

C. Stevenson
Lawyer

Office in
Savings Bank Block

Office Phone 50
Residence Phone 17

C.S.

Rockwell City, Iowa Nov. 14, 1913.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My Dear Yager:-

I wish to congratulate you as well as the
administration upon your appointment as Governor of Porto Rico,
and wish your administration great success.

If I ever get a chance to visit Porto Rico I shall
call upon you.

Wishing you and your family all of the success
possible, I am,

Yours fraternally,

C.S.

C. E. Stevenson

*Ack- Receipt with
thanks &c.
A.Y.*

Gov

11X92

November 25, 1913.

My dear Eben:

Your kind letter of the
14th instant has been received.

I thank you very much for
your congratulations and good
wishes and will look for you to
visit Porto Rico sometime and to
come to see me.

Wishing for you and your
family all possible success and
prosperity, I am,

Sincerely your old friend,

E. C. Stevenson, Esq.,
Attorney-at-Law,
Rockwell City, Iowa.

January 27, 1914.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 24th instant informing me of my election as an honorary member of the Liga Progresista de Ponce of which you have the honor to be President, has been received, and both the letter and the resolution have been read with much interest and sincere appreciation.

I desire to thank you and through you the Liga Progresista of Ponce for the honor that they have done me and for the complimentary language in which they have expressed their feeling in taking this action.

I desire to take this opportunity of expressing again my abiding interest in the progress and growth of the beautiful city of Ponce and to promise in advance my cooperation and aid in every thing that will tend to promote the interests of your city.

I would also say that insofar as I may be able to do so, I shall see to it that in due time Ponce shall have an absolutely square deal in the matter of appropriations for improvements of all sorts that are to be made from the funds of the Island of Porto Rico.

Very respectfully yours,

Dr. G. Salazar, President,
Liga Progresista de Ponce,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

Governor.

DR. G. SALAZAR.
PRESIDENTE.

M. MERCADO.
1ER. VICE-PRESIDENTE.

A. CANALS.
2O. VICE-PRESIDENTE.

Liga Progresista de Ponce, Inc.

(Pro Ponce)

DIRECTORES:
M. V. DOMENECH,
E. ASTOL,
J. TOUS SOTO,
P. J. ARMSTRONG.



TESORERO. J. ROMAGUERA.
SECRETARIO. C.F. CHARDON.
GERENTE. F. J. RODIL.

TELEFONO 348.

AFARTADO 622.

OFICINAS: 7. MARINA.

PONCE, P. R.,

RESOLUTION.-

Whereas, the Honorable Arthur Yager during his short incumbency in the office of Governor of Porto Rico has shown a comendable interest in all things concerning the City of Ponce, and

Whereas, such interest in the betterment and progress of our city must result in a useful cooperation to the ends pursued by the Liga Progresista de Ponce, and

Whereas, it is fitting that we show some appreciation of such helpful cooperation and aid, therefor

Be it resolved that the Honorable Arthur Yager be and he is hereby made an Honorary member of the Liga Progresista de Ponce.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct transcript of a resolution adpoted by the Board of Directors of the Liga Progresista de Ponce, at the regular meeting held on January 20th, 1914.

Manuel Guayoraf
Secretary.

DR. G. SALAZAR,
PRESIDENTE.

M. MERCADO,
1er. VICE-PRESIDENTE.

A. CANALS,
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PONCE, P. R., January 24th., 1914.

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

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the resolution adopted by the unanimous vote at the regular meeting held by the Board of Director of the Ponce Progressive League on January 20th, 1914, appointed^{ing} you an honorary member of said organization.

Desirous of showing in some way its appreciation for the interest manifested by you in the affairs of the city of Ponce during the brief period of your incumbency the Liga Progresista de Ponce has taken these means of expressing it, and I have great pleasure in informing you of the fact.

Liga Progresista de Ponce was incorporated and organized in 1911 in the city of Ponce, P. R. with the sole object of working towards the betterment of the city and its community in all its phases, both as regards its social, industrial, agricultural and commercial aspects. Its aims have been to unite all the elements of the city of Ponce, irrespective of political or religious creeds, this policy having been

11X 98

DR. G. SALAZAR,
PRESIDENTE.

M. MERCADO,
1ER. VICE-PRESIDENTE.

(24 Jan 14)

A. CANALS,
2O. VICE-PRESIDENTE.

Liga Progresista de Ponce, Inc.

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1/24/14.

followed during its whole existence, manifested specially in the election of its Board of Directors, composed not only by men ~~from~~ different walks of life, but also drawn ^{from} elements of the various parties, sects religions or nationalities which are a part of our city life.

At the beginning of your term as Governor of the Island we send our greeting and wish you all success, offering our earnest cooperation in the tasks before you, and solicit your aid in carrying out the work which this League has voluntarily imposed upon itself.

Liga Progresista de Ponce appeals to you that in all the appropriations and expenditures, or recommendations leading thereto, that in the future be made for improvements in the Island of Porto Rico, Ponce shall have the share due in compensation of the large sums which in revenues and taxes contributes yearly towards the maintenance of the Government of the Island and expenses; that in as far as it is within your scope of influence or command, Ponce's roads and highways shall receive the proper attention so much needed in the development and in the carrying on of its agricultural and commercial en-

DR. G. SALAZAR,
PRESIDENTE.

M. MERCADO,
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(24 Jan 14)
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3.

1/24/14.

terprises; that its schools continue to receive a liberal support from the proper Department; that in recommendations to Congress for harbor improvements in the ports of Porto Rico, Ponce shall also be included, inasmuch as our port is bound to be of vast importance upon the opening of the Panama Canal, and any money invested therein will prove wisely spent.

The Ponce Municipality is very keen on giving the city proper sewerage and paving which it lacks, and also making vital improvements in the water works. These are also matters of great importance which can only be carried out when the necessary sums of money are appropriated. We seek your help in this connection. Ponce requires brick communications on some of the roads. We desire that this work of so great importance be attended to as soon as practicable.

These are the aims which guide us in our work, and in repeating our good wishes for your success as Governor of Porto Rico, and offering our hearty cooperation in the scope of our ability, we beg to remain

GSP/ST.

Very respectfully yours,

J. Guillermo Salazar
President.

April 13, 1914.

Mr. K. Stone,
Perla de Cuba,
Havana, Cuba.

My dear Colonel Stone:

After considerable delay I received your letter of March 5th written at Martinsville, Indiana.

I was very glad indeed to hear from you and to get news of your plans and travel. I should be glad if you could find time while in Cuba to come over to San Juan and pay me a visit. While the winter is over the climate here is still very delightful and I think you would enjoy a visit to this Island. If you will let me know when you will arrive I shall be glad to meet you at the boat, or, if not, come any time you get ready and look me up.

We are all very well and enjoying the climate and work very much.

With best wishes I am,

Sincerely your friend,

April 22, 1914

Dr. Albert Shaw, Editor,
The American Review of Reviews,
50 Irving Place,
New York City.

My dear Shaw:

I received your letter of the 3rd instant and appreciated it very much, also the copies of the Review of Reviews came to hand in due time.

While the results of the picture making, Mrs. Yager says, were something of a libel on the original, yet I am sure your artists did the best they could with the material at hand; and your editorial comment upon myself personally, and the Porto Rican situation in general, were so characteristically kind and thoroughly helpful that I feel greatly indebted to you and shall always remember it.

Events have moved swiftly in the last few days, and it seems now from the meagre dispatches that we get in this far-away corner of our country, that the United States is already involved in a war with the dictator of Mexico. I have had, however, no official dispatches from Washington on this subject and so do not know the exact status of affairs at this writing. I hope if we are to have war that it can be so managed that it can be of short duration and, when it is over, not involve us in a long

train of unexpected consequences as is likely to happen in the case of any war.

We are all moving along quietly here, though I fear that the diversion of attention in Congress will interfere with the passage of our Porto Rico bill at this session.

Mrs. Yager is well and joins me in best wishes for your family and yourself.

Sincerely your friend,

The Filson Historical Society

April 3, 1914

My dear Yager:

You will see by copies of the Review (several of which I am asking to have sent to you) that your remarks came in good time, and I made full use of them in my editorial comments on the Porto Rico situation.

I am sorry that you did not send the new picture that you had promised, and I am afraid you will not think that we got very good results out of the photograph that we received from Georgetown, Ky. But since our intentions were so entirely good, you must forgive us if your vanity is a little wounded by the way in which the picture appears.

With my best regards to Mrs. Yager, as always,

Faithfully yours,

Albert Shaw

Hon. Arthur Yager
San Juan
Porto Rico

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
UNIVERSITY OF PORTO RICO

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

RÍO PIEDRAS, P. R.

June 18, 1914.

The Hon. Governor Yager
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

My dear sir:

Arthur Holmes Yager has been credited with the completion of the subjects of Ancient and Modern History and with first year High School English.

His marks in both subjects are "M" which means that he received a grade between 80 and 90.

My services in this matter as private tutor are of the value of \$250⁰⁰/₁₀₀. I would consider it a favor if you will send the money to me by Arthur Holmes on Friday June 19th as I leave for the United States Saturday morning June 20th.

Hoping that Arthur Holmes will continue doing good work next year and that everything has been satisfactory to you and Mrs. Yager

I am
Very truly yours
W. L. Stever

Mr. William Jesse Worden
Mr. William Jesse Worden
86 x 11

The Filson Historical Society

WILLIAM J. STONE, MO., CHAIRMAN.
BENJAMIN F. SHIVELY, IND. WILLARD SAULSBURY, DEL.
JAMES P. CLARKE, ARK. HENRY CABOT LODGE, MASS.
GILBERT M. HITCHCOCK, NEBR. WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH, MICH.
JAMES A. O'GORMAN, N. Y. ELIHU ROOT, N. Y.
JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, MISS. PORTER J. MC CUMBER, N. DAK.
CLAUDE A. SWANSON, VA. GEORGE SUTHERLAND, UTAH.
ATLEE POMERENE, OHIO. WILLIAM E. BORAH, IDAHO.
MARCUS A. SMITH, ARIZ. THEODORE E. BURTON, OHIO.
W. R. HOLLISTER, CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

July 2, 1914.

My dear Governor:-

I am taking pleasure in giving this letter to my personal friend, Mr. William J. Worden, of New York, an old Michigan boy, who goes to Porto Rico on a short visit. If you can help him enjoy his stay in Porto Rico I shall be very glad.

With great respect, I am,

Very truly,



Hon. Arthur Yager,

Governor,

San Juan Porto Rico.

September 24, 1914.

My dear Sir:

Perhaps you have forgotten my call upon you in Washington last February with reference to the appropriation for the San Juan, Porto Rico, harbor, in the river and harbor bill.

I notice that an appropriation has been included for this harbor in the Senate bill and I am writing in the hope that I may enlist your aid and support in the House for this appropriation when the matter shall come before your committee. I think an investigation will show that this is a real national project of importance to the whole country. I would greatly appreciate any attention you may give to it.

I would also be glad if you would inform me as to whether the Senate bill as reported includes an appropriation for the improvement of the Oklahoma River in your State.

With best wishes for you, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. Stephen M. Sparkman,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

86 X 11

October 2, 1914.

Mr. W. F. Sands,
Hawa, Pennsylvania.

My dear Mr. Sands:

I was delighted to receive your very courteous letter of the 24th instant, but I am sorry to have you confirm the report which I had already heard that you were not going to return to Porto Rico.

My acquaintance with you and Mrs. Sands has been so agreeable that Mrs. Yager and I both regret that it is not to continue throughout our stay in the Island.

As to the matter of the office of Secretary of Porto Rico, for which you so cordially recommended your friend Mr. Rufus Lane, I have to tell you that Mr. Martin Travieso, Jr., was appointed to this office on September 4th so that it is now of course too late to consider Mr. Lane at all, but I have no doubt he is everything which you have claimed for him as a man and scholar.

Hoping that you and your family are all well and that you will remember Mrs. Yager and myself most cordially to Mrs. Sands, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Received
9/24

Wessex - Pennsylvania

September 24th 1914.

My dear Governor Sages

I have a letter inquiring from
a friend of mine concerning the J.
Jes of Secretary of the Board.

I feel that I can not send in
formation of you with greater propriety

86 XI

since I have entirely severed my
connection with Port Rico and have
no business interests there.
My friend, Rufus Lane is a Massachusetts
man, an old time deacon,
an experienced business man, with
distinguished service under Govern-
ment, and is a Spanish scholar.
He was in the Philippines before the
transfer of Government, and has an
excellent knowledge of Spanish as
well as of American political methods.
When I say that he is a scholar, I mean

having the word in its exact sense.
Should you be in Washington, and should you
not have made some choice for this important
post, I shall appreciate it if you will give
Mr. Lane an interview. He is at present and
has been for some years past in California,
but would, I think, come to Washington to
meet you for this purpose.

Please remember both Mrs. Lane and me
to Mrs. Lane,
and believe me to be
Very sincerely yours
W. F. Chandler

October 22, 1914.

My dear Judge Sweet:-

I have just received your letter of the 21st instant with reference to Mr. José Hernández in connection with the position of Fiscal of the District Court of Humacao.

I have read very carefully the whole of your letter and appreciate very much all the suggestions you have made, both those in connection with this matter in particular and also those of a more general character.

I find that in the main my own ideas coincide with yours and I shall give careful consideration to all of your suggestions including that of Mr. Hernández as an applicant for this position. However, I shall take plenty of time to consider this particular appointment, not only because of its importance - for I regard all judicial appointments as of great importance - but because there are complications surrounding it that can be satisfactorily adjusted only with care and deliberation.

With sincere regard and good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Governor.

Willis Sweet, Esq.,
Attorney at Law,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

WILLIS SWEET
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO
CABLE: "SWEET"

Oct., 21, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico.

Sir:--

Mr. Jose Hernandez informs me that he is a candidate for the position of fiscal of the District Court of Humacao, which position is now vacant.

