

FRENCH T. MAXWELL



Ensenada, Porto Rico
October third,
Nineteen, fourteen.

My dear Governor Yager:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 2nd, introducing Mr. Louis E. Van Norman, the letter being delivered by Mr. Van Norman in person. With Mr. Van Norman were two doctors from Panama, I believe.

I found all of these very pleasant gentlemen and am very sorry that they could not find it convenient to stay over night. I would have been very pleased indeed to have entertained your friend, Mr. Van Norman, and the gentlemen who accompanied him and, while they expressed a keen desire to stay over, they had made plans for returning to Ponce tonight to leave there, perhaps, tomorrow morning for Arecibo.

I gave Mr. Van Norman such information as I could that I thought would interest him and had him and his friends shown through the factory by one of the heads of our Engineering Department. Afterwards they went to inspect our hospital and club bouse.

Mr. Van Norman and his friends seemed to be much pleased with Porto Rico and its conditions. They expressed themselves as having an interesting and delightful time.

I beg to assure you, dear Governor Yager, that it will always give me pleasure to receive and entertain your

friends. The pleasure will be greater, however, if you yourself will take time to come over and make us a visit.

Mrs. Maxwell is due to return about the 15th of this month and it goes without saying that she will be delighted to have Mrs. Yager come over with you at any time that you will honor us with a visit.

With very best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

J. J. Maxwell

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
Government Building.

January 25, 1915.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

Your very kind letter of the 4th instant was just received to-day. I am very glad also to acknowledge the enclosure from Mr. Van Allen Harris, of Central Román.

I am very much interested in our projected trip to Santo Domingo, and I am trying now to select a time for it at which it would be convenient for me to leave Porto Rico. This is not easy to do for the reason that I can never tell in advance what time would be convenient; but I want to go just as soon as I can. Just at present the Legislature is in session and I am not sure what I may have to do in connection with their work. I am also expecting a friend from Kentucky to visit us with his wife during the month of February, and of course I would not like to leave them -unless perchance he might like to go with me.

I appreciate very much Mr. Harris' invitation to be his guest during my stay in Román and this of course would make the trip much more pleasant.

I wish you would let me know again just how long your cane boats are going to operate this spring,

(25 Jan 15)

if you can, and also if your promise to go with me still stands and whether it would be convenient to have our wives accompany us. I mean whether the arrangements for entertainment both in Romana and Santo Domingo City would be such as to make it convenient to have ladies in the party. The next time you are in San Juan be sure to come to see me and let us talk it over. I want to write to my friend Mr. John Vance, Deputy Receiver of Customs in Santo Domingo City, to find out what time would suit him to have us visit Santo Domingo City and what are the facilities for our entertainment in the new receivership's building. I would like to get all of this information together and then I will talk with you and fix the time for our going, at a date of course which will enable us to get back to Porto Rico before your cane boats are retired from service.

Don't forget to come to see me so we can talk it over. If you do not get here pretty soon I shall most likely drive over with Mrs. Yager and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and see you at Guanica. How is the cane turning out?

With kind regards to Mrs. Maxwell, I am

Sincerely your friend,

February 17, 1915.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Cuenca Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

Your letter of the 1st instant with reference to the article published in "El Aguila de Puerto Rico," clipping of which you enclosed and which reflected upon the conditions prevailing amongst Porto Rican laborers at La Romana, was duly received.

Your request to have Mr. Bills, of the Bureau of Labor, go to Santo Domingo and investigate these conditions was taken up immediately with Mr. Bills, but I found that he was so tied up with pressing work here in Porto Rico that it was impossible for him to leave the Island at that time or at any time in the immediate future.

As Mr. Bainter and Mr. Tower were going to Santo Domingo on another mission, I asked them to make an investigation of the matter contained in your letter as complete as they could in the limited time at their disposal and make a report immediately upon their return.

I enclose herein a copy of the report, signed by Mr. Bainter, which is, from the nature of the case, brief and incomplete but which seems upon its face to be frank and straightforward as far as it goes. I think you will find this brief report interesting and useful to your company.

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(17 Feb 15)

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I am still meditating my own visit to Santo Domingo and have received a kind invitation from Mr. John Vance to accept the hospitality of the Receptorio, and giving a frank description of the rooms at their disposal and the conditions generally as to the entertainment of the party in Santo Domingo. I am fully persuaded to go whenever a good opportunity arrives, but the conditions in Porto Rico are not such as to make it convenient for me to leave at present or before the adjournment of the legislature, so I shall postpone it until sometime in March. I am also inclined to the opinion that it would be better for us not to undertake a very large party or one that includes ladies, because of transportation between La Romana and Santo Domingo City. But we will take up this subject later.

The strike conditions have extended in a rather serious form to Vieques and some other points in the eastern end of the Island, and, upon the whole, seem somewhat more complicated this morning than for some days past.

Thanking you again for your kind offer of cooperation in the matter of the trip to Santo Domingo, I am

Sincerely your friend,

February 23, 1915.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Guánica Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

Both of your letters of the 19th instant were received last Saturday and I have very carefully read them.

The information that you received with reference to my conversation with Mr. George Bird and connected matters is not entirely correct. The whole thing has come about through misunderstandings of casual remarks made by me and by others to me which were construed apart from their context and therefore given a meaning which was incorrect.

I have never for one moment believed that you misrepresented in any way the conditions and circumstances at your own central or the actions of your company or yourself with reference to wages or anything else. At the meeting of the sugar growers in my office I understood you to state that, as far as you were then aware, no reduction in wages had been made on any of the sugar estates in the Island. On this point I think you were mistaken, as was developed you remember in the meeting, some of the gentlemen admitting that they had reduced wages, and I have learned since that quite a number of the sugar men, perhaps most of them, have made reductions either last year or year before in various sorts of wages, and whatever I may have said to anybody as

(20 Feb 15)

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to your own attitude it was with reference to this matter of wages generally throughout the Island and not with reference to the conditions at Guánica. However, sometime when I see you I can make clear to you the whole matter. It would take too long to write it all out.

I note with interest your reference to the copy of Mr. Bainter's report. Since that report was received I have received a letter, under date of February 16th, from one of the sick peons at La Romana, who claims that his family is in a starving condition, that he is unable to work and sees no hope of escape unless Guánica will pay for the passage of himself and family back to Porto Rico, which he claims was part of the agreement upon which he went over. It is quite possible that this man belongs to the class to which Mr. Bainter referred, - of men who were not cane cutters and who should not have gone to Santo Domingo at all. It seems difficult to know what to do with the men of this class except to secure their return to Porto Rico, for it is likely that they will be a constant source of irritation and difficulty as long as they remain at La Romana. Would it not be possible for you to bring them back on one of your cane boats without great expense? I simply suggest this as possibly the best solution of an unfortunate situation. This man's name is Domingo Rojas. Of course my only information about him is contained in his letter.

