

March 13, 1914.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Since returning to Porto Rico I have made public the bills concerning Porto Rico which were introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives. These bills, as you know, are practically identical except as to the form of citizenship. On the whole they have been as well received as we could expect, though of course there is much discussion as to certain details and as to the vexed problem of citizenship. On this last point people are as much divided here as they are in Washington. Some prefer one form and some another. As I said to your committee at the close of my conference with them, while I prefer the individual citizenship I am by no means absolutely fixed in my opinion and will cheerfully accept the bill with citizenship in any other form which Congress in its judgment may deem proper to grant. It is very important, however, that the bill with citizenship in either form and with its main features intact, be passed at this session of Congress. I hope, therefore, that you will get your committee to report it out as promptly as possible, making amendments as to details which they think should be made, but leaving it substantially as it is

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on the main lines, if possible. Then I think you can certainly claim a day in the House, under your rights as chairman of an important committee, and put it through the House. I am confident that the Senate Committee will do the same thing as to their bill. The clause as to the form of citizenship and other details might be quickly settled in conference and the bill gotten through at this session. If it reaches conference and if it is thought advisable, I could come to Washington again and appear before the Conference Committee and aid as to the final form; but we have our elections in Porto Rico next November, and I think it of great importance that these elections should be held under the new bill, and this is possible only by getting the bill through at this session of Congress. I should greatly appreciate your hearty cooperation in bringing about this result, and I feel confident that the American government in Porto Rico could be enormously improved and the outlook of the Island as an American possession greatly bettered by such a course on the part of Congress.

I desire to thank you for the many courtesies and the kindly assistance shown to me while in Washington, and to repeat my cordial invitation to you to make a visit to Porto Rico at any time at which you could find it convenient.

(13 Mar 14)

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*With sincere good wishes for the improvement
of your health and every expression of regard, I am,*

Yours sincerely,

Governor.

*Honorable William A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.*

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COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1914.

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

My dear Governor:

I have your letter of the 13th instant, and I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the Porto Rican bill as unanimously agreed upon in Committee. I hope to report it to the House on tomorrow, and shall use my best endeavors to secure its early consideration. Inasmuch as the report is unanimous, there seems to me to be little need for any lengthy consideration of the bill in the House. I realize the importance of its enactment into law at this session of Congress, and you may rely upon my doing everything in my power to this end. You will observe that the Committee concluded that ^{the} people of Porto Rico should be made citizens of the United States collectively, and I am glad to know that you have no serious objections to this provision. I believe it will result in putting an end to all agitation in favor of independence. You will also observe that the Committee made some cuts in salaries. I may say that personally I was opposed to this, but the sentiment in favor of these reductions was very strong.

I thank you for the renewal of your invitation to visit Porto Rico, and I hope that the Committee may be able to arrange to do so before Congress adjourns.

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Jones

1127

April 14, 1914.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Your very kind letter of March 24th has been received and read with much interest and appreciation.

I think that you and your Committee have displayed both interest and knowledge in the consideration of the bill, and on behalf of the people of Porto Rico I desire to thank you for your promptness and work.

The Senate Committee seem to be unable to get together for the consideration of the bill which is before them, and my judgment is now that we shall wait until the House passes its bill and sends it over to the Senate and then make a special effort to secure consideration by the Senate Committee of the House bill. Senator Shafroth writes me that he thinks that this would be the best way to get the attention of the senators drawn to the subject. I sincerely hope we may be able to get the Senate to act at this session and our chances to do this will be increased by having the House pass its bill at the earliest possible moment.

Thanking you again for your efforts in behalf of the Island, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Honorable W. A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

11298

April 27, 1914.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I am sure Congress has been so busy lately with the Mexican war and other great subjects that you have all had little time to think of poor little Porto Rico; but I am also in hope that you will stick to your program and put the Porto Rican bill through as it has finally been accepted by the Committee, at the first opportunity.

Please do not permit yourself to be worried or dismayed by the opposition to the bill that has arisen in Porto Rico as between the two parties. I assure you that this is all pure politics. The elections will take place in November and each party is trying to embarrass the other and gain some advantage. If the bill is passed by Congress in the form in which your Committee has left it, or any form closely resembling it, I will guarantee that all parties will accept it as a final settlement of the whole controversy for the next 15 or 20 years. If you can get the bill through the House I am going to make a very strenuous effort to get the Senate Committee to take up your bill and consider it at this session. If nothing at all is done by Congress at this session it will make the situation here far more difficult than it is at present. So I hope you will put the bill through the

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House if you possibly can.