I have heard from other sources that the judgeship at Humacao has not been a very happy appointment and that possibly you may consider a transfer of the present judge to the office of fiscal and the appointment of a new judge.

I have known Mr. Hernandez since I came to Porto Rico in 1903. When I was Attorney General he was connected with the office, and during all of the time since I have known him in active practice at the bar, as an office lawyer in preparing breifs, and I have known him more or less in his official capacity as clerk of the Supreme Court.

I know him to be a good lawyer in both English and Spanish, and I know him to be a young man of fine moral character.

I believe that in politics he is a Unionist, but I feel sure that I know him to be far above any sort of partizanship on the bench.

And I also well know that you care no more than I, or any other good citizen, what the political views of a judge may be if he is true to his profession, to his office and to the State.

There is another phase of this question which I regard as important. In your inaugural address, you stated that the American flag was not to come down, and that utterance was perhaps the most

26X11
11X28

WILLIS SWEET
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO
CABLE: "SWEET"

important in its influence of anything spoken by you that day. Carrying that same thought into effect, I have always believed that the government should whenever possible do everything in its power to give force and effect to that idea, without creating hardship, for the Porto Rican people of any class. For instance, I would not have the courts officered so as to in any way injure the old Porto Rican lawyer in his practice by reason of the inability of court officials to handle the Spanish language.

Upon the other hand, very many, and I think the bulk of the laws of Porto Rico that to day effect the every day life of this people, are taken from American States and rest upon American precedents.

Without going into details, for I believe you will catch my thought, it seems to me to be advisable to select for district judges those Porto Ricans, young lawyers, who have had the energy, the ambition and the ability to so master both languages as to be efficient in both, not only in the principles, but in the literature of the law.

My long ^{ance}acquainted with Mr. Hernandez, and direct association with him in the courts, enables me to say that he meets these somewhat exacting requisites to a remarkable extent. I therefore respectfully urge his appointment.

Please pardon so long a letter relative to an appointment for office, and my justification is that in my opinion the matter under consideration involves much more than the mere appointment to an office.

I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,
Willis Sweet

November 6, 1914.

Doctor Albert Shaw, Editor,
The Review of Reviews Company,
30 Irving Place, New York City.

My dear Shaw:

We all greatly enjoyed Mr. Van Norman's brief visit to Porto Rico and everybody who met him seems to have been greatly pleased with his personality. I am looking forward hopefully to the time when you also may take it into your head to come to Porto Rico, and I assure you I will give you timely warning of any change in my residence, in case I should make any change, so you will know just where to find me.

I am writing now to say that I am planning to come to the States to do some work with Congress during the month of December. I am coming earlier in order to get a little visit to Kentucky before Congress assembles.

I hope to reach New York early in the morning of November 23, leaving the same day for Washington. I shall call you up, however, and see if I cannot get a few minutes' interview with you before leaving the city.

I am going to ask you to be good enough to try to arrange for me an opportunity for a short interview with a representative of the Associated Press. I do not know how to do these things for myself but hope that you might manage it without trouble or inconvenience.

I could meet the gentleman at any convenient point, perhaps, with your permission, at the Office of the Review of Reviews, or any place you might suggest.

There are some things I would like to say to the public of the United States with reference to Porto Rico.

We have just passed through the elections and everybody here seems to agree in saying that the election held on the 4th of November was the most quiet and orderly and altogether satisfactory election that the Island has experienced since 1904. The spirit manifested by the people and the results of the balloting

are all hopeful and helpful and indicate great progress in the right direction.

The House of Delegates, which has heretofore been entirely composed of delegates belonging to one of the principal parties, will next winter be almost equally divided between the two larger parties, and this of course makes for good government as you know.

It is too late for you to receive this letter and get an answer to me before the date of my probable leaving Porto Rico, so I shall hope to see you in New York and talk with you about it then.

With cords of good wishes for you, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

December 2, 1914.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Mr. J. D. Stubbe, a resident of San Juan, Porto Rico, is the duly recognized Consul of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, for the Island of Porto Rico, who is on his way to Washington, D. C., and expects shortly to return to Porto Rico.

Acting Governor.

PERSONAL

January 4, 1915.

My dear Shaw:

I arrived at San Juan safe and sound after an unusually pleasant voyage, and found my family all fairly well and of course very glad to see me back home again.

The Island is peaceful and quiet and everything seems to have gone on very satisfactorily during my absence.

I shall remember always the very delightful day that Rodes and I enjoyed in your beautiful home on Christmas Day. It seemed to me an ideal celebration of the beautiful festival in an ideal atmosphere.

Please remember me to Mrs. Shaw and her mother Mrs. Bacon and both of the boys, and do not forget that the invitation for you to come to Porto Rico stands open throughout the present administration for any time that might be convenient for you.

Faithfully your friend,

Doctor Albert Shaw,
30 Irving Place,
New York City.

86X11

Sent
Feb. 16. 1915

WAWA, PENNA.

February 1st 1915.

My dear Governor Jaeger

I read with the greatest
interest the beginning of your message
to the legislature, in a chance copy
of the "Tiempo". May I offer my
congratulations? I shall appreciate
it very much if your secretary will
send me a copy of the whole
message. Very truly yours
W. F. Sands.

The Filson
1921

March 19, 1915.

My dear Senator Saulsbury:

At the request of Senator
Shafroth I am sending you under separate
cover two copies of my last message to
the legislature and my last annual report.

Hoping that you will be able to
have a good long rest after your strenuous
labors at Washington, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable Willard Saulsbury,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

J. FRANKLIN JAMESON
DIRECTOR



April 12, 1915.

My dear Governor:

I thank you for your kind letter of March 25 with reference to Dr. Louis F. Snow, of whom I wrote in connection with your Department of Education. While I am on the one hand anxious to do anything I can for Dr. Snow's interests, I wish to be equally regardful of yours, and mean to write with entire candor on all points. I can say with perfect security that Dr. Snow is an energetic, capable man, of administrative ability, and I think that he has an extensive acquaintance with the problems of modern public education. His standards and ideals are thoroughly democratic, practical, and moderate. I do not say this last because of his having had a long connection with public school work, for I think that this is not the case, but rather because of talks with him and because of his former relation with Teachers College at Columbia University and with the Normal School at Cortland, New York; also his position in Kentucky was, if I remember rightly, Dean of Education in the State University under President Patterson.

I believe that I can truly say that Dr. Snow

86XII

(12-Apr-15)

2.

has the administrative ability and capacity for organization which would enable him to manage successfully a Department of Education where the career of such a department was not subject to much interference on the part of politicians, or great tact in dealing with them was not required. I am not however able to say with any security that he is a man of great tact or diplomatic skill. I doubt this, when I see how frequently he has moved, and recall some of the stories he has told me of these times of removal. But I have never been near at hand to see for myself any of his workings in connection with other men---- in these various positions since he left Brown University some fifteen years ago, and I suggest that you could probably get better information from Doctor Patterson, if he is the kind of man on whose judgment you would rely; I don't know anything about him. Doctor Snow is a man of knowledge, cultivation, skill, and power, and is without question doing good work where he is. I hope he may find exactly the opportunity which suits him and his wife and boy (these are his only family) whether at Porto Rico or elsewhere.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours,

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



June 5, 1915.

My dear Szold:-

I was unusually pleased to get your brief letter of the 23rd ultimo, and especially glad to hear that you had secured so promptly so pleasant a position as the one in which you are now engaged. I am perfectly sure that you will find the work congenial and helpful. I have met Solicitor General Davis, though perhaps he has forgotten the occasion. We have a mutual friend in Kentucky, Dr. H. B. Adams, through whom I feel to be well acquainted with Mr. Davis.

There is no news much in Porto Rico except that almost all the Americans and a good many Porto Ricans seem this year to be going North for the summer, so that Mrs. Yager fears that when the children come down this month they will feel rather lonely. Madam Luchetti still continues quite ill.

You perhaps know that Mr. Bills has resigned from the Bureau of Labor in order to enter the Attorney General's Office.

Everything seems to be going fairly well from the political point of view and that of the government except, perhaps, some of the activities of Mr. Iglesias and the Industrial Commission in Washington; and I am quite sure that you know more about the real situation and probable effects of these operations than I do myself. The account of the

(5-june-15)

-2-

hearing published in "The New York Times" is the only one that I have seen. It seems to me to be quite inadequate and unfair and must have emanated from some of the labor members of the Commission. However, I take it that the people of the United States will pay scant attention to anything that may come up as to Porto Rico in this time of war and stress. The more is the pity.

I am planning to be in Washington in September and I hope to see you there.

Remember me to Mr. Davis, and of course to General Mc Intyre and Major Hunt and all my friends at the Bureau.

With best wishes for you always, I am

Sincerely, your friend,

Governor.

Robert Szold, Esq.,

Office of the Solicitor General,

Washington, D. C.



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

May 23, 1915

Dear Governor Yager:—

Soon after coming to the States, an offer of appointment as assistant to the Solicitor General came unexpectedly, and I quickly accepted. In work and in salary, the position is a promotion. Mr. Davis, the Solicitor General is a fine gentleman, and quite generally regarded as the ablest Solicitor General who has occupied the post for a long time. I am his personal assistant in the preparation of briefs for the United States Supreme Court.

(23-May-15)



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

During the past few days, I have had the pleasure of the company of Bills and Travieso several times - They have not yet appeared before the Industrial Commission - This body is quite generally regarded as misdirecting its efforts -

If I can do anything for Pats Rico or for you with Gen. McIntyre or anyone else here in Washington, please command -

With kind regards, to yourself, to Mrs. Yager, Elizabeth and Mrs Holmes, I am,

Yours very respectfully,
Robert Hoar -

Hon Arthur Yager,
Governor of Pats Rico.

July 9, 1915.

Smith's Bakery,
Dauphin & Hallett Sts.,
Mobile, Alabama.

Gentlemen:-

I am enclosing herein New York draft for \$16.02 the amount of your bill of June 16, 1915, which is also enclosed.

As you will observe, I have taken the liberty to correct the addition on the statement which seems to have been made \$28.52 by an error. The correct amount as the item shows is \$16.02.

The cakes arrived in good order, and while they have not as yet been opened I doubt not they will prove perfectly satisfactory as they always have heretofore.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

July 28, 1915.

My dear Mr. Szold:

Your very kind letter of the 20th instant just came to hand last night.

I was right sick for two or three weeks with some sort of attack of indigestion, but I am very much better and hope to get entirely well right away.

I have already planned my vacation to begin in September after I have finished my annual report, and to continue until along about the first of November.

I have already agreed to go to the Lake Mohonk Conference somewhere about the 21st of October and make an address on social conditions in Porto Rico. Dr. D. W. May of Mayaguez Experiment Station has also agreed to attend and speak at the Conference on present and prospective agricultural conditions in the Island. I hope you will go also, and I would like very much for you to have a place on the program and enter into the discussion. Perhaps you have already been invited to do so, but if not, Major Hunt can arrange to have an invitation extended to you. I should be glad if we are to have Porto Rico on the program to have as thorough and complete a discussion of the fundamental conditions as we can.

(28-July-15)

-2-

I am glad to hear that Mr. Pitkin has arrived at his post, as your letter implies. I wrote him there some weeks ago, but had no definite address save that as Legal Adviser of the Siamese Government, so I am not perfectly sure that he received my letter. I have not had time perhaps to receive a reply anyway.

I hope you are enjoying the work. Your many friends here often think and speak of you and I look forward to seeing you in Washington next September with very great pleasure.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Assistant to the Solicitor General,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

July 20, 1915.

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

Dear Governor Yager:

I was much distressed to read in the Progress this week of your recent illness. I think it is very easy for one's health to be impaired in Porto Rico without notice at the time. I trust that you are quite well again now.

I conveyed to the Solicitor General Davis your regards, and he seemed pleased to hear from you. He remembered you very well, he said.

I am hoping that you may take a long vacation in the states this summer and fall, and that you may come to the Lake Mohonk conference in October. If you are willing to go to the conference, Major Hunt says that Porto Rico will be put on the program. If you go to the conference I will also go.

I received a letter from Mr. Pitkin in Bangkok, Siam, the other day. He says that the East is supposed to be inscrutable. I think rather that he will attempt to be even more inscrutable than the persons he is advising.

With very kindest regards, *to yourself and to Mrs. Yager,*
Yours respectfully,

Robert Gold -

August 11, 1915.

Doctor Albert Shaw,
Review of Reviews,
New York City.

My dear Shaw:

It has been a long time since I have heard from you, or written to you either for that matter, because I have had a busy time for the last few months. I am writing now simply to say to you that I am planning to run up to the States on a vacation, reaching there somewhere about the middle of September when I am in hopes that I will have an opportunity to talk with you for an hour or two while in New York. I have arranged to stay over in the States long enough to attend the Mohonk Conference, which assembles I believe October 20, and discuss social conditions in Porto Rico before that august body. I think you sometimes attend this Conference and I hope you will be able to do so this year, for it would greatly add to the pleasure of Mrs. Yager and myself at Lake Mohonk if we could have the company of you and Mrs. Shaw.

Please remember me most cordially to Mrs. Shaw and the boys. My son Redas and I will both always pleasantly remember the delightful Christmas Day spent with you last December.

With cords of good wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

San Juan, December 4, 1915.

My dear Shaw:-

Mrs. Yager arrived safe and well on December 1st. She had a pleasant voyage down and a delightful vacation throughout the whole period of her absence in the States. She was charmed with her visit to your home in all of its details, specially with Mrs. Shaw and the boys. I cannot tell you, however, how I appreciate your kindness and hospitality both to Mrs. Yager and the children, Rhodes and Diana. I am planning a return to Washington about January the 1st in order to take up with Congress the legislation for Porto Rico which we have all recommended and prepared and which we will have introduced in both houses at the beginning of the session. It seems likely that Congress is going to be very busy, but nevertheless, I hope that there will be an opportunity afforded for the consideration of this long deferred but entirely just and proper legislation for this Island. I know you will be ready to help all you can through the columns of your great magazine.