As to the strike conditions, I am hopeful of a

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gradual return to normal conditions, and yet I do not know how far the strike will spread or what will be the ultimate result. As to the controversy itself, you know I can officially take only a neutral position, but I am determined to preserve order everywhere at all costs, and to protect persons and property from unlawful violence. I am still of the opinion, however, which I expressed to the sugar producers in general, that there ought this year to be made some advance in the wages of the cane cutters generally, and I am hopeful that this may be brought about in the right way by united action on the part of the sugar producers and by friendly conference between them and their employees, and, of course, without disorder, intimidation and violence. I fear, however, that united action amongst sugar producers is well nigh impossible to secure, because they differ greatly as to nationality, ideas and methods of procedure. Some of them I am sure have been and are doing all they can to improve the conditions of their working men; others, I fear, are inclined to pursue the same methods as were followed 20 or 30 years ago.

I still hope to go to Santo Domingo sometime soon, but of course I will have to postpone this excursion until industrial conditions in Porto Rico are more settled than at present.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

February 19, 1915.

My dear Governor Yager:

Your esteemed letter of Feb. 17th is acknowledged.

I thank you for sending me copy of report made to you by Mr. E. M. Bainter, Commissioner of Education. I think that Mr. Bainter has made a very fair report of conditions surrounding Porto Rican laborers in La Romana, Santo Domingo.

Mr. Van Alen Harris, Manager of Romana, is here to-day, and I am going to take the liberty of showing him Mr. Bainter's report and will discuss with Mr. Harris the question of hospital facilities as mentioned by Mr. Bainter.

I am glad to note that you still have under consideration a visit to Santo Domingo and that Mr. John Vance has arranged for your entertainment at the Receptoría. Perhaps you are right about not undertaking too large a party, especially one that includes ladies, on account of the poor transportation facilities between La Romana and Santo Domingo City. However, whenever you find that conditions permit you to leave this Island, I will always be glad to arrange matters for you at this end and for your reception and entertainment at Romana by Mr. Harris.

26/11

I regret to note that strike conditions have assumed a somewhat serious form at Vieques and other points in the Island. We are being considerably affected here also. Our grinding fell off last week about 3,000 tons for the week, and this week it is even worse than last week. We have been running only three mills since Tuesday past and at this moment are running only two mills. No cane at all is being cut in our Pagán district, at Añasco, or in the Cabo Rojo district.

So far only one hacienda has stopped work in our San Germán district, while everything is normal around Lajas, Guánica and Yauco, but I am inclined to think that the strike conditions will reach this district within the next few days.

At Fortuna conditions have improved somewhat at Ponce, on our Reparada and Restaurada haciendas, but no work is going on on several of our other haciendas, especially around the Juana Diaz district.

I still believe that 90 per cent, of our field laborers desire to work. Certainly they say so, but through fear of personal violence being visited upon them by the professional strikers, who are composed, for the most part, of people from the towns and led by agitators from the tobacco district around Caguas, our laborers fear to go to work, and it is only in sections where they are somewhat retired from the public highways that the laborers who wish to work have the courage to continue.

(19 Feb 15)

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GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

I am hopeful, however, of much improved
conditions within the next couple of weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank J. Maguire

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

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GUANICA CENTRALE

ENSENADA, P. R.

February 19th, 1915.

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

Dear Governor Yager:-

Information has come to me that, during a conversation between yourself and Mr. Bird of Fajardo, it developed that you evidenced displeasure because you thought that some person or persons of the Sugar Producers Association Committee, which had the honor to call on you on Thursday the 11th, had attempted to deceive you in the matter of wage reductions during the past crop. I am informed that you stated that you were in possession of information that reductions had been made and that you mentioned Guanica in this connection. Also, I am informed that my name was mentioned by you in this connection. I am informed that Mr. Graves called your attention that, at the meeting with you, I had qualified my remarks concerning our Company not making reductions by saying that our Irrigators at "Fortuna" had been reduced. Also, I understand that Mr. Paton informed you that I had, before going to the meeting with you, told him that our Manager at "Fortuna" had made some reductions in the matter of Irrigators. This was a fact. I had made such statement to Mr. Paton during a private and personal conversation. It is also a fact that I qualified my statements in your office by saying that there had been reductions made in the wages of Irrigators at Central Fortuna.

I am informed by Mr. Paton that you appeared to be under the impression that an effort had been made to mislead you in regard to the wage reduction question and that it seemed that you included Guanica as having attempted to deceive or mislead.

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Honorable Arthur Yager,

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February 19th, 1915

Referring to all of the foregoing, Governor Yager, it is with deep regret that I learn that you thought or think that this Company or I personally would resort to sharp practice and deception. It has never been the policy of this Company, nor myself, to give out false statements, for the double reason that such practice is neither good business nor good morals. Not only are we opposed to on sound moral principles, but, also, we have never found the necessity of resorting to mis-statements in order to carry on our business. This Company has always borne a good reputation for fair dealing, and I must protest against imputation to the contrary, especially as it would seem that your bad impressions of this Company are based on statements made by myself.

I repeat, Governor Yager, that to the best of my knowledge and belief when I made the statement which I did at the meeting with you, that this Company had not reduced the wages of its laborers during the years 1912-13 and 1913-14, with the exception that I made -that of the Irrigators. Since receiving the information which causes me to write you now, I have made further inquiry of our Field Manager at "Fortuna", which has developed the fact that in another instance than the Irrigators there was a small reduction made in the wages of our Day Laborers I refer to the "malojillio gang", those peons who uproot malojillo grass. These men were reduced from five to ten cents per day, depending on conditions. When I made my statement about non wage reductions, I was, I confess, without the knowledge of the small reduction of the peons who dig malojillo. I feel sure that, with these two exceptions, there were no reductions made by our Company effecting its Day Laborers.

About two weeks ago when Mr. Bills, of the Department of Labor, was in this office, he told me, while discussing this labor

Honorable Arthur Yager,

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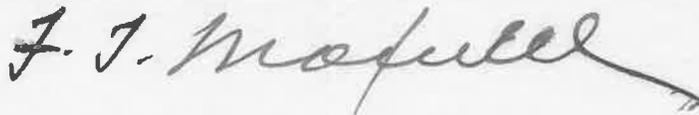
February 19th, 1915.

question that, in so far as his investigations had gone, it had not been developed that this Company had made reductions in the wages of its laborers during the past two years. I have no doubt that, if you speak to Mr. Bills, he will confirm the statement which I have just attributed to him.

There is a great deal that might be said about the general treatment accorded our Laborers, such as the housing of them, medical attendance, free medicines, etc., but I will not impose upon your time by going into such matters, and will stick to the main subject of this letter.

In view of the statement that I made at the meeting with you, Governor Yager, and to what I have said in this letter, I ask you to do me the courtesy and honor to tell me why you felt that this Company or I had attempted to mislead you. I do not, of course, for one moment claim a right to quiz or in any way make demands of the Governor of Porto Rico, and I only make this request on the broad grounds of courtesy and fair treatment, which I am sure you are always willing to accord to anyone who may deserve the least consideration, no matter what his situation or position.

Very respectfully yours,



V. P. & G. M.

FTM:MB-3c.

Hon. Governor of Porto Rico:

I am writing this letter to you at the Romana Central, Dominican Republic, to acquaint you with our situation.

We came here upon the condition that unless we were paid \$1.50 a day and were given medical care in case we fell sick, the Company was to pay us our passage back to Porto Rico.