Our papers here have of course republished Speaker Clark's remarks at Atlantic City with reference to the Porto Ricans. Such speeches from men in high position do us a great deal of harm out here in the insular possessions. I can not understand why they make them; but I suppose there is no help for it.

Please write me what the prospects are now and what is the status of the bill on the calendar, and, in general, what are your views and plans in connection with it.

With best wishes for you, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. W. A. Jones.
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

June 10, 1914.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I have been hoping for some weeks to hear that you had called up in the House the Jones bill for Porto Rico and had gotten it passed. I trust that you still have the matter in mind and that you will do this at the earliest opportunity. Senator Shafroth has written me that he is confident that when your bill has passed the House he can get his committee to take it up and report it out to the Senate. If he should do this I feel hopeful that the Senate would pass it at this session.

I have explained to you how important and convenient it would be for our Government here in Porto Rico to have it passed at this session so that its provisions could be put into effect at the next regular election which takes place in November. This would enable us to start off the new government without interfering with the regular schedule of elections which occur every other year. If the bill should not be passed until next session we would then have to have an extra election and have some difficulty in fitting into it the terms of all the other elective officials in municipalities, etc.

I feel confident that Congress will pass a bill for Porto Rico either at this session or the next session. In fact the President assured me that he was exceedingly

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(10 June 14)

anxious to have this done; but it would be so much more convenient to have it at this session rather than the next that I hope you will make an effort to put it through the House in time to give Mr. Shafroth's committee a chance to consider it before adjournment.

As to all the other controversies and differences of opinion that have arisen with regard to the details of the bill, I am perfectly sure that it would be wise for Congress not to bother itself about those matters but pass a bill according to their own judgment and we will take care of those controversies right here in Porto Rico.

I sincerely trust that your health has gotten better. Please remember that our invitation to you to come to Porto Rico is still open and will remain open until you see your way to accept it. If you could pass this bill and then come to Porto Rico next winter I assure you in advance the most cordial reception possible. In any event, we should always be delighted to see you.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. W. A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

September 25, 1914.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I am informed that it now seems likely that Congress will remain in session for sometime, perhaps until December, and this leads me to hope that you will be able to put the Porto Rico bill through the House before adjournment. In fact it seems to me that the bill is in such a position before the House that you might be able to get unanimous consent to bring it up at any time. I wish very much that you could find it possible to so. I see that the Philippine bill is also before the House and I hope that you remember your promise to me that you would not permit the Philippine bill to take precedence of the Porto Rico bill, for while I am sure it is very important to do something with reference to the Philippines, I assure you that it is not more important than for Congress to declare its policy toward Porto Rico. Both bills might very well be passed by the present Congress, but it seems to me that it would be easier to secure prompt action in regard to the Porto Rico bill than the Philippine bill for it has been before Congress longer and has the unanimous endorsement of the Committee and seems to contain less matter for controversy. I sincerely

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(25 Sept 14)

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hope you will keep it in mind and push it through the House at the earliest practical moment. If that could be done in the next few weeks I am planning to come to Washington again and see what can be done for the measure in the Senate where I have already received many assurances of support.

I hope your health is better and that you will steadily gain strength until you have become entirely well.

With best wishes and every assurance of respect,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Hon. W. A. Jones,

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C.

Per. File

COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON. October 12, 1914.

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Gov. Arthur Yager,

San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:

I trust you will pardon the delay in my reply to your letter, but I have been so overwhelmed with work for the past two weeks that I have been obliged to neglect even ~~the~~ more important part of my correspondence.

It is a source of much regret to me that I have not been able to get the Porto Rican bill before the House. I recall very distinctly what I said to you on the subject, and I have done all in my power to redeem my promise. I have felt that the Porto Rican bill could be quickly disposed of, but the leadership of the House took a different view of the matter, and there was nothing left for me to do but to avail myself of the opportunity given to take up the Philippine bill. That measure has already been under consideration in the House for much of the time for ^{two} weeks past, and it may take the whole of this week to dispose of it. It is the purpose to adjourn as soon as possible, but I am not without some hope that we may pass the Porto Rican bill through the House before adjournment comes. I shall endeavor to do so under a suspension of the rules, but, of course, I do not feel very sanguine in respect to the matter. I do not believe, however, that it can be gotten through the Senate at this session even if we succeed in getting it through the House. We ought to be able to pass it in both bodies, however, early in December next, which is not far distant now.

