

March 12, 1914.

My dear Mr. Bird:

Your very courteous letter of the 10th instant with reference to Mr. Sifre has just been received and read with unusual interest.

I assure you that it is no trouble to me at any time to read and to consider any suggestion that you may have to make to me upon any subject whatever, and I shall carefully remember all that you have said with reference to Mr. Sifre. I know him personally and have a high regard for his loyalty and ability in the position which he now holds.

I am going to ask you now to take under consideration a proposition that I am ready to make to you if you will consent to it. We have two vacancies, I think, in the Board of Trustees of the University of Porto Rico, and it will be necessary soon for me to appoint some trustees to take their places. It is very hard to secure the services of fit men because all of the fit men are very busy. I wish you would consent to become a member of this board and aid in the development of one of the most valuable institutions in the Island. Please take a little time now to consider this question very seriously before you decline. I

(12 Mar 14)

-2-

know you are busy with your own affairs, but still I have the courage to hope that you will consent to give a small portion of your attention to the service of the people of Porto Rico in this honorable and useful position.

Remember me cordially to Mrs. Bird and accept the assurance of my high personal esteem.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

Mr. Jorge Bird Arias,
Pajardo, Porto Rico.

JORGE BIRD ARIAS



Governor G. Tager.

San Juan

Dear Governor — Mr J. Lefe a very dear friend of mine has asked me to recommend to you his son, who is now in San Juan and desires to be appointed as Prosecuting Atty of the District Court of Mayaguez. I hate to have to trouble you knowing how busy you are, but I cannot refuse Mr Lefe. Besides I understand that his son stands high in the judiciary and is in every way deserving.

Kindly excuse the trouble I am giving you and with my best wishes believe me very sincerely,
Yours

Central Fajardo
March 10/1914

117 X 98

June 5, 1914.

My dear Mr. Beckham:

I have just seen in the papers the announcement of the death of Senator W. O. Bradley. Of course I was greatly surprised to learn of this because I had not heard of his sickness at all and our telegraphic news here in Porto Rico is very inadequate to keep us posted with current events.

Of course I naturally think at once of the efforts that may be made to fill this vacancy for the unexpired term and also of your personal relation to it. I wonder if it would not be possible for you to be nominated and elected in August and November for both the unexpired term and the regular term. This would of course be the best way for the people of Kentucky to proceed in the matter, and yet I doubt if it would be possible to do it this way because of the conflicting ambitions of personal leaders.

I would greatly appreciate a letter from you giving me your ideas of the political situation of Kentucky in general and also your personal opinions as to this specific matter. I am so far away from Kentucky and get to see the papers only after they have grown old and the news is stale.

I am getting on well here in my work and am

86 X 11

(3 June 14)

-2-

enjoying good health, and while the work is hard and exacting and the problems puzzling and difficult, yet it is very interesting and I can say that I enjoy it.

All my family are well. Hoping to hear from you soon, and with kind regards for Mrs. Beekam and also General P. W. Haley, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable C. W. Beekam,
Frankfort, Kentucky.

P.S.- I note with great interest the statement in the papers generally that your own nomination and election for the regular term is assured.

J. C. W. BECKHAM
FRANKFORT, KY.

June 11, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Yeager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
Government House,
Porto Rico.

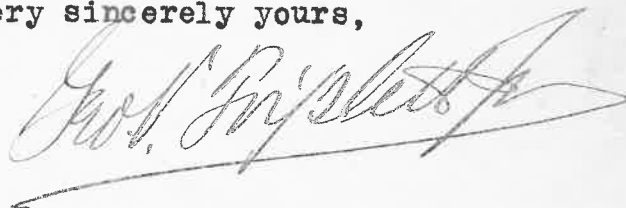
Dear Sir:

In Gov. Heckham's absence I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 3. The Governor is in the midst of his campaign now, and is only in Frankfort occasionally. However, I will call his attention to your letter as soon as he comes.

I will say, however, that from his standpoint the political situation in Kentucky is at the present time very encouraging. Although he has received numerous letters urging him to run for the unexpired term, yet it may be that this would complicate matters and result to his disadvantage. However, this has not yet been determined upon.

We are all glad to hear that you are getting along so well in your work and enjoying good health.

Very sincerely yours,



GVT/GCH

112

January 31, 1914.

Mr. Wenceslao Borda,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Borda:

I regret that I am somewhat tardy in giving you notice, as I had promised to do, of my decision as to the trip to New York. I have decided that if I can possibly make the necessary arrangements I will leave on the boat for New York next Wednesday. I am also so encumbered with engagements and difficulties in making the necessary arrangements to leave that it will be impossible for me to do anything else except continue hard at work on these arrangements until the boat leaves. I shall therefore be unable to accept your very kind invitation to attend the entertainment which you proposed to give on next Tuesday. I regret this very much because of the nature of the entertainment itself and because of your very admirable intentions in proposing it. It would be an excellent thing for me to do and I appreciate your kindness; but I hope you will understand the extreme difficulties in which I am placed as regards time. I hope that sometime you will give me another chance to accept a similar invitation soon after my return to the Island.

86 x 11

(31 Jan 14)

-2-

Hoping that Mrs. Borda is in better health, and
assuring you of my high personal regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

The Filson Historical Society

C. A. FORAN, PRESIDENT
AUGUSTUS E. FORAN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR



Hotel Netherland
New York

June 10th, 1914

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

My dear Governor Yager:

Mrs. Borda is extraordinarily weak since our arrival, and unable to travel. For this reason, I have not yet gone to Washington.

I am credibly informed, through the Bureau of Insular Affairs, that the Cabinet is in favor of retaining a one-cent tariff on sugar, and that Mr. Bryan will not oppose this change of policy.

Admiral Speyers affirmed to a group of men at the New York Yacht Club that we had a fine regiment, - a statement accepted by all as an indisputed fact. He inquired about our Governor; I answered that his appointment was the only good thing the democrats had done for Porto Rico. They seemed surprised that anything good had been done.

Mrs. Borda does not know that I am writing, - otherwise she would wish to be remembered to your charming family and to your good self.

Faithfully yours,

G. Borda

B:B

86 x 11

June 19th, 1914

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

My dear Governor Yager:

Senators Shafroth and James were pleased to hear from you, and we had a long conversation anent business conditions in Porto Rico.

Senator James, jovial and courteous, is in favor of free sugar, because he is opposed to giving sugar an "artificial value" and taxing the many for the benefit of the few. I am against even taxing the few for the benefit of the many, but is it taxing anybody for the benefit of anybody else to foster a great industry whose prosperity reflects directly or indirectly upon every member of the community, especially when the tax goes to the public treasury? If it is desirable to remove an "artificial price" on sugar, why then it is also desirable to remove the artificial cost of producing sugar in Porto Rico by placing us in the same position as our Cuban rival by abolishing direct taxation and allowing unrestricted immigration.

Senator Shafroth asked me to appear before his committee to present my views on the pending bills. I declined to do so, as I have no relish for being criticized in the insular press during my absence to the mortification of my wife. I spoke informally, however.

Mr. Wilson's classmate, Judge Hamilton, made a statement which he afterwards revised, advocating collective citizenship and some modifications in his court.

Senator Shafroth invited us to lunch after the hearing. Senator James sent you word that everything is going nicely.

I saw the President. His first inquiry was, "How do you like your new Governor?" I replied "Very much indeed, he is all right."

Then I talked about our financial depression and declared that he should have killed us outright by making sugar free at once, rather than to leave us agonizing for a year.

2611

Hon. Arthur Yager.

-2-

(19 June 14)

He laughingly declared that he hoped we would be better pleased in the future.

I met a senator from Louisiana who was furious with Mr. Wilson, who, he claimed, had lied to him about the tariff on sugar. Notwithstanding, the President impressed me favorably; he is a clean-cut man.

It is the impression of Congress that many of its members, owing to the policies of the administration, will have trouble in getting re-elected, and you know what re-election means to nearly all of them, and their wives are beginning to show their displeasure with Mr. Wilson, whom they hold responsible for their troubles.

I made an appointment to see Mr. Bryan, which to my regret became impossible for me to keep.

Mrs. Borda and I were so pleased with our reception at Washington that we stayed there five days instead of two.

With cordial well wishes for you and yours,

Faithfully yours,

L. Borda

B:B

Address: Hotel Netherland,
Fifth Ave. & 59th St.,
New York City

June 30, 1914.

Mr. Wenceslao Borda,
Hotel Netherlands,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Borda:

I have received both of your letters written from New York and was very glad to hear from you on both occasions.

I am especially pleased to know that you and Mrs. Borda had such an enjoyable visit to Washington. I am sure that it will be very helpful to Porto Rico in many ways for you and Mrs. Borda to make the acquaintance of the public men and women of the United States as you will have opportunity to do in Washington, so I suggest that you go back there when it is convenient to make another visit.

My daughter, Miss Diana, reached Porto Rico safe and well on June 17th after a most delightful voyage. She greatly appreciated the little gift of Mrs. Borda at the steamer, and I was much disappointed because she did not have time to make your personal acquaintance. I sincerely hope that you will both return to Porto Rico before she goes back to the States to school in September.

Mrs. Yager received a beautiful picture of Mrs. Borda, nicely framed, which we all appreciate. Mrs. Yager has hung it in the reception room and it makes a charming picture.

There is no news here in Porto Rico. We have had much rain, and business has improved since the settlement of the strike.

Please remember me most cordially to Mrs. Borda and accept my best wishes for yourself.

Sincerely yours,

86 X 11

*Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway
Western & Atlantic Railroad!
Legal Department.
Brown, Spurlock & Brown, Attorneys.*

Chattanooga, Tenn!

September
Twenty-eighth,
Nineteen-fourteen.

My dear Governor:---

I congratulate you upon the success of your administration up to the present time. I know something of the difficulties you have met with in Porto Rico. It was difficult enough to meet the situation when times were good and everything running smoothly.

I hear occasionally from my old friends in Porto Rico and they all speak of you in the most pleasant and complimentary way.

I am writing you now especially to call your attention to the matter of the re-appointment of Judge Bonner as Auditor of Porto Rico. I am emboldened to do this because of my long acquaintance with Judge Bonner and because he is a Tennessean. Judge Bonner, as you know, was at one time a Circuit Judge in Tennessee and I can say without any hesitation that no man ever occupied a judicial position in Tennessee and left it with a better record than Judge Bonner. He is a splendid type of the southern gentlemen of the old school. No man stands higher in Tennessee as an honest, upright man than Judge Bonner. I came in close contact with him when Attorney General of Porto Rico and I found him honest, faithful, efficient and obliging. It seems to me that such good service as he has rendered for Porto Rico entitles him to reappointment. When a man leaves the States and goes to Porto Rico and renders as good service as Judge Bonner has for four years, he deserves something for his good services.

I hope you may find it within your power to have continued in office such a faithful, efficient official.

Sincerely your friend,

Justin V. Brown

86 x 11

Personal and Confidential



THE CROWN

PROVIDENCE, R. I. October 9, 1914

Gov. Arthur Yager,

Exe. House,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

My Dear Governor Yager:

You must know how interested I am in the success of the American administration in Porto Rico, and particularly so in yours, and this is my excuse for troubling you now with a letter.