What we are being paid now scarcely enables us to keep body and soul together. If one gets sick he is not given medicines. We are also refused passage to Porto Rico. What they do here is to treat us as if we were slaves and our families as if they were animals.

As for myself, I have my wife with me and two little girls 3 and 2 years old. They are starving, since I have not been working for a month. There is no family here to whom we might appeal for help. And so I went to see Mr. Cruces yesterday, who told me that if my family were starving, then so much the worse for them. What I want to know is whether or not he ought to furnish us passage back, as he will not make us a daily allowance till I pick up a bit.

8024

I had been trying to write to you for a number of days, but they are in the habit here of opening our letters and so I was afraid they might find me out. To-day, however, I managed to place this letter in the hands of a gentleman who is taking a Porto Rican back to the Island for trial.

I hope, therefore, that you will look with pity on our plight and compel the man I have referred to above to send us back to Porto Rico.

I am looking forward to prompt action from you, for I am a very sick man.

Very respectfully,

Domingo Rojas.

February 16, 1915.

Don Sr. Gobernador
de P.R.

Don Sr. ago esta en
la Central Romana
R. Dominicana para aserle
participe de nuestra situaci-
on nosotros enos benido
como unos expedidos a
trabajar con la condicion
de pagarnos 100 y si nos
enfermabamos darnos medi-
cinas y sino darnos el pasa-
je pago por la Compañia
hey solo se gana para
comer y si se enferma no
nos dan medicinas nos
an prohibido el pasaje
para P.R. y lo que aser
nos tratamos como esclavos

trando las familias como
animales yo el autor de
esta tengo en esta mi esposa
y dos niñas de 3 y dos años
y asen un mes que no
trabajo y mi pobre familia
se muere de hambre pues no
tenemos otra familia que
sea por nosotros y yo
fui a hablar con el Sr.
Lopez el cual me dijo
que mi familia se debia
morir de hambre y yo deseo
saber si este Sr. tiene
derecho a tratarnos de esta
manera no si debe no no
darnos el pasaje a P.R.
si no se obliga a pasarme
un diario asta que yo me

aliente así yo espero en
No. como unico protector
en este caso sea con
hijos de piedad mi triste
situacion y obligare si
es posible a este Sr
a ponernos en P Rico
espero su resolucio
cuanto antes pues estoy muy
enfermo asi queda de Ud
su Attho que B. ans P.
Domingo Rojas
a 16 de Febro de 1916



asi en dias estaba por escri-
birle pero como aqui tienen
el abuso de abrir las cartas
temia se enteraran pero
hoy logre un Sr que
bino a buscar a mi P Rique
no para un juicio y con
el la envie a P. R.

April 21, 1915.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:-

Your letter in response to my telegram has been received, and I made use of the data in my report of the strike which was sent off this afternoon.

I am very much obliged to you for your promptness.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Guánica Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

July 23, 1915.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

Allow me to introduce to you Colonel C. DeW. Wilcox, Professor of Modern Languages at the United States Military Academy, West Point, who is making a brief visit to Porto Rico in company with Mrs. Wilcox.

I am taking the liberty to suggest to him that he go over to Guánica in order to see the south side completely and get a look at your big mill; and if he comes I hope it will be convenient for you to show him the courtesies which you have always been so kind to extend to myself and my friends whenever they have come to visit you.

With the very best wishes for you personally and the hope that I may see you before long, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Ensenada,
Porto Rico.

December 23, 1915.

My dear Mr. Maxwell;

This letter will be handed you by Major J. Stanley Moore, of New York, who is making a brief visit to Porto Rico and I think plans to go to Guánica and perhaps also to Santo Domingo for a day or two if he has the time.

You will find the Major a very pleasant gentleman and one who will greatly appreciate any courtesies that it may be convenient for you to show him.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Guánica Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

December 26, 1915.



My dear Governor Yager:

This morning Major J. Stanley Moore called and introduced himself, giving me your letter of December 23rd. I was very glad, as always, to receive and show the usual courtesies to anyone in whom you are interested. Major Moore had luncheon with Mrs. Maxwell and myself and we found him a very pleasant gentleman, just as you said we would.

Assuring you, my dear Governor Yager, that it will always be convenient and a pleasure to show courtesies to your friends, I am, with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick J. Maxwell

Honorable Arthur Yager, Governor,
Government House,
Porto Rico.

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GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

May Fifteenth,
Nineteen and Sixteen.

My dear Governor Yager:-

Your letter of May the twelfth came to hand yesterday morning and I note that Rodes Yager will work this Summer with Dr. Ashford or Dr. Lippitt in one of the laboratories and in connection with either the study of tropical diseases or the sanidad.

I should have been very pleased to have had Rodes Yager during the Summer, but am frank to say that as long as he is studying medicine that he will no doubt derive a great deal more benefit from being with Dr. Ashford or Dr. Lippitt that if he would come here.

Am sorry that I cannot see my way clear to give the place which I have been holding open for Rodes to his friend, Mr. Edwin Linton, but it so happens that this position can be very well filled by one of our "Crop Season" men who otherwise would have to go north on account of lack of employment here, and I am sure that you will appreciate that it is no more than right to give the preference to some one here rather than to an entire stranger.

From wireless information received from Mr. Harris, Manager of La Romana, things do not look so good over there. Harris advised me that American troops would be landed yesterday or today in Santo Domingo City, also that General Arias

had left Santo Domingo City yesterday morning with five hundred well armed men, but for what parts Harris did not say. The women of the American Colony at Romana were sent over here yesterday just as a measure of safety and as there had been no protection afforded Romana up to that time by the United States Naval force. But I am glad to say that I now have advice that a United States destroyer arrived at Romana at five yesterday evening. Shanton was here yesterday and saw the various telegrams and he will give you the information that came here.

With very best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Maguire
V. P. & G. M.

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

FTM:MB

May 12, 1916.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Guánica Centrale,
Ensenada, P. R.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

I have received by the last boat a letter from Rodes Yager at Baltimore in which he states that he would prefer naturally to have work in the line of his profession, and, inasmuch as he has been offered the choice of one or two positions here in San Juan that would give him an opportunity to continue medical work, he has concluded not to accept your generous proposition to have him come to Guánica for the season.

He will probably work in the Institute of Tropical Medicine, as Assistant to Dr. Ashford and Dr. Gutiérrez, or with Dr. Lippitt in some laboratory or other work in connection with the Sanidad.

Rodes expresses the hope that he might bring down with him one of his fellow-students, Mr. Edwin Linton, who would also be glad to get a position of some sort for the summer in Porto Rico. But inasmuch as I do not myself know Mr. Linton at all I cannot presume to recommend him to you or to advise you to employ him in the position that you so kindly offered to Rodes. Rodes, however, thinks Mr. Linton is a splendid fellow and would

(12 May 16)

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render excellent service anywhere. Rodes is now hoping to sail on the CARACAS which is due to arrive May 24. He may take up the matter with you himself soon after his arrival.

I desire to thank you for your kindness in offering this work to Rodes, and I trust that it has not inconvenienced you in any way to hold the place open for so long.