I regret to say that the strain which I have been under for the past two weeks has not tended to improve my health.

With best wishes for yourself, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. A. Jones

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January 4, 1915.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I regret that I was unable to see you again, after my talk with the Attorney General, before it was necessary for me to leave Washington. I wanted to tell you that I was very pleasantly impressed with the personality of Mr. Garnett. In my interview with the Attorney General, or rather with Mr. Graham of the Attorney General's Office, I found that they were following as far as they could a fixed policy of appointments in Porto Rico; namely, to fill the vacancies in the offices of the Federal Court with material already on the Island wherever it was possible to do so, but in case they had to send a man down from the United States for District Attorney, they seemed to be practically committed to a gentleman from Georgia who is very strongly urged by Senator Hoke Smith and others to whom they feel under obligations. It seemed necessary for me therefore under the circumstances, inasmuch as there was at least one good man available for the position here in Porto Rico, to give that man my endorsement in order to forestall the appointment of a man whom I did not know at all. I am sure you will understand that

(H Jan 15)

as a general rule we prefer the men who have resided for some time in Porto Rico for all appointments, especially when it is a case of sending down men whom we have never seen and concerning whose fitness and qualifications we have no knowledge whatever.

I reached home safe after a pleasant voyage two or three days ago, and of course find much to do of various sorts. The Island is perfectly quiet and peaceful and looking forward hopefully to the passage of the new organic act sometime in the near future. I have told them that I feel confident that you can, with the aid of the President, secure a special rule to put the bill through the House at this session probably this month, and then, that Senator Shafroth and the Senate Committee will put it through their Committee and place it upon the calendar of the Senate. I doubt if it can get any further than that at this session, but if it get as far as that it will be very encouraging to the people and also of great practical benefit toward securing its early passage in the next Congress. While it will have to be reintroduced in the next Congress, the fact that it had gone through the House and the Committee of the Senate of the previous Congress, would make it comparatively easy

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to expedite its progress through the next Congress at least until it shall have reached the calendar of the Senate.

I found all my family reasonably well and I desire to thank you for your many acts of courtesy and kindness to me while I was in Washington.

Of course you know that we are still looking for you to make us a visit at an early date, perhaps this spring after the adjournment of Congress.

With sincere good wishes, I am

Cordially your friend,

Honorable William A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1915.

My dear Mr. Jones:

As you have perhaps already learned from General Mc Intyre, we are planning to introduce our Porto Rican bill again into this Congress at the beginning of the session and see if we can not secure its passage this year. General Mc Intyre and I have prepared the bill for introduction, making only a few changes in it as compared with the one which your committee unanimously approved in the last Congress. We have several reasons for believing that we ought to succeed in passing it this year without great difficulty. First, the President has assured me in a personal conference and also by letter, that he "sees no reason why we should not pass it this winter," and that he will "take a deep interest in it and do everything he possibly can to promote its passage." In the second place, there seem to be serious differences and difficulties ahead of the Philippine bill which will probably delay consideration of that measure; and while you are pondering that question and formulating your plans with reference to it, it seems to me it would be a wise policy for the committees in both houses to take up and push the Porto Rico bill about

which there is little controversy and difference of opinion, and both committees might finish entirely their work on the Porto Rico bill and report it favorably to both houses before they would be in a position seriously to take up the Philippine matter. Moreover, the condition of public opinion here in Porto Rico is more united in favor of the details of the Porto Rican legislation and more eager and anxious for its passage than ever before. I think, from this point of view, the present is a great opportunity for Congress to settle at one stroke the Porto Rican situation and bring all elements into practically complete harmony with our American government in the island. I think it important that we should not let this opportunity pass unimproved.