I regret to be informed that Mr. Munoz, is not pleased with your recent recommendations for high office in your Government, for he is a useful man to have with you. His objection to one of your candidates may have been, that while holding a public office, he appeared in his private capacity at a public meeting to advocate for the payment of a certain sum from the Municipal Treasury to individuals who are disliked by what is best in the Island without disclosing that he was in their pay. This objection, if well grounded, is undoubtedly an excellent one.

If Mr. Pitkin resigns, I would suggest as his successor Judge Felix Cordoba Davila, a fearless, honest man, thoroughly pro-American in his feelings, and whose appointment will meet with universal approval, rather than some one who is considered a huge joke and who has been a candidate for every office in the Island including your own.

With warmest regards and best wishes for yourself and family, I remain.

Faithfully yours,
(The Royal Bank of Canada, New York City)

J. Borda

86X11

October 17, 1914.

Mr. Henceslao Borda,
c/o The Royal Bank of Canada,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Borda:

I have read with pleasure your kind letter of the 9th instant.

Mr. Muñoz and I have come to a perfect understanding about all the matters of appointments and otherwise. His objection to the candidate to whom you referred was not in any way connected with the circumstance to which you alluded but based purely upon political grounds and upon the opinion that he would be personally objectionable to the party organization.

However, after appointment was made, Mr. Muñoz ignored all these personal and political matters and has come loyally to the support of the Administration, and I anticipate that he and I will cooperate very cordially.

As you have doubtless noticed in the papers, Mr. Barceló has been appointed as a member of the Executive Council, so now the Council consists of 7 Porto Ricans and 4 Americans; but I feel sure they are all good men and the Government will be as well administered as if the majority were Americans.

There is no vacancy as yet, as far as I know, in the office of Attorney General. I have received a cablegram stating that Mr. Pitkin will sail for Porto Rico on the 21st, but whether or not he intends to resign I do not know.

I hope Mrs. Borda is improving steadily in health. When do you both expect to return to Porto Rico?

I am myself planning a trip to the States sometime next month. In case you should be there at that time I shall hope to see you.

With best wishes for you both, in which Mrs. Yager cordially joins, I am.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

CÁMARA DE DELEGADOS
DE PUERTO RICO



Fajardo, P. R., October 31, 1914.

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

My dear Governor Yager:

After our last interview in regard to the matter of Judge Cuevas I have been greatly impressed by the charge preferred against him which you showed me, since it is difficult for me to believe that there has been a marked intention on the part of said judge expressly to act in the manner stated by the parties accusing him of such incorrectness. As I know that Judge Cuevas is an intelligent young man who conducts himself correctly--it being perhaps hard to find many like him in Porto Rico--I could not feel at ease unless I discharged the high duty imposed by conscience of setting forth his merits against every unjust suspicion. For this reason I have obtained from the District Court of Humacao an explanation of the matter in question, and feel really surprised at the source through which these things seemed to have reached the knowledge of the Attorney General.

It is a case of malevolous insidiousness on the part of some of the men of the Republican Party of Porto Rico, it having been started by the same persons in whose favor Cuevas rendered decision; for although the matter appears to have been brought up by the prejudiced party, said party is also Republican and has acted as the instrument of the former against the judge. We have, therefore, the strange case of the attorney for and the favored party acting in an illogical and inexplicable manner in confabulation with the other party, and such being the case I have not the least doubt that they have acted in accord for the purpose of setting a trap for the confident judge.

Your attention is invited to the enclosed explanation of the case, and especially to that part thereof where the judge tried to excuse himself at the time of the trial, not having done so because both parties agreed to have Cuevas try the same, after stating that it was distinct from, although related to a previous one which Cuevas had defended.

26 x 11

As I know how far human passion can go and to what it leads, specially in small souls and in the heat of political strife, I have no doubt that the above-mentioned charge is related to the statements of Republicans in the District of Humacao in regard to the departure of Cuevas from said town.

I therefore believe, Governor, that a little more patience should have been exercised by the office of the Attorney General in this matter, since I know that said office was prejudiced against Cuevas on account of other matters connected with corporations in the district, in which matters it has been impossible to prefer charges against the judge because, on the contrary, his conduct in said matters has merited high commendation.

Should the Department of Justice act thus, it is my opinion that we would kill judicial discretion and place the judges in such state of fear and hesitation that they would lose that independence of character and firmness in their decisions which should always characterize all judicial officials. I have thought this over very carefully and have reached the conclusion that Judge Cuevas should not, for the sake of his prestige, accept any position inferior to his present office. It would be preferable to make a brave defense against the charges preferred, and after being acquitted of the same, as he is sure that he will be, to resign and wait to know if after that he still merits the government's confidence.

This is really a very delicate matter, not only from the public officer's point of view, but also from that of the government. In such cases the officer should be defended against all unfounded charges, and all suspicion and prejudice against him should be dismissed, or he should be removed should the charges prove true and the prejudice well founded. The Cuevas matter cannot, after mature examination, be handled otherwise. Either his detractors are right in which case the latter procedure should be followed, after allowing him, of course, to defend himself, or he should be retained in office, surrounding him with all that respect and consideration which should surround a judge who decides important judicial problems. Although there may be other reasons of private convenience on which to try to effect a change in Humacao, it is my opinion that in view of what has happened it becomes necessary to retain Cuevas in office, unless, for reasons of public convenience, he be transferred to another place of equal or superior rank.

I have written you this letter because it is easier for me, since I do not know English, to think these things out, write them, and then have them translated, than to deal with them hurriedly in private conversation for which you have not always sufficient time in the midst of the many matters which you must handle. Besides the memorandum which I enclose explaining the facts connected with the charges preferred against Cuevas, I beg

(31 Oct 14)

-3-

to hand you another relative to his record in the District Court of Humacao, which I hope you will read with interest so that you may become fully acquainted with the motives on which I have become fully convinced not only of the honorability but also of the high qualifications of Judge Cuevas.

I hope you will excuse me if complying with my duty I have gone so deeply into a matter which seems to me of great importance not only from the view point of the young man whose future I see in danger, and who is such an important auxiliary to the administration of the Island, but also from the government's point of view, the latter being interested in acting so carefully and discreetly as corresponds to the high mission that it is called upon to fulfill in this country, where a great evolution among men and things is taking place, said evolution not being exempt of all such difficulties and abnormalities as are attendant on all periods of evolution. If we are not careful to preserve the best that we have for the purpose of securing the aid thereof in this difficult process of our political history, we shall encounter greater difficulties in attaining the success which Porto Rico as well as the United States are so highly interested in reaching, and in coming to a more intimate understanding of interests and affection.

Yours very cordially,

Antonio R. Garcia

The Filson Historical Society

MEMORANDUM.

A case in intervention relative to real property was tried before the Municipal Court of Fajardo, the title of which was as follows:

Faustino Fernandez

vs.

Miguel Salcedo and
Juan D. Cruz.

Attorney Rafael Cuevas Zequeira acted as attorney for the plaintiff in said case. The case was decided by the Municipal Court of Fajardo in favor of Faustino Fernandez, and an appeal having been taken to the District Court of Humacao, the latter rendered final judgment affirming that of the lower court. The appeal was defended in the upper court, so far as concerned the plaintiff, by Attorney Arturo Aponte Jr., the part taken by Attorney Cuevas being limited to the Municipal Court.

These conditions existing, the District Court of Humacao being presided by Judge Cuevas, the calendar was read at the beginning of a civil term of court, and a motion was made in accordance with the rules of the court for the setting of a date for the trial of a case entitled thus:

Miguel Salcedo

vs.

Arturo Aponte Jr. et al, Nullity.

The court entered the case on the calendar, none of the parties having reported as to the nature of the matter to be tried. The day for trial arrived and the litigants stated that they were ready therefor. But, as at this time, the Judge on examining the record, found that the case was somewhat connected with the previous one in which he had taken part, he informed the parties of his desire not to take cognizance in the matter. To this the attorneys replied that although the cases were remotely related, they were different one from the other. The court, therefore, on the express agreement of both parties, continued to hear the case, and in due time rendered judgment in favor of Arturo Aponte Jr., who was one of the defendants. If the court committed error a new trial could have been moved for. But this was not done since both parties renounced their rights, if any they had.

Note the ethical part of this question and bear in mind that the complaint is made by Arturo Aponte Jr., in whose favor judgment was rendered, and that the attorney for Miguel Salcedo, that is, the party believing himself prejudiced, considered at the trial and still considers that the cases in question are different cases.

MEMORANDUM.

The District Court of Humacao, since it has been presided by Judge Cuevas, has disposed of over two hundred cases, civil and criminal.- Of those taken on appeal to and decided by the Supreme Court, only three have been reserved, and these have been cases of misdemeanor.- The jury has acted with great success from the standpoint of a strict administration of justice.-

Everybody recognizes the strict impartiality of Judge Cuevas, whose labor has not yet been revised by means of writs of certiorari.-

Since Judge Cuevas presides over the court every one recognizes the independence and rectitude with which the jury acts and the great exigencies of the judge in this respect.- Not only the Porto Rican elements of the district, republicans and unionists alike, but Americans such as Mr. Harrison Johnson, Manager of the Cayey Caguas Tobacco Company, can bear witness of this fact.-

The Filson Historical Society

11 x 9 1/2

Narragansett Pier, R. I. Nov. 3rd, 1914.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
San Jaun,
Porto Rico.

My dear Governor Yager:-

I desire to thank you for your good letter of
October 17th,

I am urgently called to France, and I shall leave
on the "Lusitania".

My address will be #24 Rue Gambetta, Biarritz, France.

Wishing you success, I am,

Faithfully your friend,

A. Borda

86 x 11

November 5, 1914.

Dear Sir:

I have planned an official dinner for next Monday evening at eight o'clock in honor of all the new appointments to the Executive Council.

Invitations will be extended to the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, heads of departments, also the former heads of departments, and Judge of the Federal Court. The party will be so large that we shall have to confine it simply to the gentlemen themselves.

I would appreciate your prompt acceptance of this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Antonio R. Barceló,
Member of the Executive Council,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

November 9, 1914.

My dear Doctor Barbosa:

I am writing personally to say that I would appreciate very much if you would come to the dinner this evening at eight o'clock. It is an official dinner composed exclusively of the high officials of the Government and some ex officials, and I should be glad to have as many of them present as possible.

Hoping to see you at that time, I am
Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable José C. Barbosa,
Member of the Executive Council,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

86 x 11

February 3, 1915.

Mr. Nencelao Borda, Jr.,
Hotel Netherlands,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Borda:

I was greatly pleased to get your letter and to learn that you had returned from France; but I was very sorry to learn of the affliction that has come upon you in the death of your father. Please accept my sincere condolence and sympathy both for Mrs. Borda and yourself.

The legislature is now in session and at work on many bills of many sorts, among them a bill to make it possible to bring suit against the People of Porto Rico. But we shall see to it that any bill of this sort which is passed shall be guarded against abuses somewhat in the manner you have suggested.

I hope before a great while to have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Borda again in Porto Rico.

No doubt you have all the news of the Island and hear regularly from the Wilsons and others, so I will close with best wishes for both of you in which Mrs. Yager heartily joins.

Sincerely yours,

February 16, 1915.

Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 23rd ultimo which has just been received, I will state that we have only two companies in San Juan that do any trust business, namely, The Montreal Trust Company which has a branch in the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Banco Territorial y Agricola de Puerto Rico.