Assuring you again of my best wishes, I am,
as always,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

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PERSONAL.

September 7, 1916.

My dear Mr. Maxwell:

Your letter of August 28 has been received and read with interest. I immediately referred it for consideration to the Bureau of Municipal Finance, and their report seems to confirm everything that you stated in your letter, except perhaps that the available funds on hand are not quite so great as you stated, being about \$27,000. Nevertheless it is sufficient for all purposes at present.

I wish at once to undertake the matter of filling the vacancies. There are some formalities to be attended to in this connection, but the chief difficulty is to find good men who would accept positions on the council. If I had the names of well-qualified and honest men who are Republicans, (for the law requires me to appoint Republicans in that town), who would accept the job, I would appoint them immediately. If you could help in this matter I would appreciate it. I do not care a rap what faction they belong to, and if you will investigate this list furnished you by the Alcalde and find them to be good men, I would just as soon appoint them as men of the other faction. But perhaps we had better bear in mind the fact that the 3 men who are acting as councilmen are evidently opposed

(7 Sept 16)

to the Mayor and we might get a council that would be deadlocked so that they could not do anything. I can perhaps remove the three councilmen who are now evidently in a conspiracy to prevent action by breaking a quorum, on the charge that they have formed a conspiracy to neglect their duty. But it may be by filling the two vacancies promptly and wisely I could remedy the situation. I ought to state that I was notified of the first vacancy on July 4. I applied to the Territorial Committee of the Republican Party for a terna from which to fill the vacancy on July 5 and have had no answer yet. So you see the politicians have lain down. I am therefore free to make any appointments that I wish provided they are Republicans. If you will help me out by suggesting some good men I will appoint them. I think you had better do it. We wont say anything about it. I wont give you away, and nobody need know that you have entered the game.

How long are you going to be in Porto Rico?

I want to see you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Endenada, Porto Rico.

CONGRESS HOTEL
AND ANNEX

N. M. KAUFMAN, PRESIDENT

CHICAGO

September 23, 1916.

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

My dear Governor Yager:-

Your esteemed and very much appreciated letter of September 7th in reply to my letter of August 28th from Guanica only reached me in New York a couple of days ago and just as I was about to leave for Chicago.

First, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the close consideration you gave the subject of my letter of August 28th. It is noted that the amount of available funds in the hands of the municipality in the town of Guanica are not quite as great as I advised you, there being nevertheless sufficient funds on hand for present needs.

As I fully expected, it is your desire to have good men accept positions on the Council of Guanica and it is noted that the law requires that Republicans be appointed in that particular town. Unfortunately, I have not with me the list furnished by the Alcalde, and as I will not return to Porto Rico until about the first of November, I am writing by this same mail to my chief clerk, W. L. Lowry, who is entirely in my confidence, asking him to turn up the list that was furnished by the Alcalde and to go over it with our Mr. P. M. Todd, who also has my entire confidence and who is a man of extremely good judgment. I am requesting Lowry and Todd to secure the best information possible as to the general character and ability of the various men proposed, and after this information is secured for Lowry to write you under personal cover giving you information on the subject and I wish to state that you can entirely rely on whatever Mr. Todd and Mr. Lowry advise you in this connection.

If for any reason you prefer to await my return even though you receive a report from Lowry on available men, I will understand and will see you immediately after my return. I was very sorry indeed not to have seen you the day I left San Juan, but I motored over from Guanica just in time to catch the steamer and so was not able to give myself the pleasure of calling on you.

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(23 Sept 16)

#2 - Honorable Arthur Yager.

For your personal and confidential interest will say that our company have decided to build a modern factory at our Romana State in Santo Domingo to be ready for the 1918-19 campaign, that is to say, to commence grinding about December 1st, 1918. This expansion in Santo Domingo will call for an outlay of something more than \$2,000,000.00 by the time the factory is ready to operate and will increase it later as conditions may warrant. Naturally, you as Governor, are interested in the Island income from Customs Duties which fortunately are applied to the Island's use, so it may not be amiss to let you know that under our present plans we expect to continue so long as conditions are more or less favorable, to import certain amount of cane into Porto Rico, say 100,00 to 150,000 tons per year, and from this, of course, Porto Rico will derive benefits and Custom Duties, Port Dues, Wages of Labor, etc. I sincerely trust that the Customs people will not make up their minds to go after us on the matter of increasing valuations in order to collect more duties for should this burden get to become too great we would, of course, then feel the necessity of manufacturing all of our cane into sugar at Romana, and while it is true that the Federal Government would reap a large benefit from the duties on raw sugar imported into the United States from Porto Rico, at the same time Porto Rico would lose the duties which she is now getting on the cane which we import. You will, of course, not misunderstand me, Governor, and think that I am saying these things in the manner of threat. Nothing of the sort, just stating plain facts for your private information.

For a number of good reasons I will ask you, my dear Governor, to regard this information about our building plan in Santo Domingo as being strictly confidential for there are several more or less good reasons why we do not feel like advertising the matter at this moment. I have cabled down to our manager there to start laying out new fields and to extend our railroad lines and, of course, people in a general way will know that something is doing from this. Still, we don't want to go on record at the moment that we are going to build right away. For your further information, one of the things that decided us to get busy and build in Santo Domingo without more delay is the steamship situation. We have had a most fearful time in securing four ships for work this winter and one of the ships secured is under the British flag and, of course, may be requisitioned at any time, which

(23 Sept 16)

#3 - Honorable Arthur Yager.

complicates matters. Three of these ships are under the American flag and this brings up complications about our carrying passengers to Santo Domingo, and on my arrival in San Juan, I wish to talk the matter over with you and see if you can and will lend us some aid in the matter with the local federal authorities. We don't care anything about the passenger business from an income standpoint. In fact, I wish that we never had to carry any pay passengers at all, but we do need to have facilities for getting our own staff and our friends back and forth and especially Porto Rican laborers who we want to send over the beginning of the season to work during the crop, to return later.

To give you an idea of the steamship situation we will have to pay this winter about \$2500.00 a day for the four ships. This does not include fuel and other charges and one of the ships that we had last week at \$1,000.00 a week will now cost us \$17,000.00 per month.

Should, by any chance, you care to reach me by mail, Governor, a letter addressed to me, 62 Cedar Street, New York City, will always reach me.

With very best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Masferrer
-Vice-President & General Manager.

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GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

January Twenty-first,
Nineteen, Seventeen.

My dear Governor Yager:-

On my return at eleven o'clock this morning from Santo Domingo I learned that Mr. Frazer had written or telegraphed over advising that you had informed him that you and Mrs. Yager had intended asking Mrs. Maxwell and myself to spend today with you at Jajome Alto, but that you had learned from Colonel Shanton that I had gone to Santo Domingo. I understand that my office promptly telegraphed Mr. Frazer that I would not return from Santo Domingo until today.

Mrs. Maxwell and I both very much appreciate the compliment that you and Mrs. Yager paid us in thinking to ask us to spend today with you, and we are very sorry that it was so that we could not be with you.