I am planning to come to Washington almost immediately after the Christmas holidays and take up with you and Senator Shafroth, the chairman of the senate committee, the discussion before the committees of the details of the bill which we have prepared. Inasmuch as these two committees are familiar with all the main features and have discussed them over and over again, I think that we have no need of any public hearings whatever; and I have the hope that we may get the bill through both

committees and on the calendar before the end of January. Do you think that the membership of these committees will be greatly changed from last year? I trust that you will be willing to introduce the Porto Rican measure into the house at the earliest opportunity after the meeting of Congress, and when I get to Washington that I can help secure a meeting of the committee of the house for its consideration. I would appreciate very much a letter from you giving me your views on the whole situation. I would especially appreciate your aid in the matter of getting the Porto Rico bill in front of the Philippine tangle so it will not be in danger of being blocked entirely by a discussion of a controverted question that might last all winter.

Hoping that you have had a pleasant vacation and that your health has been much improved, I am

Very sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable W. A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

February 8, 1916.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Since returning to Porto Rico I have noticed that in House bill 9533, Sec. 19, the words "and charities" have been left in the bill and placed under the commissioner of health. My understanding was that these words would be cut out, and the charities left for assignment by the Governor to any department or departments as might be found proper after careful study. I think it much better to leave these words out of the bill. As a matter of fact the work of charities ought to be divided. The charity schools and reform schools might be put under the department of education; the insane asylum and other institutions under the department of health, and the penal institutions, or some of them at least, under the department of justice. And it is not a good idea for the organic act to require that they should all be assigned by law to the department of health.

I am informed that Mr. Rivera has boasted in his local paper that he secured this change in the committee and that the result of it will be that all the charity schools, etc. will be placed under the commissioner of health who will be a Porto Rican, rather than under the commissioner of education who will be an American.

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(8 Feb 16)

If this was his idea it certainly ought to be thwarted and I will suggest that if convenient to do so you might have these words stricken from the bill by consent of the committee on the floor of the House when it comes up for consideration. However, it is not important enough to interfere with the passage of the bill and I leave it to you.

I understand that the bankers of Porto Rico or rather the clearing house of banks, have taken some exceptions to my remarks in the hearing with reference to the rates of interest, etc., before the committee. I find that in those remarks inadvertently I made one mistake, namely that we have no usury laws in Porto Rico. We do have a law against usury, but inasmuch as the maximum rate of interest is made 12 per cent, it does not of course afford much protection for the necessitous borrower, and besides that it is evaded constantly altho perhaps not by the banks. In every other respect the remarks made by me before the committee on the subject of rates of interest and banking are substantially correct and I can prove them all. We have in Porto Rico in all 12 banks that make reports to the government. Of these only six have a capital stock of more than \$100,000. Of these six, one is practically a branch of one of the others, reducing the number down practically to 5 banks.

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Of these five at least four of them are practically foreign banks, the stock owned by people outside of the island and of course the dividends and profits being sent away.

I sincerely hope that you are making progress with the bill in the House and that the commissions from Porto Rico - Judge Sweet, Mr. Dexter and the rest, will not be permitted to confuse and delay the matter in the minds of congressmen. I shall be awfully glad to hear from you and hope you will have opportunity to write me occasionally whenever any progress may be made.

Hoping that your health will improve and wishing you every success and prosperity, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable William A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

March 15, 1916.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I have received a letter from General Mc Intyre relating the result of a conference with you as to the probability that a prohibition amendment may be placed on the Porto Rican bill, and also enclosing a copy of the statements made by Mr. Crafts before the committees in hearings on this subject.

In order that Congress may not legislate on this subject without an accurate knowledge of the facts involved, I am writing you a brief statement of the exact conditions and facts bearing upon Prohibition in Porto Rico as I understand them. Some of them were grossly misstated in the hearings, not, however, upon any definite authority but rather as estimates or guesses made by some persons whose names were not given.

First, as to the need of Prohibition in Porto Rico. Porto Ricans in general have never yet felt the need of prohibitory laws upon the subject of intoxicants. This is due mainly to the fact that there is very little drunkenness in the island. The people here have their faults and failings of course as people everywhere but drunkenness is not one of them. The habits of the people are quite different from those of North America in this

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respect. They are not and never have been addicted to strong drinks as have our people of the continent. The more educated people drink almost exclusively light wines, and the laborers and poorer people drink a cheap rum manufactured here on the island. All classes consume far less liquor of any sort than our people in the States or those of most countries. If you will examine the World's Almanac for 1916, on page 267, you will find the figures given below which are published in this most widely quoted book of reliable statistics printed in the United States. The figures for Porto Rico are based upon the same standard of proof gallon used in the United States and the volume of alcohol reduced to its equivalent in liters:-