As far as I know these are the only organizations in Porto Rico that undertake what is known as trust business, but they are both responsible companies and perform satisfactorily this sort of business.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

Frederick F. Barker, Esq.,
Cinco de Mayo N:32,
Mexico City, Mexico.

Frederick H. Barker
Attorney at Law

ADDRESS:
CINCO DE MAYO Nº 32
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

January 23rd., 1915.

To the Governor of Puerto Rico,
San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sir:-

Would you kindly have sent to me a list of the Trust
Companies established in San Juan.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy in
this matter, I remain,

Respectfully,

Frederick H. Barker

FFB/RH

11 x 11

April 20, 1915.

My dear Mr. Bird:-

Your very kind
letter of the 17th instant
has been received in time
to aid me in my report on
the strike.

Accept my thanks
for your promptness.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. George Bird Arias,
Fajardo, Porto Rico.

86x11
11x78

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.*Personal*FAJARDO, P. R. *April 17th* 1915 ✓Governor Arthur Jager.
San Juan² PR

Dear Governor — In reply to your Enquiry
as to comparative prices paid for labor in 1914
and 1915, and cause of the strike I beg to in-
form you as follows.

Wages in 1914 —

Field wages for 9 hours day (7 to 12 to 1 to 5)
allowing one hour for lunch — men — 50¢ — 60¢ — 62¢ — 68¢
75¢ according to the physical condition and working
power and ability of the man.

Field Contract work — Most of the opera-
tions are done by contract based on an acre
of work for general cultivation and an a'
ton of cane for harvesting (cutting & carting
cane and loading it on the RR cars) on these
contracts a good worker can easily make from
80¢ to 125¢ per day of 8 hours which is the lon-
gest they work.

Factory wages — These range from 75¢ to
\$3.00 per day — payment is made based per hour
of work —

26x11

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.

2

FAJARDO, P. R. 191

Last year (1914) - owing to the hard times and poor prospects we were compelled to reduce 10% in factory wages - Field wages were left more or less the same.

Wages in 1915 - In view of a brighter prospect we offered our factory hands an increase from 5% to 20% - in accordance with the ruling price of sugar, the said increase to be paid at the end of the crop when the average price could be ascertained - Our intention in doing this being to thus compel our laborers to save some money for the dead season. Field labor was practically increased around 20% or from 50¢ 60¢ + etc. to 60¢ - 70¢ + etc.

Our general payrolls this year show an increase of from 25% to 30%

Strike We began our work early in January and there was no intimation or complaints or demands made by either factory or field hands - The strike came suddenly, without a warning and accompanied from its start by some fires and destruction of property on our Railroad line which is one of the public

(17 April 1915)

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.

3

FAJARDO, P. R. 191

Cameo lines of the island -

The movement was lead by agitators from outside and from the town neither of who were employed with us or workers of either field or factory - In fact there was no reason for this strike much no doubt sleeped to some other reasons, than labor dissatisfaction - We believe that the price of sugar should be the standard for all transactions connected with the sugar manufactory and cane growing business as well as for the wages of the workmen, and we have always been willing to increase wages in proportion to the higher prices of sugar.

When the representative of the labor Bureau came to Fajardo, he found me ready, as I always was, to treat with the laborers (not with the agitators) and the strike was settled - all that was needed was good will and of course the agitators had none.

Notwithstanding the settlement of the strike the agitators have continued their work of agitation and the cane fire has also continued. Since the beginning of our crop we

(17 Apr 15)

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.

4

FAJARDO, P. R.191

have had some twenty or more fires. It
 is to be noted that all the fires that have
 occurred in Fajardo have been in our Com-
 pany's Estates not a single one having occurred
 in the cane fields of the other cane growers re-
 presented by some 4000 acres of cane, and
 there is no explanation for this as it is an
 undeniable fact that we pay higher wages
 than others in the district and are the only ones
 who furnish our field laborers with good living
 houses and give them the privilege of free med-
 ical attendance and medicine.

The movement seems to be clearly
 against our Company but I must say honestly
 and frankly that it is impossible to
 understand why—

Respectfully
 J. B. Bunting

Nº 265

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA



EL PRESIDENTE PROVISIONAL DE LA REPUBLICA

R No. 13



30017

Honorable Señor
Arthur Yager

V^a

V^a

San Juan

Puerto Rico

The Filson Historical Society

11 x 28



Caracas: abril 24 de 1915

Honorable Señor Arthur Yager &a &a San Juan (P.R.)

Mi distinguido amigo:

Con suma complacencia me he impuesto de la carta de Usted, fechada el día 14 de los corrientes.

Me es muy grato saber que Usted y su honorable familia llevaron buenas impresiones de su permanencia en Venezuela y crea que para mí hubiera sido especialmente satisfactorio que esa permanencia hubiese sido prolongada para poder disfrutar así, por mas tiempo, del exquisito trato de Usted y de los suyos. Me ha-
laga intimamente el anhelo de Usted de que yo visite a Puerto Rico y ojalá pudiera efectuar esa visita para tener el gusto de verlo otra vez y admirar los progresos que el Gobierno de Usted ha verificado en esa bella porcion del Continente Americano.

A mis saludos deferentes para Usted y su familia van unidos los de todos los míos.

Su atento S. S. y amigo

Márguera Bustillos

Inuloken N.Y.
May 18, 1915

Copy
Sir:

It is with sincere regret
that I am obliged to
request that you accept this
note as my official resignation
from the position of Chief of
the Bureau of Labor. My only
reason for leaving this position
is that I believe it to be
my duty to those dependent
upon me to go into work
that presents better prospects
of future advancement. I should
like my resignation from the

86x11

Bureau of labor to go into effect June 11, at which time I expect to go into the service of the Department of Justice as law Officer. Therefore, if it is possible, I would like to be transferred to the Department of Justice. I expect to sail for San Juan June 2.

Permit me, at this time, to express my appreciation of the help and encouragement which you have always

given me, and my
genuine pleasure in serving
under you during the
past two years and a
half. Respectfully

J. C. Smith Jr.
Hon. W. Cameron
Director Labor, Charities & Commerce
San Juan
Puerto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

arrival in New York, I was in Washington and, as you suggested, talked with General McIntyre, Colonel Norton and Major Hunt about the strike of the engine laborers. About that time the New York Call was publishing a lot of false things furnished them from Pat Rice. I tried to give Gen. McIntyre as exact an account of everything connected with the strike as I could. I also had a long and frank talk with Mr. Gompers who, I think, gave me something of his confidence. The problem is to give him proof of the

Interlaken, N.Y.
May 18, 1915

Dear Governor Yager:-
For the

past three weeks Mrs. Bills and I have been staying at our farm-home in Interlaken.

Spring has come and it seems, indeed, a different world from that in which we have lived for the past two years and a half. We have both profited greatly by the change and the rest shed the chill of the Northland.

The work following our

11x98

inefficiency of the labor organization work in Porto Rico. He is very loyal to Mr. Iglesias and cannot see any fire back of all the smoke.

The "Porto Rico Progress" of May 5, which I received today, tells of a hearing by the Commission on Industrial Relations into labor matters in Porto Rico that was to take place at Washington on May 8. I knew nothing of this until today. I had hoped to be present at my hearing of the sort if it was held while I was in the States. But, perhaps, it is just as well - for my sympathies are with the poor laborers so strongly that I am sometimes afraid I do not see the other side as clearly as I ought.

I have given several talks about Porto Rico and endeavored to do justice to the Porto Rican people and to state their needs fairly. Of course, the comparatively few people that I can interest in our Island cannot accomplish much. I have tried to interest several people in the

than at present. And, if there is nothing ahead in the Department of Labor, Charities and Correction, I do think that I ought to leave now. I have talked with several friends in Boston - older men who are directing important lines of social and labor work - and they advise me to get back into law at once. I am sorry to leave the Bureau of Labor but I must. Also Mr. Kern needs a decision regarding the position of how Officer in his office and I

building of model tenements in San Juan, but without success. Money is still very tight in this section. While in New York, I called upon the National Organizer of Associated Charities and I think we may get a start in San Juan this next winter.

Mr. Kernore writes that the Bureau of Labor is having its troubles but still I do not believe there will ever be a better time for me to leave

have written him that I will accept it. I am, therefore, sending Mr. Camunas my resignation by this mail, a copy of which I am enclosing. Since Mr. Camunas' term expires in June, I do not suppose my place will be filled for some time and, therefore, June 1st should be sufficient notice. If, for any reason, you wish me to remain in the Bureau of Labor after that date, I would be very grateful if you would speak to Mr. Kern and Mr. Camunas about it.

I expect to sail from New York June 2. Mrs. Bills expects to remain here with her family until our baby is born. If I can be of any service while here in the States, I hope you will call upon me. I shall be at Interlaken, N.Y. until May 29 and at the Hotel Albert, New York City until I sail.

Mrs. Bills joins with me in kindest regards to Mrs. Yager, your little girl and yourself.

Cordially and respectfully
Hon. Arthur Yager
San Juan, P.R.
J.C. Bills Jr.

June 19, 1915.

My dear Mr. Ballard:-

You will doubtless be surprised to receive this letter from me, but I am relying upon a slight previous acquaintance with you and upon our being fellow-Kentuckians to ask you to take some special interest in the hearing before the Commission on Industrial Relations of which you are a member, granted to the representatives of the laborers in Porto Rico, which hearing I believe took place in Washington on May 27.

I am enclosing a copy of my report to the President, of April 19, 1915, covering the strike of the Porto Rican sugar laborers last March. This report was submitted to the Commission before the hearing took place, but I am not sure that they have read it or studied the other documents submitted along with this report.

Judging from the newspaper reports published throughout the United States giving an account of the hearing, I have a feeling that the Government of Porto Rico was not given a square deal in the matter, and I am naturally anxious that the side of the Government should be fully set forth before the Commission and the public.

It seems to me that there were two questions before the Commission for investigation and that they have been confused, at least in the minds of the public.

First is the question of the general conditions of labor in Porto Rico, and second the specific question as to the conduct of the Government of the Island during the sugar strike. The first question is a very large one and must necessarily include the entire industrial history of Porto Rico for two or three hundred years; for certainly the social and economic condition of the Island now is an evolution of this whole history; and while everybody in Porto Rico concedes that the general labor conditions are very unfavorable for the laborer as compared to the conditions in the United States, still every sensible man must admit that these conditions can not be changed rapidly or suddenly but must await the gradual process of social amelioration through education and better organization.

But the second question is much more specific, and the charges of unfairness or wrong-doing made against the Government of Porto Rico during the progress of this strike were completely refuted not only by testimony given to the Commission, but also by documentary evidence which was unimpeachable. And when it was stated in the newspapers that most of the statements and charges made by Mr. Iglesias and the other labor leaders were conceded as true, reference must have been made to the first question as to general labor conditions and not to the

second one as to the charges made against the Government during that strike.

I do not know what further action may be taken by the Industrial Commission or what will be the nature of their report, but I request of you simply as a matter of justice that these two questions be kept distinct and that the Government of the Island be given a square deal.

I wish to assure you that nobody is more fully aware than myself of the difficulties and hard conditions which exist in the general labor situation here in Porto Rico, and nobody has labored more assiduously to do whatever is possible to be done to improve them than I; but the enormous population of Porto Rico, the traditions and customs of centuries of Spanish administration, the low standards of living, of intelligence and of morality amongst the laboring classes in general, make improvement slow and difficult, and no power on earth can alter these conditions at once.

