as you are at leisure Thursday, and maybe we can talk some before lunch.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

1198

June 12, 1914.

Mr. A. J. Greif,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I am now planning to be in Ponce next Sunday on business of the Government, and as I am very anxious to have a conversation with you before you leave the Island, on various matters of importance, and that it is possible I may not secure again so good an opportunity to do so, I would like to run down to Guánica and spend Sunday night with you if you would kindly allow me to do so. Mrs. Yager and perhaps one of the boys may be with me. Mrs. Yager would also be glad of another opportunity to see Mrs. Greif and your family.

I am writing to be sure that I will catch you at home. If you do not have time to answer this letter I may call you up from Jácome Sunday morning.

With best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely your friend,

Governor.

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

Ensenada P.R., 10. 1914.

My dear Gov'r,

I am going to write a few lines on the new Organic act, as it may effect land holdings, by Corporations, &c.

The Foraker law as you of course know provided for only 500 acres; when it was passed, 500 acres was about the limit of land used by any sugar concern to raise cane, for the reason that the factories were very small, perhaps not one grinding more than 500 tons daily, the lesser ones being of the old open kettle design which was the injured design in Louisiana & other cane growing countries, consequently no one had any use for more land, what they could not raise on that quantity of land was purchased by their neighbors.

I am sure that no one in the

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO(10 Feb 14)
NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

19

U.S. anticipated the opportunity for development of the Islands, it was a new country, undeveloped, and a foreign speaking people; and the Foraker Law was enacted & put into force before any reliable data on information, or the condition of the people known.

I arrived here & took charge of the Co's property in Jul 1902, at that time there was not a foot of rail-road between Yagueo and Mayaguez, no traversable highway, the Country was a wilderness of forest and want, people with few means of livelihood working for 20¢ & 30¢ a day; the railroad & other transportation facilities of the present time are the outcome & result of investment & honest hard work with the native people teaching them proper agricultural cultivation, and as far as possible securing for all.

(10 Feb 14)

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICONEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

19

It is I think a fair & certain conclusion that if the business had not developed to pay a rail-road to build a road, they never would have been able to interest capital to do so,

Land values increased in value both as to sale & lease, land that have been bought or leased in the last years full value was paid for them in lease or purchased bonds on their existing power under tariff conditions prior to the present law up to 1912. I can tell you that it will be a national calamity to the Porto Rican people if land leasing or owning companies are compelled to turn the lands back to the owners, great numbers are Spaniards and French who have gone back to Euro of leaving handcuffed on the results.

You know the present financial credit condition here today, no one can get credit; if the people who hold these lands today & who are able to cultivate-

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO(10 Feb 14)
NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

19

They are not allowed to do so, they will be left without it, and the land owners and the working classes will go back to poverty and starvation, the place where the U.S. Govt found them when they took over Porto Rico.

I can go to Wash DC if you desire it, I can take such men as Geo Bird, Wm Ruf Kold, A.S. Alcáide &c with me, all Porto Ricans who can & will explain (by all talk English) that what I have said here & more is true; can also take statement or petition from land owners and the working classes who I know will say, it will be fatal to them to disturb the land holding condition at this time, & after ^{me} with a restriction at once regarding any further accumulation of purchase or lease.

Cable if you want me or us to come, my. Ponce, will reach me. yours A. J. May.

(10 Feb 14)

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

the work,

Again there has been millions of dollars of European & American money invested here since the Ackerman Administration, no doubt when invested, the very first thing considered, was the laws governing the currency and it is in fact at this particularly strenuous & dangerous time to take this safeguard away from the people, who have invested money here, expecting that protection if needed.

Yours truly,
J. G. Smith

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

Ensenada, 3/10, 1914

My dear Gov'r

Federal Court

The question of abolishing this Court, since it has become known that the matter has been considered, has caused a great deal of discussion. I have talked with a number of the very best wholesale & retail Porto Rican merchants, also Spaniards, Germans & Englishmen, as well as American citizens of all denominations, not merchants, and to tell you they are all of one opinion, that it would be a serious mistake. Every business man will & does say if he is a European, we get our money from abroad & we have felt the security in making our investments, of American credit, American spirit - which is the best in the world, the Porto Ricans feel

PONCE OFFICE
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ENSENADA, PORTO RICO(10 Feb 14)
NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

19

the same way, while they believe their own people, their own courts & there is that underlying feeling of American spirit - & justice to be obtained from an American court, I am sure I am not wrong when I say that every Atty in P.R. American Spanish German or P.R. will say that they receive fully courtesy & consideration in the courts of the Islands, but, that where there is any question of equity - or a large amount involved, they all feel more secure of having their case given proper consideration in the Federal Court.