(4-Dec-15)

- 2 -

I shall try to see you when in New York and will be extremely glad to hear from you at any time when convenient for you to write.

With good wishes to Mrs. Shaw and the boys and the best of luck for you, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

ARTHUR YACER

Dr. Albert Shaw, Editor,
The American Review of Reviews,
New York City, N. Y.

AY/JVP

The Filson Historical Society

February 10, 1916.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th instant has been duly received. I have referred the request contained in it to Colonel Shanton, Chief of Insular Police.

I should personally be very glad if some position in connection with the Police Department might be offered you, but I do not know whether it is practicable to do so at present.

Assuring you of the highest consideration, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. Walter M. St. Elmo,
Mayaguez, Porto Rico.

Mayaguez, P.R.,
Feb 5-1916.

Dear Governor Yager:

Believing that
my past record entitles me
to it, I respectfully ask if you
will give me a position as
Inspector of Police - in which
case you can be sure of the
same loyal service which
I have rendered my former
superiors -

Very sincerely yours.

Walter M. St. Elmo

The Filson Historical Society

**To the Honorable Committee of Insular Affairs,
of the House of Representatives of the
Congress of the United States.**

The undersigned members of the San Juan Clearing House Association, a banking organization comprising:

THE BANCO COMERCIAL OF PORTO RICO,
THE AMERICAN COLONIAL BANK,
THE BANCO TERRITORIAL Y AGRICOLA DE PUERTO RICO,
THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA,
THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, and
THE BANCO POPULAR DE ECONOMIAS Y PRESTAMOS,

beg leave to invite your consideration to the following statement of facts and rectification.

As appears from the published pamphlet containing the hearings had before the Committee on Insular Affairs, in the matter of the consideration of H. R. 8501, entitled "A Bill to Provide a Civil Government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes", held on the 13th day of January, 1916, that the Honorable Arthur Yager, the Governor of Porto Rico made to said Committee the following statement:

"For example, yesterday we were discussing banks. You gentlemen had an idea that the banking system in Porto Rico, with the background of the banking system in your own States, was something local and peculiar to the island itself. As a matter of fact, nearly all banks in Porto Rico are foreign banks. We have one American bank there, but the two largest banks in Porto Rico are Canadian banks, neither Porto Rican nor American, absolutely foreign. Consequently, the banking system is peculiar. If you had, in your own States, the main banking capital coming from Germany, France or Italy, you would have a very different situation there than you do have. In Kentucky, where I come from, the banks are run by red-blooded Kentuckians, and we have our own banking system peculiar to ourselves; but that is not so, however, in Porto Rico, and I wish to say in the beginning, after a long residence—and by long residence I mean a long residence for a governor, they never stay long—that necessarily, in every step of the way in Porto Rico that we take, I have found a local light and an understanding of the local conditions and appreciation of the fact that we have an old thoroughly developed civilization, which is different from ours, and very much behind ours in some ways and ahead of ours in other ways, but all this difference is necessary, and in order to adapt the two to work harmoniously together, these conditions must be studied.

Mr. Thompson: Governor, would it bother you to ask you a question there?

Gov. Yager: No, sir.

Mr. Thompson: Why do they have no local capital invested in those banks?

Gov. Yager: Well, Porto Rico, in the first place, is very poor. There is little capital in the island of any sort. It has always been poor, as I will point out later, that is the chief problem—the poverty of the island. In the second place, they are developing, with their own capital, other forms of industry, particularly the sugar and coffee, both of which industries require a large amount of capital, and every Porto Rican, of course, first puts his money in those old industries, which appeal to his imagination and which he understands, and he has not money enough to go into the banking institutions or other forms of industry.

Mr. Bailey: It is an agricultural rather than a banking country?

Gov. Yager: Yes, sir.

Mr. Thompson: What attracts foreign people there to invest their money?

Gov. Yager: The high rate of interest—to make money, of course.

Mr. Towner: Have you had any usury laws to prevent extortionate rates of interest?

Gov. Yager: No, sir.

Mr. Towner: Has the legislature ever considered laws of that kind?

Gov. Yager: Frequently. They have thought about it and talked about it, but never passed any.

Mr. Towner: Never passed any laws of that sort?

Gov. Yager: No, sir; not yet.

Mr. Towner: What are the current rates for short-time business loans?

Gov. Yager: I do not know, Judge Towner, as an actual fact. I have known of instances of 20 and 30 per cent—short-time loans. I think, however, 15 or 20 per cent would be a right common interest on short-time loans.

Mr. Towner: If a business man wanted \$1,000 for 30 days, would he be compelled to pay 15 or 20 per cent?

Gov. Yager: I imagine he would. Perhaps some of them, known to be good men, who really do not need it, could perhaps get it for 10 or 12 per cent, but I imagine if a man was of a sort that really needed the money, he would have to pay that."

The San Juan Clearing House Association begs leave to enter its emphatic protest against a number of erroneous and misleading statements made by the Honorable Governor of Porto Rico in the foregoing testimony, and on behalf of the banking interests of Porto Rico to be allowed to rectify the erroneous impression which would naturally be thereby created.

Governor Yager, in his annual report as Governor of Porto Rico to the Secretary of War, under date of September 8th, 1915, and on page 2 of said report, uses the following language relative to the banking institutions of the Island:

"Statements submitted to the Treasury Department by the recognized banking institutions of the Island show that they are in excellent condition and still possess the confidence of the public, which they have earned by years of conservative and able management. Their deposits aggregate more than \$11,300,000 a healthy increase over those of last year and larger than those of any previous year with the exception of 1913. The average cash reserve seemed ample to cover all contingencies. A consolidated report of the organized banks in operation in Porto Rico, at the close of business June 30th, 1915, will be found in table 1 of the Treasurer's report elsewhere in this volume."

The banking institutions of Porto Rico are, and have been for a number of years, subject to regulation and inspection by the Treasurer of Porto Rico, as is usually the case in other countries, and such inspections are frequently made, and the reports become a part of the public records of the government. Consequently, the Honorable Governor of Porto Rico, in discussing the matter of the banking institutions of the Island, should be at least reasonably informed of the manner and method of conducting such institutions in the Island, and should have at least some idea of the law governing or regulating the business of banks.

According to the report of the Governor and the table referred to in the report of Treasurer, as set forth at page 243 and following, there are twelve officially recognized banking institutions in the Island, and of this total number one is an American banking institution with total loans of \$1,425,957 and two are Canadian with total loans of \$2,260,001 while all the balance of the banks in the Island are local banks, owned and controlled by local capital their total loans amounting to \$4,751,605. Consequently, when the Honorable Governor stated before the Committee of Insular Affairs that "as a matter of fact, nearly all banks in Porto Rico are foreign banks", the statement was entirely erroneous according to its own report as Governor, and surely is a very grave injustice to the large majority of the banks of the Island which are purely local institutions; and while it is true that one of the banks doing business in Porto Rico is an American bank, and two of them are Canadian banks, it is equally true, as shown by the Governor's report, that a majority of all of the banking business of the Island is transacted by local banks, and, therefore, the impression conveyed by the Governor's testimony in this regard must be considered as entirely misleading.

Further on, the Honorable Governor, in his statement in response to questions from several members of the Committee on Insular Affairs, gives the following testimony:

“Mr. Thompson: What attracts foreign people there to invest their money?”

Gov. Yager: The high rate of interest—to make money, of course.

Mr. Towner: Have you had any usury laws to prevent extortionate rates of interest?

Gov. Yager: No, sir.

Mr. Towner: Has the legislature ever considered laws of that kind?

Gov. Yager: Frequently. They have thought about it and talked about it, but never passed any.

Mr. Towner: Never passed any laws of that sort?

Gov. Yager: No, sir; not yet.”

We desire to call the attention of the Honorable Committee and of the Governor of Porto Rico, in connection with the foregoing, to the fact that in the Revised Statutes of Porto Rico there is contained a law enacted by the Legislative Assembly of 1902, entitled “An Act to Fix the Legal Rate of Interest on all Obligations”, and that a portion of said Act reads as follows:

“That in the absence of an agreement in writing entered into and executed at the time, the rate of interest upon a loan or forbearance of money or goods, or upon any variety of obligation or contract, or upon unpaid judgments, shall be at the rate of \$6.00 annually on each \$100.00 or its equivalent in value, and at the same rate for a greater or less sum, or for a longer or shorter period, provided, however, that no rate of interest shall be fixed by special agreement in excess of \$12.00 a year on each \$100.00 or upon its equivalent in value. Within the limit here defined it shall be lawful to discount bills and notes and other similar obligations.”

By a further enactment of the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico, approved March 14th, 1907, it is further provided that:

“No person except as authorized by Section 3 of this Act shall demand or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or goods at any greater rate of interest for the loan or extension of time for said loan, than the rate provided for herein.”

Following this the law provides specific penalties to be imposed upon any person or institution which shall violate its provisions by demanding, receiving or accepting interest in excess of the limit fixed by the foregoing law.

It is hard to account for the testimony of the Honorable Governor of Porto Rico with respect to this matter, for certainly, with the knowledge which necessarily must have been brought to him officially in connection with the governmental supervision and control of banking institutions in the Island, he should naturally have some slight knowledge of the statutes of Porto Rico relative to the regulation of the business of such banking institutions, and we may say, further, in this connection, that for many years prior to the enactment of the law of 1902, which we have quoted, and during the time when Porto Rico lived under Spanish domination, there had always existed laws regulating and limiting the amount of interest that might be contracted for, for loans of money.

Following the language of the Honorable Governor, which we have just discussed, we find his testimony as follows:

“Mr. Towner: What are the current rates for short-time business loans?”

Gov. Yager: I do not know, Judge Towner, as an actual fact. I have known ^{14%} of instances of 20 and 30 per cent—short-time loans. I think, however, 15 or 20 per cent would be a right common interest on short-time loans.

Mr. Towner: If a business man wanted \$1,000 for 30 days, would he be compelled to pay 15 or 20 per cent?

Gov. Yager: I imagine he would. Perhaps some of them, known to be good men, who really do not need it, could perhaps get it for 10 or 12 per cent, but I imagine if a man was of a sort that really needed the money, he would have to pay that.”

Against these statements of Governor Yager we do most earnestly and emphatically protest, and while it may be true that there might be discovered a few isolated instances in

which by special contract between private parties some such excessive rate of interest might have been agreed upon, as is stated in the testimony of the Governor, nevertheless we declare that not within the knowledge of any member of this Clearing House Association has any of the recognized banking institutions of Porto Rico demanded or received any interest in excess of the legal rate fixed by the law regulating the rates of interest legally chargeable, and, furthermore, we declare that the prevailing and usual rate at which money is loaned by the banking institutions of Porto Rico is approximately 9 per cent per annum. Different members of this Clearing House Association have frequently loaned, and are now loaning, large sums of money at the rate of 8 per cent per annum, and in some few cases at the rate of 7 1/2 per cent per annum, and we know of no bank or banking institution in the Island which is charging or receiving interest on its commercial and other loans in excess of the rates which we here set forth.

It may be readily seen that the great publicity which will necessarily be given to the statements of the Honorable Governor, made before the Congress of the United States, in this regard, must necessarily have a serious and detrimental effect upon the commercial and financial interests of the Island; in fact it is hard to conceive of a single point in the matter of securing the investment of funds and the development of the industries and resources of the Island which would appeal more insistently and have a more persuasive effect upon a proposed investor, or which would prove more damaging to the general development of the commerce and industry of the Island, than the matter of the rates of interest charged by banking institutions for the loan of moneys.

We maintain that taking into consideration the location and conditions surrounding the business, commercial and agricultural institutions of the Island, its isolation from the great financial centers of the world and the many expenses and delays incident to the transportation of money and the transfer of credits, the rates of interest charged and received by the banks of Porto Rico are only fair and reasonable, and that we should not be accused of extortion, as would be indicated by the testimony of the Honorable Governor, when the real facts are so easily within his control, and ordinarily must be brought to his attention in connection with the governmental supervision of the banking business of the Island.

Of course we appreciate that it will be impossible to give to this statement of recitation the great and world-wide publicity which necessarily has been given to the printed testimony by Governor Yager in regard to these matters, but, nevertheless, we feel that we would be doing an injustice to ourselves, and a greater injustice to the commerce, industry and prosperity of the Island of Porto Rico, if we should allow his statements, which we have been discussing, to go to the world unchallenged, and especially where they come from such high and presumably authentic authority.

San Juan, P. R., February 7th, 1916.

The San Juan Clearing House Association.

Manuel Paniagua,

President.

Banco Comercial de Puerto Rico,

Manuel Paniagua,

President.

American Colonial Bank of Porto Rico,

F. M. Welby,

Vice President.

Banco Territorial y Agrícola de Puerto Rico,

R. Castro González,

Managing Director.

The Royal Bank of Canada,

W. A. Mc Kinlay,

Manager.

The Bank of Nova Scotia,

H. J. Gordon,

Agent.

Banco Popular de Economías y Prestamos,

Damián Monserrat,

Director Gerente.

P. F.

C O P Y

San Juan, Porto Rico.
February 21, 1916.

To the Honorable
The Committee on Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I have read the communication addressed to you under date of February 7, by the San Juan Clearing House Association, and inasmuch as there seems to be some difference as to the facts between their statements and those of the Governor, it seems to me proper to make a brief reply.

In the first place I desire to state that in making the remarks complained of my only motive was to set forth to the Committee conditions in Porto Rico--- to show that Porto Rico was not a rich country, that capital was scarce in the island, that the rates of interest were relatively high and that even such capital as was there, was mostly foreign to the island-- at least as far as the banking business was concerned. At the moment these remarks were made the Governor did not

even intend them as a criticism of the banks, but simply to explain conditions in Porto Rico. Everybody, I think, well understands that the banks of a country are not solely and entirely responsible for the high rates of interest that may exist there, for the rates of interest are fixed primarily by ^{the} law of supply and demand of loanable capital, and every one will also admit that it is better for a country to have foreign capital than none at all.