	Per capita consumption in liters		
	<u>Alcohol</u>	<u>Wine</u>	<u>Malt Liquors</u>
United States	5.52	1.96	77.5
Porto Rico	2.	.50	1.22

A glance at these figures will show that the per-capita consumption of intoxicants of all sorts is far less in Porto Rico than in the United States right now, notwithstanding the fact that there are no prohibitory laws of any sort in any part of Porto Rico. This simply proves that the habits of the people are entirely different. This also completely disposes of the wild assertion that the Americans since their coming to the island have de-

moralized the people and made them drunkards. The American saloon is practically unknown in Porto Rico. There are only seven bar-rooms or saloons as we Americans understand them in the whole island and even these are quite different from the American pattern, for they have only one entrance, their whole interior is entirely visible from the street and they are not used as loafing places by the idle and vicious as is the case so frequently with us. Moreover these few bars are declining in number and business in the last few years.

It can also be shown from the best possible sources that the wild guess that the drink bill of the Porto Ricans is \$14,000,000 is a gross exaggeration. A study of the internal revenue receipts will clearly prove that the drink bill of the whole island cannot be more than \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000, if that much. I do not know what could be meant by the statement that "the liquor business in Porto Rico stands for two hundred millions of dollars a year." There is no possible way in which this statement can be made to bear any relation whatever to the facts. The assessed value of all the property used in connection with the liquor business is \$1,800,000, and its entire output together with all that is imported is probably sold for not more than \$2,500,000.

In the second place the effect of prohibition

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upon the revenues of the Insular Government at this particular crisis should be studied carefully and given such earnest consideration as Congress may think its importance demands. In order to aid in this study I am enclosing on separate sheet a complete and detailed analysis of all the items of income derived by the Insular Government from intoxicating liquors for the year 1914-15. They amounted to about \$1,400,000 and constituted 37 per cent of the entire receipts of the island government for that year. The finances of the Government are already in a severe crisis. The customs duties have declined owing to the changes in the tariff and to the European war to \$270,000 for the current year. This is just one-fourth of what they were in 1913. Other sources of revenue have also failed sharply and as a consequence we have been compelled to reduce our budget by more than two million dollars under the level it had reached in 1913. As a result all the services have suffered severely, especially education, sanitation and highways. Particularly as to education is the outlook appalling. With all our efforts up to date we have been able to enroll in the public schools of the island only about 40 per cent of the children of school age. Nearly one half of these are enrolled for one half of the day only under the double enrollment plan. Thousands of

children have to be turned away from the public schools for lack of facilities for seating and teaching them. Facilities can not be provided without larger revenues. Surely Congress cannot contemplate this distressing condition without the most serious concern and sympathy for a brave little island struggling to throw off the dark cloud of illiteracy which has engulfed it for centuries.

It will be remembered that it was in view of these conditions that Congress in the Foraker Act generously provided a peculiar fiscal system for Porto Rico, giving the Insular Government the benefit of the customs duties and the internal revenue taxes. As explained above, three-fourths of the customs duties have disappeared in the last two or three years, and if now Congress should take away at one stroke more than one half the internal revenue taxes, there would be little left of our revenue system. It seems absolutely impossible at present to create a new revenue system to replace it without imposing taxes too heavy to be borne. Possibly it can be done after some years of development, after we shall have had time to catch^{up} with the age in the work of education, sanitation, etc. Congress must not forget that the Americans came to Porto Rico only at the beginning of the 20th Century and that they found here conditions as to education, industry, sanitation, etc.,

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that corresponded practically with the 18th Century. Many things had to be done to bring the island abreast of the age in which we live. We have not yet had time to do them.

But the effect upon the revenue system of the island, serious as it is, is not the most important effect that is likely to follow this amendment if adopted at this time. The most important by far is the political effect. It is difficult to imagine anything that would come as a greater shock to the people of Porto Rico at this moment than a prohibition amendment. There has been practically no discussion of this subject in the island. The people are utterly unprepared for it. The evils of intemperance have not been brought home to them by discussion and agitation and they would not understand it at all. They would therefore almost certainly resent it as an act of tyranny imposing upon them by an outside power ideas and standards of society and morality on this question which are different from their own. And for this to be placed as a rider upon an organic act intended to make concessions to them that would increase their satisfaction under the American flag would simply heighten their resentment. It is easy to foresee that those political leaders who favor independence for the island, could and probably would make dangerous use of this feel-

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ing of resentment to arouse anti-American sentiment, and completely nullify the good political effects that would otherwise be produced by the passage of the Act.