But as to the charges made against myself and the Government of the Island during the recent sugar strike, every one of them is wholly false, and all the people of Porto Rico know them to be false, even those labor leaders who have made these charges. I am perfectly confident that if you will examine the evidence submitted carefully you will find that during that strike we

(19 June 15)

-4-

did everything we could to help the laborers in their effort to secure higher wages, and at the same time we upheld the law and maintained order and public peace.

I hope you will excuse me for bringing this matter thus directly to your attention and for asking your friendly assistance. I have not been able to ascertain whether you were present at the Washington meeting or not; but whether you were there or not I feel sure that I can rely upon your personal friendship.

With best wishes for you and kindly remembrance to all my friends in Louisville, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable S. Thruston Ballard,
Louisville, Kentucky.

(Enclosure)

August 3, 1915.

My dear Mr. Ballard:

Your very kind letter of July 16 has been duly received, and I assure you that I appreciate more than I can tell the promises of help and consideration which it contains.

I am now planning to be in Kentucky sometime during the latter part of September and the first half of October next and will take pleasure in calling on you when I happen to be in Louisville.

With best wishes for you always,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable S. Thruston Ballard,
Louisville, Kentucky.

FRANK P. WALSH, CHAIRMAN,
MISSOURI.
JOHN R. COMMONS,
WISCONSIN.
MRS. J. BORDEN HARRIMAN,
NEW YORK.
FREDERIC A. DELANO,
CONNECTICUT.
HARRIS WEINSTOCK,
CALIFORNIA.
S. THRUSTON BALLARD,
KENTUCKY.
JOHN B. LENNON,
ILLINOIS.
JAMES O'CONNELL,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
AUSTIN B. GARRETON,
IOWA.
RICHARD H. AISHTON,
ILLINOIS.

UNITED STATES
COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON

Louisville, Ky., July 16, 1915.

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

My dear Sir :-

Your letter of June 19th addressed to me came during my absence in California, and it only came to my attention recently, as our Commission is having hearings almost continually in Chicago.

On yesterday, however, I submitted your letter to the members of our Commission representing the employers and they concurred with me that we would certainly see that your testimony and the testimony of others with reference to labor conditions in Porto Rico would be very carefully considered and fairly considered.

It gives me pleasure to say that the impression seems to be with our Members, that your Administrations in the Island have been most satisfactory and I am awful glad to feel that I can write this to you.

It will give me pleasure, when the question finally comes up before the Commission, to bear it in mind, and I assure you that the whole situation will have fair and careful treatment.

Hoping to see you sometime when you return to Kentucky, I am in the meantime,

Very sincerely yours.

STB-S

S. Thruston Ballard

11x98

J. CREPPS WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, KY., CHAIRMAN.
HARRY LANE, OREG. THOMAS B. CATRON, N. MEX.
PAUL O. HUSTING, WIS. NATHAN GOFF, W. VA.
GEORGE V. TRIPLETT, JR., CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Washington, D. C.

April 13, 1916.

PERSONAL.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of March 28, inclosing copy of your letter to Senator Jones, in regard to the prohibition question in Porto Rico. I have read with much interest your views upon the subject, and I shall bear in mind your suggestions when the matter comes up for consideration.

Should you come back to the states at any time soon, I should indeed be glad to see you.

With best wishes for your health and success,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

B/H

J. W. Beckham

March 28, 1916.

My dear Mr. Beckham:

You will remember my conversation with you when in Washington with reference to the matter of prohibition for Porto Rico. My information is that the prohibitionists in Congress, stimulated by Mr. Crafts of the International Reform Bureau, are going to press the matter as a rider upon the new organic act for Porto Rico both in the House and in the Senate.

I am enclosing copy of a letter giving accurately and impartially the facts bearing upon this matter as related to Porto Rico. I wish you would read the letter carefully and take such action upon it as commends itself to your judgment. I am sure that you are perfectly willing to do whatever you think is right and best with reference to the situation in Porto Rico. The passage of such an amendment at this time would in my judgment greatly embarrass the American administration here in the Island, and I am sure that neither you nor any other democratic Senator desires to do that. I am especially anxious that the facts should be placed before the Senate itself before they vote upon it, for it cannot be true that Senators wish to legislate for Porto Rico blindly without knowing the conditions as they exist here. I have written to Senator James upon the same matter and sent him a copy of my letter to Chairman

(28 Mar 16)

-2-

Jones.

I know how busy you must be with the various matters pressing for attention, but I would greatly appreciate it if you would give to this subject such attention as you can possibly find time for. The matter is of such importance that I may possibly run up to Washington again before it is finally disposed of, although this may not be possible.

With the highest personal regard and best wishes both for yourself and your family, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable J. C. W. Beckham,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

April 25, 1916.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 13th instant has been received and I have read carefully your statement with reference to your brother's trouble, and I assure you that when the application of pardon reaches my desk I shall give the whole subject the most careful and conscientious consideration of which I am capable.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Mr. Walter C. Blanford,
St. Charles Hotel,
New Orleans, La.

April 27, 1916.

My dear Professor Blayney:

Your letter of the 16th instant, enclosing copy of Dr. Shaw's letter to Mr. Jones, has just been received.

Of course you can understand, I am sure, how much I appreciate both your letter and that of Dr. Shaw. Coming as it did unsolicited and, as you say, in a roundabout way, it is all the more gratifying.

I am not at all biased, as you express it, in these matters, for while I have heard and do hear constantly many commendations I also hear constantly many remarks and criticisms of the opposite sort which of course come to every executive officer who attempts always to perform his duty; and it is gratifying to put down on the other side of the ledger remarks like those of Dr. Shaw's, and I hope in the end to have a balance on the right side.

Of course I know very little as to the comparative merits of the complicated and difficult situation which has come about in the Philippine Islands. I am so constantly occupied with my own job that I do not as a rule give time to study or think much about things that do not concern my own work. But I want to assure you of my sincere appreciation of your kind letter and good wishes, and the latter I wish to return most cordially to you in all of your work and prospects.

I hope that sometime you might find an opportunity to visit Porto Rico also, and if you could do so during my administration I assure you a most hearty welcome.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Professor T. Lindsay Blayney,
William M. Rice Institute,
Houston, Texas.

86x11

THOMAS LINDSEY BLAYNEY
WILLIAM M. RICE INSTITUTE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

April sixteenth
1916

Hon. Arthur Yager
Governor of Porto Rico
San Juan.

My dear Governor;

While you have heard many good things said about your administration of our island dependency and have doubtless become somewhat blasé, yet I venture to send you the enclosed copy of a letter from Dr. Albert Shaw to Mr. Jones in reply to one in which he attacks me for my article upon the Philippines. Commendation of your administration coming from such a source and in such a roundabout way may give you some little satisfaction and encouragement.

Congratulating you very sincerely upon the record you have made, and regretting that a "historian," rather than a politician, was not in charge at Manila on the occasion of my visit, and where such a splendid piece of constructive work had been partly done, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

T. Lindsey Blayney

P. S. Kindly return enclosure
at your convenience.

86x11

Copy for Prof. Blayney.

The American Review of Reviews, 30 Irving Place, New York.
Albert Shaw, Editor.

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

My dear Sir:

I am much obliged to you for sending me a copy of your letter to Professor Blayney. I will not comment upon it, because I am sure that you have written with sincerity and good intentions and am equally convinced that Professor Blayney's position has been not only sincere but wholly disinterested from the political standpoint. I think the Republicans were in bad business when they got us into the Philippine, and I think the Democrats are in bad business in getting us out with so little apparent regard for the well-being of millions of helpless people.

Since as Chairman of the Committee on Insular Affairs your interests extend to the West Indies as well as to the East Indies, I beg to congratulate you on all the good things I hear about Governor Yager's administration of Porto Rico, these being in such marked contrast with almost everything I have heard with regard to Harrison's administration of the Philippines.

If it happened that the ranking Democratic member of the Ways and Means Committee had been taken out of Congress and sent to Porto Rico, it is possible that we might have heard something of a political overhauling of that now happy island. Whereas if Mr. Yager had been sent to the Philippines instead of to Porto Rico I venture to guess that Mr. Blayney would never have had occasion to write this article, which seems to have so greatly offended your views.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

AS

86x11

May 3, 1916.

My dear Mr. Bertram;

I wish to recall to your mind our conversation in New York when I was last there relative to your possible visit to Porto Rico about this season. I have been thinking ever since our legislature adjourned that I might possibly be called to Washington on official business and on that account I had hesitated to write you for fear that I might be unavoidably absent from the island in case you could see your way to make me a visit. Now, however, it seems to me most likely that I shall be here continuously during this month, and I wish to renew the invitation I gave you at that time to make a visit to Porto Rico, and I feel sure that it would be an experience that would be pleasant and contain many of the elements of change and recreation which I am sure you would like to have.

If you could let me know in advance of your coming, I could meet you at the boat and do my best to take good care of you while you were here and also give you every opportunity to see as much of the island as the length of your visit would allow.

The Carnegie Library is not entirely finished, but nearly so. There have been of course many delays for lack of material which had been ordered from the States,

(3 May 16)

-2-

prompt shipment of which was impossible owing to congestion of freights both in railway and steamship transportation. This has also, as you can readily imagine, added something to the cost of the materials. But all of this was to be expected during the extraordinary conditions that have prevailed throughout the war at this time.

Hoping to hear from you soon and to have the pleasure of seeing you here before long, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. James Bertram, Secretary,

Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Fifth Avenue, New York City.

May 12. 1916.

My dear Mr. Beardsley:

I received your letter of the 8th instant a day or two ago.

Of course I cheerfully approve your plan to take a vacation during the summer, but I regret the latter part of your letter which is concerned with your possible resignation. I will take up this phase of the matter with Mr. Domenech at some convenient time and we will talk it all over. Personally it would be a great disappointment to me to have you leave Porto Rico.

I have seen very little of you lately, which is also a matter of regret; but the time seems never to come with me, when I shall have leisure to follow my personal inclinations.

Of course I shall see you before you leave, and I hope that I will have an opportunity for a long talk.

With sincere regard, I am

Very truly your friend,

Governor.

Mr. J. W. Beardsley,
Chief Engineer, Irrigation Service,
Guayama, Porto Rico.

Personal

My dear Governor:

I recently wrote Mr. Domenech that I desired to take a vacation of two months, commencing June 7, attending, first, the 25th reunion of my class at Cornell and then going to Johns Hopkins Hospital to attempt to secure permanent relief from the arthritic condition which was so much benefited last year but which, unfortunately renewed activities about two months ago.

While I have made no other plans for the future, I am now thinking of resigning upon the expiration of this leave of absence, unless it is desired that I remain until the permanent district is formed next year. In any case, I wish to have my services subject to your wishes to the fullest extent possible.

I have been hoping to find it convenient to mention this matter to you and am now anxious that you shall know the present status.

The Honorable
Arthur Yague,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

With deep regards, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

J. W. Beardsley
Guayama May 8.

May 19, 1916.

Mr. Jorge Bird Arias,
Fajardo, Porto Rico.

My dear Mr. Bird;

Your letter of the 16th has just been received.