The associated bankers, however, seem to have taken these remarks as a criticism of their methods and in their protest, copies of which I understand have been sent to each of you, they attempt to deny and disprove the statements made by the Governor as to three specific points as follows:-

- (1) That nearly all the banks in Porto Rico are foreign banks.
- (2) That there are no usury laws.
- (3) That the rate of interest for short time loans charged those who really need the money and therefore have not the most perfect forms of security to offer is probably some 15 or 20 per cent, and possibly in some instances more than that.

I shall take up for brief discussion these matters in the above order.

First as to the statement that most of the banks in Porto Rico are foreign. The banks of the San Juan Clearing House Association, referring to their report to the Treasurer of Porto Rico as published in the Annual Report of the Governor, state that "there are twelve officially recognized banking institutions in the Island, and of this total number one is an American banking institution with total loans of \$1,425,957 and two are Canadian with total loans of \$2,260,001 while all the balance of the banks in the Island are local banks, owned and controlled by local capital their total loans amounting to \$4,751,605." This sentence seems to state unequivocally, both as to number and as to the amount of business, that the majority of the banks are not foreign and that the Governor's statement to the contrary was erroneous; and yet, when the facts are carefully examined, it can be shown that the Governor's statement was correct, and inasmuch as the bankers must have known these facts their statement seems inexplicable.

Of the nine banks referred to above as local banks one is in liquidation, and at the time of their

last report was practically without either deposits or loans and almost all of its assets had been turned into cash and placed in other banks. Therefore it was not an actual bank.

In this list there were also four small savings banks situated in small towns and having an aggregate capital, all four of them, of \$120,000. Of course they do not and cannot engage in any commercial business of importance, and therefore for the purpose of this discussion should not be considered.

This leaves only four of the nine counted as local. Of these four, one is practically a branch of one of the foreign banks, which owns thirty-six (36) per cent of its capital stock, and this foreign bank in its own name and through its officers and directors owns a sufficient amount of the capital stock to assure the control of the so-called local bank. Moreover, more than half of the capital stock of this so-called local bank is owned by nonresidents. In no sense then, it seems to me, can this bank be properly called a local bank when it is both owned and controlled by foreigners.

The same condition is practically true of one of the other so-called local banks. A majority of its

stock is owned by nonresidents, and two-thirds of its directors are foreigners who are at present residing in Porto Rico.

Making, therefore, these proper deductions and corrections, we find that there are here in Porto Rico in all only seven active banks engaged in the business of commercial banking. Of this "total number" five are foreign and only two can be considered local "owned and controlled by local capital."

Comparing the foreign and local banks as to their importance and the amount of business, we get the following results:-

	<u>Total Deposits</u>	<u>Loans</u>
FOREIGN BANKS -	\$ 8,589,036	\$ 5,722,618
LOCAL BANKS -	2,303,186	2,404,517

All these banks of course have large capital and surplus of their own which should enable them to loan an amount practically equal to their total deposits, using their capital and surplus as a reserve. It will be noticed that the local banks are doing so, but the sum total of the loans of the foreign banks is only sixty-six (66) per cent of their deposits.

On this point, therefore, it is evident that the real facts bear out the statement made by the

Governor to your Committee that "nearly all of the banks in Porto Rico are foreign."

(2) As to the second point, namely, whether there are any usury laws in Porto Rico, the Governor overlooked or had forgotten the fact that there is a law against usury on the statute books of the island, providing that no rate of interest shall be fixed by special agreement in excess of twelve (12) per cent.

(3) As to the rates actually charged the more needy borrowers in Porto Rico, the Governor did not state the facts from his own knowledge. He did state that from information he had received he supposed that 15 to 20 per cent was usually charged this class of borrowers. He did not specifically state that the banks charge this high rate; but there are in the island many usurers and private lenders of money, and all these borrowers who have not the best forms of security have to resort to these private parties for accommodation in time of need. I am informed that the rates charged under these circumstances vary from 1-1/2 to 5 per cent a month.

According to their consolidated report for June 30, 1915, the six largest banks in this island, which together do practically all of the commercial

banking business, reported total deposits of all sorts of \$11,603,246 and total loans of only \$7,898,838, which was 68% of their deposits. They are so conservatively managed that they do not loan in Porto Rico any of their own capital at all and only sixty-eight (68) per cent of their total deposits. It is evident, therefore, that in a country where the banking institutions are as chary of their loans as this would indicate, very many of those who need to borrow would have to resort to the other sources mentioned.

Taking, therefore, the remarks of the Governor before the Committee in a broad and general way, and bearing in mind their main purpose, it is evident that they were and are substantially correct and do set forth actual conditions in Porto Rico.

Respectfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR YAGER

Governor.

March 7, 1916.

Miss Currelone C. Smith,
Richmond, Kentucky.

My dear Miss Smith:

Your letter of the 17th ultimo was received and I note with interest your desire to teach in the schools of Porto Rico.

We have a number of American teachers employed in the public schools of the island and there are always at the end of the year a considerable number of vacancies and the places have to be filled by other teachers coming down.

I suggest that you write to Mr. Paul G. Miller, Commissioner of Education, San Juan, Porto Rico, and make application for a position, giving him all the facts as to your record and preparation and experience, and I think it quite likely that you could secure a position. Your experience in Panama would be helpful, and if you could send Mr. Miller some testimonials as to the success of your work there I am sure he would appreciate it. I will take pleasure in speaking to Mr. Miller myself about it should the occasion arise to do so.

I have mentioned your letter to Mrs. Bennett and Isabel, and also to Mr. Bennett who is now here with his wife and daughter. We are greatly enjoying their visit and I hope that they are enjoying it also.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

April 5, 1916.

Messrs. Smith & Jett,
Attorneys at Law,
Richmond, Kentucky.

Gentlemen:

Yours of the 23rd ultimo has been received, and I enclose herein my check for \$82.50 in payment in full of the assessment upon Mrs. Yager's stock in the old Richmond National Bank, resulting from the judgment of the court in the case of Covington v. The Southern National Bank et al.

Please send to me here at your convenience the receipt in full which I can preserve as evidence of the final settlement of this unfortunate matter.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

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April 5, 1916.

My dear Szold;

I received your last letter some time ago and greatly enjoyed it. Since your letter has come our Porto Rican bill has gotten all balled up with a lot of hearings from Porto Rican commissions and with the prohibition amendment, and also with the rush and crush of important business which is engrossing the time of Congress. However, the action of the House caucus including it in the list of 9 measures to be pushed at this session, would seem to indicate that the bill will be passed through the House at least; but I am afraid it will be saddled with the prohibition amendment which would have very important and unpleasant effects at this moment which I think is quite inopportune. The same influence which put it to the front in the House caucus will also most likely be influential in the Senate, so that I have some hopes that it will be finally passed; but I am much concerned over the prohibition amendment. It is just possible that I may return to Washington to see what can be done both as to the bill itself and the prohibition amendment after our local legislature adjourns. The latter body is quickening its pace during these last days of the session, and I hope will get something substantial accomplished in

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regard to the most important matters which are before it; but you know this august assembly never plucks its fruit until the last moment, so we can never tell.

There are many things of interest crowding along here in the little island but I have not time to write them. The local political situation is a queer tangle, and this applies to national politics as well as to local politics. I have just had a long and most interesting letter from Pitkin, but it took almost a month of travel for it to reach me.

I would be very glad to hear from you again. What are your views of the political situation in the States? Who is going to run against President Wilson and what is likely to happen to him? Will Mr. Brandeis finally be confirmed or sentenced to the penitentiary?

Give my kind regards to your boss Mr. Davis, and especially to Roger Hull of whom I saw very little when he was in Porto Rico but whom I am sure made a thorough investigation of his special business as is his wont.

I hope you are well and happy.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

April 12, 1916

My dear Yager:

A small memorial volume is being prepared by the friends of the late E. R. L. Gould. I am asked to write a brief chapter about his Johns Hopkins period. Will you not dictate at once (for the time is short) a brief letter to me, giving me your recollections of Gould as a student and associate, with possible some typical illustration of his methods or characteristics? Burr Ramage, if he were living, could give us some interesting memories.

I should like to hear from you about other matters.

With best regards to Mrs. Yager and the family,

Faithfully yours,

Albert Shaw

Hon. Arthur Yager
San Juan, Porto Rico

11 x 78

May 15, 1916.

My dear Shaw;

I beg pardon for the long delay in answering your letter of last month with regard to some contribution for the memorial volume which is being prepared by friends of the late E. R. L. Gould. My delay was due to two causes. First, I have been very much occupied with very urgent matters, and in the second place I had little or nothing of value and interest to add to this volume.

I knew Mr. Gould personally for only one year, and that was my first year at Hopkins and his last; for the succeeding year he was in Washington as principal of one of their high schools. Consequently, while I knew him unusually well for an acquaintance of such short duration, nevertheless I saw comparatively little of him.

His most striking characteristic to me was his remarkably attractive personality. His social capacity and his genial comradeship were truly extraordinary, and to know him was to enjoy and admire him. He was indeed a most lovable fellow, and this gift for making friends seemed to grow with the years of his life.

I received sometime ago a very kind letter from Professor Blayney, of the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, in which he enclosed a copy of a letter written

(15 May 16)

-2-

by you to Chairman Jones, of the Insular Affairs Committee, at Washington, referring to the present administration in the Philippine Islands in comparison with or rather by way of contrast to that in Porto Rico, and I want to thank you most heartily for the kindness done to me in that letter. I believe that, upon the whole, that is the most gratifying incident that has occurred to me during my work here thus far and I appreciate it more than I can tell.

Congress seems to be behaving rather queerly in regard to the Philippine bill, and the whole matter has reached a most perplexing stage of evolution. The bill may perhaps fail altogether. I do hope, however, similar fate will not befall our Porto Rican bill. The time is exceedingly opportune for its passage from every point of view, politically, economically and socially. I think the island is unquestionably more completely ready for it now than it has ever been before, and that its prompt passage at this moment would settle thoroughly the most difficult problems and put the others in the way of settlement.

I have read with the greatest interest your review of the political situation in the last number of *THE REVIEW OF REVIEWS*. I have read there for the first time what seemed to me to be any really sensible, sane and sound criticism of the present administration in its

(15 May 16)

-3-

foreign policy.

We are all well here and the children at last accounts were also well. Mrs. Yeger and our youngest daughter Elizabeth are planning to sail to New York in time to be present at Diane's commencement at Vassar.

I hope that you and Mrs. Shaw and the boys are all well.

Very sincerely your friend,

*Doctor Albert Shaw, Editor,
American Review of Reviews,
New York City.*

The Filson Historical Society



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

June 2, 1916.

My dear Governor Yager:

I have not sent to you the Porto Rican bill and the Congressional Record containing the debates in the House on the bill because Major Hunt assured me that you received these documents. I hope the references in the Record on page 9500, where Congressman Jones speaks of his "absolute confidence in the administration in Porto Rico, especially Governor Yager", have been given wide circulation in the Porto Rican press. However distasteful to you personally the circulation of such statements might be there can be no doubt of the beneficial effect upon the administration. I am hoping that the Senate will do as Senator Shafroth has already suggested, pass the House bill without much debate or consideration.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to Major Hunt, and he has already telephoned me that the matters referred to in my letter either need no consideration or will have such consideration as is necessary. I suggest that you ask Kern's opinion on

(2-Jun-16)

section 9.

Some time ago I received a letter from Pitkin, in Siam, written the fourth week of sickness due to an appendicitis operation and subsequent infection. Poor fellow, naturally of solitary frame of mind, without family or intimate friends, half-way around the world, how lonely he must have been!

Brandeis, as you already know, was confirmed yesterday by a vote of 47 to 22. Three Republicans voted for Mr. Brandeis, LaFollette, Norris and Poin-dexter. Senator Newlands was the only Democrat who voted against him. Most of us in the Department here think that the charges against Mr. Brandeis have fallen flat and were induced by personal animosity of powerful people who had much money to spend.

Hughes and Roosevelt are the leading candidates for the Republican nomination for President. Efforts of the Roosevelt crowd to smoke out Hughes are so strenuous as to be amusing. A historian a few years hence might make a very humorous description of the incidents of these days. I hope to get out to the Republican convention next week. My sister is to be married in Chicago on June 14. It seems to be fairly well agreed that the only Republican nominee who could beat Wilson would be Hughes. Mr. Davis and I are inclined to think that even Hughes would not be able to carry the election.

(2-June-16)

With kindest personal regards to yourself,
Mrs. Yager, Mrs. Holmes and Elizabeth, I am,

Very sincerely,

Robert Ayres -

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

The Filson Historical Society

May 31, 1916.

Major I. L. Hunt,
Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department.

Dear Major Hunt:

Enclosed I send you a carbon copy of a letter addressed to Congressman Jones. By reason of previous conferences on the bill I felt at liberty to address him directly. Section 44 in my opinion would be better worded if it read

That writs of error and appeals from final judgments and decrees of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico may be taken and prosecuted to the Supreme Court of the United States and the Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, as is now provided by law.

I am wondering also as to section 9. Does this section have the effect of making the internal revenue laws of the United States apply to Porto Rico? I suppose that the provisions of the internal revenue laws now in force have been looked up and the effect of section 9 on these laws has been considered. If not, on a suggestion from you I would be glad to go into the question.

Under section 34, how far can the legislature depart from the Governor's budget which is to be "the basis of the ensuing biennial appropriation bill"? For excessive appropriations the Governor's individual item veto seems sufficient safeguard. But suppose the case where the legislature, highly displeased with the head of the department of education, refuses to make any appropriation for that department. To provide for such case would it not be well to make the principle of the Olmstead bill applicable to any individual department and add one or two words to the last sentence in section 34, page 28, by inserting in line 9, after the word "government" the words "or any department thereof"; and in line 10, after the word "several" the words "sum or sums"?