I have been in Spanish Countries Old Mexico, Cuba & P.R. for 14 years and still I am an American feel & believe in it, & know it is the best and the best people, fairer, truer & more reputable, than any court in

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

Private

7/10 1944

My dear Gori

You may be surprised to know that I have not any axes to grind in any manner or way in P.R. when I write this to tell you that at the end of the crop Sept. 30th, I will leave Porto Rico to return to the U.S. for good.

Myself have been in the traps for long enough, we want to get back home to the U.S. where we can be more among our own people & friends.

Yours truly
[Signature]

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICONEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

Eusebio 2/10 1914

My dear Gov.

Your note 1st, did not reach me until day boat sailed, so could not answer by that boat, and have not written earlier as I wanted every minute of the time to think over carefully & consider the questions:

1st-Citizenship.

If the U.S. Govt will leave ^{the} the revenues of Porto Rico ~~to them~~ as they are now which I understand Congress & the Senate can vote to do for a period of ten years, then I am very much in favor of Citizenship, without restrictions or limitations, if our revenues are taken away, in order that we may get Citizenship in any form then we had better remain as we are.

I am very much in favor of an elective senate, and the separation of the legislative and administrative functions of the Govt - which I am sure will be

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

(10 Feb 14)

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

very acceptable to the P.R. people,
provided absolute veto power is
left in the hands of the Gov
or the U.S. Congress & R. without
the, it would be a fatal mistake.

If we have an elective senate, make
11 eleven districts - following requirements.
To be elected or hold an office in the lower
house ^{which will be 33 dist. as now} a man must be not less than 30
years old, To the Senate not less than 40.
To be eligible to either he must be a top
payer on property ^{P.R.} - taxed at not less than
\$500. of value, must reside & must
have resided in the dist from which
he is elected or has been elected not
less than 3 three years.

Change date of Legislature sittings to
the 1st Monday in the month of November
when business men can get away to attend,
instead of as now, Jan when all cane
mills are grinding, shipments being made
by business men on the island is slowed

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

(10 Feb 14)

GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

NEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

be at home, unless this is done you can
 never get business men to run for office,
 & will only have Politicians in both houses,
 of the change, I will guarantee you, the
 best men in the Island will take
 an interest & you will have good
 men in both houses, limit the session
 to 30 days which will greatly econo-
 mize the present expense,
 The I know will meet the approval of the majority
 of the best Porti Rican men of Porto Rico.

The appointment of Municipal judges
 should be done by the Gov, as it is
 now and such men can be put in
 as the political party in power, favor.

Another restriction, no member of either
 house to be eligible to election or appointment
 to other position during the term for
 which he was elected & for one year after
 the expiration of that term, this has been a stepping
 stone heretofore for salary grabbers & job hunters.

Y-28

February 20, 1914.

Mr. A. J. Grief,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Grief:-

Your letter with all of its inclosures has just been received. I appreciate very much your taking the time and trouble to write me fully your views. Our organic act had already been practically put into shape before your letter arrived, but I am glad to say that most of the things that you have recommended were incorporated in the bill. The difference is chiefly in details which I hope will not make much difference. It is impossible to change the time of the meeting of the Legislature without changing the time of the election, and we have not time to do that at present. I think this might be done later by the Legislature. We have retained the United States Court and cut out all efforts to legislate about land holding, and arranged for an elective Senate and redistricting of the island, etc., along the lines of your letter.

I am very sorry to hear that you are going to leave Porto Rico. I want to see you soon after getting back and talk with you about that and many other things. I will sail on the BRAZOS February 29th. Come to see me about the middle of March.

(20 Feb 14)

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With best wishes for you and for your family, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor of Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

March 30, 1914.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I was over in Ponce yesterday and took lunch with Mr. Maxwell, together with Mrs. Yager and a cousin from Kentucky who is visiting her. I had some thought of going on to Guánica and spending the night with you but found it necessary to get back to San Juan early this morning. Mrs. Yager is better though she is still not strong and did not feel able to go any further on yesterday.

I am very anxious to see you and I want to go to Santo Domingo with you sometime during the month of April. I can hardly get away, though, for a week or two; but Mr. Carrel told me that your cane boats would probably not be running after April 20th, and I prefer to go on one of them because of the convenience of it. How long will your cane boats continue to run, and what time would suit you best? I have also heard that Mr. Vick is now in the United States on leave of absence and of course I wanted to see him when I went to Santo Domingo, so you see I am up in the air about the time. But I am very anxious to go over there and have a look at the country and to go with you because you can help me greatly in getting a part of the information that I am anxious to secure. I

11X98

(30 Mar 14)

-2-

am inclined to think that the latter part of next week,
say about Thursday, will be as good time perhaps as any,
and if that suits you and you will let me know I will try
to arrange it for that date.