I also regret very much that I missed you last Sunday afternoon when I made a very pleasant call at your home with my family and spent a half hour or so with Mrs. Bird and Mr. Barceló.

I did not know till I arrived that Mr. Combs was with you, but I hope you will not forget to bring him to see me before he leaves Porto Rico. I should greatly enjoy making his acquaintance.

I appreciate very much your good opinion of my proclamation on Mothers' Day, and have instructed my Secretary to send you copies both in English and in Spanish.

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

Governor.

11 x 9

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.FAJARDO, P. R. May 16. 1916

Gov. Arthur Sayer.
San Juan.

Dear Governor; I was very sorry not to have been able to see you last Sunday when you called at my house with your good family as I would have liked you to meet Mr. J. B. Coombs the President of our Company and I yet trust to be able to call at the palace with him before he sails.

I congratulate you heartily on your beautiful proclamation on the Mothers Day. It was distributed in our Church last Sunday, and both Mrs. Quid and I enjoyed reading it very much. Will you be kind enough to send me an English and an Spanish Copy of it -

With thanks, best wishes
and kind regards I remain very sincerely Yours

Donat B. ...

May 31, 1916.

My dear Mr. Beardsley:

My mind is still running on that fishing trip which we spoke of when I last saw you. I find upon consideration that the fish placed in Carite reservoir have been there only for a few months, so it is too soon to expect any results at that point; that the fish placed in Patillas were put there at the same time as those in Comerio, and I think it likely therefore that there might be some fishing in that lake. I would appreciate it therefore if you will make such inquiries as you can with reference to Patillas, - as to the probability of there being some fish of good size there and the best method of making an experiment some Saturday in the near future. I can get hooks and lines here and take them over with me. I would like to find over there some bait and bamboo fish poles, and, if possible, secure a boat to paddle around over the lake. And sometime I will run down there from Jajome and take along a lunch and put in some hours fishing if there is any chance of finding any sport. If you will write me within the next few days what you can learn about it or what you think of it I will appreciate it.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely your friend,

Mr. J. W. Beardsley,
Guayama, Porto Rico.

Governor.

June 7, 1916.

Mr. Arthur E. Bestor, President,
Chautauqua Institution,
Chautauqua, New York.

My dear Mr. Bestor:

Your letter of May 26th has just been received. I appreciate the kindness of your prompt answer and your suggestions as to the matter contained in my letter to my friend Professor Mc Clintock. Since writing that letter there have been certain developments in relation to my work in Porto Rico that seem to make it unlikely that I shall be able to get away from here before the middle of September. It seems now possible that the new organic act for Porto Rico may pass the Senate as it has the House of Representatives, and this will give me a large amount of additional work of the greatest importance which may keep me on the job until close up to the November election. So perhaps it is not feasible for me to carry out my desire of addressing the Chautauqua Assembly this season. I had wanted to discuss two topics which seem to me to be of great importance: first, *The American Mediterranean and its Importance to the United States*; and second, *Porto Rico, its Present Social and Political Conditions and the Outlook for the Future*. I hope that sometime I may yet have an opportunity to attend Chautauqua and speak of these things to the great audience that as-

(1 June 16)

-2-

sembles there every year.

I hope that you will do what you can to aid Mrs. Yager and our children to enjoy their stay this summer and that you will have a great and successful season.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

June 23, 1916.

Mr. J. W. Beardsley,
44 Hayes Street,
Norwich, New York.

My dear Mr. Beardsley:

Yours of the 11th instant, written on board the BRAZOS, has been received.

I was delighted to hear from you and to learn that you are considering returning to Porto Rico to continue your excellent service with the irrigation work. As to the question which you are considering with reference to that work, I should myself personally leave the matter entirely to the decision of Mr. Domenech. Knowing the whole situation as he does far better than I, I should think that his judgment would be the one to be followed in that connection.

I hope you will have a pleasant vacation and entirely recover your health.

With best wishes to Mrs. Beardsley and also to your son when you see him, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

11 x 28

THE NEW YORK & PORTO RICO STEAMSHIP COMPANY



PORTO RICO LINE

11 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS "NEWTORICO"

Personal

ON BOARD S. S. BRAZOS

June 11 1916

My dear Governor:

I desire you to know that when I called upon Mr. Domenech to say good bye he asked me not to submit my resignation but to return after my vacation and aid him in reorganization of the Immigration Service and the organization of the new irrigation work. He wishes me to live in San Juan and to transfer as fully as possible the clerical and computing force from Guayama to San Juan.

I agreed to give careful consideration to his wishes and to reply about July 1.

We have sold or shipped all household goods, books, etc. but have no definite plans. If I return I ^{ought to} convince myself that I can successfully carry out the reorganization proposed and second, that my services are really needed and will be of value to the Government. I am not now sure that I can answer either question affirmatively. I will however decide within two or three weeks and will send you a copy of my reply. We have enjoyed an exceptionally smooth trip. Mrs. Bradshy joins me in

11x93

Best regards to Mrs. Yague and
yourself.

Very sincerely yours

J. W. Burdley

The Honorable
Arthur Yague
Governor of Porto Rico
San Juan

44 Hayes St.
Norwich
New York.

The Filson Historical Society

August 23, 1916.

My dear Colonel;

I have learned that one of the young men taking the physical examination for appointment as Second Lieutenant, Modesto Rodriguez, was found to be somewhat deficient in the sight of one eye.

I suppose you know that young Rodriguez passed an excellent physical examination only ten months ago without revealing any defects whatever. Since this time he has been studying very hard to get ready for the mental examination and using his eyes very severely at night. Under the circumstances, therefore, it would seem natural that the trouble is purely temporary due to strain and that there is nothing seriously wrong with his eye. A little rest would perhaps make it all right.

Under these circumstances I am writing simply to acquaint you with the facts and ask if there is not some way, under the regulations, by which this young man might be given another test in this eye after he has had a little time to rest it. From what I have learned of him in general I am inclined to think he is one of the most promising appli-

(23 Aug 16)

-2-

cants here, and it would be a pity to have him rejected for so slight a cause.

I am sure you will understand that I am writing this letter simply to be helpful in the heavy and responsible task which you have on your hands.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Governor.

Colonel W. P. Burnham,
Commanding Officer,
Porto Regiment of Infantry,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Filson Historical Society

August 23, 1916.

Dear Sir:

I regret to say that your letter inviting me to give a sitting to the Champlain Studio in New York, came to Porto Rico on the day that I arrived in New York City for a brief visit to Washington, consequently I did not receive it until after I had returned to the Island, otherwise I should have been pleased to accede to your request while I was in New York.

I shall try to preserve your card for another visit when I can give you the sitting requested.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. T. C. Bigelow, Mgr.,
Champlain Studio,
306 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

August 31, 1916.

My dear Senator:

Your kind letter of the 22nd instant was duly received. I appreciate very much your kind expressions and those quoted from Mrs. Wood with reference to the visit of herself and Dr. Wood to Porto Rico, and especially to my son and family in this connection. I am awfully sorry that I did not myself have an opportunity to make the acquaintance of Dr. and Mrs. Wood while they were here, for both my son Rodes and Mrs. Lewis my mother-in-law spoke of them in the highest terms and enjoyed exceedingly making their acquaintance.

I have not yet entirely recovered from the trouble in my head and ears, but I am better and hopeful that it will all pass away in time.

Please remember me most cordially to Mrs. Beckham and write me sometime, if you can get 'round to it, your views as to the political situation in Kentucky. The news I get is not entirely encouraging; but I do not see how Kentucky could go back on the National Administration at this time.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely your friend,

Hon. J. C. W. Beckham,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Washington, D. C.

August 22, 1916.

Personal.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Governor:

I am writing to tell you how much Mrs. Beckham and I appreciated the kindness and courtesy shown by your family to Dr. and Mrs. Wood on their recent visit to Porto Rico. In letters from them they have spoken in most grateful and enthusiastic terms of the cordiality and hospitality shown them by your family, and particularly by your son, for whom they have formed a very high admiration. Mrs. Wood in her letter expressed her firm belief that he would make a distinguished and honorable mark in life. I am indeed sorry, as they were, that you could not be there, but I certainly appreciate the great kindness shown them while there.

I earnestly hope that you have completely recovered from the trouble you suffered with when you were here, and that you are now in good health again.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely your friend,

J. W. Beckham.

B/H

ECKHAM, KY., CHAIRMAN.
THOMAS B. CATRON, N. MEX.
NATHAN GOFF, W. VA.
PAUL O. HAPLETT, JR., CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Washington, D. C.
September 6, 1916.

Personal.

Gov. Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Governor:

I was very glad to get your letter to-day of August 31, and to know that you had safely arrived at your post, and I sincerely hope that you will soon be entirely recovered from the physical trouble you had.

I am sure it would have given you a great deal of pleasure to ~~have met~~ Dr. and Mrs. Wood on their visit to Porto Rico, as they are most charming and delightful people. Some time when you are here I shall arrange to have you and them with us at our apartment.

Congress is still hanging on by the ragged edge, and may adjourn this week, but no one can tell when the Senate will stop. You remember what I told you about what was necessary to get thru the Porto Rican bill at this session,- that you would have to carry off bodily about half a dozen Senators here to enable us to do any work. I was correct in that suggestion, for there have been ~~no~~ less than a dozen men in this session who have blocked the work of the Senate without adding a particle to the intelligence or capacity of its work.

I expect to go to Kentucky soon after Congress adjourns, and will, of course, take an active part in the campaign. I hope and trust the state will go for the President by a substantial majority, and there would, of course, be no doubt about it except for the local troubles there. However the tide in favor of the President all over the country seems to be overwhelming, and I think he will be elected beyond any doubt. We got thru the breakers of the threatened railroad troubles successfully, and his strength seems to be increasing.

With kindest regards, I am
Very sincerely your friend,

B/H

A. W. Beckham

11 X 11

October 2, 1916.

Sir:-

It is with unusual pleasure that I write this note of introduction for Mr. Sosthenes Behn who has recently removed from San Juan, Porto Rico, to Havana to engage in business.

Mr. Behn has for many years lived in Porto Rico, and at the time of his leaving was one of the most prominent and successful businessmen of this island. He has for many years been a member of the San Juan Harbor Board and has rendered most efficient and useful service in that position.

I am sure you will find Mr. Behn an unusually intelligent and capable businessman and a gentleman whose acquaintance you will be pleased to make, and I bespeak for him any courtesies that it may be convenient for you to show him.

With the highest personal consideration, I am

Respectfully yours,

Governor.

Honorable William E. Gonzalez,
American Minister Plenipotentiary,
Havana, Republic of Cuba.

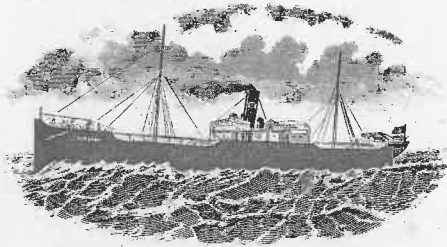
86 X 11

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17 BATTERY PLACE, NEW YORK

Oct. 23, 1916

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico.
Bureau of Insular Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of October 16th. written aboard the
"BRAZOS" was duly received.

We regret we did not have the pleasure of meeting
you and trust when you pass through New York on your return to
Porto Rico, you will advise us so we may have the pleasure of
calling on you .