Sincerely,

June 9, 1916.

My dear Szold;

I was delighted to get your letter of the 2nd instant. I had not myself read the Congressional Record to which you refer though I had seen extracts from it published in one or two of the local papers. I looked it up upon receipt of your letter and read the whole debate with real interest.

I will adopt your suggestion and ask Kern's opinion on section 9, tho I think that he has already considered the legal point involved and thinks that the provision with reference to the internal revenue laws of the United States will have no effect as to Porto Rico, because it is provided in other parts of the bill that these revenue laws do not apply to Porto Rico. The committee intended by this proviso to make a change in the destination of the money collected under the internal revenue laws of the United States so that all of it that is collected in Porto Rico shall go into the treasury of Porto Rico without regard to the point of consumption.

I am personally greatly gratified at the confirmation of Mr. Justice Brandeis, tho the attack upon him was something fierce and I suppose unprecedented.

I am glad to hear that you are going to the Chicago convention. I suppose by this time its action has

(9-june-16)

-2-

already been determined tho we have not heard of it here. I would be glad if you would write me a letter giving me your impressions of the great gathering and your judgment as to the effect of its work in November. Personally I do not believe that as things now stand either Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Hughes can defeat Mr. Wilson. Neither of them can fully unite the republican party; and the independent voters will not, in my judgment, be led to support either one of them as against Mr. Wilson unless, of course, something untoward should happen in Mexico or elsewhere so as to change the situation. However, I am a long way off and not much of a politician at that.

I have had a bad cold lately and have not been feeling very fit because of it. I sincerely hope that the Senate will get busy and pass the Jones bill in some form before long, as we shall have to hold the next election under it if it should pass. Promptness is very essential.

Remember me to Mr. Davis and all my other friends whom you may see in Washington or Chicago. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN NEUTRAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

GENERAL OBJECT:

TO SUPPORT OUR GOVERNMENT IN ANY EFFORT IT
MAY MAKE TOWARDS A JUST AND LASTING PEACE

SPECIFIC OBJECT:

TO URGE OUR GOVERNMENT TO CALL OR CO-OPERATE IN A CONFERENCE OF
NEUTRAL NATIONS WHICH SHALL OFFER JOINT MEDIATION TO THE BELLIGER-
ENTS BY PROPOSALS CALCULATED TO FORM THE BASIS OF A PERMANENT PEACE

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TREASURER

CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY,
OF NEW YORK

SECRETARY

REBECCA SHELLY

TELEPHONE, CHELSEA 5458

70 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

November 29, 1916.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Porto, Rico.

My dear Mr. Arthur Yager:

You have doubtless heard, through the newspapers, of the American Neutral Conference Committee luncheon at the Astor Hotel, November 25, which was arranged for the purpose of enlisting the moral and financial support of influential New Yorkers.

Two committees were formed: a New York branch of the American Neutral Conference Committee which shall undertake to carry out in this state the plans laid by the committee; and a committee on finance and advice which shall co-operate with the executive committee. You will be notified of the action of this Committee in a few days, and I ask for them your hearty co-operation in whatever plans they propose.

Dr. Jordan presided at the luncheon, and brief addresses were made by the chairman, Mr. Holt, by Dr. Lynch, Jacob Schiff, George Foster Peabody and Austin Lewis of California, a prominent attorney and labor leader who came from the far West to attend the labor convention in Baltimore in behalf of the Committee. I myself outlined the plans of the committee, and several others spoke from the floor.

Perhaps no appeal made at the luncheon was more effective than that contained in a letter written by Charles P. Trevelyan, a copy of which is enclosed. This letter has been placed in the hands of the president for his consideration and will be released for publication in twenty-five hundred newspapers on Tuesday, December 5. You will render a great service to the cause if you will urge your local editors to give this remarkable document wide publicity and editorial comment, and if you yourself will write to your newspapers commenting on the article after it appears. Mr. Trevelyan's article is of course confidential until released by the newspapers.

I need not emphasize to you the necessity at this critical time of the fullest possible co-operation of all the peace forces.

Yours very sincerely,

Rebecca Shelly

SECRETARY

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Mr. Charles P. Trevelyan, the famous writer and statesman of Great Britain, has sent to this country by hand-messenger to be delivered to President Wilson the following remarkable open letter which has been given to the American Neutral Conference Committee, whose object is to urge our Government to mediate through a conference of neutral nations and to support the President in any effort for peace, for publication.

Mr. Charles P. Trevelyan is one of the leaders of the international movement in England. He is in the House of Commons and when the war broke out he resigned from the Government with Lord Morley and Mr. John Burns. He is one of the founders of the Union of Democratic Control and has spoken constantly in spite of unpopularity, in favor of a negotiated peace. He has deprecated the cult of hatred during the war, has resisted conscription, and has defended the freedom of speech and writing in Great Britain.

He made a speech in the House of Commons calling attention to President Wilson's readiness to help in a League of Peace, which was listened to with great interest and evoked from Mr. Lloyd George a half apology for his repudiation of American mediation.

Mr. Trevelyan's open letter is as follows:

In the week when Europe was rushing down into war, before I believed that my own country would become involved in it, I spoke at a dinner of the Mayflower Club in London. I said that, if the catastrophe did come to Europe, the Mayflower would become a name of even greater meaning to the world. For the one hope for the preservation of our western civilization would be the United States. And now as the war months lengthen into years I know my prophecy to be true. The relative strength of America grows as the vitality of Europe is ebbing away. It is not the loss of money and of credit. It is not during the waste and desolation of provinces, trophies and political quarrels which will only the millions of heads and limbs among the young men. But it is the complete collapse of the old national standards. Three years ago no Englishman would have believed that even the stress of a great war would make it impossible to know the truth about the failure or success of military or diplomatic efforts of the Government; that news would be officially suppressed and garbled; that newspapers would print just what Government censors told them and no more. Nor would anyone here have believed three years ago that nearly two thousand Englishmen would have been imprisoned for conscientious refusal of military service, some of them condemned to death, and many bullied and tortured by the military. These things and many others are the price of a war like this. After the war Evrany and militarism may possibly be burnt up in the wrath of instinctive popular reaction in Germany and Great Britain. But in Germany they will cling with fierce tenacity to their old strongholds and in Britain to their new found opportunity. It is in this struggle that the people of America may be able to find its unborn generation of liberty, its existing generation of peace, its faith, its peace. In all these things, I remain faithful. It will not only secure its own immense destiny but remain a beacon to the old nations in the hour of their agony and despair.

But there is practical and immediate help which America can be giving to the world, beyond the ultimate force of its example. It is that about which I chiefly wish to write. Americans must by this time be chary of believing the press of the belligerent countries. But there is nothing about which less truth is told than about the real feelings of the belligerent peoples. The newspapers only represent what they would like them to be and the more imaginative section of the ruling class still think they are. But that picture bears not the slightest relation to the truth. Probably the people of Great Britain are the least weary of the war. We started the latest of the warlike nations. So we are still. Owing to the prestige created by high wages which probably the positive value of the other nations and Austria exceeded, the battle began on the Somme. Until the whole sale slaughter of the British youth had not diminished the ordinary calculations of Englishmen. But even so, the war weariness is rapidly becoming universal in Great Britain. It is not that a movement for peace at any price either has existed or has begun to exist. Those who like myself and Messrs. Snowden, Ponsonby, and Ramsay MacDonald have for months been pressing in the House of Commons and out of it for an early effort at negotiations, have no more desire than the wildest warmonger that the war should end before Germany is ready to evacuate France and Belgium and by acts acknowledge the abandonment of all designs at aggression or aggrandizement. Meetings such as we hold to discuss what line a reasonable peace should follow are now attended by increasing multitudes of attentive people. In the great industrial centres—Yorkshire, Wales and Glasgow—there is never any disturbance. There is simply a clearly increasing desire for the Government to negotiate peace for it can. And there is nothing which has given such a stimulus to this feeling as the interview of Mr. Lloyd George.

For the first time owed his belief in a statesman openly admitted. Coming immediately after the gravity of the British losses on the Somme had begun to give the British public some notion of what a war of attrition meant to them, many moderate supporters of the war have begun to think seriously whether it is not time for the Government to formulate its real objective and see how nearly the Germans are prepared to meet them.

If I were asked to briefly define the attitude of the mass of my countrymen I should say that they are heartily sick of the war; that they are not aware of the weariness of the Germans and the willingness of the German Government to negotiate, and that consequently they regard peace as hopeless and therefore are not yet prepared to advocate it. But if once it were brought to the consciousness of ordinary Englishmen that Germany were ready for a reasonable peace, to adjust her conquests and above all to evacuate and help to compensate Belgium, a rapid and practical change would appear in popular opinion. At the moment it is clear that the belligerent Governments will not take mediation. But what I have said suggests that there is another possible line of action for neutral Governments besides trying behind the diplomatic scenes to bring the proud

Governments together. Those Govern-

ments all eventually watch and fear public opinion. The art of forming, deluding, changing and entraining public opinion has been cultivated during the war by the authorities of every belligerent country as a principal department of their activity. The hatreds of the peoples have been cultivated by the suppression of every wrong act and the suppression of every decent act of the enemy. For in the last resort, the reverberated across the seas, so important that the censorship could not exclude it, *spoils not to the Governments but to the peoples*, a change would begin to come. Suppose that to the British people, for instance, an American President were to be able to say in quite simple and direct language that Germany was ready to give up Belgium and France if the British Government would negotiate. First would come a roar of indignation from the reactionary British press. The Government circles would shudder at the lack of diplomatic reserve. There might be no open response at once. But from the day of the utterance public opinion would begin to form on the reputable knowledge that a peace could be obtained satisfactorily on the question which was most vital to the British people. This indeed asks to the mental President to risk his position as a statesman and diplomat in the American Press. Americans are apt to believe that the common sense of our men can make better judgments on vast issues than even well-meaning rulers. They apply that faith in their own political crises. Perhaps they might help our poor European world by trusting the soul of our common folk.

It is possible that it might be said in objection to my view that President Wilson has already tried and failed to obtain response from European opinion. In May he announced the willingness of America to abandon the old policy of isolation and to co-operate in ensuring the peace of the world. It is true that this great historic utterance was treated with strange neglect by the belligerent Governments. Its meaning was distorted by the European press. It seemed to be seed falling on hard ground. Only those of us who in these dark days had our eyes on the international picture are fully grateful yet for that pronouncement which at once gave us hope. We know that the better desires of our own British statesmen had presented international co-operation as the hope of the world at the end of the war. Mr. Asquith and Lord Grey of Falloden had mentioned it. It had been left to us to preach it incessantly in these war days. No member of the Government or of those busy only with the war ever spoke of it again. But to us all it was a great beacon of hope that the American Government had officially declared itself for the creation of an international system and announced its willingness to co-operate. We regretted that there was no immediate recognition of this policy by the British Government. But they are labouring in heavy talking about while half the Cabinet's opinions cease to contribute to the war by economic means as soon as the military or political half of the world for the more national half of the world. I have talked about the League to Enforce Peace, but Mr. Lloyd George's declaration in his interview against the mediation of America or any other neutral nation was so direct a rejection (perhaps unintended) of the American offer that discussion began. Mr. Lloyd George was forced by myself in the House of Commons to give a tardy recognition of the value of the President's offer. And a few days later Lord Grey made a frank and more heartily acknowledgment of the possibilities opening out after the war, as a result of the new policy.

Great Britain is now aware of the hope offered to the world by the President's speech and by the acceptance of the policy by both parties in the Presidential struggle. But our people do not yet fully see its bearing on the conclusion of the war.

What is it that we seek, what does saner opinion seek in France, Germany and elsewhere? It is security—security for which the nations are eagerly striving. They do not see search their swords if they do not see security coming in the near distance. But what offers security except this very League of the Nations which European statesmen will only think of as an expedient? My countrymen do not yet see—but they will if you are persistent—that your approval of the League of Peace amounts to American co-operation in the objects for which they profess to be fighting—a secure civilization. Sooner or later your espousal of that plan will affect the course of the war. It will shorten it. They do not yet see that your plan ought to be the first of possible that, as the war drags on wearily for the next few months, the newly elected President should be insisting more and more on the value of the new American policy until it becomes the plain hope of salvation for Europe? It needs to be repeated. For in these days the essence of a democratic appeal is that it should be incessant until it is fully understood. If this message is heard in loud and ever louder tones across the Atlantic it will end by being the policy of the world. It will take the place of the fury of war denunciation, of the threats of annihilation and of the ravings of revenge, of which we are all so weary here.

CHARLES P. TREVELYAN.

The Filson Historical Society

August 23, 1916.

My dear Miss Shelby:

Unusual rush of business has compelled me to delay answering your letter of August 3, containing invitation to become one of 100 representative Americans on a general committee to urge an official neutral conference.

It seems to me that the effort you are making is practicable and should be productive of good results, and although I fear I might be of little use, I will be glad to help in any way that I can.

So, if it is not too late and you think I can help you, I will cheerfully accede to your request.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Miss Rebecca Shelby, Secretary,
American Neutral Conference Committee,
705 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

January 24, 1917.

My dear Mr. Samalea Iglesias;

I have received your paper on
the Laws of the Indies which I notice was
awarded a gold medal and diploma of honor
by the Spanish Societies of Porto Rico.

I appreciate very much your send-
ing it to me and I shall, at the first op-
portunity, examine it carefully because it
is a subject of historical importance and
one in which I have considerable interest.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. Luis Samalea Iglesias,
Assistant Secretary, Supreme Court,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

AMERICAN NEUTRAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

OBJECT:

TO SUPPORT OUR GOVERNMENT IN ANY EFFORT IT
MAY MAKE TOWARDS A JUST AND LASTING PEACE

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February 8, 1917

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MORNAY WILLIAMS
HON. AMOS P. WILDER
PRESIDENT MARY E. WOOLLEY
GOV. ARTHUR YAGER
ELLA FLAGG YOUNG

Dear Friend:

No doubt you have been anxious to know what the American Neutral Conference Committee is doing during these critical days. The executive committee met as soon as possible after the announcement that diplomatic relations had been broken with Germany and discussed the situation. The fact that the American Neutral Conference Committee was organized for the purpose of working for a negotiated peace in Europe seemed to make it inadvisable for the Committee to take any specific action in connection with the American situation. It was decided therefor to allow the American Neutral Conference Committee to stand as it is for the present with its work more or less in abeyance.