Sincerely your friend,

Mr. A. J. Greif,

Ensenada, P. R.

The Filson Historical Society

January 22, 1914.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I had a brief conversation the other day with Mr. Vedder and sent by him an earnest message to you which I am sure he delivered, and I hope he made you understand just what my plan of procedure is with reference to the work of this legislative session. I am very much interested in this subject and am driving ahead hopefully along the lines pointed out to Mr. Vedder. I believe we can put the thing over in that way and accomplish great and permanent good, if I can secure your cooperation in the way that I asked Mr. Vedder to explain to you.

Since I saw Mr. Vedder I have worked out tentatively one modification to the plan suggested to him, and that is to lengthen the time for investigating by having the legislature take a recess, in the middle of their session, of 3 or 4 weeks and then come back and finish their work. I hope the law will permit them to take a recess of this sort, and take the time of the recess out of the 60 days which they are permitted to sit. This would be a great advantage, for it would not only give more time for investigating but would also give me a chance to go to Washington during the recess and see what I can do there.

I wish I could see you and talk all these things

(22 Jan 14)

-2-

over with you. If you are in San Juan anytime within the next few days, I will see you any hour that you will name. If you come in, just drop in and take dinner with me; we could talk at night. I want you to loan us Mr. Vedder for 2 or 3 months if you can possibly spare him. We can arrange the details later.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Mr. A. J. Greif,

Ensenada, Porto Rico.

May 9th, 1914.

Mr. A. J. Greif,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I am enclosing herewith translation of a letter from Mr. Juan H. Matos in reference to the Guanica Lake.

I am also sending to Mr. Matos a copy of the report made to me by Mr. Wheeler which contains absolutely contradictory statements as to the facts.

Of course I shall take no action whatever in this matter until convinced beyond question as to what the facts actually are, and then only such action as would be justified by the most pressing public consideration. The Island has no money to waste upon experiments of doubtful utility and interest.

I regret very much that I did not get to see you when you were last in San Juan, because I had some important matters that I desired to talk over with you. As soon as I learned that you had been in the office I tried to find you in town but you had evidently gotten away. Next time you are here give me a chance to see you.

It seems that my chance for a visit to San Domingo is for the present knocked in the head: a revolution prevents it now, and the want of a Secretary to act as Governor will prevent it later. Still, I am going if I can get a chance.

With kind regards to your family in which Mrs.

Yeger joins, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

11x18

April 7, 1914.

My dear Mr. Greif:

I have just received both of your letters of the 4th instant, and as they are both more or less of a personal nature I will answer them both at once.

First I desire to express my appreciation of your invitation to Mrs. Yeger to come over with her cousin and make you a visit and consult with Dr. Morse. This is exceedingly kind. Mrs. Yeger is now better, and though she is not yet perfectly well I hope she will improve steadily and get well in a few days. If she should not do so I am going to avail myself of your kind invitation and have her consult Dr. Morse, as you suggest.

As regards the trip to Santo Domingo, I will consult with Mr. Carrel when he gets back and determine the best time for me to go with reference to his own movements, for I shall have to go before he gives up the office of Secretary, because after that I will have nobody to act as Governor in my absence. On the other hand I learn that Mr. Vick is not now in Santo Domingo. I am very anxious to visit the Island when he is there. I am also much disappointed by your statement that you can not go with me, for while I would be delighted to have Mr. Maxwell's company, I am particularly anxious to

11 x 18

(4 Apr 14)

-2-

go with you. I could talk over with you a great lot of matters that I want your judgment about, and it would be a real pleasure to have your company upon a trip of that sort. If I cannot manage to get off before the cane boats stop running, which is possible, I might arrange to go in the "Algonquin" direct from San Juan, and it might be that you can go with me say sometime in May if you would only think so. You could put Mr. Maxwell in your place at Guanica and go off on a little vacation. Come to see me next time you are in San Juan and let's talk about it.

Now as to the Guanica lagoon, You are mistaken in your understanding that I have received any complaints about your company having had anything to do with the overflow of the waters. No one whatever has suggested such a thing to me. Complaints have been made by many persons that the outlet of the lake has in some way become choked up, perhaps by the deposits of sediment, and that the lake has consequently overflowed a large part of the surrounding lands and was doing damage to the neighboring landowners. The Interior Department has made an investigation of the lagoon and have found that the water is much higher than usual and have suggested that for a cost of about \$500 the outlet could be enlarged and the water reduced to its former level, and I am considering the matter of having this done perhaps through cooperation of

(4 Apr. 14)

-3-

the interested landowners in payment of the cost. But I had no idea of interfering in any way with the franchise granted to the Guanica Land Company, but simply trying to keep the lake within the bounds which it has occupied heretofore. If you have any suggestion to make or any knowledge of the real facts I should be glad to hear from you.