Very truly yours,

Ernest M. Bull

86 x 11

December 13, 1916.

Dear Sir:

Upon the eve of Dr. W. W. King's departure for the United States upon temporary leave of absence, I desire to express to you my appreciation of his character and his work here in this Island.

Dr. King has been a most faithful and industrious investigation into the causes, effects and treatment and possible cure of the various tropical diseases which have affected Porto Rico's people, and the quality of his work is very highly regarded by all those in Porto Rico who have knowledge concerning it. I wish especially to speak of his character as a man. I regard him as belonging to that class of American officials who are most useful and helpful in carrying forward here the work of the American people in the direction of uplifting and Americanizing the people of the Island. I wish we had more Americans of the class of Dr. King and his family.

Assuring you of my highest respect, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Surgeon General Rupert Blue,
Washington, D. C.

86x11

F

Honolulu, T. H., January 23, 1917.

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

My dear Governor Yager; -

From Porto Rico to Hawaii is a far cry, but while I miss my friends and the pleasant associations of San Juan, I am very happily and permanently located in Honolulu, - so much so that I have, as you know from my cable asking your friendly interest, become a candidate for presidential appointment to the First Circuit bench here. There is at present one vacancy and there will be another on February 15th. One of the circuit judges has charge of the Juvenile Court in addition to his share of routine matters, and it is in the work of the Juvenile Court and its possibilities for constructive usefulness in the community that I am earnestly interested. As you know, we have here a melting-pot, not of nationalities but of races, - Mongolian, Malay, Polynesian, white and black, - and the native-born pure-strain and blended citizens-to-be afford to the Juvenile Court a tremendous opportunity for moulding good citizens, because many of its problems are of misunderstanding rather than of deliberation.

Like Porto Rico, Hawaii has been predominantly Republican since annexation, and there appears to be a similar dearth of Democratic candidates whose professional standing and ability would commend them to the bar and the community independently of party. (All the able ones are already in office!) While I have been a progressive Republican in my sympathies, I have never been engaged in politics nor sought office, and I favored Mr. Wilson's reelection because of my appreciation

11998

of the legislative record and program of the administration.

Under these circumstances, several of the leaders of the Territorial bar have encouraged or approved my candidacy, including W.D. Smith, (who was Attorney General of the Republic), former Chief Justice and Governor Walter L. Frear, and J.L. Withington; and Supreme Court Judge Ralph P. Quarles, a Democrat, has expressed a friendly willingness as referee for my professional and personal standing at the bar here.

I have written to the President, having been a student in his jurisprudence and politics courses for several years at Princeton, where I graduated cum laude in 1904. I graduated from Harvard Law School in 1908, and practiced for four years in New York before going to Porto Rico. U.S. Senator Hughes of New Jersey, a Democrat, is an old friend and fellow townsman of my father, and is, I believe, interesting himself in my behalf.

Knowing your personal friendship with Senator Ollie James, I beg to bespeak your friendly offices with him in the matter. Sincerely, Governor, the \$4000 salary (which is very much less than my professional income for several years preceding my arrival here last year) and the prestige of the position, count very little with me in comparison with the opportunity to be of some service in my community.

I believe that the interest of Senator James and Senator Hughes would secure a nomination and confirmation without difficulty, - and a letter from you to Senator James would be very heartily and gratefully appreciated by me.

I learn that Porto Rico is sharing the benefits of prosperity. The high yield of sugar here - from four to eight tons per acre, has enabled the planters to pay in December last a bonus of 50% on the year's wages, which averaged a dollar a day for the entire year; the men are kept busy throughout the year. With cordial remembrances to Mrs. Yager and yourself, in which Mrs. Danigan joins, I am faithfully yours, Louis Danigan

HENRY F. LIPPITT
RHODE ISLAND

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 10, 1917

Dear Reece:

The day after I wrote you in reply to yours of January 22nd, Santiago came into the office as I had requested him to do. I told him it had been reported to me that he was not a naturalized American. He, of course, was greatly surprised, etc. He said he took out his papers in (I believe) municipal court, that the records of those courts were afterwards sent to the office of the Secretary of Porto Rico. Then when the time came around to take out his second papers, the courts had ruled that Porto Ricans could not take out citizenship papers, etc. I told him I was quite interested in that, and some time would like to see the papers, as a matter of curiosity, he having told me he had them here. Since then more than a week has passed by, and Santiago has not been in evidence.

In short, the only real information I got out of him was a statement by him first that he went to the island in 1898, which he quickly corrected by saying 1897. I never did know just when he came to the island, but of course you can learn that. If he came there after the American occupation, he would be in a different category than if he came there prior to that time.

As I told you before, that old goat has more brains than the average, and I fear the only way you can drag any definite information out of him would be by getting him where you could force him to testify, or by denying him some right or privilege until he could show you about this point. As a sporting proposition, I will lay you even money that he never took out any papers; in fact, if you are much interested in sporting propositions I might give you odds.

Am sorry I cannot be of more assistance to you in this matter, but am thoroughly convinced that any further efforts would only result in a lot of talk and some delightfully indefinite statements from this gentleman. He either has not those papers here (or anywhere) or there is something crooked about them some place and he does not want to show them unless he has to. Otherwise he would have had them up here the next day.

Yours,
Yoak.

11x98

SUPREME COURT OF PORTO RICO
PABLO BERGA
SECRETARY AND REPORTER
SAN JUAN, P. R.

March 7, 1917.

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

My dear Governor:

I take pleasure in enclosing herewith a copy of the "Revista de Legislación y Jurisprudencia", published by the Porto Rico Bar Association, and edited by Mr. Luis Muñoz Morales, Mr. Luis Samalea Iglesias and myself.

Very respectfully,

Pablo Berga

March 8, 1917.

The Editors of the
*Revista de Legislación
y Jurisprudencia,*
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Gentlemen;

I have just received the January-February issue of the *REVISTA*, and also a brief letter of transmittal from Mr. Pablo Berga.

I have cursorily examined this issue and taken note of the remarkable development in its size, appearance and character during the three years of its existence.

I desire to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to look over this Review, and will immediately give instructions to have it placed upon the list of periodicals regularly received by the Governor's Office.

It seems to me that there is a useful place for this publication in Porto Rico and that it would be both interesting and helpful, not only to the legal profession but also to the students of law throughout the Island, especially those of the University.

(8 Mar 17)

-2-

I desire to congratulate you gentlemen who have charge of this publication, upon its successful development up to this time, and I sincerely hope you will be able to continue it and to increase its prosperity.

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR VAGER

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

March 13, 1917.

The Employment Supervisor,
c/o William Filene's Sons Co.,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, with reference to Mr. John C. Bills, Jr., I would say that I have known Mr. Bills for the last three years. He was for a time Chief of the Bureau of Labor of the Government of Porto Rico, and he is at present Law Clerk in the Office of the Attorney General of Porto Rico. He is a man of absolute integrity, a hard worker and thoroughly trustworthy. He has a good education and has a large interest in questions of social service. In the difficult position of Chief of the Bureau of Labor he rendered good service and, as far as I know, he is giving satisfaction in the position he now holds. His legal training, his fine character and his sympathy with all social questions combined with his experience here in Porto Rico, would admirably fit him for a position in which knowledge of the law and social service were combined.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

11798

March 15, 1917.

My dear Mr. Bird;

Please accept my thanks for your kind and cordial letter of the 12th instant with reference to the final passage of the Jones Bill, also for the gratifying expressions of your personal esteem for myself.

I appreciate your letter because it is evidence of the fact that intelligent Porto Ricans really understand how important a thing has been obtained for Porto Rico in the passage of this measure with the advantages it gives to the people of this Island.

I hope for the cooperation of all of the people of the Island in the work that may be necessary to carry out successfully the provisions of this new constitution.

I have learned with pleasure that the strike at Fajardo has been amicably settled. I hope that this adjustment of the labor difficulties will prove permanently satisfactory.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. Jorge Bird Arias,
Fajardo, Porto Rico.

86X11

THE FAJARDO SUGAR CO.

NEW YORK OFFICE:
106 WALL STREET.

FAJARDO, P. R.

Amv.
March 9/17

Hon. Arthur Saper
Governor of Puerto Rico
San Juan

Dear Governor — My mind had been so occupied and worried with the strike, that I had forgotten to write to you, to express the deep appreciation which I feel in my heart for the grant of American Citizenship to the people of this island — It should have been granted before, but it must be held in mind that precious things are not easily obtained — I know that since your appointment at least you sympathized with the idea and that you have spared no effort in favor of Citizenship therefore please accept my thanks and congratulations — Please extend my thanks and congratulations also to the President and believe me very sincerely yours

Jorge D. Saper

86x11

March 20, 1917.

Dear Sir:

I have just learned of the severe bereavement that has befallen yourself and your wife through the loss of your bright little boy, and I hasten to write you a brief word of condolence and sympathy.

It is especially hard that this affliction should come to you so soon after your arrival in Porto Rico, and I desire to express for Mrs. Yager and myself our intense sympathy for you in this trying moment.

I trust that the Lord may grant you strength to endure with faith His providential dealings and may give to you and your wife the healing which He alone can give.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. J. M. Betancourt,
Consul of Venezuela,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

86 X 11

CONSULADO DE LOS E. E. U. U. DE VENEZUELA

SAN JUAN, P. R.

BOX 841



San-Juan : 26 of March 1917.

His Excellency

Governor Arthur Yager .

City .

Dear Governor :

Allow me to thank you and Mrs Yager for your very kind
Expression of condolence on the terrible loss that we have suffered
with the untimely death of our beloved son .

I can assure you that your letter has helped to a great extent to
soothe our sorrowful hearts in this hard trial to which we have been
submitted by Decrees from Above and we pray that He who has caused
us our loss will be Merciful and heal with time our wound .

Mrs Betancourt joins me to thank you and Mrs Yager once more .

I am ,Dear Governor,

Yours Very Sincerely

J. M. Betancourt

86x11

4
Office of the
United States Marshal
San Juan, P. R.

Apr 21 '17

My dear Governor

I have received
a very satisfactory
letter from Stanton
in the matter of co-
operation, and feel
grateful for your
good offices in the
matter.

Stanton asks for the
return of his letter, but
I left it in other papers
in the case with you. Please
return them to me at your convenience.
Sincerely
Bennett

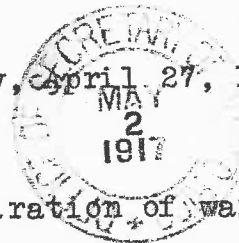
11798

The Wilson Historical Society

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor, Porto Rico.


GENERAL RECEIVER
OF
DOMINICAN CUSTOMS
SANTO DOMINGO

Friday, April 27, 1917.



My Dear Governor:--

I have been so busy since my return, and the declaration of war has made so many new things to be considered in connection with the situation here, that I have hardly had the time heretofore to write and tell you once more how much I appreciate the good fortune which made it possible to meet you and Mrs. Yager, and to become familiar with the good work which you are doing as Governor of Porto Rico. And I want to congratulate you upon the fact that the Bill Jones makes proper financial provision at last for the position you fill with so much ability.