At the same time a temporary committee of persons who opposed America's entering the war has been formed. A group of people was gathered hastily together and an Emergency Peace Federation formed whose sole object is to keep America out of the war and its attendant consequences.

The Executive Committee of the American Neutral Conference Committee agreed that the offices and the equipment of the Committee should be temporarily used by the new federation with the understanding that the work of the American Neutral Conference Committee would be resumed along its original lines as soon as the present crisis is passed.

The funds of the American Neutral Conference Committee will of course be kept entirely distinct and used only for its own work.

The members of the American Neutral Conference Committee may or may not sympathize with the newly formed Emergency Peace Federation but all those who do sympathize with its aims are invited to join. For the information of those interested the following explanation is added. The best informed among those who have stood constantly against war,

(8-7-17)

especially those in Washington, including Senator La Follette are of the opinion that practically the only hope of avoiding conflict rests in the volume of public opposition to war which can be directed from the people to Congress. To evoke this expression will be the special function of the Emergency Peace Federation. It has already sent telegrams to every Central Labor Forum in the United States and has also communicated with all the granges and farmers organizations throughout the United States.

Branches of the Emergency Peace Federation are being organized throughout the United States wherever a nucleus can be found. Miss Shelly is now in Washington organizing a branch of the Emergency Peace Federation there. Time is a most important factor in this work and we are most anxious to get in touch with any one who will form such a branch.

The program of the Emergency Peace Federation includes so far, three specific points. First, that if in the course of the struggle between the European belligerents an American vessel should be damaged reparation should be asked by Congress only after the present war is over. Second, that Congress should refrain from precipitating war by providing, before it commits the country to decisive action, for a referendum vote by the people as provided in Senate Bill number 5796 which was introduced by Senator La Follette last June and is now under consideration by the Committee. Third, that Congress shall be requested to advise Americans voluntarily to keep out of the war zone.

The Executive Committee will be glad to be kept in touch with the views of all its members. It desires to point out that difference of opinion on the present American situation should not affect the possibility of joint action along the lines of the American Neutral Conference Committee as soon as the way again opens which we trust may be soon.

Very sincerely yours,

Lella Fay Sec

OFFICE SECRETARY

P.S. Since this letter was written the New York and Washington groups of the Emergency Peace Federation have decided to arrange a peace demonstration in Washington to help assure Congress that the American people do not want war. It will take place Monday February 12, and we hope to have a special train leave New York at midnight Sunday following a mass meeting here. There will be an all day convention in Washington and possibly a visit to Congress. If you can possibly arrange to join please wire at once. Headquarters will be at the Raleigh Hotel, Washington.

Box 1115
San Juan, P. R.,
March 28, 1917.

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

Honorable and Dear Sir!

I have been instructed by the Ministerial Association of San Juan to convey to you the following resolution unanimously adopted at its regular meeting in March.

"Be it resolved: That the San Juan Ministerial Association, in regular session convened, does express its gratification in the recent passage of the Jones Bill. We extend congratulation to Governor Yager, and those associated with him in urging this measure, for their persistent and capable efforts in this regard; and we pray that at this important juncture in the history of the island God's divine wisdom may guide legislators and legislation; and that prosperity and great good may result. To this end we pledge anew our undivided interest and support in all the moral, social and economic welfare of the Island."

Yours very sincerely
Samuel Sutchiff
Secretary.

1178

April 8, 1917.

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Szold;

I was very much pleased to receive your letter of 15th ultimo, and note with appreciation your congratulations upon the final passage of the new organic act.

The work of reorganizing the new government under the provisions of this act has been of course very pressing and sometimes difficult; but, nevertheless, it is exceedingly interesting and thus far my hope in the successful working out of the new experiment has been increased. The people here generally, regardless of party, have welcomed the new order of things with much enthusiasm and are celebrating the event throughout the Island. I fear, of course, there will be some reaction when they have discovered that all of their hopes can not be realized. It will probably be just as hard to make a living under the Jones Bill as under the Foraker Act. Maybe worse, for that matter. And these people, as you know, have many illusions which must needs be dispelled at some time. For the present, however, everything seems hopeful on the political side.

I suppose you keep in touch with the news of the

Island. Of course you know that Judge Hamilton has been reappointed, which I think, upon the whole, was the best thing to be done under the circumstances. Mr. Bills has left the Attorney General's office and gone to Boston with the Filene people. Mr. E. T. Hull, of the Secretary's Office, is expecting to leave on the 21st instant for Santo Domingo. Mr. Brengle has recently arrived to take the place of Mr. Fiddler who was promoted to be Assistant Attorney General.

I am glad to learn that you are making progress in the big suits on the part of the government and I hope that your department will win them all.

We have no news to-day from Washington, but it looks to me that war in some form is unavoidable, and we are all a little nervous down here as to how that is going to affect us.

Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis and Miss Diana are all well and would join me in the kindest regards to you if they knew I was writing. The rest of my family are in the States at school and were all well at last accounts.

I shall be glad to hear from you again, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

March 15, 1917.

Dear Governor Yager:

We were of course greatly gratified at the consummation of efforts and desires of the past few years in the passage of the new Porto Rican Organic Act. From a hasty reading it seems very satisfactory. I was glad to note the provisions made with reference to the Governor.

The work of reorganization must be extremely interesting. Have many difficult problems come up?

We have just been through our great siege here and I feel pretty much as if I had just had a boil lanced. The pressure in preparation for the arguments in the Government's suits to dissolve the Harvester and Steel trusts has been extraordinary. Yesterday was concluded the final argument in the Steel case. If possible Mr. Davis added to his already great reputation as the first advocate in the country.

With kind regards to yourself and to Mrs. Yager and the members of the family, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Robert Zoed

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

April 10, 1917.

My dear Mr. Schuck,

This letter will be handed to you by Mr. Clarence E. Ferguson and Mr. Francis Judson Tietzort, the Directors of the Porto Rican Publicity Campaign in the United States, who for some months have been actively engaged in Porto Rico in gathering material and making preparation for their work in the North. They seem to be very efficient in this sort of work, and I take especial pleasure in commending these gentlemen to your consideration and hope that you will show them whatever courtesies and aid them in any way that you conveniently can in the accomplishment of their undertaking.

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. Guillermo Schuck,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

86 x 11

X

CURTIS MALLET-PREVOST & COLT
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
30 BROAD STREET NEW YORK
CABLE ADDRESS "MIGNIARD"

WILLIAM EDMOND CURTIS
F. KINGSBURY CURTIS
SEVERO MALLET-PREVOST
HARRIS D. COLT
A. HENRY MOSLE
WALTER L. WORRALL
FREDERIC K. SEWARD
HUGO KOHLMANN
HENRY A. STICKNEY

ANTONIO LAZO-ARRIAGA
OTTO SCHOENRICH
WILLIAM H. TRITCHENER
SAMUEL P. SAVAGE

April 20, 1917.

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

My dear Governor Yager:

Since the passage of the new Porto Rico bill I have received a number of requests from friends in Porto Rico who desire me to "recommend" this person or that to you for appointment. Up to now I have ignored such petitions, being unwilling to bother you at all, but in two cases the requests have come from such good friends that I cannot refuse, and therefore take the liberty of suggesting two names for your consideration.

The first of these is ^{that of} my brother-in-law, Mr. Felipe Janer (son of the acting dean of the Normal School), who is anxious to obtain an appointment as municipal judge or as fiscal. He is a man of about 38 years of age, has been a member of the bar and notary for many years, is competent, industrious and reliable. About 1900 he was for some time employed as translator in one of the Departments in Washington and about 1903 was appointed translator and typewriter in the Supreme Court of Porto Rico. There he has remained ever since, while his former companions became judges and fiscals. Once or twice he might have been appointed municipal judge, but such occasions only arose a few months before the end of the respective term, and having a wife and family he could not afford to resign a permanent position for one of such brief duration. The judges of the Supreme Court can furnish full information as to his qualifications and character. If given a chance he would probably make a ^{very} good record.

The second name is that of Mr. Francisco del Valle, Jr., the son of the distinguished Porto Rican Dr. Francisco del Valle Atilas. He studied law in Baltimore, was at one time municipal judge of San Juan, and is practising law in San Juan. As a student he was very bright, but not having followed his career closely I cannot judge as to his present standing in the profession.

It was a source of great satisfaction to all friends

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of Porto Rico to see the "Bill Jones" accepted, and I congratulate you upon your share in obtaining this result. You will now have a most interesting and important task in the inauguration of the new system of government. I sincerely wish you every success.

Yours respectfully,

A. Schenck

The Filson Historical Society

May 4, 1917.

Mr. Otto Shoenrich, Atty.,
c/o Curtis, Malet-Provost & Colt,
30 Broad Street, New York City.

My dear Judge:

Your letter of the 20th ultimo, recommending to my attention your brother-in-law Mr. Felipe Janer, and also Mr. Francisco del Valle, Jr., has been duly received, and I assure you that both of the gentlemen will be given careful consideration whenever an opportunity arises to do so.

I have not yet taken up the matter of the appointment of the judges and other officers of the municipal courts, which I take it would be the time to give consideration to these young lawyers. When I get around to that I will not overlook these young gentlemen but will give them all the consideration that is possible under the circumstances.

I appreciate your reference to the Bill Jones and your congratulations to myself in that connection. I am of course very much occupied at present with the important and difficult task of organizing the new system of government, but I have great hopes of being able to make it as completely successful as could be reasonably expected under the circumstances.

(4-May-17)

-2-

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO,
OFFICE OF THE
PURCHASING AGENT IN THE UNITED STATES,
NEW YORK.

July 11, 1917.

My dear Governor Yager:

Mr. Carter was operated upon for appendicitis about three weeks ago, and it will be about September 1st before your letter of July 3rd regarding housekeeper will have his attention.

He requests that I inform you that he will do his best in securing the proper party.

Very respectfully,

Howard R. Stiles

Hon. Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

P.S. Mother is in New England with some friends but I shall see her in a week or so, and will see whether she has a suitable person to recommend.
HRS.

October 30, 1917.

My dear George;

I was never more completely and delightfully surprised in my life than when I came into my office after we had finished the "Liberty-Loan" dinner last night and found upon my desk the beautiful *RECUERDO* which was placed there by you two gentlemen, and also the charming letter which is so redolent of the characteristics of both of you that there can be no doubt of its having been a joint composition.

I have examined the timepiece with the utmost pleasure in all of its details, from its clear, open, candid face to the beautiful inscription engraved on the inside of the case. What an excellent idea to have this in Spanish! I can not tell you how much I appreciate this remembrance and how delightful was the surprise.

Barring unforeseen accidents, which I trust Providence will forestall, I shall wear this timepiece for the rest of my earthly pilgrimage, and it shall be a very pleasant reminder to me of the true and loyal friendship of the givers.

With the sincerest regard, I am and shall always remain,

Your friend,

Governor.

To my friends "los dos Jorges,"

San Juan, Porto Rico.

November 17, 1917.

My dear Szold;

I have never yet had an opportunity to congratulate you upon your marriage altho I have intended to do so many times; but so many things have been running abreast during the last few months in Porto Rico I have had an unusually difficult time to keep up with them.

I am now planning to try to get away for a trip north on December 5. As you probably know, I have had Mr. Kern designated as Acting Governor, and if I am not swamped with new matters and the aftermath of the legislature which is still in session, I am going to run up to the States with my family for the Christmas holidays. I want to get the younger children together so that their mother can spend the holidays with them.

I have heard such remarkable reports about the crowded condition of Washington that I have some fear that I might not be able to find a place to stay there even for myself to say nothing of my family. I will not desire to stay more than a very few days, and I am writing to ask you to see if you can find a room for me for even 2 or 3 days at one of the hotels or clubs or anywhere. I might go to Baltimore if it were necessary. Mrs. Yager will probably go out to the west of Washington to find a gathering place for the children. I expect to be in Washington somewhere about the 10th or 11th or 12th of December, tho even that can not be definitely stated. I hope you will find time to get the facts and write me a letter about this before sailing date.

I haven't time to write you much about Porto Rico, tho I suppose you keep up with the news thru other sources. The first legislature under the new Act is just about to close its session. The record of its achievements is much mixed as usual with good and bad, and much depends on the last day or two.

We are trying to put over our draft and first call of troops, and have just done our "bit" on the second Liberty Loan. I think that every thing is going on just as well here, in view of all the circumstances, as any one could reasonably expect.

Please accept my hearty congratulations upon your marriage which I also wish to extend to Mrs. Szold. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Solicitor General's Office,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Governor.

86x11

January 8, 1918.

Sir:-

I take pleasure in introducing to you my friend Lt. H. N. Porter who has just been discharged from the American Army to go back into civil life. He has accepted some work with the Armour Company of Chicago which takes him to Buenos Aires for a permanent residence.

I have known Lt. Porter for several years and I am sure that you will find him not only a true American citizen but also a gentleman of fine character and reliability.

With the highest assurance of respect and personal regard, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Governor.

Honorable Frederic J. Stimson,
American Ambassador,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

January 30, 1918.

Dear Sir:

Upon my return from Washington I found awaiting me your very kind letter of the 9th instant requesting me to become a member of the Advisory Board of the Bronx International Exposition.

I shall very gladly cooperate with you in the formation of this Exposition either as a member of the Advisory Board or in any other capacity in which I can be of assistance.