I have been away from here about a week, in fact left last Monday for Santo Domingo, where I spent three days in the woods, and while the trip was on business -that is to say inspecting some of our lands looking toward getting them into cane culture, I enjoyed getting away from office work. The trip was especially pleasant as our Manager, Mr. Klock, had sent one of his engineers several

11 X 48

days ahead with a complete camp equipment, which was installed and in good working order by the time of our arrival. We had tent cover to sleep under and with army cots and good blankets we were very comfortable indeed. The Commissary had been well looked after and we had a couple of real good negro cooks, and I ate hugely if not wisely. I didn't believe that I would ever again have such an appetite as was proven during the three days in camp. No doubt being in the saddle for a number of hours each day helped a good deal.

I found the Dominicans living out in the woods (most of them negroes or mulattoes) very hospitable, notwithstanding that practically every male from about seventeen years to old age carried a great big Forty-four Colt or Smith & Wesson and a full belt of cartridges - and of course the inevitable machete. Some of these creatures would have on only an under-shirt and a thin pair of cotton trousers, but would have slung to them a pearl handled Forty-four revolver. Our guide, a negro, had a pearl handled Forty-four and out of curiosity I asked him what he had to pay for it, and he answered fifty dollars, American money, and ten cents each for cartridges. I learned from other sources that this is about the price they have to pay for their "guns" and that their prime ambition is to get a hold of enough money to buy such an equipment.

As you no doubt know, United States Military Occupation authorities some time ago issued an order that all citizens and others should disarm, and perhaps this has been carried out in the Capitol and in Macoris and other places where there are Marines stationed, but certainly so far as the interior is concerned no attention has been paid to such orders.

GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

There have been some disorders recently in the Republic due to one or more groups of bandits operating, and I know it to be a fact that on the Povenier Plantation near Macoris severe abuses have been committed recently, money and provisions have been taken, likewise horses and arms, and even clothing, and also some people have been shot by these bandits. So far we have not been molested at Romana except, due to rumors of raids to be made, quite a number of our laborers have become frightened and left the fields. However, we do not anticipate any serious trouble on this score. There are forty Marines now stationed on our Estate about ten miles back from the front, but they were not called for by the Administration, but their presence is due to activity of Consul and Consular Agent.

Again thanking Mrs. Yager and yourself on the part of Mrs. Maxwell as well as for myself for your very kind invitation for today and regretting that we could not have been there, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

French Maxwell

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

GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

January
Twenty-second,
Nineteen seventeen.

My dear Governor Yager:

On my return from Santo Domingo today, I found letter from Mr. Frazer, in which he advises me that he has taken up with you the matter of our new dock, known as "Santo Domingo Cane Dock", being located a few yards away from where the nineteen hundred thirteen plans, which were approved by the Executive Council, called for.

Mr. Frazer advises that you wish to be assured that there had been no ulterior motive in constructing the dock at a point different from where the plans showed. I can with all truthfulness, my dear Governor, assure you that there was no motive whatsoever, the fact is that none of us here realized that the dock was not just at the very spot called for until the fact was pointed out by Mr. Haas, of the United States Engineers Office; it seems to have been merely a mistake on somebody's part.

I can assure you also that neither the interests of The People of Porto Rico, nor the United States Government, were prejudiced, nor were our interests benefited, through the mistake, and in this I am simply confirming the opinion expressed by Engineer Haas.

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We have constructed a splendid dock, or better said pier, with berthing space for a steamship on either side, and we are now frequently discharging cargo from two ships at one and the same time.

Needless to say I will appreciate very much anything that you may do toward assisting us in obtaining the approval by the Executive Council of the dock as completed, and I again assure you that there was no bad intent on our part, and that no one was benefited nor prejudiced through the dock having been built a few yards from where the plans called for.

Very sincerely yours,



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

ftm/r-2c

GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

June 1, 1917.

My dear Governor Yager:

Your much appreciated letter of May 24 in reply to my letter of May 21 was received here during my absence at La Romana, Santo Domingo, and I trust that you will pardon my delay in making acknowledgment.

While I am pleased to know that it was a mistake about Mr. Turner going to you in connection with the Food question, so far as Guanica Centrale is concerned, I, nevertheless, am just as glad that ~~he~~ put the matter before you, as sooner or later you would probably have gotten Mr. Turner's version.

I only want to again assure you that it is my desire to co-operate in every manner possible in this important matter of conservation of food.

Mrs. Maxwell and I appreciate very much what you said about arranging for us all to meet at some time at your delightful summer residence, Jajome Alto, and I assure you that it will give us great pleasure to go over at whatever time you and Mrs. Yager will find it convenient.

With very best wishes, I am
Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Maxwell

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

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GUANICA CENTRALE,
ENSENADA, PORTO RICO.

July Twenty-Third,
Nineteen Hundred Seventeen.

My dear Governor Yager:

Your letter of July 21 introducing your Military Aide, Lieutenant de Hostos, came this morning along with a letter from Mr. de Hostos.

I have known favorably of Mr. de Hostos for quite some time, but I am very glad to get your letter as that clearly confirms all the favorable things I have heard of Mr. de Hostos - clinches the matter, so to speak.

I am writing Mr. de Hostos that I shall be in San Juan on Wednesday of this week and that I will be glad to talk to him sometime between 1:30 and 3:30 P. M.

I should like very much, my dear Governor, to see you for a few minutes during that afternoon and if you will kindly leave word with Shanton when I may see you during the afternoon, I will appreciate it. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Maxwell and I are going to lunch with the Shantons that day, so I will be right within your call. Mrs. Maxwell is leaving on the Coamo on Wednesday afternoon, but I am returning here and am sailing the next day, Thursday, for La Romana, to be over there a few days.

I hope, my dear Governor, that when you can find the time you will make a trip with me over to La Romana. We have an arrangement with the SS. Marina through which she touches at Romana going and coming, three times per month,

26X11
11X98

and commencing with December we shall again have cane steamers with passenger accommodations. I will be most happy to go over with you any time that you can make the trip and I can assure you a most hearty welcome from Mr. Klock (not an alien enemy, as you might judge from his name; he was Canadian born and the name was originally spelled Cloch, I believe); so make your plans to go over with me sometime and I am sure you will be much interested and feel repaid for your trip.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

French J. Maguire

Honorable Arthur Yager,
Government House,
San Juan.

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Resurre
ENSENADA, P. R.
February 19th, 1917.

Dear Governor Yager:-

With reference to the meeting which was held in San Juan on last Friday at your request to discuss the High Cost of Living and devise ways and means for alleviating these conditions, with particular reference to the wage earners of the Island and their families, and having in mind your request that certain lands be devoted to the growing of the small crops known as "frutas menores".

I wish to reassure you, my dear Governor Yager, that I was, and am, in full sympathy with you in your desire to improve economic conditions and lessen the cost of living, and especially to provide against any serious situation that might develop if ^{the} United States and Germany should get into a state of war with each other.

Further, I wish to tell you, feeling that it will interest you, that since my return I have taken up with my Cultivation Staff the question of devoting a certain acreage of first-class cane lands to the growing of beans and such other quick food crops as may seem expedient or practicable. Beans I find are a quicker crop than I stated in answer to your question just before luncheon Friday, at which time I believe I said that it required about sixty days. I now learn that red beans are about a forty to forty-five day crop, therefore it will not be a great while before we will know the results if it proves practicable to plant very soon. These experimental plantings will take place in both Guanica and Fortuna districts and in first-class lands, in short cane lands.