Congress should also consider in this connection another possibility, namely: The prohibition amendment as drawn places upon the local legislature an important and yet a well-nigh impossible task, that of providing revenues to replace those swept away by the amendment. What if the legislature, swayed by the feeling of resentment above referred to, and under the leadership of anti-American politicians, should fail or refuse to authorize the additional taxes that would be necessary? Might not the American administration here find itself in a most embarrassing and humiliating position and be unable to carry out the government at all? And this situation, if it should arise, would be exploited to the full extent by those who are unfriendly to the American people not only in Porto Rico, but throughout all Latin-America.

Very sincerely,

Governor.

Honorable W. A. Jones, Chairman,
Committee on Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

WILLIAM A. JONES, VA., CHAIRMAN.	
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	HERBERT L. SMITH, CLERK.

COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON.

March 22, 1916.

Hon. Arthur Yager,

Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:

I have just received, through the hands of General McIntyre, your letter of the 15th instant.

I have read with much care and interest what you say in regard to the prohibition amendment which is proposed to the Porto Rican bill, and I fully agree with you that to adopt this amendment would seriously embarrass the Porto Rican Government. I have, however, been overwhelmed of late with petitions from the Island asking for prohibition, and only today I received a letter from Mr. Francis H. Dexter urging me to support such an amendment. He says that rum is largely responsible for the labor troubles which you are now having in Porto Rico. When this amendment is offered in the House, I will undertake to state your position in regard to it. I personally think that the matter ought to be left to the Porto Rican Legislature; but I fear that nothing can be said which will prevent the House from adopting the amendment. You know a prohibition amendment was offered to the Philippine bill in the Senate, and very few of the Senators had the moral courage to

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COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON. 3-22-16.

Gov. A. Y. #2.

vote against it. Conditions in the Philippines are very similar to those in Porto Rico, and if the Philippine bill is passed with this amendment it will seriously embarrass the government of those Islands. It looks, however, as if there is no way by which this amendment can be eliminated.

I have not as yet been able to get the Porto Rican bill up in the House, but I shall lose no opportunity to do so.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Jones

The Filson Historical Society

May 17, 1916.

My dear Mr. Jones:

This letter will be handed to you by my friend Señor Ramón Sica Pacheco, the Assistant Secretary of Porto Rico.

Mr. Sica has been employed in the Insular Government since the beginning of the American occupation and is one of the most loyal and best informed of the Porto Rican citizens of the United States.

As this is his first visit to Washington and to the United States, he will greatly appreciate any aid that you or Mr. Smith can give him in making the visit pleasant and profitable.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable William A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

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June 10, 1916.

My dear Mr. Jones:

I have been almost incapacitated from sickness during the past three or four weeks and have therefore been compelled to omit all but the most necessary and urgent duties.

I am writing you to thank you both for myself and the people of Porto Rico for your great personal service to the island in securing the passage of the Jones Bill through the House without any amendment except such as I think will really improve it. I have read the whole portion of the Congressional Record connected with this matter, and I wish to congratulate you most heartily upon the skill and tact with which you piloted the measure throughout its consideration by the House. I think a large part of its success was due to your strong and diplomatic leadership. I want also to express my appreciation of your very kind reference to myself in the discussion of the amendment as to the rights of laborers here in Porto Rico. I assure you that I appreciate more than I can express this renewed evidence of your kindness to me, which has never failed to show itself throughout our acquaintance and working together upon public questions.

At this moment the two Chicago Conventions seem

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(10 June 16)

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to be in the innermost corner of the "blind alley" to which the President referred some months ago. The latest cables which we have received here point to the nomination of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Roosevelt both by the two Conventions. My prediction is that if this should take place Mr. Hughes will not accept the nomination, and then the blind alley will close up tighter than ever.

I hope that your health has improved and that you are not working too hard for that improvement to continue until you may be permanently restored.

With ever increasing personal regard, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable William A. Jones,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.