Inasmuch as Porto Rico sells in the New York markets almost its entire volume of exports, I think that this Exposition may become a matter of great interest and importance to the commerce of the Island. I bespeak for our sugar, tobacco, cigars and fruit producers as well as coffee growers the careful attention and interest of the managers of the Exposition, and I promise in advance their cooperation in this important enterprise.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. John A. Stewart, Chairman,
Committee on Personnel,
Bronx International Exposition,
233 Broadway, New York City.

Feb. 6. 1914.

My dear Joanna Yager -

Let me present

to you Mr. Edward Simmons,
the prominent American painter,
who wants to do some work in
North Dakota. I think that every
graduate you may extend to
the great artist will be a service
to your beautiful school. And I
know you will enjoy Mr. Simmons.

With a great love

Miss Yager & Miss Yager, I best
remain,

H X 98

The Filson Historical Society

with mine as best,

Yours faithfully

Linda Stephens

The Filson Historical Society

Feb. 7, 1918
Dear Mr. Jaeger,

A few seasons back
I had the pleasure
of being in your
society several times
at San Juan,
while I was sailing
with Com^d Benedict
on the Oneida,
You dined aboard
and we had some
long talks together.
Probably you

2) may have long since forgotten me, but I have taken this opportunity to pen this letter by way of introducing a friend, one of the great artists in the world who may spend a little time - at Port Rico's painting bits of the island,

3) Edward Simmons is his name. He decorated the walls of the Congressional Library; d. C, at last east part of them. I should like him to meet you, and I know he would appreciate any information that you might impart to a stranger in a far land.

4) If I may be
of service to you
command me at

3. E. 43, N.Y. City

Sincerely yours
Sam Rom Shelly

The Filson Historical Society

July 1,

Dear Governor Yager:-

Your letter, though it came a few weeks after I had been ordered to the Training Camp for Reserve Officers at Fort Myer Va, gave me a great sense of personal pleasure. I am glad I asked you for it, though I know how busy

You must have been
with the reorganization in P.R.

I enjoy the physical
building up of the Army.

Perhaps and I have gone in
for field artillery and now

are quarters not far
apart. Neither of us feels

confident of getting a
commission, but we still

realize the summons need

for men and more men
in the armies in France.

There is a while we

wonder how it will

going to turn out. I

hope of military success

until Austria - Hungary

cracks. The Bulgarians and

Slavs of the dual monarchy

really can have no more

love for German Administration

than our selves - and I hope

they have find vent for
expression of their feelings.

I enjoyed a wonderful
talk with Pitkin a few
weeks ago. He has developed
a lot, and I am hoping
our State Dept. will
commend his services
so he will not be able
to fulfill his contract
to return to Siam, which
he made prior to the war

The University Club of Washington

declaration of war -
Washington throbs
with activity. The "movements"
in the streets ever, has
perceptibly increased. Perhaps
one result of the war
will be the loosening of
our historically
bound lines of government,
so that the organization

of the state, in the
hands of the experts
best fitted thereto, will
be able to perform
most for the citizens -
those that remain -

My kindest regards
to you and each of
the members of your family.

Faithfully yours,
Robert Szold.

February 8, 1919.

To Whom It May Concern;

I take pleasure in stating that the bearer of this letter, Capt. Ramón Staca, honorably discharged from the military service in Porto Rico, is a young man of excellent character, fine education and good habits. He made a fine record as an officer and is thoroughly reliable in every way. He is making a trip to the United States in search of proper civil employment and opportunity for his aspirations and attainments.

Any aid and courtesies that may be extended to him will in no way be abused and will be greatly appreciated both by him and myself.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

April 23, 1918.

My dear Major:

I am sending you herewith a blue print of the plan of the proposed working men's suburb which we are hoping to place immediately upon the present target range of the military department near the Escabrón battery, Puerta de Tierra.

I am also sending one of these blue prints to Col. Townsend together with a letter asking for transfer of the property.

The more I think of it the more I become convinced that this is the only practical and immediate solution of this great problem, and I would appreciate prompt and complete cooperation on the part of the military authorities in every way that they can so that we may carry out this proposition at the earliest possible moment.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Major E. G. Steward, E.C., H.A.,
Constructing Quartermaster,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

May 9, 1917.

Mr. Robert Szold,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Szold;

I am enclosing herein the letter which you requested me to write, and have addressed it to the Adjutant General of the U.S. Army.

Please pardon the delay which I hope is not so great as to cause you inconvenience. I have been extraordinarily busy of late which you know is the only reason for any delay on my part.

Write me a letter when you can and give me your ideas and views of events and things in general during these stirring times. Porto Rico is you know somewhat on the edge of the world, but not so far away as to prevent our people from being intensely interested and affected by the course of events.

I hope you will secure the appointment that you seek and every other opportunity for service to which you aspire.

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

86X11

May 9, 1917.

The Adjutant General, U.S.A.,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that Mr. Robert Szold, of Washington, D.C., is an applicant for a commission in the Officers' Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

It is with unusual pleasure that I write a letter in his behalf, because I have the honor of intimate personal acquaintance with Mr. Szold and can testify from personal knowledge.

He is a young man of unblemished character and habits and speedily takes a leading position in any community or group of men of which he forms a part.

He is an excellent lawyer of unusual ability and large experience for one of his age. He has enjoyed unusual opportunities in the way of education and improved them to the utmost.

For some two years he was in the Attorney General's Office of Porto Rico, serving in various capacities including that of Assistant Attorney General, all of these services being under my administration as Governor of the Island.

While here he commanded the respect and affection of all who knew him, and I am perfectly confident that he would make an admirable officer in any department of the government service.

Yours very respectfully,

Governor.

June 17, 1918.

Mr. M. R. Spellman,
c/o Custodian of Alien Property,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Spellman:

I was greatly delighted to receive your letter of the 7th instant which has just reached me.

It was a real pleasure to read your interesting account of your personal experience aboard the ill-fated "Carolina." Of course we already had information that you and Mrs. Spellman were amongst the saved.

I am glad to know that this experience, terrible as it was, has in no way shaken your faith in Porto Rico and that it has not in the least terrorized you, which seems to me must have been the purpose of this dastardly attack by submarines on peaceful ships, and I shall look forward to your coming to Porto Rico again with real pleasure.

Of course our people were greatly excited by the sinking of the "Carolina" and for many days there was terrible anxiety all over the Island as to the fate of the passengers and crew, as most of them were residents here.

I wish to congratulate you and Mrs. Spellman upon your fortunate escape. You certainly had a close call for your lives; but I imagine that after it is all over this experience will add something to your most endurable recollections of this Great War and make you feel more like a real participant in it and a survivor of its perils.

I thank you very much for your reference to your report and its bearing upon my own personal interests with my superiors at Washington.

With best wishes for you both, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

OTTO SCHOENRICH

ATTORNEY AT LAW

30 BROAD ST.
NEW YORK

86X11

The Filson Historical Society

San Juan, May 23, 1918.

My dear Judge Schoenrich:-

I have received with real pleasure the copy of your beautiful and interesting book on Santo Domingo.

I shall read it with great interest and attention, not only because of the importance and timeliness of the subject, but also because of my pleasant acquaintance with the author. I should think that this volume will be welcomed by a large and interested public.

I congratulate you upon the performance of such an important and useful piece of work.

Sincerely, your friend,

Mr. Otto Schoenrich,
Attorney at Law,
30 Broad Street,
New York City, N. Y.

86 X 11

O. M. Sewell
President and Genl. Manager

Porto Rico Railway Light and Power Company
San Juan, Porto Rico.

P.F.
11

Aug 9th 1918

My dear Governor

I did not have
the pleasure of hearing
your delivery your
independence day
address. but I have
just finished reading
same as published in
pamphlet.

The address was

86x11

The Filson Historical Society

truly and forcefully in
every way, I enjoyed
reading every word
of it.

my hearty congratulations

Yours Faithfully

Wm. W. W.

To the Honorable Arthur J. Hayes
Governor. Hayes

August 14, 1918.

Mr. M. R. Spellman,
24 Broad Street, Room 1203,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Spellman:

I have received and read carefully your letter of July 24 and also your brief note of August 1st.

I have also received two letters from the Secretary of War under date of July 8 and copies of correspondence between Mr. Gompers, The Secretary of War, and the President of the United States.

The Secretary of War has recommended that there should be no further investigation of the charges against the Governor by Mr. Iglesias and others; that these charges have no foundation, and no further attention should be paid to them. He has also recommended that a commission should be sent to Porto Rico for the purpose of investigating general labor conditions in the Island; that this commission should be selected by the President without regard to class interests as to representing employers and laborers, and that it should be sent down probably in September.

Personally I agree with you that September is an unsuitable time and that it should come in the winter, - say January, when the mills are running, and I have so recommended to The Secretary of War. This is all that I know about the situation.

I have written under date of July 30 a letter to The President answering in detail all of the charges made against me and the Government of Porto Rico by Mr. Iglesias and others, closing with a brief discussion of labor conditions in general here on the Island and the improvement that has taken place in the last two or three years.

Whether any commission will actually be sent down or when it will be sent, I do not know; but I am conforming with any conclusion that might be reached by the President.

I agree with you as to the character of Mr. Roberts and as to the methods and the probable success of the work that he is attempting to do.

I note with pleasure your plan of coming to Porto Rico again and shall be very glad to see you. With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

IN REPLYING ADDRESS ONLY
THE ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
AND REFER TO NO.

24 Broad St.,
New York City.
Room 1203.

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
SIXTEENTH-AND-P-STREETS-N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.



New York, August 1st, 1918.

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

My dear Governor Yager:-

I wrote you last week quite fully giving my views on the labor situation. I was prompted to do this by seeing the statement in the Associated News Despatch to the effect that the matter had reached Secretary Baker and that he had made certain recommendations. I spent the fore-part of this week in Washington and from information derived there through the Alien Property Custodian's office, I am inclined to think there will be no Commission appointed for investigation of labor matters in Porto Rico this year.

God only knows what some damm fool may turn up next year.

Trusting that you are well, and hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you possibly the latter part of September, I remain,

Yours very truly,

MRS/EE

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

24 Broad Street,
New York City.
Room 1203.

SIXTEENTH AND P STREETS-NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

New York, July 24th, 1918.



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

My dear Governor:-

I noticed in the Press reports the day before yesterday, an item to the effect that Secretary Baker had recommended the appointment of a Commission to investigate labor conditions in Porto Rico, and had declined to recommend the investigation of the Governor in connection with labor matters. The article I read stated, that one F. C. Roberts had reported to the Bureau of Commerce and Labor, horrible conditions existing in Porto Rico among the laboring people, and also that he could place 10,000 Porto Rican laborers in good positions in the United States. This last newspaper statement of Roberts, if correctly reported, in my opinion, is pure rot. I am at a loss to understand how this labor question has reached Secretary Baker, as I would naturally suppose it would be threshed out by Wilson, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. I can understand the desire of the administration to maintain friendly relations with Gompers, who apparently, is sincere in his efforts to control labor in the States in the campaign to help win the war. My observation of labor conditions in Porto Rico was confined entirely to the labor situation existing on sugar properties and I am very clearly of the opinion that

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

24 Broad Street, SIXTEENTH AND F STREETS NW.
New York City.
Room 1203 WASHINGTON, D. C.

#2.

New York, July 24th, 1918.

any agitation of the agricultural labor situation in Porto Rico would be a serious mistake. The proprietors of sugar properties, should, of course, give the laborers on their properties a fair wage, comparing favorably (after considering the wages and costs of living) with similar labor in other cane sugar producing countries.

I have been in touch the past two weeks with some very far-sighted men in New York and Washington, discussing the labor probabilities with may arise at the termination of the war. The trend of opinion runs in the direction that the healthy men of Germany, Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, etc. etc. will seek new fields of industry outside of their own countries, while the weaker ones will remain, by force of circumstances, on their own soil. I have taken a great interest in this phase of the subject, and made a study of it especially from the standpoint of sugar. The Beet sugar factories of Germany, Austria, Hungary are all standing and ready for business, while some of those of France and Belgium have been destroyed. It appears to me that the return home of the fighting forces of all these countries, would result in a very large increase of agricultural labor, as being the quickest and easiest avenue for wage earning. Skilled labor in these countries, in my opinion, will be scarcer than before the beginning of the war, but agricultural labor is not to be classi-

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

24 Broad Street, ~~SIXTEENTH AND F STREETS NW.~~
New York City.
Room 1203. WASHINGTON, D. C.

#3.

New York, July 24th, 1918.

fied as skilled. All of us that have given this subject any study, believe that the agricultural labor problem will be solved much quicker than any other branch of industry. You are, of course, aware that previous to 1914, Germany and Austria exported large amounts of sugar, principally to the United Kingdom, but quite large quantities came to this country. The economic questions to be solved by our Government, especially those relating to tariffs with foreign countries, are great, and no one can now venture a prediction on the tariff question. With the administration now in power, practically pledged to free trade, and the possibilities of a Congress in opposition to free trade, establishes a situation that will undoubtedly take sometime to clarify. Cane sugar producing countries have increased their output in the last four years, while the per capita consumption of the world has materially decreased. In 1914 the per capita consumption in the United States was approximately 90 lbs. per annum, while in 1918 the per capita will not exceed 70 lbs. per annum. From our present information it would seem wise for cane sugar producers to expect, for the two or three years after the termination of the war, lower prices. I am clearly of the opinion that cane sugar producers in Porto Rico and elsewhere, should get themselves into a situation to practise scientific economy and become stabelized. The poor results of the past year should

24 Broad St.,
New York City,
Room 1203.

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

SIXTEENTH AND P STREETS NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#4.