I am going north with Mrs. Baxter next month, and hope to see a number of our mutual friends in Washington, and discuss with them some of the Santo Domingo problems in which you have indicated so much interest. By the way, I received a letter from Steffens a short time ago, in which he wrote that he was on his way to Russia, which became a new center of public interest because of the unexpectedly rapid change of government over there. Steffens is always hot-foot after anything that makes for the uplift of the down-trodden masses, and this new stride in the direction of democracy will give him lots of material. And it is rather wonderful, all things considered, and I look to see something of the same kind happen in Germany inside of another year.

I received a letter the other day from Mr. Juan M. Herrero, who is at present assistant professor of law and registrar of the University of Porto Rico, asking that I recommend him to you for appointment to the position in the Executive office formerly held by Mr. Hull

(270417)

GENERAL RECEIVER
OF
DOMINICAN CUSTOMS
SANTO DOMINGO

Gov. Yager--#2.

This I do gladly, although I am informed by Mr. Hull that the position has already been filled. But I want to recommend Mr. Herrero to your kindly attention, anyhow, because I got to know him very well while he was in charge of the consulate here. He is a young man of parts, very ambitious, and strongly pro-American. He is a graduate of the Insular Normal school of Porto Rico; is an LL.M. of Georgetown University, Washington; has been admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and the U. S. District Court for Porto Rico. He was employed in the office of the Adjutant General of the Army at Washington for six years, and was in charge of the Consulate here for two years. He went to Porto Rico last year because of the wider field of opportunity there, and I want to commend him to your notice in connection with future vacancies that might occur in the government service.

Mrs. Baxter joins me in kindest regards to Mrs. Yager and your daughter Diane, and in the hope that the time will not be far distant when we will have the pleasure of having you with us in Santo Domingo.

Very Sincerely Yours, -

C. H. Baxter.

THIRD ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1917.

The Honorable,
Arthur Yeager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

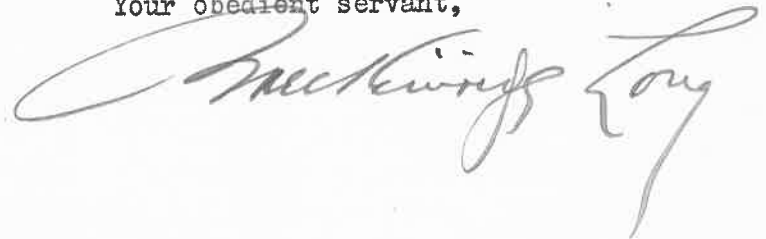
S i r:

The bearer of this letter, Mr. F. H. Little, is a personal friend of mine who is about to proceed to Porto Rico on a business mission, I think to do with the marketing of Porto Rican fruits in the United States.

I cordially bespeak for Mr. Little such courtesies as may properly be extended to him by the officials of Porto Rico in making his visit a pleasant and successful one.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



86 X 11

San Juan, June 17, 1917.

Sirs:-

I have the honor to inform you that the bearer, Mr. L. Barkhausen, has presented himself in my office to-day and exhibited a letter from the Governor of Hawaii, which in my judgment is sufficient credential to permit him to travel without any further requisites in the territory within the jurisdiction of the United States.

He is anxious to go over to the Virgin Islands on the "Marina", sailing to-day, and if you can issue him a ticket I shall appreciate it.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) Arthur Yager,

Governor.

The Agents of
the "Marina",

San Juan, Porto Rico.

San Juan, P. R.
July 19, 1917.

Mr. Carl Bailey Hurst,
American Consul General,
Barcelona, Spain.

Dear Sir:

This letter will be handed to you by
Mr. Martin Larrauri y Aponte, a native of Porto
Rico residing temporarily in Barcelona.

Mr. Larrauri is a gentleman of excel-
lent character and reputation in this community;
a native of Coamo, Porto Rico, and recently made
a citizen of the United States under the provis-
ions of the Jones Bill.

I understand that he is desirous of
registering as an American citizen at your Con-
sulate, and in view of the foregoing facts I hope
that you will permit him to do so.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Antonio R. Barceló
Presidente

Senado de Puerto Rico

San Juan, P. R.

October 10, 1917.

My dear Mr. Yager:

The bearer is my cousin Rafael J. Bird who once was an officer of the Insular Police, and is now an officer of the United States Army.

As I am sure that you know his good record, I will not make any recommendation, my purpose being only to introduce him to you because he desires to have your aid in a certain matter he has to settle in regard to his duties as an Army officer.

Yours sincerely,



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

86x11



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
HARRISBURG



November 23, 1917.

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

My dear Sir:

I have just learned that Mr. Thomas Boyd, Jr., has assumed the General Superintendency of the large Centrale plant at Ensenada, and I write a word to you in commendation of this splendid American whom I have known from his childhood and whose parents I know.

His father is the President of the great University of the State of Louisiana, and I can assure you that this young man who now lives in your island, the island that I love, is absolutely clean, capable, lovable, and if at any time you get in touch with him, I am sure you will find him a warm ally in the splendid service you are rendering to the good people of the island.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. P. Bunting

BL

11 x 78

March 13, 1918.

Mr. J. C. Bills, Jr.,
78 Devonshire St.,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bills:

I received your letter of the 25th ultimo, enclosing your little booklet "You should know about Credit Unions."

I was very much pleased to hear from you again and I shall examine the booklet with unusual interest, because I have a hope that we may at some time make it useful to us in our effort to develop some kind of credit unions amongst our people here. As you know, we certainly need some such thing in Porto Rico, more perhaps than anywhere in our country.

I hope to hear from you again before long. With best wishes I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

March 27, 1918.

Hon. J. C. S. Blackburn,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have just heard the distressing news of your heavy domestic affliction in the sudden death of your wife.

I am just writing a brief note from this far-away island to express my sympathy for you. I think I can appreciate to some extent your feelings of loneliness aggravated as they are by your own bad health in this moment of deep affliction. Please accept my sympathy for you and my affectionate interest in your welfare. May the Lord be good to you!

Sincerely your old friend,

Governor.

May 1, 1918.

Mr. W. Mc C. Blair,
Committee on Public Information,
10 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Blair:

Your letter of the 17th ultimo was duly received and I greatly appreciate your prompt action upon our cablegram in regard to the chairmanship of the Four Minute Men in Porto Rico.

We have already perfected our organization and have started to work all over the Island.

I have appointed a Committee consisting chiefly of influential Porto Ricans and given them an office here in San Juan from which the work is directed. The most prominent speakers of the Island have volunteered their services, and all the managers of the moving-picture shows and the people of the Island are cooperating cordially with the Committee.

I think that there is a great field for usefulness for the organization here. The people generally have comparatively little printed matter to read; in fact a very large percentage of them can not read at all, and on this account the spoken word will count for far more here than in the United States generally. Naturally during the past two or three weeks the speakers have been giving especial attention to the Third Liberty Loan campaign; but while they have given important aid in this matter they have not neglected other points of general interest relating to the war upon which our people need information.

We have made comparatively few changes in the plan of the organization as worked out for the United States. The Chairman of the Managing Committee is Dr. Victor Gutiérrez Ortiz, and the Secretary is Senator Leopoldo Peliú.

With best wishes and promising hearty cooperation,
I am

Yours very sincerely,

Governor.

11x98

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION
10 JACKSON PLACE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
April 17th, 1918.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Government House,
Porto Rico.

My dear Governor Yager:-

Last night I received through the War Department Mr. Hull's telegram suggesting that you be made Chairman of Four Minute men for Porto Rico. This morning I have your letter of April 10th, and have wired you as follows:

"Letter and telegram received.
We gladly appoint you Chairman Four
Minute Men for Porto Rico".

We appreciate that some of the details of our plan will not apply in Porto Rico as they do in the States. We therefore ask you to build up an organization as nearly as possible in the manner outlined in Bulletin No. 7A, but with any changes you deem necessary. Please advise us of the plan under which you operate.

Mr. Nicholson has been asked to give particular attention to Porto Rico. He and I are in conference constantly, and by this arrangement I am confident that our office will be able to co-operate with you very closely. He is out of town at present, but will write you on his return.

We feel most fortunate in enlisting you in this work which has proven of such importance in the States, and are prepared to do everything in our power to assist you in reaching all the inhabitants of Porto Rico.

Very truly yours,

WB-I

(Sgd.) W. Mc C. Blair.

Office of the Executive Secretary
April 25, 1918.

Official copy respectfully furnished, by direction of the Governor, Dr. V. Catiérrez Ortiz, Chairman Executive Committee "FOUR MINUTE MEN" of Porto Rico, for his informatián.

R. SIACA PACHÉCO

Executive Secretary.

11898

May 7, 1918.

My dear Miss Birdsall;

Under pressure of the Liberty Loan campaign and other urgent matters, I have postponed longer than I intended acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of April 6.

I am glad to learn of your acceptance of the important work which you have undertaken as Editor of "Travel" and I shall bear in mind your request for co-operation in the matter of bringing to the attention of the travelers of the United States the importance and interest of the Island of Porto Rico as a country well worth a visit.

I shall keep your letter before me and from time to time as opportunity may arise will send to you such items and information as to Porto Rico as may be useful to you in conducting this part of your magazine. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of my latest Annual Report.

With best wishes for you in your important work,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Miss Katharine N. Birdsall,
Editor, "Travel,"
Union Square, New York City.

Travel

"The Magazine
That Takes You There"



Robert M. McBride & Company, Publishers, 31 Union Square North, New York

6 April 1918.

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

My dear Mr. Yager:

I have just assumed editorial responsibility for TRAVEL, "The Magazine That Takes You There", and one of the big things I want to do is to bring all travelers, whether for pleasure or profit, into close personal touch with the section of the country they cover in their travels, as well as to promote better fellowship between States and between Countries.

In order to accomplish this I feel that we must have the able and efficient help of Governors of States and Consuls to Foreign Countries. I am, therefore, planning a rather novel editorial department in the magazine to be devoted entirely to good fellowship of this kind, and am going to ask you if you will send me a couple of paragraphs to 'start the ball rolling'.

There are a good many things that the people in the States would like to know about Porto Rico in regard to investment and travel, as well as to the commercial needs of the people. It would be of interest to know what the agricultural and mineral possibilities are, what is the condition of your roads, what is the best visiting season, what you are doing in the way of patriotic work, etc.

I would like very much if you would give me a little biographical sketch telling something about yourself and family, what your special hobby is, whether you are interested in golf -- or archaeology -- and also send if possible, a small informal photograph where you are pursuing your hobby or playing with your children. We want our readers to be personally in touch with Porto Rico's head executive.

Trusting to hear that you think well of this editorial idea of brotherly love and co-operation, and will wish to be among the first to contribute to its interest, I am with thanks in anticipation

Yours faithfully,

Nathaniel V. Birdsall

P. S. I am sending you under separate cover a sample copy of TRAVEL.

86 x 11

CABLEGRAM

May 8, 1918.

To Honorable President Wilson, Washington.

Monster labor meetings May 1st throughout Porto Rico pray for triumph American ideals in war and request your honor relieve workmen from hateful oppression Governor Yager.

Rivero Martinez.

11893

The Filson Historical Society

ADDRESS DISTRICT COMMUNICATION SUPERINTENDENT

AND REFER TO NO.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE.

Inclosures

OFFICE OF
DISTRICT COMMUNICATION SUPERINTENDENT.

U.S. Naval Radio Station,
San Juan, Porto Rico,
May 9, 1918.

CONFIDENTIAL.