With reference to the planting of "cow peas", which I told you of privately and again in the meeting, will say that I find we have 1200 bushels of these peas on order for the Fortuna district alone, and that

(19 Feb 17)

-2-

we have several hundreds of bushels already on hand at Guanica for planting in this district, and this assures us of a large acreage, except that Mr. Tower of the Department of Agriculture now comes along and says that we shall not import cow peas from New Orleans, as seeds coming from the ~~seven~~ ^{five} Gulf States are prohibited; if Mr. Tower had taken the trouble to inquire he could have learned that cow peas coming from New Orleans are not necessarily grown in Louisiana, as a matter of fact the dealers in New Orleans get all of their cow peas from the Carolinas and Virginias and Tennessee. Last year we bought our cow peas in Virginia and had them shipped through New York, but this is out of the question now due to freight embargo, etc in the East.

As Mr. Vedder was going over to San Juan yesterday, I had him take, for showing to you some recent correspondence between our Manager at Fortuna and Mr. Tower concerning the cow peas, and in passing I cannot help but say that I do not appreciate the methods used by Mr. Tower in gathering information as shown by the letters between himself and Mr. Hanson of Fortuna, all of which I instructed Mr. Vedder to request you to look over. I feel sure that you, Governor Yager, will not be in sympathy with the position taken by Mr. Tower. The cow peas in question are now on their way from New Orleans and we are going to import them even if we are fined later, and this is not because I wish to disregard the laws and regulations of the statutes of Porto Rico, but because I know that harm will not come from planting these peas that were grown in the Carolinas or Virginia though they did come through New Orleans, and because that I want to get the lands planted to these peas in order to help carry out the ideas and plans of the meeting of last Friday. I suppose at worst we will only be subjected to a fine for importing these cow peas.

It will give me pleasure to keep you informed of the progress and

(19 Feb 17)

-3-

results of our plantings, and I will not forget to do this.

With assurances of my esteem and repeating my earnest desire to co-operate with you, my dear Governor, I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. V. Mapell

~~" V. P. & G. M "~~

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

FTM:MB-1c

The Filson Historical Society

May 24, 1917.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Maxwell;

I received your letter of May 21 with the enclosures and have read over the whole file.

I regret very much the whole occurrence. It seems to me a very regrettable incident that your misunderstanding of the nature and intent of the telegram should have been made the occasion for opening up an old matter which was entirely foreign to the work and purpose of the Food Commission, and I think Mr. Turner was a little quick in assuming that you were unwilling to cooperate with the purposes of this commission. I must do him justice, however, to say that he has never mentioned the matter to me at all. My first knowledge of the incident was gotten from your letter; and your information that Mr. Turner had brought the matter to me was a mistake.

I trust there will be no more of this feeling. You know thoroughly well what we are trying to accomplish through the Commission, and I know just as well that you are and always will be ready to cooperate with us and aid in every way you can to accomplish the purposes that we have in mind.

I hope before long to be able to carry out the plan that you and I discussed once together of having you and Mrs. Maxwell meet Mrs. Yager and myself some week-end at Járome and talk over the tremendous and farreaching events of these stirring times in the pure and unheated atmosphere of the mountains.

With best wishes for Mrs. Maxwell and yourself, I am

Most sincerely your friend,

11 x 11

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

NEW YORK OFFICE
62 CEDAR STREET

ENSENADA, P. R.
May 21st, 1917.

PERSONAL

FOOD COMMISSION.

My dear Governor Yager:-

When you can find time -I know you are extremely busy these days- I will be much gratified to have you read the attached copies of telegrams and letters from and to Mr. John M. Turner, Vice-Chairman, Food Commission.

I am impelled to ask you to read over this correspondence on account of it having come to my knowledge that Mr. Turner, in addition to discussing this matter rather promiscuously in San Juan, according to my information even boastingly, has taken the matter up officially with you.

I feel free to say that I talked to my friend Shanton this morning about the attitude of Mr. Turner and upon learning from him that a good deal of talk had been made by Turner and that he had gone to you with the matter, I showed to Shanton the entire correspondence and, in fact it was his suggestion that I am sending you the various telegrams and letters so that you may have the complete history before you, for I would hate very much to have you left under any misapprehension, through having heard one side only, of what has occurred. I would dislike exceedingly to have you as the Governor of Porto Rico, and what is more important as my friend, form and be left under false impressions concerning me personally and of this Company which must suffer through acts of mine if I am in the wrong.

The whole misunderstanding was brought about through an improperly dictated telegram, -I refer to Mr. Turner's telegram of May 8th

(21 May 17)

-2-

in which he uses the words "Commission use only", instead of making it clear that information concerning supplies was desired for "Commission use only". When that telegram arrived I discussed it with our Mr. Vedder, Comptroller, and with my Chief Clerk, Mr. Lowry, and we all interpreted wanted information concerning supplies to be turned over to the Food Commission. I will admit that there may be a question as to whether words were improperly used in Mr. Turner's telegram or whether, on the other hand, I and others here were very stupid in our interpretation, or rather in our not reaching out and grasping at Mr. Turner's meaning.

As stated to Mr. Turner, I had no information as to the Food Commission and its purposes until I saw your letter in a San Juan paper of the 9th or 10th, after Mr. Turner's telegram of the 9th. In the meantime I had gone to Santo Domingo and on my return I found Mr. Turner's letter of May 9th, as well as seeing your open letter, and immediately telegraphed him giving ^{information} about the provisions on hand as requested, as per my telegram of May 12th copy herewith submitted.

I wrote to Mr. Turner under date of May 14th, answering his letter of the 9th, and I will admit that I was not entirely pleased with his letter, especially the reference to vegetables, a sufficient amount to supply my own table, etc. I did not think, nor do I yet, that Mr. Turner had any justification for such a statement in his official letter as Vice-Chairman of the Food Commission. It was on account of the general tenor of Mr. Turner's letter and the vegetable reference that I wrote rather at length in my letter of May 14th regarding the attitude of myself personally and this Company toward our employees.

Mr. Turner's letter of May 18th to me, you will note, he attempted to make a personal one, but it is bound to be more or less of

(21 May 17)

-3-

an official character. The thing that strikes me with particular force in Mr. Turner's letter of the 18th is his reference to his never having been able to secure orders for flour from this Company in times past, I assume that he means several years back for certainly nothing of the kind that he states has occurred in recent years and, if so, the Store Manager whoever he was gave false information, but so far as I know and so far as I am able to find out from my staff here now nothing of this kind has existed since I have been Manager of this Company.

To a man up a tree, it looks like Mr. Turner was very much peeved over not securing orders from this Company for flour and I regret to say that it appears to me, and I believe would to a disinterested person, that Mr. Turner has been nursing a grudge against Guanica Centrale on account of this flour transaction, or better said lack of flour transaction, with him. You will note that he states that he wrote the matter down at the time, has witnesses, etc., showing that he took it very much to heart.