Now one other matter. You know the little town of Guanica was segregated from Yauco by the last legislature. It will be necessary for me this week to appoint an alcalde and some municipal councilmen under the provisions of the new act and certain names have been recommended to me as the proper ones to consider in making these appointments. Mr. Victor Salaverri has been recommended for alcalde. If you have any suggestions to make on this point also I should be very glad to hear them before making the appointments.

With best wishes for you and your family, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. A. J. Greif,

Ensenada, Porto Rico.

April 9, 1914.

My dear Mr. Greif:

Both of your letters of the 8th instant have just been received.

As to the Guanica laguna, I am greatly surprised to learn that the information given me by men who seemed to be entirely responsible was quite misleading. The steps taken by me as to this matter were based entirely on this information and were intended simply to restore the normal conditions and not in any way to interfere with the franchise granted to the Guanica Land Company nor to change the normal conditions of the waters in this lake. I will have a talk with Mr. Wilson at some convenient time, and may not bother with the matter at all unless there is urgent need to prevent damage caused by abnormal conditions.

As to the Santo Domingo trip, I will postpone further consideration of it until sometime during May when I will take it up again with you. I hope by that time Mr. Vick will have returned to his office, and if your cane boats should not be running we can arrange to go together in the "Algonquin". But if you should come to San Juan at any time, don't fail to call to see me.

I have arranged to send over a government car to Guanica to-night, as per request of Mr. Vedder, to bring back the heads of departments who went over to Santo Domingo last week.

With regards to yourself and family, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. A. J. Greif,
Guanica Centrale,
Ensenada, P. R.

11x98

PONCE OFFICE,
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

NEW YORK OFFICE,
63 WILLIAM STREET.

*Information about this lake
was furnished by Mr. Collins, member
of the Camera - This information*

ENSENADA, P. R.

April 8th, 1914.

PERSONAL.

*is contradictory to the statements
contained in the letter.*

A.H.

My dear Governor Yager:-

With regard to the Guanica Laguna and investigation that has been made by the Interior Department, that they have found that the water is much higher than usual and have suggested that for a cost of about \$300 the outlet could be enlarged and the water reduced to its former level:

The Interior Department are mistaken. The outlet to the Laguna is the same size and in the same condition now as it was when I came here on June 30th, 1903, and the same condition as it was when the franchise was granted to the Guanica Land Company. If you will be kind enough to have a copy of that franchise furnished you, you will find that the Guanica Land Company are permitted to build dams, etc. to hold the water to a level that will give them water for irrigation purposes at the rate of 20,000,000 gallons a day. This has not been done. The franchise provides that the water may be held in the lake to its normal high flood level caused by spring and fall rains. The water at this time is three feet lower than is the result of high flood from spring and fall rains.

I can say to you positively that there is not now, nor has there been at any time within my knowledge one single foot or acre of cane land under water that has not been under water every year since I have been here; that there is not one foot of land planted in cane now that is under water.

(8 Apr 14)

- 2 -

This Company is cultivating several hundred acres of land, and is only able to cultivate on account of the use of the waters of the Guanica Lake. We are paying out to the laborers of the Island of Porto Rico in that district from \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year. If this Laguna is drained, the land under cultivation from the Laguna water would have to go out of cultivation and the amount of money that is now being paid to the people in that district would be lost to them. This is a very serious matter to this Company and to the people of Porto Rico. The laborers and laboring class should have, and I feel will have all due investigation and consideration before any attempt is made to do anything that we are not allowed under our franchise.

May I say to you quite frankly that if this is attempted to be done, we will resist it for our own account and for the people who are receiving a livelihood from the result of the cultivation.

This matter has only been brought up by a few persons who are, in our personal opinion, trying to force this Company to lease their lands.

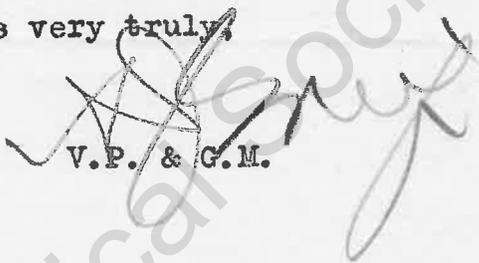
Three years ago the waters of the lake were entirely dry --- the first time such a thing had happened in twenty-eight years. Naturally there were lands free of water during that time that had not been free of water for twenty-five or thirty years which could be used for pasturage, and this is exactly what these people are now trying to do --- to force the drainage of the lake to get a few acres more of pasturage, of which they have not had the use during the history of the oldest inhabitants of this country, or force us to lease their lands.