His Excellency,
The Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:-

Inclosed herewith for your information is a copy of a cablegram filed this date for transmission, but which I have not yet permitted to be forwarded.

In my desire, in my capacity as Cable Censor, to cooperate with you in every possible way, such disposition as you may desire will be made of this cablegram.

Very respectfully,

Virgil Baker,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Cable Censor.

CABLEGRAM

May 10, 1918.

To Times, San Juan.

Washington:- Gompers lettered Wilson demanding removal
Yager as Governor Porto Rico saying Governor refused better
living conditions to working people.

Associated Press.

86 x 11

The Filson Historical Society

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Vincent Baker
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Cable Censor.

86X11

J. N. BRADLEY
REAL ESTATE

GEORGETOWN, KY. May 11-1918

Gov. Arthur Yager

My Dear Gov:

I note with pain, the effort of Couppers to cast you as Gov. of Porto Rico. Your home friends are with you

I write especially to call your attention to an article in ^{New York} The American Review of Reviews, edited by Albert Shaw, look on Page 525; May no-1918, and you will find an article written by Emilio J. Pasardell, a native Portorican, with a strong endorsement, in a note by the Editor, Dr Shaw. This article should be called to the notice of the Committee, who, by President Wilson's Order, have in charge the investigation asked for by Couppers. If Couppers is correct, surely this article cannot be true; and it bears every impress of truth. Pardon me for writing this; only my interest in you, and love for you, prompts the writing. Hope you will come out. S. L. Bradley

August 5, 1918.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Very frequently it is necessary to send mail to the boat a few moments before it sails, as occurred this morning, and at times there is no one here authorized to go on the pier or aboard the steamers, and I would appreciate it therefore that you furnish Captain Van Deusen a permanent pass for this purpose. He also at times has very important correspondence to get off to the War and Treasury Departments at the last moment and is frequently put to the same inconvenience.

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Mr. W. R. Bennett,
U. S. Marshal,
San Juan, P. R.

11x78

San Juan, P. R.,

Sept. 3, 1918.

Mr. W. R. Bennett,
United States Marshal,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

S i r:-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ult. calling my attention to the fact that Mrs. Charlton was on the inside of the pier No. on the 29th ult. without the proper pass and that she stated that she entered the pier as a passenger in my automobile.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that I am not aware of these facts as at no time did I enter the pier in my car nor leave the pier in car.

I can assure you that if I issue orders that all persons have to produce a pass before entering piers they would do so, but it was very evident that various persons entered the pier on that particular day without the necessary passes.

I, personally, know of one gentleman and a stranger to many employees, who obtained a pass from your office and one from Mr. Moore, Collector of Customs, he walked through the door of the pier No. 1 without being requested to tender his pass and with a package under his arm, went aboard the "BRAZOS" and he was not requested to show his pass on the gang plank of the ship, he delivered his package, returned and still retained his pass.

86X11

(3 Sept 18)

-2-

It is evident that orders issued by the Heads of Departments covering passes are enforced only as regards uniformed police officers.

Several of my police officers were stopped and requested to present a pass before entering into the wharf. This is contrary to your instructions and understanding with me. It is humiliating to the Insular Police Officers and detrimental towards efficient service and in my opinion will bring lack of cooperation if continued.

Respectfully,

(Signed) GEO. R. SHANTON
Major, U. S. A., D. I. O.,
Chief, Insular Police.

GRS : SM

A TRUE COPY,

W. C. Bennett
United States Marshal.

September 10, 1918.

Major George E. Shanton
District Intelligence Officer U. S. Army,
Chief, Insular Police,
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Major:-

There are several things in your reply to my letter with reference to the method of Mrs. Charlton's entrance into Pier No. 1 on August 29 to which I could, and with reason I think, take exception, but in the interest of harmony and personal official good fellowship, I prefer to pass them.

The charge that persons unauthorized and without passes have been permitted to enter the piers of this port has been and is being investigated. Demand for the removal of certain inspectors has already been made, and demand for the removal of all found guilty will be made.

The operators of our harbor-front facilities state that in no instance, since our agreement about the matter sometime ago, has a uniformed policeman or police officer been refused admittance to the piers of this port. I shall be glad to demand and secure the removal of any inspector who has stopped an uniformed policeman or police officer since that time, and I am ready to enter into an investigation of the matter at once.

With renewed assurances of esteem, believe me,

Very sincerely,

Signed *W. P. Pennington*
United States Marshal.

86 x 11

A true copy
written in.

September 17, 1918.

Miss Lila Bell,
"Georgetown Times,"
Georgetown, Ky.

My dear Miss Lila:

Your letter of August 31st has just been received. Our mails are now quite slow because of the activities of the submarines.

I am enclosing the letter and also my check on the Farmers' Bank of Georgetown for \$3.00 for renewal of my subscription to the "Times" as per your request.

You will now doubt remember the campaign made against me by the labor leader here in Porto Rico. I recall with appreciation the short defense made by the "Times" and various other newspapers in Kentucky published at that time. It may perhaps be of some satisfaction to you to know that I have received a short letter from President Wilson referring to the charges under date of July 30 in which the most significant sentence was as follows:

"You have, however, already been assured that we were entirely satisfied with the manner in which you have done your duty in these matters."

This is, of course, a complete vindication after thorough investigation by the President himself as to the whole matter of the charges.

With best wishes for you and for the Times, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

86x11

P.F.

Bank of Nova Scotia,
52 Wall Street,
New York City,
September 20, 1918.

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

My dear Governor:

I desire to express to you my appreciation for the letter you gave me to Minister Gonzales. Fortunately no occasion arose making its presentation necessary.

Since my departure not a bit of Puerto Rico news had reached me, until I went to a hospital to visit a sick fruit grower, when I learned of the Townshend affair. The trouble seems to be that in our little island no one can become too popular or too rich without some calamity happening to him. I am glad I am neither.

The death of Senator James was a lamentable event. He was still a young man.

You may command as you please

Yours faithfully,

J. Borda

86X11

October 9, 1918.

Mr. Wenceslao Borda,
c/o Royal Bank of Canada,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Borda;

Your recent brief note, with reference especially to the investigation being made of Col. Townshend, was received. I am glad to be able to inform you that the investigation, the made in military secrecy, seems to have produced no results that were really damaging to Col. Townshend. At this moment it seems to be finally settled that the Col. is to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and I suppose will be placed in command of the new brigade to be formed of the second quota of Porto Rican troops which will go into camp Las Casas after the present brigade has been transferred to the continent.

Everything seems to be going well in Porto Rico at this moment and everybody is greatly interested in the good news of continued advances and successes that come from the war fronts. It seems that at last we are bound to win the war and win it quickly.

We are making the greatest effort we have ever made in the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, and Porto Rico must fill her quota this time. It is large - \$4,000,000; but feel confident that we are going to accomplish it. San Juan may have some difficulty this time filling her own quota. I wish you would send me a good subscription to be credited to the island and to the city. Cable me what you will do and be liberal as you always are. After the war every kind of property is going to decline in value except the Government bonds. This is the best possible form of investment for any surplus funds that anybody might have.

Write me a long letter and tell me what you are doing. Famil all well. I hear bad reports from the influenza epidemic on the continent. Of course you have heard of the death of Judge Cordova Davila's wife, and Rodes cables me that the situation as to this disease is acute in Washington. Perhaps you had better come back to Porto Rico; we haven't got it here.

Sincerely yours,

86x11

P. D.

Royal Bank of Canada,
New York City,
October 21, 1918.

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

My dear Governor:

Yours of October 9th was handed to me at the Bank today. I do not know whether I should have made a further subscription or not, as I was not put to the test, your letter having reached me too late, but I feel that I cannot refuse any request of yours, and perhaps I should have even gone to the extent of borrowing money to meet your wish.

Everybody here seemed to be interested in the recent Porto Rico earthquake. At first, I thought it was the usual small affair. When some details of it were published, I was shocked and amazed. Still I am ignorant of what really did happen.

Porto Rico officialdom is to be congratulated in keeping Influenza out of the Island. It has been an awful scourge to this country and has killed more Americans than the war has done thus far. I had a severe cold the other day and a feeling of debility. I did not take to bed. I took to quinine and good old Kentucky whiskey and in three days was myself again.

I saw a few days ago an automobile standing before the McAlpin with a sign in front bearing this legend: "Constructing Quartermaster, Camp Las Casas." The chauffeur recognized me and informed me that his master was within the hotel. I did not see him. With one military-exception, and I do not mention him because he appears to be a friend of yours, I never saw a worse case of swell-head developed in so short a time -- more deadly than influenza.

Our friend Mr. Pitkin is going over to the other side within two weeks. I imagine that he is doing excellent work. Here is a man the higher he ascends the more modest he grows. There is just such another one in Porto Rico whom I do not mention because he is a friend of mine.

The Germans have lost the war, and it is only a matter of time when they will have to accept the best terms they can obtain. Today's evening papers publish the second reply of the Imperial Government to the President, which does not seem satisfactory. I am glad that the war is going to end without

(21 Oct 18)

-2-

throwing the whole world into anarchy as it did Russia. There, after having finished with the aristocracy of blood, they have started to wipe out the aristocracy of brains -- the intellectuals.

You ask me what I am doing. I am interested in a silversmith business and it is not making any profit. I have invested in some stocks that, while unproductive now, will boom when the war ends.

Mrs. Borda has gone to Arizona for her health.

Remember me to every member of your charming family, to whom I wish health, happiness and success.

Very faithfully yours,

R. Borda

The Filson Historical Society

J. CREPPS WICK, IFFE BECKHAM, KY., CHAIRMAN.
JOHN K. SHIELDS, TENN.
THOMAS W. HARDWICK, GA.
NATHAN GOFF, W. VA.
FRANK B. KELLOGG, MINN.
GEORGE V. TRIPLETT, JR., CLERK.

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

December 17, 1918.
Personal.

Governor Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My dear Governor:

Your cablegram did not come to my attention until yesterday, and I regret to hear of the unfortunate conditions which exist in the Islands and the immediate need of help.

I took the matter up immediately, both with General Walcutt of the Insular Bureau, and with Senator Saulsbury, Chairman of the Porto Rican Committee. The situation as they explained it, especially Senator Saulsbury, is this:

The appropriation for \$300,000.00 which passed the House and came to the Senate received favorable consideration from the Porto Rican Committee, but the point was raised by members of the Appropriations Committee that it should be considered by that Committee. Senator Penrose, I understand, pressed this point, and objected to the passage of the resolution. It, therefore, went on the calendar, and remains there at present. There is no way to get it off the calendar except by unanimous consent, and Senator Saulsbury tells me that it is impossible to get that.

However, he said that he was watching the matter very closely, and will take advantage of the first opportunity to insist upon the passage of it.

As to the other appropriation for the Influenza epidemic, that matter has not yet come over from the House, and it was Saulsbury's opinion that it would probably go to the Appropriations Committee.

I shall keep a lookout for both of these measures, and if I can find myself in a position to assist in the passage of them, it will give me pleasure to do so.

(17 Dec 18)

J. CREPPS WICK, IFFE BECKHAM, KY., CHAIRMAN.
JOHN K. SHIELDS, TENN.
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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
EXPENDITURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

I am

With kindest regards, to yourself and family,

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. Beckham

B/H

The Filson Historical Society