Also, I do not believe, my dear Governor, that you will agree with any such expressions as made by Mr. Turner regarding people taking off their hats when Guanica Centrale is mentioned on the South side of the Island. This is the first time that I have ever heard any such reference made and I believe that you will agree with me that it is a very childish not to say foolish statement by Mr. Turner.

It is not my desire, my dear Governor, to stir up any trouble with Mr. Turner or with the Food Commission and I am not sending you the correspondence for any such purpose, but I am doing so in view of what Shanton told me, as I feel that in face of such information that it is due me and this Company that you have the whole story rather than a part of it. I am not sending this correspondence with the idea that it will

(21 May 17)

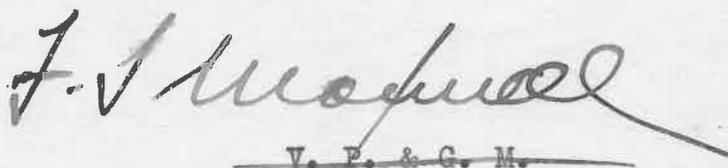
-4-

be published, but it is for your confidential information and for the purposes mentioned.

Finally, I beg to assure you, Governor Yager, as I did to Mr. Turner in my letter of the 14th, that it is my personal desire and the policy of this Company to assist and co-operate with the Food Commission in its efforts to improve conditions and prevent worse ones from coming about. No doubt Mr. Turner will not be willing to accept this, as he would probably connect it up with our motives, according to his ideas, of establishing Country Stores, but I feel sure that I stand well enough in your opinion and confidence for you to believe that my expressions are made with sincerity.

With expressions of my personal esteem, I am,

Most sincerely yours,


V. P. & G. M.

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

FTM:MB-2c
Enclosure

Form G H.

GUANICA CENTRALE—ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

TELEGRAM

May 8th, 1917.

SENT FROM	San Juan	TIME SENT	TIME REC'D	COLLECT \$
				PREPAID \$

.....
Guanica Centrale, Ensenada,

Will you please send by wire to the food commission San Juan today a statement of the amount on hand under your control of rice, flour, lard, bacon, codfish and condensed milk for commission use only.
Answer paid.

John M. Turner,
Vice Chairman.

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Form G F.

GUANICA CENTRALE—ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

TELEGRAM

May 8th, 1917.

SENT FROM	Ensenada	TIME SENT	TIME REC'D	COLLECT \$	PREPAID \$
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John M. Turner, Vice Chairman, Food Commission,

San Juan.

Your telegram not quite clear as to purpose. You ask for information as to supplies we have on hand for use of Food Commission. We have received no previous communications on this subject and do not understand that we are to place any of our supplies at disposition of Commission. For your information will say that we ^{have} just/sufficient supplies as mentioned by you to take care of our ordinary needs. If I do not understand correctly will be more than glad to have full information from you.

F. T. MAXWELL.

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Form G W.

GUANICA CENTRALE—ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

TELEGRAM

May 9 1917

SENT	TIME	TIME	COLLECT \$
FROM San Juan	SENT	REC'D	PREPAID \$

F. T. Maxwell, Ensenada.

Information as to stock wanted by Commission not the stock itself.

JOHN M. Turner.

Commissioner.

Form G M.

GUANICA CENTRALE—ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

TELEGRAM

May 9th, 19 17.

SENT FROM	Ensenada	TIME SENT	TIME REC'D	COLLECT \$..... PREPAID \$.....
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John M. Turner, Food Commission, San Juan.

Re your telegram ninth. We have sufficient rice for two months to supply our people, other provisions mentioned your telegram eighth sufficient for current needs only. It is our policy to keep supply provisions continually coming in.

F. T. MAXWELL.

86X11

COPY

JOHN M. TURNER
Merchant
San Juan, P. R.

May ninth, 1917.

Mr. F.T. Maxwell, Mgr.,
Ensenada, P. R.

My dear Sir:

Yesterday I wired you in the name of the Food Commission to ascertain your stock of articles asked for, and I regret now not to be able to write you on an official letter head, but the Commission is ahead of the printers in its work, so please overlook the personal letter head.

I regret very much not to have the information I asked for from you, all the other Centrals to whom I wired sent their stock list by wire, and today an inventory is being taken at all large points on the Island, so that by tonight we should know just what the stock is of the articles of prime necessity.

As I say, we will not know what yours is, to add to the list, because for reasons of your own you prefer to tell me you have enough to supply your people, and unless we knew how many people there were depending upon your resources, we are unable to get at the stock.

It will be clear to you that before this Commission should proceed to relieve a want, we should first know the want, the Island has been using over 100,000 bags of rice this year, which has been the normal consumption, and it is barely possible that the Commission will find there are two or three hundred thousand sacks of rice here. If that is the case the urgency of immediate importations at high prices is reduced.

It is also possible that the Commission may be able to divert the taste of the people, or some of them, from rice to native raised vegetables, if so we reduce the consumption of rice and our stock will last longer. The Commission obviously should know what is here, should it not? How can it know if the information is not given? It is true the law gives the Commission great power, but it is not the intention of the Commission to use any part of this, because the work we are doing is a voluntary contribution on our part of all the time necessary to solve a problem that is now the most momentous in the World, that of feeding the people, and we hope for the cooperation of all the people and certainly of those corporations and capitalists whose interests are great.

The Commission is of the opinion now that we can raise enough here to be entirely self-contained, and if the rest of the World goes hungry we can still have a meal of our own raising. We will want to know the acreage of vegetables planted, we will want to take the surplus from one part of the Island to where there is a shortage, we will have to do the same with fuel, and it is quite within the range of possibilities that our good friends the Guanica Central may be able to avail itself of our service before this work is done. I fear now to ask you what acreage you have in vegetables for you may answer that you have enough to supply your own table.

Just suppose Mr. Maxwell was in my place, or on the Commission, would he not want to know before he spoke? Sincerely

John M. Turner
Vice-Chairman Food Commission.

GUANICA CENTRALE—ENSENADA, PORTO RICO

TELEGRAM

May 12 1917

SENT FROM	Ensenada	TIME SENT	TIME REC'D	COLLECT \$	PREPAID \$
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John M. Turner, San Juan.

Provisions on hand today Rice thirtysix sixtyeight flour three fourteen bags lard seventyfour salt pork fortythree barrels codfish thirteen tierces evaporated milk baby thirtynine tall fortyone cases. Writing.

F. T. MAXWELL.

See attached list

86 x 11

Form G. 18.—2 M.

MEMORANDUM

To Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
V. P. & G. M.

Ensenada, P. R., May 12th, 1917

Provision on hand this date are as follows:-

Rice	3,668 bags
Flour	314 bags
Lard	74 barrels
Salt pork	43 barrels
Codfish	13 tierces
Evaporated milk, baby	39 cases
Evaporated mikk, tall	41 cases

Yours very truly,

(sgd)

H. M. C. VEDDER,

Comptroller.

HMCV:FCW-1c.
cpd-RR

See preceding telegram

86 x 11

COPY

May 14, 1917.

FOOD SUPPLIES

John M. Turner, Esq.,
San Juan, P. R.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your several telegrams and your letter of May 9, above subject.