Mr. Wilson, ex Secretary of the Interior, was here day

(8 Apr 14)

before yesterday to discuss with the President of this Company and us matters in connection with the Government Irrigation scheme in the Fortuna District. We took the opportunity to take him out to the lake and show him the condition there today. We have not in any way tried to prejudice him. He is in position, I think, to give you the exact facts in connection with this matter. We trust that you will be kind enough to call on him for them.

Yours very truly,


V.P. & G.M.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

AJG/JB - 2c

PONCE OFFICE,
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

NEW YORK OFFICE,
63 WILLIAM STREET.

ENSENADA, P. R.

April 8th, 1914.

My dear Governor:-

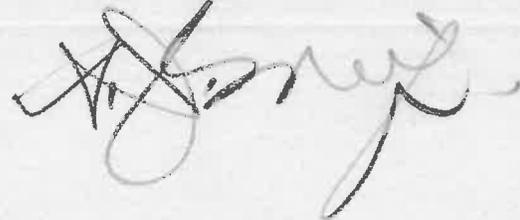
In regard to the Santo Domingo trip: During May it is more than possible that I could make the trip with you. Please let me know a few days ahead of time and I will do my best to arrange it.

It would be impossible for me to get off at this time.

I thank you very much for your invitation and assure you that I will call the first time I am in San Juan. I have not been there since December and do not expect to be able to go over there until after May 15th, unless called by some urgent matter.

With regards to yourself and family, I am,

Yours very truly,



Hon. Arthur Yager,

Government House,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

PONCE OFFICE,
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE



ENSENADA, P. R. April 4, 1914

FRANCHISES.

My dear Governor:

I understand that some persons in the Lajas Valley district have been writing you complaining that this Company have caused their lands to be overflowed by the waters of the Guanica Lake, the result being caused by action of this Company in damming or causing to be dammed the outlet of it.

My object in writing you in regard to the matter is to say that this is not, in any sense of the word, correct.

I would be very glad to have you send anyone of your confidence to see the situation. We will be glad to go with him to the point in order that the facts if other than those stated by us here may be given to him.

In connection with this matter we desire to call your attention to a franchise granted to the Guanica Land Co., which was done in open session of the Executive Council on the 19th day of March, 1901, signed by William H. Hunt, President of the Executive Council, and approved by Charles H. Allen, Governor of Porto Rico, granting that company, its heirs and successors a certain right, which has not been violated.

Yours very truly,

V. P. & G. M.

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

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICONEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

Ensenada P.R. 4/2 1914

My dear Gori

Yo Mch 30th,

Mrs. Meyer & I regret you folks were not able to get up here last Sunday, we are very sorry that Mrs. Meyer is not well, our invitation for her to visit Mrs. Gori & remain as long as she will, with Dr. Morse help her still holds good, and we hope she will come & bring her friend.

In regard to the trip to S. Domingo, our boats will stop running on aft 20th, we will be glad to have you go any time, she runs every other day let me know when you're ready to go and I will arrange for Maxwell to go with you, I can't get away any time before crop closes which will be about May 10th, but will be glad for Maxwell to go, he speaks

(2 Apr 44)

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.GUANICA CENTRALE
ENSENADA, PORTO RICONEW YORK OFFICE
63 WILLIAM STREET

, 19__

Spanish, can do any interpreting
for you, and you can trust
him, or if you prefer I can
send a P. Rican who speaks both
languages perfectly & is as trust-
worthy as you or I, so come
along when you are ready, but
let me know a few days ahead
so I can arrange.

Hoping to see you
& the family. Regards to all
yours,
Johnny.

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.7
GUANICA CENTRALENEW YORK OFFICE
62 CEDAR STREET

ENSENADA, P. R. June 20 1917.



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

My dear Governor:-

I have your letter of recent date and desire to express to you my sincere appreciation of your action in the Suarez matter. It was an act of justice, and whether you were influenced in any degree by my petition, I desire to thank you just the same.

With reference to the National Guard; it seems best to me to have our request for organization drawn up and signed by those desirous of forming such an organization.

I will have these signatures obtained at once and would like to discuss the matter with you when I am in San Juan next week, Wednesday, the 27th inst.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Medalla".

HMCV:DR-1c

The Filson Historical Society

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