New York, July 24th, 1918.

awaken owners of sugar properties to the necessity of putting themselves on a solid foundation. The sugar interest of Porto Rico, as you know, is the largest single interest in the Island. Wholly agricultural, it should be treated from the same standpoint, as the same agricultural interests in other sugar countries are treated. I am not informed as to whether a Commission to investigate labor conditions in Porto Rico will be named by the President or not, but from my point of view, the question seems to have been taken away from Congress. If a Presidential Commission visits Porto Rico, in my opinion, it should do so at a season of the year when the mills were operating, and not during the dead season. If such a Commission does visit Porto Rico at the time I have suggested, I will endeavor to assist so far as lies within my power, in putting before this Commission such data as may enlighten the commissioners on the labor question, so far as sugar is concerned. I think it would be a woeful mistake to inaugurate any agitation that would tend to check, even temporarily, the further development of sugar properties in the Island. I believe that American (which, of course, includes Porto Rican) and Spanish interests, now the sole owners of sugar properties in the Island, would see that it is to their interest to give fair living wages to their laborers and improve the living conditions of such laborers. Of course, the density of the population, their apparent ~~nomadic~~ habits, and the climatic conditions, all have a bearing of the situation. It would be manifestly unfair for any Commission to accept

In the correspondence of the Alien Property Custodian the word "enemy" is used as meaning "enemy" or "ally of enemy," as defined by the Trading with the enemy Act.

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ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

SIXTEENH AND R STREETS NW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#5.

New York, July 24th, 1918.

the bare statements of labor agitators as to conditions, but a
broad minded Commission, who would digest ^{every} thoroughly / phase of
the subject. I should have no fear of.

I have taken the liberty of giving you my views freely because I know that you are deeply interested in every phase of the Island's welfare. If you have occasion to make any suggestions to the President as to this proposed Commission, I beg to suggest, the advisability of a Commission absolutely free from any labor, or financial interests. I think a Commission appointed through the representations of the Bureau of Commerce and Labor, or Mr. Gompers, would not be a fair Commission. But a Commission appointed by the President, through representations of the War Department, might possibly result in military men being appointed, and I doubt whether their findings would disturb conditions very much.

I have taken the liberty of writing you hastily and I hope I am not intruding on your time or patience. I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you in September or possibly, October.

Yours very respectfully,



MRS/EE

MILITARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO.
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO.

San Juan, P. R.,
August 24, 1918.

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

S i r :

I have reason to believe that strong efforts are being made to appoint a Brigadier General in command of the incoming 15,000 selective draft men for September 15 at Camp "Las Casas".

I have further reason to believe that efforts are being made to secure the appointment of some one else other than our mutual friend Col. O. P. Townshend.

Governor, you and I have discussed the good qualification, the very excellent work, and you and I are in a better position

11x98

than anyother one else in Porto Rico to judge as to whether or not Col. Townshend is entitled to this increase of rank solely on the ground of merit and capacity.

I, therefore, urge you most earnestly and sincerely calling your attention for prompt and immediate action in and along channels which will bring to the attention of the proper authorities the facts which you so well know.

It would be a grave injustice to a gentleman and a soldier who has earned by his good work and faithful performance of duty under extremely trying circumstances and an unwarranted and uncalled big injustice by not receiving the thoroughly deserved appointment of Brigadier General should it be the intention of the proper authorities to select an Officer for this rank.

(24-Aug-18)

MILITARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO.
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO.

- 2 -

Knowing your friendship for Col. Townshend, also realizing to my intense gratification your ever ready willingness to receive my indorsement and approval, I unhesitatingly urge you to take prompt action and serious consideration in this matter.

Your most respectfully,



Major, N. A., D. I. O.,
Chief, Insular Police.

GRS:SM

The Filson Historical Society



Office of the Solicitor General,
Washington, D.C.

P.F.

September 25, 1918.

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

Dear Governor:

I have your letter with reference to the condemnation suit in the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of Florida. From the very cursory examination of Florida law that I have been able to make I am sorry to report that I can hold out small hopes.

In some States, in absence of statute, the property owner against whom condemnation proceedings have been begun may recover his damages if the condemnation suit is subsequently abandoned; other States give such a right by statute. I have been unable to find that in Florida the property owner is protected. The general rule seems to be that he must suffer the incidental damages as damnum absque injuria.

Would you care to have me take up the matter with your attorneys in Eustis or with the city officials? If so, it would be well to send me your file on the matter.

There probably never was a time when I had more to do than at the present time. As soon as the pressure is relieved, which may be in a couple of weeks, I shall make a further investigation to see if some redress for Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Yager may not be found.

Our little baby daughter arrived September 17, and she and Mrs. Szold are in good health. Please tell Kern and George Graves.

I am very anxious to learn more of the fuss that Iglesias has kicked up about affairs in Porto Rico. In that matter as in every other I send my highest and best wishes to you.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Szold

11x98

San Juan, October 31, 1918.

My dear Mr. Spellman:-

Your letter of the 18th instant has just been received. Our mails are painfully slow these days. I greatly appreciated your kind and prompt response to my cablegram with reference to the subscription of Los Caños to the Fourth Liberty Loan, and I thank you for it most cordially. As you doubtless know we went over the top in this loan campaign and the total subscription must have been somewhere near \$4,650,000, and this in spite of the great earthquake. The latter is a real disaster to the western end of Porto Rico and the property loss is enormous. The matter of restoration and rebuilding is a very complicated and difficult problem, and will tax the wisdom and courage of the people of the whole island as well as their financial resources. I am trying to get some help from Congress and also to work out some sensible plan of procedure. It must have been a local earthquake with its focus along a fissure in the rocks under the west end of the Island of Porto Rico, extending from Mayaguez past Aguadilla to the north coast on the meridian of longitude 67° 8'. The towns on this meridian were horribly shaken both by the first shock and numerous after shocks, and the property loss was enormous. The whole Island to the east was shaken but no considerable damage to the eastward of this immediate zone, except at Ponce and Arecibo, both of which places suffered somewhat more. As this earthquake is an unprecedented thing here in Porto Rico the morale of the people has been even more severely shaken than the Island. I hope you will come down next winter. I am very anxious to see you. I learn as is rumored in Washington that the labor commission for Porto Rico has already been appointed and will sail soon. I am awfully busy. Good bye.

Sincerely, your friend,

Mr. M. R. Spellman,
24 Broad Street,
New York City, N. Y.

11x73

CENTRAL "LOS CAÑOS"
PAVENSTEDT LAND CO.
M. R. SPELMAN, PREST.
24 BROAD STREET

NEW YORK,

October 18th, 1918



Governor Arthur Yager,
San Juan, P.R.

My dear Governor:-

I am this morning in receipt of
your cable reading:

"In spite of earthquake disaster we are
striving to fill Porto Rico quota of
Liberty Loan. Los Canos should
subscribe \$15,000. Cable promptly your
decision. Make it \$20,000 please.

to which I immediately replied by cable:

"Childs instructed yesterday subscribe
\$15,000, will add five more to-day"

Yesterday upon receipt of a letter
from Mr. Childs, I cabled him to make a subscription
for \$15,000 at Arecibo, so that he could get the
credit for it in his town out there, and I have just
this moment sent him another cable to make it \$20,000
instead of \$15,000.

I trust you will be highly successful
and there will be very little damage resulting from the
earthquake.

I hope to go to Porto Rico again this
Winter, but am not sure what Uncle Sam is going to do
with me.

Remembering all the nice things you said
and did for me, and trusting that sometime I can
reciprocate, I remain

Your sincere friend,

M. R. Spelman

86x11

San Juan, October 31, 1918.

My dear General:-

I was greatly gratified and surprised to find on the breakfast table last Tuesday morning your very kind remembrance of the fact that it was my birthday, and on opening the package I found that you had in some way divined that I was in real need of a durable case for my eye-glasses.

Your gift was therefore not only beautiful and attractive but has already fitted itself into my personal life in a way that will perpetually remind me of the intimate and pleasant association which we have had with each other.

This will always be a special pleasure. I thank you most cordially.

With sincerest good wishes, I am, as always,

Your friend,

Brigadier General Orval P. Townshend,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

December 16, 1918.

Mr. Robert Szold,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Szold;

Mr. Kern has informed me that you will probably have charge of the case in regard to the citizenship of the native sons of Spaniards in Porto Rico. I think the title of it is José Lopez Garcia vs. Col. Orval P. Townshend.

As you know, I have also taken great interest in this case from the point of view of public policy. It seems to me that the language of the Treaty of Paris, Article IX, upon which the whole thing is based is quite clear, that the privilege of continuing to reside in Porto Rico and retain Spanish nationality was made to be confined to natives of the Peninsular only and that the children of these natives of the Peninsular who happened to be born in Porto Rico were to be regarded as among the native inhabitants of Porto Rico, and this you know has been the ruling of the Department of State at Washington. But the lawyers have differed about this as they will differ about anything and everything.

Now that the war is over, the question will lose something of its urgency because of its relation to compulsory military service; but the question of public policy involved in it will still continue and will be important thru the years, and I hope that this phase of the question as well as its legal phases will be presented to the court fully and strongly.

It is really important that the Spanish colony in the Island of Porto Rico should not be enlarged and perpetuated by any process of interpretation of the Treaty that may not be necessary. It is best for the Island of Porto Rico and for the Government of the United States and for the American Nation of which Porto Rico is a part, and also for the Spanish residents of Porto Rico themselves, that this Spanish Colony as it exists in Porto Rico now should gradually cease in time so that all of the permanent residents of the Island might be merged into the body politic.

I am sending you a copy of a recent letter which I wrote to General Walcutt on this subject, giving some figures and statistics which bear upon this question, and I hope that when the time comes for writing your brief or arguing the case, that the Supreme Court may be persuaded not to overlook this feature of it.

We have all been exceedingly busy in Porto Rico and have had added to our burdens of war work and our usual political burdens the difficulties and problems of a disastrous earthquake and following upon its heels a serious epidemic of influenza. I hope that the earthquake is over, as we have had no serious shocks since November 12 and the situation as to the epidemic seems to be now improving and I hope that it will soon be over.

I have no time to write, but I would give a good deal to have a long talk with you. I want to congratulate you upon the birth of your daughter. I am sure she is a really remarkable baby and that both her father and mother have noticed it. Remember me most cordially to Mrs. Szold and kiss the baby for me. I hope to be able to get to Washington sometime this winter, but the outlook at present is not very favorable. Write me a letter when you can.

With best wishes for you always, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

Robert Szold, Esq.,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Szold:

I hope you will pardon me for asking your advice about a private matter.

My wife and her mother own some lots in the City of Leesburg, Florida. The officials of the city, after having tried in various ways to get these lots for city purposes without any fair compensation, finally brought suit of condemnation.

As I was under the impression that there would not be a fair trial in the State courts, due to political and other considerations, we had the suit removed to the Federal courts and it was finally tried in the District Court of the U.S. for the Southern District of Florida and judgment was rendered on the first day of February, 1917, in favor of the City of Leesburg and the price for both lots fixed at \$10,200, and costs of the suit were to be paid by the City. The Judge fixed the sum of \$600 as a reasonable attorney's fee for the defendants' attorney, to be paid by the City of Leesburg.

This of course was entirely satisfactory to Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis, as they considered the price reasonable. Then there took place after this judgment was rendered some proceedings that seem to me wrong and unjust. First, the City of Leesburg being dissatisfied with the judgment availed itself of a privilege which it seemed to have under the law of declining to take the lots even after they had won their condemnation suit; then they persuaded the judge to reconsider the matter of the attorney's fee and not require the city to pay it, and our lawyers immediately made claim against Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis for this attorney's fee of \$600. Of course the judge must have changed his mind, because he had no jurisdiction or right to fix a fee for our attorney, and the fact that he fixed the fee at all must have meant that the City of Leesburg was to pay it.

Moreover, the judgment states that Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Yager "do have, receive and recover of and from the said City of Leesburg the sum of \$600 for a reasonable attorney's fee and that the execution may issue therefor."

I do not know whether there is any method at all of redress, but I feel that an injustice has been done to my wife and Mrs. Lewis, at least in this matter of the attorney fee, for if a City starts condemnation proceedings and wins

the suit and then declines to take the property at the price fixed, the owner of the property should not be compelled to pay attorney's fees in a suit forced upon her and in which she was compelled to protect herself by the employment of attorneys; and if the judge had any discretion in this matter, as he must have had because he first fixed the fee and decided that the City must pay it, he exercised his discretion most unjustly in afterwards ruling the other way, and I feel that some wrong influences must have been brought to bear upon him to secure this change. Moreover, I forgot to mention that one of our attorneys, Mr. Henry W. Bishop of Eustis, Fla., received a draft from the Clerk of the U.S. Dist. Court in payment of the court costs, and this money he held and applied it in part payment of his share of the fee of \$500 which was adjudged by the court to be paid by the City of Leesburg which the attorneys afterwards claimed from Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis.

Now, I am just asking you to run over this matter and advise me as to whether there is any recourse. The title of the case is "The City of Leesburg vs. Lizzie R. Lewis and Estill Yager" in the court above mentioned and judgment rendered as stated. I feel confident that somehow both the judge of that court and the attorneys employed by Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis have worked out a hard deal for the ladies and that there has been a miscarriage of justice. The City either should have been compelled to take the lots at the price fixed upon or failing that the City of Leesburg should have been made to conform to the judgment as to the attorney's fees, and if there is any way now to bring about justice in the matter I should like to undertake it. I thought that maybe you could there at the Attorney General's Office make some investigation of the matter that would be helpful, or at least you could advise me what could be done in the matter if anything.

I have no time to write you more, but I have a hundred things that I would like to talk to you about. I am awfully busy but still I am thankful to say I am well.

With best wishes for you and Mrs. Szold, I am as always,

Sincerely your friend,

W. R. GRACE & CO.
NEW YORK.

P. A.



New York, December 27, 1918

My dear Governor Yager:-

This will bring you my sincere thanks for the leave of absence, which you so kindly have granted to me.

I take pleasure of availing of this opportunity to wish you all sorts of happiness in the coming Year and that your appointment as Governor of Porto Rico may always have the approval of all of us who enjoy your friendship and have had opportunity to appreciate to what extent have you shown your love for our country, and have always done the best for its progress.

With my warmest wishes for a most Happy and prosperous New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

W. Santini
Hotel Biltmore

Honorable Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P. R.