When your first telegram, that of May 8th, arrived I had not had any information as to the Food Commission or its purposes and, in fact, saw nothing that would enlighten me on this question until after your telegram of May 9, when I saw in a San Juan paper, I believe of May 9 or 10, an open letter by Governor Yager addressed to the citizens of Porto Rico, explaining the purposes of the Food Commission and asking for cooperation.

Your telegram of May 8 was not clear, whether because of the way in which it was dictated or whether it had been badly handled in transmission I cannot say; but certainly it gave the impression that you wanted information concerning rice, flour, etc., on hand for the use of the Commission. Now in the light of your letter I assume that where your telegram said "for Commission use only", the reference was to the information and not the articles themselves.

This Company has not the slightest objection under the circumstances to giving information concerning the amount of staple food products on hand, and on finding your letter of May 9, on my return from Santo Domingo, I telegraphed you under date of May 12 the information which you asked for in your telegram of the 8th.

I beg to say that this Company, and the writer personally,

11X 98

are in sympathy with any efforts that are being made toward conserving food supplies and preventing the people from being exploited. And this is no new thing with us, as we established during the past year some sixteen country stores for the sole purpose of bettering the condition of our working people, notwithstanding that a number of people in the Island, some of them in San Juan, took it upon themselves to say that we had no business going into the establishing of stores and that our object was to get as much money out of the people as we could through our stores; also that we were doing an injustice to the merchants in general by establishing stores.

As a matter of fact we went into the store business to protect our people from being overcharged and abused as was being the case.

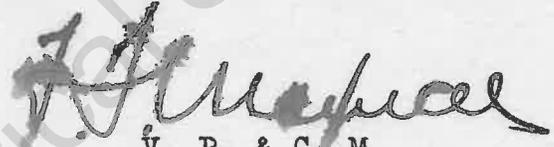
We have at times and even recently been forced to sell staple articles at a price in advance of that which we wish to place upon them, just because the merchants in general were selling these articles at a price much in advance of our own and in order to keep from being entirely cleaned out by purchasers who come from considerable distances we have been forced at times to advance prices to somewhat near a parity with the prices established by the town merchants.

With regard to your fearing to ask me any further questions on account of my probably answering that I have enough to supply my own table, I take exception to such statement and I do not think that you are justified in making any such statement. I do not hesitate to say that this Company has always in every matter concerning its people been disposed to do the right thing and I do not hesitate to say that

there is no other estate in the Island of Porto Rico that has done more for its people than the Guanica Centrale.

Finally I again assure you that this Company has no object in not giving the Food Commission information as to supplies on hand and we will be pleased to answer any legitimate question on the part of the Food Commission at any time and to cooperate to any reasonable extent and assist the Food Commission in its efforts to better existing conditions or prevent worse ones from happening.

Yours truly,


V. P. & G. M.

Cpd.br

COPY

JOHN M. TURNER,
Merchant/

San Juan, P. R. May 18th, 1917.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Ensenada, P. R.

Dear Sir:-

I have your good favor of 14th inst. in which you mix Food Commission matters and personal matters, so if you please I will cut out all reference to the Commission, and this will simply take up the personal side, or really be a letter from Turner to Maxwell.

On the second page of your favor under reply you say "Notwithstanding that a number of people on the Island, some of them in San Juan, took it upon themselves to say we had no business going into establishing stores and that our object was to get as much money as we could out of the people & etc.

I take a few exceptions, which please note. You did not say I was one of the persons you meant who had so ruthlessly maligned your good intentions but I assume you meant me or why mention it to me, as a matter of fact I did criticise, and in no uncertain terms just what you did. I did not however ever say your intention was to get as much money as you could out of the people.

Now Mr. Maxwell, let me tell you a few things.

A few years ago it was the practice of the manager of your store at Ensenada to ask me, as well as others for prices on flour, I never received an order. I met the manager and asked him why, and he told me that I would not get any order, that it was his orders to ask prices of as many as possible, and then pass the order to Fritze, Lundt & Co. of Ponce, who were obligated to furnish the flour at the lowest quotation of any.

I wrote this out at the time, have it now, and also have witnesses who are conversant with the whole matter.

I have spoken very plainly against the Company store, and I say to you now, after a working knowledge of quite 40 years with company stores in general, that they are conceived in fraud, operated to make money exclusively out of their own credit customers or employees, and that in many States in the Union they have been legislated against and prohibited, as being a menace and a fraud.

My criticism is on Company stores in general, I do not say Guanica Central, or any company store on the Island belongs to this class, but I simply state the class as a whole and say the laws of many states prohibit just what you are doing, running stores to supply your own employees instead of paying them cash.

Now, further Mr. Maxwell, I don't know whether you like me or not, I assume not, but I want you to respect me, and I will not let you "hand me one" without getting back right quickly.

You have no right to call me down for an expression

(18 May 17)

COPY

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of opinion, I am not one who jumps every time Maxwell cracks a whip, or takes off my hat when I mention Guanica Central, as they say is the custom on the South side of the Island.

When it has been my pleasure to speak of your concern or of you I have always spoken of both as entitled to respect as a capable concern and a capable person, both entitled to consideration, and I say this now, but when you attempt to call me down for a criticism of a policy, or a practice I will resent it, and further if any one asks me, I will shout it from the housetops and say it in plain English that I am unalterably opposed to country company stores, and I don't care who runs them or where they are.

The principle is wrong, Courts and legislatures sustain me in my position, and anything you may say to the contrary will not alter my views.

When I have occasion to speak of Mr. Maxwell I shall do so with respect, and when you have occasion to speak of me I want and demand the same thing, and because I happen to disagree with you on certain things does not libense you to "call me".

With assurance of respect and consideration, I am

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) JOHN M. TURNER.

Cpd-RR
5/21/17.

October 9, 1917.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Guánica Central,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Maxwell;

I am enclosing herein a letter which I received sometime ago from Mr. Thos. E. Phipps, the American photographer in Ponce, with reference to the desire of his son to obtain some work in connection with the Guánica Central.

You know Mr. Phipps doubtless as well as I do, and perhaps also you know his son as I do slightly. I do not know the sort of work that the young man may be prepared for, but I am sending you the letter in the hope that you might possibly have something for him to do at this time, and, if so, I hope you will communicate directly with the youngman himself or his father at Ponce.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

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November 22, 1917.

Mr. F. T. Maxwell,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Maxwell;

I am enclosing an enquiry addressed to me, thru the Senate, by Senator Santiago Iglesias, asking that the Government investigate certain conditions which have been complained of affecting the Porto Rican laborers at Romana.

Of course my first step in this matter is to send a translation of this letter to you with the request that you make such investigations about it and comment upon it as seem proper, and I shall then determine what further steps to take in the matter if any may appear necessary.

It appears to me that possibly some of the alleged difficulties put in the way of the return of Porto Rican laborers to Porto Rico might be more or less true and that they might be due to regulations adopted by the Military Government of Santo Domingo controlling the migrations of everybody as between the two countries.

However, I shall await your reply before taking any further action. Please write me upon this subject as soon as convenient.

Yours very truly,

Governor.